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Front cover pic: Hunting Australia book by Al McGlashan.

**Welcome** to the second free emagazine for 2011.



Brrrrr, it seems to be cooling off in some parts now, though winter is always a welcome time for hunters. Getting around the bush is often damp but this also means quiet underfoot which offers great returns for stalking in close on that elusive trophy.

Normally hot parts of the country, can now be hunted for longer and even around midday, especially if looking to flush pigs out of their bedding quarters with dogs or rifle at the ready.

There's nothing like crawling out of that cozy warm swag at daybreak to head out into the cold frosty paddocks... or is there.....?

Happy Hunting,  
Aushunter

**Editor:** Bernie (aka Aushunter)  
**Publisher:** AusHunt



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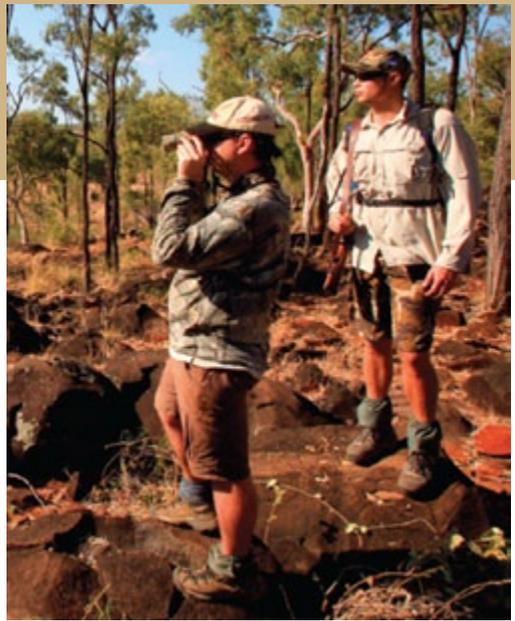
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# Hunting Trophy Stags

The hind was barely visible as she lay hidden in the tussocks. Apart from the occasional twitch of an ear she remained completely motionless but highly alert. When Joey Keene had initially spotted her we thought she had been looking directly at us as we travelled up the ridge, however when we glassed her we were pleasantly surprised to discover she was looking the other way. It was early April and a cold snap had the Brisbane Valley red stags fired up and roaring with gusto. There were only two things that would hold a deer's attention that much - either a rutting stag or a dingo.

We had an easy downhill shot at her and the temptation to knock her over for some much needed meat was high, but there were better things around. Resisting the urge, we simply watched over her patiently waiting to see what might turn up.

Half an hour later we were still standing there, our legs screaming out in pain and still nothing showed. Then suddenly there was the sound of a grunt echoed down the gully. It was barely audible and to the uninitiated it could have been anything, but to a deer hunter it meant one thing – a mature stag.



*Walking little glass a lot is the key to finding those trophy stags.*

Staring intently through the trees, we tried desperately to spot him. Even when he grunted again he was still invisible to us. With buck fever rising we stood alert and ready. Without warning, a big black shape materialised out of the scrub and, raising his head, the stag bellowed out a roar. A nice eight pointer, the stag walked up to the hind and nudged her out of her resting spot.

Preoccupied with the hind, the stag came into full view and started sniffing around. With a serious case of 'buck fever' Joey used Stew's shoulder as a rest and nailed the stag at eighty metres. A lot of hunters call this luck, however hunting trophies is anything but, in fact you could say you make your own luck and the more effort you put in the better your chances of success.

### More than luck

Do you ever wonder why some hunters seem to have all the luck and always seem to get the trophy deer?

The tale above wasn't because we were lucky and stumbled onto it, instead it was a well executed hunt. First, Joey's mate who had hunted the same area a few weeks prior had told us he heard a stag grunting on this ridge, so we knew where to start. Second, we had planned the hunt so the wind was in our favour from the outset and had discussed a game plan. We had researched the area well, looking at maps and identified all the likely deer country and had then gone for a drive in the middle of the day to get a feel for the lie of the land.

On top of this all our rifles had been checked and rechecked on the range before heading bush, so we were all confident of a kill when the trigger was squeezed. With all this preparation we headed off on the hunt completely confident of success.

This is what serious hunting is all about, it is anything but a walk in the park. Instead it is a matter of using all of your resources and skills to outsmart a very clever animal. Remember, big stags don't get that way by being dumb. They have encountered a lot of hunters over the years, so in essence you need to be

smarter than all the other hunters and the deer. A lifetime in the bush has highlighted ten points that will really help you improve your hunting skills and most importantly help you stand out from the crowd.



*Be observant and pick up any signs like a rub tree.*

### 1 Do your homework

The first step to taking a decent stag is to do your homework and this starts long before you even think about pulling the trigger. Irrespective of which species you are chasing you need to do some groundwork and determine the best locations and seasons. The best time to hunt stags is when they are rutting, which is when they are in hard antler and generally dumbest. Most deer, like reds and fallow, rut in March–April, while rusa start a few months later. Sambar



*The author shows off a pretty chital stag he harvested after stalking in for more than an hour.*

are an interesting case and have no defined rut but tend to be most active in November, however to complicate matters most decent sambar stags I have shot were in May–June, so this is why you need to learn about your target species intimately.

Once you determine the right time then the next step is to get out there and really get familiar with the country your'e hunting. One of the biggest advantages a stag has is that he knows the terrain well, so in essence you need to know it better. The only way to do this is get out there and put in the hours.

### **2 Practise on the range**

You can do all the homework in the world and tramp about the mountains every day but if your weapon isn't shooting straight then you are simply wasting your time. Regular visits to the rifle range are mandatory, especially before each trip into the bush. You

want to be confident that if you pull the trigger then he is yours.

### **3 Plan your hunt**

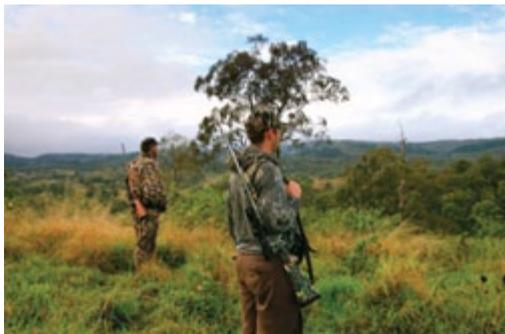
Hunting isn't about just tramping about the scrub. Instead it is a strategic approach to stalking utilising the terrain to your advantage. This leads directly on from what I mentioned above, and the better you know the country the better you can use it to your advantage. With a good knowledge of where the stags are feeding and bedding down you can plan your hunt so you really maximise your time in the hot country and minimise time in the dead areas.

### **4 Team work**

Hunting is largely considered to be an individual sport and while this is partially true it is also in many ways a team activity where you need to work together to ensure success. A classic example of this is a small patch of bush where my brother Stew regularly hunts sambar. Surrounded by open paddock it looks anything but productive deer country and yet it is highly productive. The problem is that being dry, thick scrub it is impossible to move about quietly, so the best approach is to work as a team and try to bounce the deer to each other.

Planning the hunt so you know exactly where the other hunters are is paramount and has helped Stew score

## Feature Story



*Utilise high vantage points to watch and listen.*

some nice trophies including a lovely 24 inch stag, which he pinned at just eight metres. It is a similar case when hunting a gully. By working together you can bounce the game across to each other for a better shot.

### **5 Patience is a virtue**

Good things come to those who wait. It is a classic statement and when it comes to stags there are no truer words. Once you have done all your research, zeroed your rifle and planned your hunt around the prime time then you simply have to be patient and put in the hours.

A classic example of this happened on a recent red deer hunt. Sitting on a ridge, we could hear several stags roaring beyond the next ridge so we planned our approach. Closing in, things didn't look promising as the roaring grew fainter and fainter. Still we continued on in the hope they would fire up again. We were just over the ridge from where they had started and we hadn't heard anything for a few minutes when suddenly I spotted

a couple of hinds trotting past. Behind them was a stag who was pushing them along very hurriedly. He was a reasonable stag but something made me hold back. Watching him I realised that he wasn't the main stag who had been roaring but was probably a younger stag who was in the process of pinching some of the dominant stag's harem.

As I contemplated his fate there was a roar from across the gully and there was the big fella – and he was fuming about losing some of his girls. A majestic creature, he roared again and again. My brother Stew, who had patiently been watching from further down the gully, took advantage of the situation and nailed his first red stag, a huge double four. Being patient certainly paid off big time.



*When hunting always keep watch on your surrounds, but also study the ground for prints.*



*At dusk it is smarter to sit, watch and in some cases just listen.*

### **6 Be observant**

A pair of binoculars are one of the hunters' most important tools. They are not just for open country deer like fallow, but they are just as important for forest dwellers like sambar. The more you stop and glass the better. I often like to climb up high and sit on ridge glassing valleys and it really is amazing how often I spot a stag sitting in the scrub. The key is not just to scan the area but really glass it thoroughly.

When you are in thick scrub and can't glass effectively you still need to stop and really take in your surroundings. For no deer is this more relevant than sambar. Living in thick cover, sambar will happily stand there and watch you walk right past. Despite the fact that they are a huge animal, spotting a stationary stag is near impossible but be alert and you will quickly zero in on the slightest movement, whether the flick of an ear or the twitch of an antler. It's the same as glassing, don't just glance around, instead stop and really look trying to identify anything that

is out of place. At the same time you must have your rifle at the ready and not on your shoulder, because when the deer bolts you will have only a split second of opportunity... and that leads us straight into the next point.

### **7 Use the trees**

Whenever you stop, try to do it beside a tree. Now this may sound silly but it will do two things for you. First, it will help to break up your outline, allow you to blend in better with the surroundings, and second, it makes the perfect rest from which to shoot.

Over the years I have knocked over some nice stags and nearly all of them have been shot off a rest. It doesn't matter how good a shot you are, you are going to be a better one if you shoot off a rest rather than shooting free hand.

### **8 Watch the girls**

Stags are no different from blokes and at times they really do think with their dicks! A normally smart animal goes haywire when there is a chance of getting lucky, (no difference from blokes at the pub really!) and it is this weakness that good hunters must exploit. Of all the deer it is the reds that are the most well known for going bonkers during the infamous 'roar'. An autumn event, the roar is usually a period of a few weeks when the reds throw caution to the wind, making them vulnerable.

## Feature Story

The story at the start of this heading is a classic example of this. But I have heard it over and over again. Find the fairer kind of the species and then stay with them because sooner or later the boys will appear. It is no different from a bunch of girls dressed up to the hilt – they will quickly attract attention from any males in the area. Therefore, when you're glassing don't just look for stags, instead look for the hinds and once you find them stay with them because it is only a matter of time before a horny stag is going to come sniffing around.

### 9 Go hard and far

Trophies don't come easy so if you want to put a decent head up on the wall and fill the freezer with venison then you need to work for it. Start your hunt before dawn and put in the hours staying out until well after dark. It really is a matter of odds and you can tip them in your favour by putting in more hours, in other words the more hours you put in the greater the likelihood of bumping into something. I shot my biggest sambar stag in atrocious conditions with howling winds and pelting rain when no one else dared venture away from the camp but as I proved, the rewards are there for those who take it on.

It is a similar scenario when it comes to going the miles. By walking that bit further you will be reaching country that sees fewer hunters and more deer. Look at it this way, if there is a



*It may be hard work but when you score a decent stag it all seems worthwhile*

steep mountain range with no roads then ninety five percent of the hunters will not make the effort to reach the remote valley on the other side.

### 10 Confident of success

It goes without saying that you have to hunt with confidence. This is something I often state during my fishing seminars. It may seem silly, but if you head bush with confidence then you will do better. It isn't a miracle or something divine, instead if you believe you will do well then you will naturally put that little bit more in. And it is often that little bit of extra effort that makes the difference and puts you into the ten percent that nail that stag of a lifetime.

**This is an excerpt from the book [Hunting Australia](#) by AI McGlashan.**

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# Wonnangatta Valley hunt - 2011



The Wonnangatta Valley is the Mecca for sambar deer hunters in Victoria. It's a place full of history, serenity and deer. If you have never been to the Wonnangatta Valley, even just to camp, then you must once in your life take a weekend off and go and have a look.

My first trip to the valley was a three day hunt in May 2008. It was a chance for a few friends of mine to take their stash in for their winter hunt and a chance for me to tag along and see what the valley was about. Using my motorbike to have a look around the valley I quickly fell in love with the place. So it was while at an AusHunt weekend at Whitfield that I floated the idea of organising a hunt in the Wonnangatta Valley. I think there was six people sitting around the campfire that night and all showed interest but time would tell if this would work or not.

Well the first hunt was a success, even if only one hind was harvested for the week. More than 20 members got along during the week, with Jock, Tom and Alvin making the trip from Queensland to attend. It was exactly what I was hoping for. The week isn't so much about harvesting deer as it is more about bringing like minded people together for a common goal. New friends made, plenty of interesting campfire talk and the chance to hunt the hills of the Wonnangatta Valley made for a successful recipe for the second annual hunt.

With the hunt being organised for the week after Mothers' Day in May and originally posted in the AusHunt forum in September, there was plenty of time to try and attract a few new faces to the hunt. And new faces did turn up, including Geoff making the trip from Armidale in northern NSW. He also



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## Wonnangatta Valley hunt - 2011

backed it up by coming again this year. While he didn't have the success of others, the week was still enjoyable.

Two stags were shot with Shane successfully harvesting a 28 inch mature sambar stag. It somewhat overshadowed the stag that Joel had shot earlier in the week but it never diminished the fact that Joel was stoked with his stag!

All in all a successful weeks hunting with two deer harvested and some meat handed out on pack-up day.

It was now October 2010 and I hadn't posted the thread for the hunt yet but knew it was going to get some good



attention so I thought I would let it go another week. When I did post the hunt for expressions of interest, the thread quickly gained momentum and once again some new faces were showing their interest and all was looking good for another successful AusHunt members' week in the valley.

With summer being a bit cooler than previous years I was optimistic about the chances of the hunt week being



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## Wonnangatta Valley hunt - 2011

rather cool, quiet underfoot and hopefully perfect hunting conditions, which they were. With a lot of rain falling since Christmas at regular intervals the weather gods were on our side. The deer were holding down low, probably from the lack of hunting pressure, giving more opportunity for success.

The numbers showing interest were up again from the previous two years meaning we would need a larger camp area. It was our wish to get the camping area near the suspension bridge and with a few hunters heading in on the Thursday it was the first success for the week. The second was to drive into camp on Friday morning to the news that the first deer, a velvet stag, was in the ute and on the way back. Setting up camp is never fun but with a few helping hands it always makes it easier.

With hunts organised around the campfire, who's going where with who and alarm clocks set, there was a lot of optimism the next morning. While no deer were harvested, a few were seen but the big talking point was about how much sign everyone had seen. It was mostly down low and thinned out the higher you climbed. That was it, hunting was going to be



concentrated down low for the week which turned out to be the recipe for success. The lack of hunting pressure and the chilly mornings meant the deer didn't feel pressured to get up high. Never more evident than when I got back to camp after a hunt to find out that a stag had been seen getting out of a wallow at lunch time on the flats. I was hunting a gully across the road when Doug and Andrew drove past my car, looked out past it and saw the large bodied stag watching them drive by. Only one story from a great week of hunting.

Tuesday night was set aside for a group dinner. Lamb, pork and beef with plenty of vegies and the most delicious apple sauce (prepared by Geoff) using apples off the tree near the cemetery.

Hardly a word was spoken during dinner as it's hard to talk with your mouth full. Dinner was a success with plenty of full stomachs!

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## Wonnangatta Valley hunt - 2011



The tally of the weeks hunt saw six deer harvested, with one hind, two stags and three calves taken. Many more deer were seen, with a few lucky ones getting the jump before the hammer fell. Congrats must go to Andrew, Geoff and Rob for harvesting their first deer. It was fantastic to see their reactions to their success, the start of many for sure. But like all good things it had to come to an end.

But it isn't the hunting, or even the deer taken that makes a great week away. It is seeing a new/novice hunter learn from some of the more experienced, the campfire stories that will never leave the Wonnangatta, and the some that do. Watching as new friends plan a future hunt together or talk of family trips to new hunting areas.

All of these only made possible because of the AusHunt website and forum. I never dreamed of the Wonnangatta trips getting this many people along, it's a big commitment to leave family and friends behind for a week. No phones or television and only AM radio available, (for the football of course!) being at the mercy of mother nature and getting the chance to hunt the finest game animal that Australia has to offer.

Keep an eye out for the next annual Wonnangatta Valley hunt. All are welcome to attend especially those new to deer hunting.

By Joe (Joe. 358win)

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## Featured Business

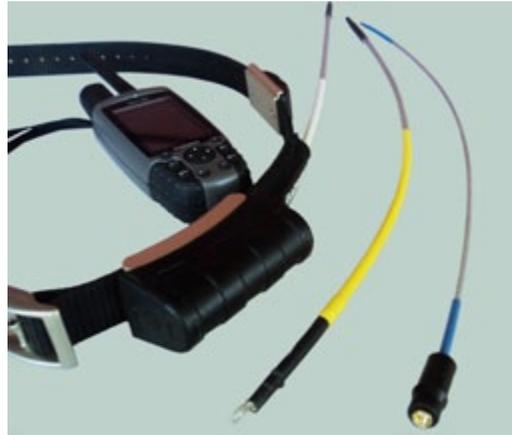
### Long range aerials/antennas

Reece from RP Aerials in NZ has developed his very own range of long range aerials for the popular Garmin Astro tracking system. Realising there was a possibility to improve the reception and the durability of the aerials he first released a coilable little antenna that outperformed the original by miles.

The next was the DC30/40 aerial. This was designed more on the side of being as strong as it could be, especially to take the knocks that pig hunting has to offer and not be affected by moisture internally as can happen with the weak standard ones.

The DC30/40 aerial is rated at 25 percent better reception in NZ but as users in Australia have found, it performs much better as terrain and atmospheric conditions can make a difference.

Reece has personally spent hundreds of hours testing his aerials and making improvements to develop a better product. He says, “mathematically they’re fine but you still must test in the field regardless of what the numbers and the dials say”.



As part of his field testing, he also sent numerous aerials and antennas around the country and overseas to regions that vary geographically. All sent at his own cost to obtain honest feedback on how they performed in the different areas.

Reece knew they worked well where he hunted, but had to make sure they would perform just as well or better in any country. Now he was confident that he could supply the products to other hunters to help them find and bring home their dogs, along with the bacon of course!

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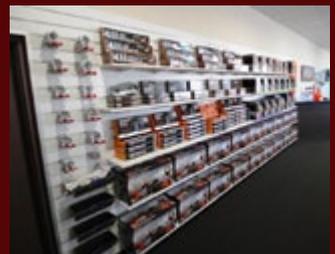
This pack is constructed from quality water resistant 600 Denier Nylon. The Shoulder straps include D-rings to attach additional equipment. The bag includes an adjustable sternum and waist strap for a secure fit. The pack also includes two extra equipment compartments, one is large enough for a coat and lunch and the other has elastic pouches that will hold all your small items securely. In addition there is Molle webbing for you to attach additional pouches. RRP \$90

## ARB Penrith

First opening in June 2006, ARB Penrith provides an extensive range of 4x4 accessories, servicing the western Sydney area and will continue to do so from its new purposely designed showroom at 60-62 Regentville Rd, Penrith, NSW.

The new store is officially open for business from the 1st of July with an Open Day set for Saturday July 30th from 9am to 3pm.

For more info check out their [website](#).



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By standardising the 50W HID model and adjusting the price of all HID driving lights, truckies and mainstream 4WD enthusiasts now have a choice between the 50W HID, the 35W HID and the traditional 100W Halogen lights across the whole Lightforce driving light range.

“Thanks to our competitive prices, our authentic Australian made and manufactured lights are now within reach of anyone who wants the best in performance,” said Lightforce’s Marketing Communications Manager, Mr Haydn Ryan.

“The fact that we have a three year warranty on our entire range and our lights are waterproof and dust resistant makes them ideal for all forms of driving – whether you are taking a long haul trip, or battling thick fog or heavy rain”.



Mr Ryan said Lightforce had been the leader in HID lighting since receiving accolades from the Australian Design Award (2003 Australian DesignMark).

“All Lightforce driving lights feature our advanced reflector technology. The new generation 50W HID light models go one step further and are capable of outputting 5000 lumen - 50% more light than previously available,” he said.

“Our driving lights have a current draw that is around three times less than equivalent halogen lights and are able to operate from a regular 12V power supply or a 24V truck electrical system”.

Lightforce has adjusted the price of their HID driving lights

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The Chic spit has all the unique features of the Auspit; its swing away action, height adjustability for total heat control and a pair of the patented Squeezeloc spikes.

The manufacturers claim that the flavours produced by the Auspit cooking system will create meals that will be etched in your mind for many years to come. The Auspit, the Chic Spit and all of the accessories are now being sent to all corners of Australia with export going to the USA, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand and Europe.

The Chic Spit is another Australian made product that is available direct from PMT Leisure, through their authorised distributors all around Australia or via the website. The Chic Spit is available for \$168.00. From the Ute to the boot, from the backyard to the bush, you can cook anywhere with an Auspit.

Available at [www.auspit.com](http://www.auspit.com).

# HOTTEST FORUM TOPICS!

## What does the SSAA do for you?

[Posted by CHRISTOPHER 10 April 2011](#)

Christopher raises the issue of members who have paid more in yearly fees for 25yrs+ as opposed to a one time life membership fee. Others join in and pass on the benefits they are receiving and agree that long term members should be rewarded. **What didn't the SSAA do for Christopher?** - maybe a more appropriate title.

## Bringing the ferals to you

[Posted by Fangster 09 May 2011](#)

Fangster shares some great ideas and photos of bait stations he works on his property. Others offer advice and show some trail cam pics of their own, proving that even **Telstra employees are attracted to molasses blocks!**

## The talent and personality of vegans

[Posted by Sloth on 14 May 2011](#)

This topic developed by respecting the different beliefs of some groups. Everyone agrees that it can be annoying when other's ideals are pushed at you, prompting a range of responses. **Wait up, Is that someone at the door?**

## Our cattle in Indonesia

[Posted by cameropatrol 31 May 2011](#)

This was a very lively topic not only in the forum but also around the country. Let's hope the industry can find an acceptable solution and not at the expense of our farmers or cattle in waiting. **What steak are you eating tonight?**

## 2011 Wonnangatta Trip - Reports

[Posted by Joe.358win 21 May 2011](#)

Members share their experiences and photos from the annual trip away. Many thanks go to the organisers, and the cooks for the main dinner. Looks like a fantastic trip was had by young and old and **Cam Grylls** (identified by bodypart) even made an appearance.

These discussions and many more hot topics available in the [AusHunt Forum](#).

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## Gallery Photos



[NZ Trip](#) by Goswasere



[More foxes](#) by Gafloss



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To see many more images, comments and descriptions, check out the [member's gallery](#).

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# Site news + developments..



## ■ AusHunt Shop

We have introduced a [shop](#) within the forum section which is open to everyone. We have some merchandise available now and will be expanding this area with more products later in the year. Stockist enquiries welcome.

## ■ Emagazine

As you can see the [emagazine](#) is growing, and we have had great subscriber feedback indicating it's a great way to catch up on the highlights of the site. We're working hard to increase accessibility to your phone, tablet or desktop. Our schedule is flexible at this stage with the next issue anticipated for November-December.

## ■ Business Directory

The [business directory](#) has seen a steady increase in visitors and companies adding or correcting their details to keep the directory up to date. We are planning to upgrade the directory soon and will report back with the improvements.

## Competitions

# EMAIL your hunting STORIES and photos to WIN these prizes!

We're not asking for professional writers but true blue hunting stories as told in your own words! Email to us and you will be entered into any of the [current competitions](#) below or on the site at the time.

## Good Luck everybody!

### Hunting Australia Books

5 books thanks to [AFN](#) and [Al McGlashan](#).

### Blaze/cammo Reversible Hunting Jacket

1 jacket thanks to [MyGuns](#).

### Medium Assault Tactical Pack 2

2 backpacks thanks to [MyGuns](#).

### Hydration Pack

1 Hydration pack thanks to [MyGuns](#).

### Auspit Basic

1 Auspit basic thanks to [PMT Leisure](#).

## Recent winners :)

- Greg Gibson, Bunbury WA
- Norm Roberts, Blacktown NSW
- Daniel Greatrix, Altona Meadows VIC
- Jai Campbell, Glen Innes NSW

Note: Please read the [guidelines](#) before submitting your material.

# AusHUNT

Australia's Hunting Business + Products Directory

[www.aushunt.com.au/directory](http://www.aushunt.com.au/directory)

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