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Front cover pic: Cody Gough, Dalpura Station QLD.



Welcome to the final e-magazine for 2012.

Well i did more hunting this year than last and it felt great! I didn't quite get the results that i wanted but just being out in the Aussie bush with good mates, great stories and a new pup has made for a rewarding year. I hope you had similar experiences.

There is a great buzz around hunting at the moment as some politics work in our favour and junior shooters get more involved. Australian hunting is definitely alive and well!

Technology, forums and social media (used wisely) has had a huge impact on conveying our message and bringing hunters together. AusHunt looks forward to developing with the trends and serving our members into the future.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Happy hunting,
Aushunter

Editor: Bernie (aka Aushunter)
Publisher: AusHunt



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I can remember when, as a young fellow, my father introducing me to hunting. That first rabbit hunt at Gundagai in New South Wales is as vivid now, it's as if it happened yesterday.

Fishing also was introduced to me at a young age. With a grandfather and uncles as keen as dad, it was inevitable that hunting and fishing would play such a large part in my life.

From those early days hunting rabbits the gradual progression was made to foxes, goats, pigs and deer. Over the past couple of decades, together with like minded mates, we've hunted across the ditch after Red and Sika Deer, Tahr and Chamois as well as fishing the mighty Tongariro for Steelhead Trout.

Add to that a sales profession in the hunting, fishing and outdoor industry spanning nearly 25 years and it comes as no real surprise that my own love of hunting, fishing and the wild places has rubbed off on my own children.

At 14 years old my eldest daughter Chloe is as keen as the most seasoned and experienced deerstalker.

Her youthful powers of observation have left me amazed on numerous occasions as has her willingness to learn and understand why we hunt and why the other kids at school didn't.

We were hunting rabbits one evening just prior to Christmas 2007. Typically the rabbits were scarce on this property and the local hare population had gone elsewhere for the festive season, or so it

seemed. Nevertheless, an afternoon spent walking the hills with my first born, was an afternoon well spent.

Ever mindful of the limitations of a (then) seven year old, we were slowly making our way around the base of a hill, into the wind with the setting sun at our backs. I had decided to take one last look into a shallow gully before turning around and making our way back to the truck.

In an effort to get a better view of the countryside we settled down atop some boulders and waited the final thirty minutes or so till sundown. In the still evening air, nothing moved in the gully.

A lone wedge tail eagle glided over head and an Angus Bull bawled somewhere in the distance.

A little while later a movement way down the gully caught our eyes. I was bringing the binoculars to bear as Chloe was already calling the animal for a deer. Sure enough, at around 200 yards a young fallow doe, a yearling in fact, stepped out of the scrub for her evening meal.

No doubt the various hunting magazines and the trophies on the living room wall helped Chloe with the early identification of the animal.

Now i had a dillema. Not knowing how Chloe would handle seeing a deer shot, let alone dressed out if we were lucky enough to get it, a quick council of war was called. With Chloe's assurance that "it's o.k. dad" we made a beeline for a small knoll around sixty yards from the deer.

AusHunting Stories

With the stalk going to plan we moved into position. Resting the .17 Remington across my day pack and, aiming behind the shoulder, I touched off the shot. The deer reacted as had others heart shot with the little seventeen, taking off only to be found piled up 30 or so yards away amongst the tussock and rocks, the little 25 grain projectile doing its job nicely.

Silently we moved toward the downed animal. Kneeling beside the deer Chloe smoothed its coat with a trembling hand while her eyes took in every detail of the magnificent animal.

Now with a perfect day drawing to a close, I began the process of field dressing the deer in preparation for the trip home. With the task almost complete Chloe said, "You know why I wasn't worried about you shooting the deer dad?" Why I asked, interested in her interpretation of the afternoons events.

**"Because it's all part of nature isn't it".
And with that we headed home.**

Since that afternoon back in 2007, Chloe has progressed to getting her junior firearms permit and taking her first game animals, a European Hare and Rabbit within quick succession of one another.



She's now preparing to head out to Bourke with me next January to get her first fox, goat and pig. Next it's off up to the Brisbane Valley during the April school holidays to have a crack at a Red Deer.

My youngest daughter, Skye, turns twelve this Christmas so it's off to the range with her now as well!

It looks like 2013 is going to be a busy year.....we'll keep you all posted as things progress.

by Craig Golding



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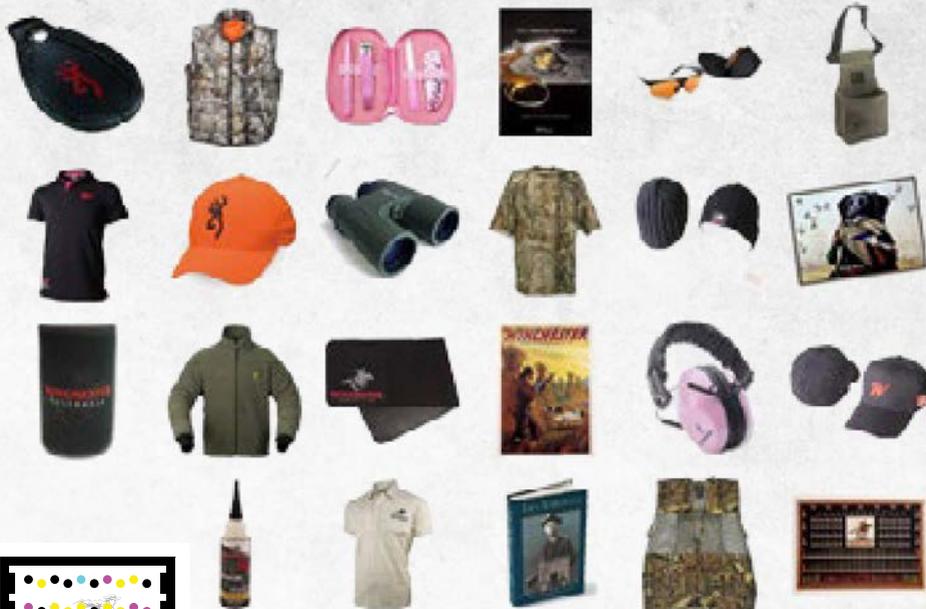


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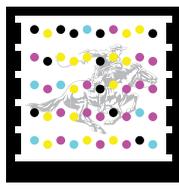
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FLIR Scout thermal imaging cameras: a perfect tool for finding wildlife

Thermal imaging cameras see through darkness and ignore visual camouflage

The rugged FLIR Scout TS32 Pro handheld thermal imaging camera provides crisp thermal images at a resolution of 320 x 240 pixels on which the smallest of details can be seen.



These four deer are easy to spot thanks to the InstAlert feature. Distance approximately 120 m.

Tools for detecting wildlife have evolved a lot in the last century. Binoculars are now quite commonly used throughout the world, followed by light amplifying nighttime vision systems that can be used to spot animals at night. Now there's a new wildlife detection tool on the market: the FLIR Scout TS-Series handheld thermal imaging camera.

Unlike all other nighttime vision systems thermal imaging cameras need no light whatsoever to produce a clear image. Many animals are mostly active at night, using the cover of darkness to remain undetected, but they will not be able to hide in the dark any longer if you have a FLIR Scout TS-Series handheld thermal imaging camera. All warm blooded animals will show up clearly in the thermal image, in total darkness and in practically all weather conditions.



Despite the heavy rain these young deer clearly show up on the thermal image at a distance of about 100 meters.

Thermal imaging cameras are widely used by professional documentary makers and hunters worldwide. Until recently they were extremely expensive. With the TS-Series handheld thermal imaging cameras FLIR Systems is now bringing thermal imaging cameras within the reach of nature and wildlife enthusiasts and hunters.

First tests

The Swiss nature photographer and freelance wildlife journalist Michele Costantini was one of the first to receive a FLIR Scout TS-Series handheld thermal imaging camera for testing. He wrote a review of this new wildlife detection tool for the Swiss hunting magazine Jagd & Natur.



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This black hot thermal image shows two deer in the rut, distance about 60 meters.



Thanks to the InstAlert feature a buck (in the foreground) and a doe with fawn (background) clearly show up in the thermal image.

"Until a few years ago, a thermal imaging camera would cost more than a midsize car", explains Costantini. "In recent years, however, some affordable thermal imaging cameras have come on the market. Although the resolution of these thermal imaging cameras is lower than the resolution of most visual photo cameras, the high contrast image of a thermal imaging camera really is a great way to track game. With these devices you can see the outlines of animals and people very clearly even in total darkness and in light fog."

impossible to track or trace young deer – in hay fields, to name an example. With a thermal imaging camera, however, even the most camouflaged animals become visible to the observer."

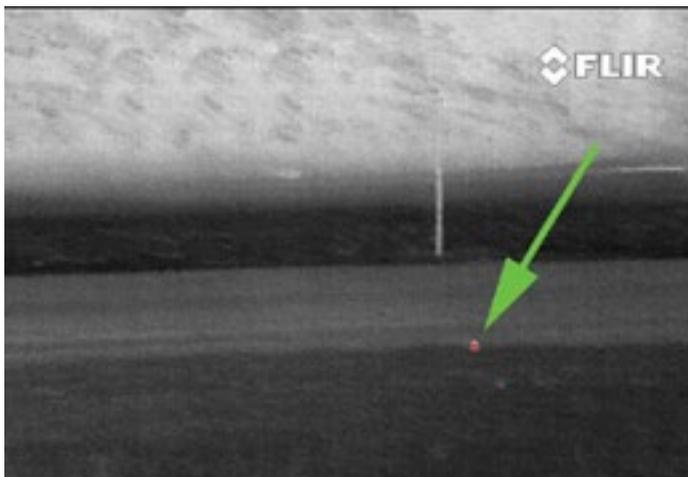
Also very useful during the day

Thermal imaging cameras from FLIR Systems provide unparalleled nighttime vision, but not only will the TS-Series handheld thermal imaging cameras help you to find animals in total darkness; they are also very useful during the day. Costantini explains: "Many species of animals have evolved to blend in with their surroundings, making them hard to find for hunters or wildlife enthusiasts. But if you use the FLIR Scout TS-Series handheld thermal imaging camera these camouflaged animals stand out quite clearly in the thermal image."

Costantini discovered that there's more wildlife in his area than he had expected. "Because most wildlife has very good camouflage many of them remain undetected if you use traditional means such as binoculars or light amplifying vision systems. As most hunters and wildlife enthusiasts know all too well it is almost



Even though these deer are huddled up closely, you can still distinguish the individual animals on the high contrast thermal image.



A hare in a beet field, at a distance of about 140 meters, is easily spotted thanks to the InstAlert feature.



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Saving young animals from the onslaught of the mowing machines

This makes the FLIR Scout TS-Series thermal imaging camera especially useful, since every year young animals die when the mowing machines come to collect the hay, according to Costantini. "With a thermal imaging camera hunters and wildlife enthusiasts can more effectively find the young animals hiding in the hay and remove them from the danger zone before the mowing begins."

Like all thermal imaging cameras the FLIR Scout TS-Series handheld thermal imaging cameras rely on emitted heat instead of light to create an image. The thermal imaging detector records minute differences in the heat emission and the thermal imaging camera then translates that information into a visible image. The fact that it relies on thermal contrast instead of visible contrast means that thermal imaging cameras

will provide perfect vision even when camouflage or darkness render normal eyesight completely useless.

In his experience Costantini was able to spot just about every warm blooded animal with the FLIR Scout TS-Series thermal imaging camera he tested. "If you have a good viewing point you can find heat sources in meadows very quickly. And we found that not only warm blooded animals like cats and rabbits emit heat, ants and dung heaps also showed up quite clearly on the thermal image."

Designed for rough outdoors environments

The thermal imaging camera tested by Costantini was a FLIR Scout TS32 Pro with a 2x extender, provided by FLIR products distributor Pergam-Suisse AG. The small handheld thermal imaging camera contains an uncooled Vanadium Oxide



Light amplifying night vision system



Thermal imaging system

(VOx) microbolometer that produces crisp thermal images at a resolution of 320 x 240 pixels. Waterproof, compact, lightweight and shock resistant, this rugged piece of equipment is perfectly capable of coping with rough outdoor environments.

According to Costantini the FLIR Scout TS32 Pro is extremely easy to use. "The operation is very simple and almost completely self-explanatory. With only 5 buttons on top of the device all camera functions are controlled. All controls are practical and are within easy reach of the fingertips. They can be easily operated with gloves. The shuttered eyepiece ensures that the operator is covered in complete darkness because it prevents stray light from coming out of the viewfinder. This helps to avoid alarming the animals.

Different versions available

The TS Series is available in different versions. All of the rugged TS-Series handheld thermal imaging cameras produce thermal images of either 240 x 180 or 320 x 240 pixels. Advanced internal camera software called Digital Detail Enhancement (DDE) delivers a perfectly crisp image without the need for user adjustments. The unique InstAlert™ feature colors the hottest parts in the thermal image red, making it extremely easy to spot animals in the thermal image.

FLIR Scout TS-Series: Thermal imaging cameras for wildlife observations

The FLIR Scout TS-Series is a rugged handheld thermal imaging camera that has been especially developed for wildlife observations and hunters. Thermal imaging cameras need no light whatsoever to produce an image. They help you to see clearly at night, in practically all weather circumstances.

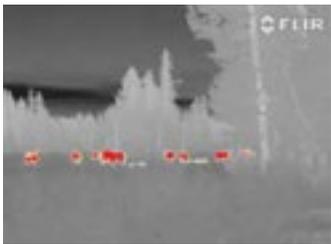


A lot of animals are mainly active at night. With the help of the FLIR Scout TS-Series thermal imaging camera you will be able to monitor their activities. The TS-Series will not only help you to find animals in total darkness but during daylight as well.

Thermal imaging cameras make extremely small temperature differences visible. Based on these temperature differences they create a clear image. Furthermore, thermal contrast is extremely difficult to mask. This means that during daylight you will clearly see animals that are hidden in trees or bushes. Their natural camouflage will not help them to hide anymore.



The FLIR Scout TS32 Pro handheld thermal imaging camera allows the user to choose whether the screen should show either white hot or black hot on the thermal image.



The unique InstAlert feature colors the hottest parts in the thermal image red, making it extremely easy to spot animals in the thermal image.

For each TS-Series thermal imaging camera there's a Basic and a Pro version. The Pro versions contain useful features: the thermal images can be saved on a removable SD card in JPEG format by pressing a button. In addition, the Pro-versions offer the possibility to record video images in MPEG-4 full-screen mode. The USB2 port is used for direct transfer of images and video sequences on a computer for your own video or photo collection.

Excellent range performance

Most versions of the TS-Series thermal imaging cameras provide a field of view of 24°. This field of view offers an excellent combination of range performance and situational awareness. With a FLIR TS-Series handheld thermal imaging camera that has a resolution of 320 x 240 pixels a deer can be

spotted at about 450 meters away, in total darkness. For situations where longer range performance is needed a 2X extender is available. With the added functionality of the extender a deer can be spotted at approximately 790 meters. This was the version Costantini tested. "The version of the TS-Series I tested was well suited for detection of wild and in all weather conditions and in complete darkness."

If you need an even longer range performance, you can opt for the TS32r. This long range wildlife detection tool is equipped with a 7° lens. Due to this narrow field of view it can be used to spot a deer at about 1,450 meters away.

Hours of autonomous use

All versions of the TS-Series can function autonomously for 5 hours. They are equipped with 4 rechargeable batteries (NiMH), but replacing these with regular AA batteries is also possible.

The FLIR Scout TS-Series thermal imaging camera also comes standard with a "Hot Shoe". Not only does it allow for tripod mounting of the TS-Series, it also has a power in and video out jack. This means that you can put the TS-Series in an inconspicuous position and follow what is happening from a hidden location. Not only will this help you to remain undetected, it also allows you to follow what's happening on a large monitor, making it even easier to spot the animals you want to see.

According to Costantini the thermal imaging camera is particularly beneficial for hunting wild boars. "Boars can be detected quite easily at distances of over 500 meters. The thermal imaging camera alone is however not good enough as a shooting aid; you still need a good scope. But finding the well camouflaged wild boars is a lot easier if you have a thermal imaging camera."

Costantini thinks that during the day hunters or wildlife enthusiasts should still carry binoculars next to their FLIR thermal imaging camera. "If you rely solely on a thermal imaging camera, you might experience some unpleasant surprises. To put it simply thermal imaging cameras are extremely useful to spot wildlife and even



FLIR TS-Series handheld thermal imaging camera is a great investment for hunters and wildlife enthusiasts

differentiate which kind of animal it is, but to determine of what sex the animal is or what kind of health condition you still need binoculars."

For hunters the thermal imaging camera can be very useful after the shot has been fired as well. "Often the game isn't killed immediately and it will bolt away. Often it will die later on, but sometimes it is difficult to find due to the camouflage. I had such a situation with a fox when I was testing the thermal imaging camera. Using the camera I could find it within seconds lying dead in the neighboring meadow. Although a thermal imaging camera will never replace a good bloodhound, yet this application is certainly interesting, especially if you already have the thermal imaging camera with you anyway."

According to Costantini the FLIR Scout TS32 Pro with a 2x extender is one of the best thermal imaging cameras on the market. "I think it's a great investment for hunting parties and wildlife preservation organizations. It is very easy to use and I consider it to be one of the best methods for finding and saving young animals just before the hay harvest. The user has to be aware of the fact that these devices do not make binoculars and shooting scopes obsolete, but as wildlife detection tool it really is very good."

For more information about thermal imaging cameras or about this application, please contact:

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Fox Whistling Techniques book

Fox whistling is an art being rediscovered every day by more and more hunters looking for a new challenge. Whistling up foxes is action packed, and best of all, is accessible to everyone - little wonder this hunting style is gaining such popularity.



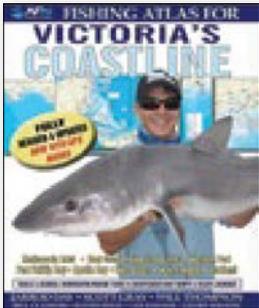
“Fox Whistling Techniques” contains in equal parts “How to” technical skills, the philosophy crucial to the successful fox caller’s deception strategy and tales a plenty of fox whistling adventure. Included too are fox whistle blueprints - make your own! plus answers to questions like - How long before you go back to the same property? So when is the best time to call? So what fox whistles do you use? And loads more. It contains proven techniques that will dramatically increase your odds and give you the edge on your next fox whistling adventure.

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HOTTEST FORUM TOPICS!

Wonnangatta Deer Hunt 2013

[Started by Joe.358win, Sep 24 2012](#)

This topic is always a record breaker!

The anticipation and planning that precedes the event is all just part of a great week away where you can make it what you want, unless the mongrel has other plans for you.....

Light Alternatives

[Started by JohnGalway, Oct 10 2012](#)

We've come a long way from the old battery box and hand held spotlight. Members review and recommend the best torches for their style of hunting including rifle mounted. **Spot on!**

Best Spot To Bag A Sambar Buck

[Started by huntsmart, Oct 16 2012](#)

'Huntsmart' is on a mission to bag himself a trophy deer and from his posts is a little excited!! Other members enjoy the enthusiasm and everyone is wishing him the best. **Good Luck!**

Ssaa Conservation And Pest Management Course

[Started by dmac75, Sep 23 2012](#)

Members provide feedback on this course and the benefits of being accredited, yet some members are sceptical.

Let's wait and see

Landline And Foxes

[Started by optic, Oct 22 2012](#)

An interesting thread that starts off talking about a tv show on fox shooting and control methods but ends up arguing what it means to be green. **Go figure?**

Dog Choice Kelpie Or Border Collie

[Started by 308junkie, Sep 03 2012](#)

Various breeds and traits are discussed for the family pet to hunting dog. Cattle, Kelpie and Border Collie are definitely a multi-purpose breed fit to the task.

Here red...

Gaiters

[Started by chrisso, Oct 29 2012](#)

The topic turns to snake proof gaiters and the likelihood of being bit by a snake out in the field and if the products are actually tested. **I'm not game to find out.**

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- Geoff Fairy, Armidale NSW
- Douglas McKelvie, Mornington VIC
- Cameron Garratt, Sorrento VIC

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



Site news + developments...

AusHunt will continue to support its valued clients and members in 2013 through the forum, facebook and other social media features. We have a few ideas for the front facing pages and are looking at a different model for release next year. Thanks to all for your continued support and stay tuned..



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Weighing just 340g, the FLIR Scout PS is compact, robust and simple to use.

FLIR Scout will join the SatPhone, EPERB and GPS as the ‘must-have’ safety devices for people involved in outdoor pursuits such as hunters, outdoor educationalists, tour operators, 4WD touring, park rangers, bushwalkers, bird watchers, police, emergency service workers, military, mining, security operators and farmers.

FLIR Scout. The true bush master.

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What you see



What FLIR sees

Night



What you see



What FLIR sees

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