

About the Book

Sambar present many challenges in their hunting and management. A key component of these challenges is developing knowledge and understanding of these magnificent and intriguing animals. To some they are extremely wary animals that sometimes display intelligence and awesome power and strength as they power up a hill through thick scrub behind a forlorn hunter who has not seen them until it is too late. At other times sambar show their soft and gentle nature as they carefully pick their way across a hill below a hunter quietly enjoying just being in their presence and getting a glimpse into their very private life. Sadly few of us have the time to devote to really get to know this magnificent game animal in a way that Errol Mason has over the last couple of decades.

In this, his third volume on sambar, Errol reveals more on how to find, observe and hunt them. I can attest to Errol's passion, knowledge and methodology for hunting and observing sambar. I have been privileged to share a hunting camp with Errol and be shown how to hunt smarter and safer under Errol's Hunt Smart system – and it works! Soon after spending time with Errol, on my own, I took my first sambar stag in Australia.

Hunters have a key role to play in sambar management in Australia. Sambar populations are increasing, both in size and range. It is naïve to think that sambar are always a benign presence in the environment and it is just as naïve or wrong to think that any presence of sambar is negative. We need to face the facts; sambar are here and they are here to stay. We must ensure that future management is based upon sound science game management principals such as 'Ecological Deer Management' – to do this hunters must be informed, knowledgeable, and most importantly out there successfully hunting and controlling the populations. This volume will aid in educating conservation hunters so that sambar will remain a respected game animal with minimal impact on the environment while contributing positively to Australia, socially and economically.

*Honorable Robert Borsak MLC
Rep. Shooters and Fishers Party,
NSW Parliament*



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Right: Dean Scott from Kialla Victoria with the biggest antlered sambar stag ever taken with a bow. It measured 311/2 x 331/8 inches and scored 2023/8 Douglas points. Read Dean's story p. 250.

Shikari Press
www.sambardeer.com

Secrets of the Sambar

*Biology, Ecology, Behaviour
& Hunting Strategies*

Volume 3

The definitive work on Sambar Deer hunters have been waiting for!

Twenty years in the making, Volume 3 is bulging with facts about sambar. Like Volumes 1 & 2, it has something for everybody, including land managers, deer biologists, deer behaviouralists, naturalists and deerhunters from beginners to the most experienced. In his quest to make Volume 3 even better than the previous volumes, Errol lived in the bush right amongst the deer for two years. This gave him the priceless opportunity of observing and photographing sambar virtually everyday. This study significantly deepened Errol's understanding of this elusive species and knowledge gleaned during it filled most of the gaps and further crystallised what he has already written.

Above: Author, Errol Mason - Photo by Jon Nash

Errol Mason is a sambar deer specialist who has devoted 20 years of his life to studying this magnificent deer. He and his wife Lynne run their popular two day Hunt Smart® Sambar Training Course from their purpose built complex north of Bairnsdale and their mountain hide away near Swifts Creek. They also distribute high quality binoculars, spotting scopes and rifle scopes for hunters made by Vixen® of Japan.

In this impressive volume you will find:

- 165 superb photographs including a rare sequence of a tigress stalking and killing a sambar;
- How co-evolution with the tiger, leopard, wild dog and man produced the world's most elusive deer;
- Hunting from Tree Stands & Ground Hides & many other successful hunting strategies and clear instructions for employing them;
- A Day in The Life of a Sambar and how they use key parts of their habitat;
- The largest antlered stags and the factors and areas which have produced them;
- How to hunt sambar with a bow and stories of the biggest bowshot stags plus much, much more...



Photo by Greg Young

Secrets of the Sambar
Errol Mason

Vol. 3

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Secrets of the Sambar

Volume 3

by
Errol Mason

*Biology, Ecology, Behaviour
and Hunting Strategies*

About the Book

This, the final book in the trilogy 'Secrets of the Sambar' is the culmination of over 20 years experience of one man living with and hunting the majestic Sambar.

Coincidentally next year – 2011 will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the importation of the first Sambar into Victoria.

The knowledge gained and distilled into these books represents thousands of hours observing, hunting, analysing and studying research from around the world.

However one comes to these books whether an avid hunter, photographer or houndman, you are enjoying the fruits of labour of a distinguished author prepared to share his expertise.

Armed with these insightful tutorials everyone of you can go to the hills confident in the knowledge that given a modicum of luck you will soon share the world of the Sambar.

Since Errol and I linked up some 20 years ago we've been able to share our varied experiences and knowledge of both deer and dogs I hope to our mutual advantage. Errol and Lynne's foresight and boldness in taking on the challenge of three books is the stuff of legends.

I don't think for one moment that this will be the end of the trail –

'The wisest man does not extort the secrets of Nature then lose his curiosity by finding out all her perfection' - Ralph Waldo Emerson.

There's bound to be more

*John Roberts
Capel
Western Australia*



John Roberts has spent a lifetime studying and hunting deer around the world and has written numerous papers on deer and deer behaviour. He farmed Red deer in the Margaret River area of Western Australia for 30 years. In 1984 he was appointed Editor of the 'Australian Deer Farming' magazine, a post he held until 1996, ably assisted by his wife Olivia. He has lectured and conducted seminars on dog behaviour and deer management in Universities in Australia, and trained many dog breeds for tracking, obedience and field trials.

Front Cover: A truly magnificent sambar stag 'caught out' during a rare daytime visit to this wallow.