

# Features



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2 Errol Mason

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*Tracking Dogs for Finding Wounded Deer*

78 *Sauer 100 Classic XT Rifle* - Bob Gough  
& *Zeiss Victory HT 3-12 x 56 scope*

### Front Cover Photo

Shane Robinson with his magnificent sambar stag.

### 6 STAGS OF THE CLOVER

- Robin and Nicholas Vetch

Hours of Google Earth searching and pouring over topographical maps had our destination set. We had decided that hunting some very remote country accessible only by boat would give us the best opportunity for success.

### 18 THE SAMBAR'S BRAIN

- Errol Mason

Studies in humans and animals have revealed that neurons are strengthened by activities that require sharp, intense focus. No activity will keep a prey species neurons more focused than trying to detect a predator that is trying to kill and eat it.

### 28 BROKEN DROUGHT

- Shane Robinson

I knew I had only a matter of seconds before darkness would protect him so once he lifted his head for one final sniff of the frosty evening air I took up the last bit of trigger.

### 38 THE BEDDED SAMBAR

- Dick Power

Most of my commentary in this article is related to the dry sclerophyll forests found in the sub alpine country of North-Eastern Victoria.

### 48 SMOKIN' HOT

- Tim Ebert

Smoking is one of the oldest methods of meat preservation. Its primal mix of wood, fire and smoke is as deeply rooted in our cultural DNA as hunting itself.

### 54 SLEEPLESS NIGHTS

- Nathan Grimes

I decided to take a week off over Easter, with my friend Matt to chase free range Victorian Fallow and Red deer during the rut. The Monarch knew something wasn't quite right. Quickening his pace he showed no signs of stopping. I was running out of time, fast.

### 62 ENCOUNTERS IN SAMBAR COUNTRY

- Dr. A.J.T. Johnsingh

Loud agitated alarm calls from a sambar in tiger country could possibly mean that the deer has seen a tiger on the prowl.

### 70 TRAINING JESS

- Neil Hair

Training a gun dog for deer hunting is not hard, but it is relentless and time consuming. Commitment is needed with clear thoughts to keep one step ahead of your pup.

### 86 THE RUTTING RITUAL

- Errol Mason

At the start of the rut bucks battle for the right to occupy a lek which is centrally located in an area holding the most does.

### 98 MITCH'S 1ST DEER

- Erich Lissenden

The deer was less than 15 metres from us with its head behind a thicket of tea tree with just the area from the base of the neck back showing.

### 104 ANIMAL INTRIGUE

- Errol Mason

Drawing upon research by the world's foremost antler experts, Errol explains the most likely reasons for non typical antlers from three different sambar stags.

### 108 REDUCING RATTLES

- Bob Gough

Something that has cost me more harvest opportunities than anything else is unwanted noise and unnecessary movement from clothing and equipment. Those rattles, clinks, squeaks and flapping straps betray our presence to the deer.



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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome feedback from our readers via email or snail mail.

This will help us to provide you with information that you want.