

Friends of Maryvale

Newsletter August 2009

After the last hunt, I had to go to Brisbane to meet up with graphic designers, Nina and Christine, to do the final draft for the Maryvale Safaris website.



On my return to Maryvale, it was only a few days before hunters arrived. John and Jason were like truffles they just reeked of enthusiasm.

With two rifles and a bow each, Jason had brought only five arrow which he consumed on pigs in a short time. Luckily John was able to restock him. After Jason got his stag he hunted with a bow taking pigs while being with John and I. As this would not disturb the hunting area.

Jason is from Wales and it did take me some time to understand Welsh.

You think to yourself as having some adventures in your life. Jason was a fisher man in Wales, on one trip he goes over the side of his boat in the Irish Sea.

With only a few minutes before going to the big hunting ground in the sky, the crew were able to get him back on board.

Big game hunting should be a breeze after that experience.

The nights were very cold and early mornings cold, with frost some mornings. Days warm and pleasant.



John and I had trouble containing Jason in the car. He would see a stag, up with the binoculars, then the words MASSIVE would rush out of his mouth, then 6 foot of Welsh man would try to get out of the window with his rifle.

Fortunately John, after a few days, was able to instruct Jason in the use of a door handle!!!!

Jason was the first to get a stag. After spotting the stag, a long stalk was planned in a creek bed. Being the middle of the day the stag was bedded with the usual few deer around him. This always makes for interesting hunting

We were waiting for the stag to give us a better shot when he got up walked past his rubbing tree and then towards us. Staying calm, Jason gave him a frontal chest shot at 45 metres.



“Fantastic hunting experience, on a great property with good company, great food and accommodation shot a good stag and saw lots of deer” Jason James

In Jason's excitement to get out of the car he forgot his camera. John and I were waiting for him where Jason's stag lay and as Jason was making his way back. He tells us there is a pig walking towards us! John picks up his rifle and with a frontal shot one less pig at Maryvale



Many stags are sighted over the next few days. These boys would just take every thing in their stride. It is wonderful to see two hunters from different countries, different backgrounds and different ages, hunting together and genuinely enjoying each other's company.



John wear many caps in his working life. One is a teacher of tourism at college. He made many useful suggestions about websites and marketing which I have taken on board, and will implement over the next few months. I am just waiting for the bill !!!!!



Over the course of the days we hunted together we found many cast antlers. Both hunters found interesting the diversity of the Maryvale habitat and its wild life.





The scenario for John hunt.

We found a place where the deer would cross from the timber to the open grasslands to feed in the evening. We had to stand off the grasslands and wait for the deer to feed out.

This particular evening there were over 40 deer on the grassland and. We found the stag we wanted and made our stalk. He was rubbing trees and not staying in the same place for long. With the light running out and the number of deer around the stag, John took aim and with a long shot took his stag cleanly.



"Great hunt, great experience I gained many new ways to hunt-stalk-spot-sit for deer highly recommended" John Hossack

I did not say anything at the time but I was dubious when John showed up with his .338 to hunt chital, he demonstrated on the trip that he is well acquainted with the calibre and was very accurate with it.



I was telling Jason and John about a non-typical chital stag I had seen about three weeks before. He had three brow tines and on the last day of the hunt we all saw him.

We were unable to get close to him as he was on the move. They postponed their departure, but we failed to see him again. Must be why they call it hunting.

Jason and John were very interesting, we talked about many subject. Had a few laughs, it was a great time.

Till the next newsletter, happy hunting.

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