

Cherished FN Herstal shotgun • SMART shooting goals • Hunting feral pigs

# AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S SHOOTER

*Game trophy  
artistry*

**From the field, to canvas,  
to your living room wall**

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# Editorial

## Gemma Dunn



Laetisha Scanlan provides a personal insight to the year that has been and what lies ahead, including Aussie success at the World Championships and Shooting being reinstated into the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

We look at canvas art as a stunning alternative for your hunting trophy, which is particularly handy for those without the space to hang a traditional mount on their wall at home.

Our fascinating tale of a cherished side-by-side shotgun traverses Europe to incorporate a baroness, a castle, hide and seek, happy hunting and a fond legacy.

I talk about SMART goal-setting for your shooting that will help you track and achieve realistic goals, incorporating a QR code for you to access an easy-to-use worksheet.

And there's plenty of feral pigs out there and plenty of options for hunting them, so follow our guide to start the pursuit and make a positive difference for our fragile ecosystems.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This year has been a big one with us all catching up on life after COVID so I hope you get some well-earned relaxation and time with family. Thanks for reading and see you all in 2023 for another big year.

Gemma

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## AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S SHOOTER

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# Taking aim with Laetisha Scanlan

**Pondering the year gone by and positives that lie ahead**

As 2022 is coming to an end I have always found it beneficial to look back on the year and reflect. What went well? What needs improving? What would I keep the same?

Personally, for me there were lots of high and lows and lessons to be learned. From a shooting perspective I made some big technical changes both with my gun and shooting technique. Although I felt they were risky at the time, I am confident in the long run this will be the best decision for me as a competitor moving forward. I am also grateful for all those who continue to support me both professionally and personally.

Overall, it was a year for growth, and I can confidently say I gave it my best, as I have finished the season off ranked at No. 7 in the world.

After recently returning from the World Championships in Croatia, it's exciting to see the depth of Australian women's Trap shooting go from strength to strength. As we know, depth is so important for

the future development of our sport and from the recent results at the Junior World Championships, it's clear we have some talented juniors among the ranks.

A big shout out to Kiara Dean for being crowned Women's Junior World Champion and to Breanna Collins for claiming the bronze in the same event. These girls shot incredibly well and for two Aussie women to be standing on the podium at a World Championships is an exceptional result. I hope their success in this event will inspire the next generation of developing athletes.

Finally, let me say how elated and appreciative I am that shooting will be back in the Victorian 2026 Commonwealth Games! A big thank you to every individual and organisation who rallied around this cause to reinstate our great sport. I was ecstatic to read the announcement of Shooting's inclusion back into the multisport arena of the Commonwealth, but also rapt to see the presence of Para Shooting which will make its debut in

Victoria at the Games. I have always loved how inclusive this sport can be.

Unfortunately, the late addition has meant that the program has been shortened and as a result several disciplines have been scrapped from the programming. My heart goes out to those athletes and events that will not be represented and I can understand how this announcement is bittersweet.

For now, I wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year as well as good shooting. You will be hearing from me again in 2023 but for now take care and stay safe.



## Women's-only competition

Only female SSAA members are eligible to enter. One entry per member. To enter, simply write your name, address and membership number on the back of an envelope and send it to:

**SSAA Online Shop voucher,  
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**or online at [ssaa.org.au/win](https://ssaa.org.au/win)**

Competition closes December 31, 2022

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# Trophy artistry

**Dave Rose** highlights paintings that provide stirring reminders of hunting exploits

There are various forms of mementoes that can be accrued or displayed by hunters in order to remember the thrills of a successful outing.

The bulk of hunters may at some stage wish to exhibit articles that rekindle fond memories of deeds done in pursuit of prized game animals.

And on-the-wall keepsakes don't come on a much grander and attractive scale than securing a meticulously crafted painting from renowned Tasmanian artist Lyn Turnbull.

If you are a hunter who doesn't have the space or desire for a standard trophy mount, then Lyn might be able to provide the perfect alternative.

Lyn practises her forays into art in tandem with husband John from their Tasmanian base just outside Launceston and is swiftly taking on board growing interest from various hunters who have been alerted to her talents.

"I love painting and have been doing it all my life," said Lyn. "The hunting connection came about roughly six or seven years ago.

"It was my husband's idea because he has plenty of friends who are hunters and he just said, 'why don't you give it a go, painting hunting scenes?' I suddenly thought perhaps I could do that. It just steamrolled from there."

That may be something of an understatement as Lyn has now completed what she estimates to be anywhere between 300 to 400 paintings over the past few years for an expectant queue of outdoors folk.

The procedure is all done via contacts online and has steadily expanded as word spreads about Lyn's talent. John engages in online chat to make potential clients aware of the process. Lyn says that John revels in his social skills to interact with interested parties.





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who doesn't have  
the space or desire  
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alternative.*

The prospective patrons duly send a picture of their hunting feats and trophy gains, so Lyn just takes things from there with the brush in hand.

“My husband is my muse – John handles all the commission and things like ordering the paints,” she said.

In fact, John has done even more than that as the venture unfolded with the couple having converted the former laundry at their abode into a studio where Lyn can weave her magic in her own space and time. John was at the helm for all the necessary rebuilding.

“I have always loved painting,” said Lyn. “It’s something that you can become good at. Perhaps it’s a bit like being into chess although I was not very good at that,” she joked.

The conveyor belt of orders keeps Lyn busy. “I was looking for something to do and then this all happened,” she said.

Both large paintings and smaller ones on the board can be accommodated to fit in with Lyn’s working agenda. Some blueprints can be as large as 3m wide, which Lyn admits “take a fair bit of time to complete.” But the smaller ones are usually all wrapped up and ready to go back to the hunter within about a week.



John and Lyn, centred,  
form part of a smiling  
Turnbull family.



Regular *Australian Hunter* correspondent Mick Chapman was certainly grateful for Lyn's exquisite brushstrokes when he suffered an alarming setback due to red tape bureaucracy and a taxidermy mishap at the end of a dream getaway to Zimbabwe.

In Issue 71 of the magazine Mick chronicled how Lyn came to the rescue to offer some consolation thanks to her work on the canvas when he discovered his trophy of a lifetime, the horns of a magnificent

53" kudu, had somehow gone missing at their place of origin and had not arrived in Australia. The taxidermist over there absolved himself of any blame, but the developments left Mick devastated.

Some recompense came via Facebook, when Mick stumbled across a wonderful oil painting created by Lyn of another hunter who she had immortalised next to a stunning deer that he had downed. During the African trip Mick had taken numerous photographs of his adventures.

Naturally one of these featured him with his precious kudu. He instantly wondered if Lyn could turn that picture into a painting to adorn his wall and accordingly sent it off to her. It would certainly soothe some of the disappointment of being unable to transport the kudu trophy. After many contact contortions, Mick was put in touch with Lyn via husband John and the wheels were put in motion. However, Lyn had already been commissioned to do illustrations for an imminent book.



The classic painting of Mick Chapman with his 'trophy' kudu.




But patience paid off as Mick now has a wonderful, framed picture mounted in place of his missing trophy horns.

As he said in the article: 'Lyn has done an outstanding job, so much so she has now become my dream catcher.'

Such glowing praise has filtered through to other hunters and as a result Lyn has been busy with copious further requests for repeat treatment from interested adventuring aficionados.

Even though her project diary is filling rapidly, Lyn is happy to oblige when the opportunity arises. So, if you want to enlist Lyn to interpret your ideal hunting moment, contact her on 0481 728 438 / [messagelyn@gmail.com](mailto:messagelyn@gmail.com) or John on 0439 207 569 / [facebook.com/Ferntossers](https://facebook.com/Ferntossers)



*He instantly wondered if Lyn could turn that picture into a painting to adorn his wall...*

# TREAT WOMEN RIGHT

Every day is another opportunity to do the right thing and **TREAT WOMEN RIGHT**.  
In all instances, take the time to interact with the women in your life in a positive, genuine and sincere manner.  
If you don't already do so, it's never too late to **TREAT WOMEN RIGHT**.

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# *The Lady's*

**Jan Kaptein and his wife cherish their unique**

Shotguns come in all shapes and sizes and I have owned a variety of them over the past three decades. Some I loved, others I never really got along with.

They have had two things in common though. First off, they are tools that serve a purpose and second, they came and went. While many of us become attached to a particular shotgun, I tend to find them a new owner and replace them with whatever works best for me given the available hunting conditions or geographic restrictions. A very rational approach, you might say. One I kept up for about 30 years. Until it all changed.

Not because I found the one shotgun to end all others. Quite the contrary – the gun that changed it all is an antique for most intents and purposes. It is an early Fabrique Nationale Herstal (FN) side-by-side in 16-gauge. To make my attachment to this gun even less rational, I can hardly even shoot it because it is just too small. However, it fits my wife Montserrat like a glove and she likes the mild recoil of the 16-gauge shells. So why do I own a gun like this? Here's a little history...

I have hunted in many places, across various continents. Mostly because I found myself compelled to find opportunities to procure healthy food wherever my work took me. One of these spots was the Netherlands. Upon returning there after a spell overseas, I was looking for properties I could hunt on. I will spare you the details about how complicated it is to find a location to shoot in a densely

*It was a fancy gun in its day and has been well preserved. As is the case with many old shotguns, it is not suitable for modern steel shot cartridges or other high-pressure loads.*





# gun

## FN Herstal side-by-side shotgun

populated country, but looking around, at some stage I caught up with an old mate.

It had been years since we had spoken and when I last saw him he lived in Amsterdam. However, a lot had changed and it turned out he had more or less moved into a castle in a more remote part of the country. He never used to hunt, but I knew his family had for generations and I was aware he did have his licence.

The long and short of it, he had taken up hunting when he moved into the castle. As a friend of the owners, he had been granted the hunting lease on the lands belonging to the castle, which was an opportunity too good to pass up. The only catch was that he was not allowed to shoot the ducks on the moat because the baroness enjoyed the occasional duck hunt. For this, she had the FN Herstal 16-gauge.

From here, things turned interesting. Having reconnected after all those years, my mate and I still got on great. Soon, he had arranged an invitation for me to hunt the castle grounds and we were out whenever we both had time. Unfortunately, he was not in great health, so he struggled with the 12-gauge shotguns he inherited from his dad.

In a strange turn of events, the baroness suddenly passed away, which caused a stir. There were what were now unregistered firearms on the property, but no one knew where she had 'hidden' them. Police visits and long nights searching the castle ensued, until they were finally found. Her husband did not shoot, so he passed them on to my

hunting buddy. Even though it was way too short for him, he used the 'Lady's gun' whenever we would go out. You see, the baroness never went much on her title, but she always acted like such a 'lady' that the gun came to be known as the 'Lady's gun'.

It is light to carry and forgiving on the shoulder when fired. We hunted the castle grounds together for more than 15 years and I have many fond memories of our outings together. Then one night I had a call from his wife that he had suddenly passed away. It was like he had seen it coming, as a few months prior he had asked me if he could transfer his guns to me, just in case. But I was overseas so we put it off. If only we had.

However, that was water under the bridge and I offered his wife to help with the firearms. There was no need, as they had already been picked up by the police and deposited with an arms trader. All of them were marked for sale by his heirs and in the process of valuation before being shipped off to an exclusive firearms auction in London.



Safety switch.

Proofmarks and choke details.



And that would have been the end of things. I did not give it any more thought and just made sure to have a drink on my buddy whenever the opportunity presented itself. Then one night his wife called me and informed me she had a discussion with the heirs. She wanted me to have one of my late mate's guns to remember him by, rather than having the lot disappear overseas. I really did not need any of his guns, which included a very exclusive pair of Holland & Holland shotguns that were made for his father, but told her I would give it some thought. This is where I told Montserrat, adding that I had pretty much decided to only ask for a book or something else instead of a gun. And she happened to ask: "Didn't your mate have that lady's shotgun?". Of course he did. And Montserrat, who also has a hunting licence, had always used my big and heavy 12-gauge shotguns. From there it did not take long to have things sorted. I called back and asked if it would be frowned upon if I did not go with one of the guns that had come down through my mate's family. The answer was unequivocal.



The FN shotgun is not steel-proof and shoots bismuth shells.



*While I would not think twice about selling off any other guns, I am fairly sure the FN will come with us no matter where we end up...*



12-gauge versus 16-gauge.



The Lady's gun is fitted with double triggers.

The Lady's gun was as much his as any of the others and the idea of someone actually using it appealed to her. So, I landed the Lady's gun.

The exact production date is unknown, but the proofmarks on the (Damascus) barrels were used for smoothbore barrels between 1847 and 1952. The additional V\* was used between 1929 and 1953 so we know it should be between 70 to 100 years old. This makes sense, as guns prior to that were likely black powder versions.

It was a fancy gun in its day and has been well preserved. As is the case with many old shotguns, it is not suitable for modern steel shot cartridges or other high-pressure loads. Instead, it would shoot low pressure lead shells where still allowed and in Europe, bismuth shot is used, which is less taxing on the environment.

The gun has 2½" chambers in 16-gauge. Chokes are fixed and the gun is fitted with a double trigger. The overall length is just over 1m and the length of pull is

just under 290mm, compared to 375mm on my Browning B525. Even though it is compact, it is not super light, coming in just shy of 3kg. It is fitted with mounts for a sling though and anyone who carries a firearm for any period of time will appreciate half a kilo or so reduction in weight. The serial numbers on the barrel, action and fore-end wood all match too, which means the gun is made up of its original parts. Everything is as tight as it would have been on the day it left the shop too.

The gun's former home – setting up to shoot geese on the castle grounds.





While I do take an occasional shot with the gun in remembrance of my late hunting buddy, it is now Montserrat's. We transferred it to her licence and she is the one who uses it. She is adamant that she would not use a more modern gun because she prefers the FN.

She uses it when we go out for pigeons, rabbits and other small game and has been meticulous about keeping it clean and dry. It is now on our property in Spain where it will probably remain as long as we own it. And while I would not think twice about selling off any other guns, I am fairly sure the FN will come with us no matter where we end up permanently.

This is not just because of the joy Montserrat gains out of shooting it, but because it has such an interesting history, part of which we have shared. So, okay, perhaps because I have (finally) become attached to a firearm. All said and done,

if you ever have the opportunity to own and use a firearm with a history you have been part of, seriously consider it. Even if only to keep the tradition alive for another generation.

After all, once a gun finds its way to an auction, its history is often lost, which is a shame. However, on a practical note, I would personally never buy an antique shotgun at auction. You won't have a personal connection with it to start with. Yes, it will work fine if well cared for over its life, but many guns are smaller and none are tested for modern high-pressure loads and steel shot.

In addition, replacement parts if anything does ever go wrong will be hard or impossible to find. I do wish I had taken a photo of my late hunting buddy with the FN on the castle grounds as they hold special memories for me.

Considering that this is not a gun you will be able to order new or buy in a regular shop, I will keep the background information to a minimum. Suffice it to say that FN Herstal is a Belgian company that was founded in 1889 in Herstal, which is close to Liege. Over the years, the company has produced and developed many fantastic hunting and other firearms and today it is a global enterprise that owns a variety of other options, including Browning which it bought out in 1977.

### *FN Herstal 16 specifications*

Style	Side-by-side shotgun
<b>Overall length</b>	About 102cm
<b>Barrel/chambers</b>	Damascus 2½"
<b>Chokes</b>	Fixed 167
<b>Stock</b>	Wood
<b>Length of pull</b>	290mm
<b>Trigger</b>	Double trigger
<b>Safety</b>	Slider on back of action
<b>Weight</b>	2950 grams
<b>Price</b>	Emotional value





# SMART goal-setting *on the shooting front*

Gemma Dunn

In sport, just as in life, it is essential for us all to set goals to work towards. It gives us purpose. It's why we get out of bed in the morning. Whether it be winning that gold medal or saving up for a house, the process is the same, but it's vital to be clever about it.

So, what's the best practice for goal-setting? Well, before that you must start by understanding your needs. Why is this goal important to you in life and what do you require on a daily basis to make the goal obtainable? You cannot set an effective strategy without this foundation. Once you understand your foundational requisites, you can then begin the goal-setting process.

Second to that, it's crucial to know that there's a variety of different types of goals. These can be short-term goals (like improving a particular skill) or long-term goals (like hunting your ideal animal). These goals form the basis that determines each practice or training session. Remember, you want your goals to help you gain confidence, improve your skill level and feel engaged and successful.

When goal-setting, if you have a family member, coach or mentor working with

you it's imperative that you include them in this process. They can help you on your way generally and also structure your training sessions around these goals with a more targeted approach.

When setting goals try to follow the SMART principle — objectives should be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound. Structuring goals in this way will assist you/your coach in evaluating whether or not they have actually been achieved.

## *Long-term vs. short-term goals*

Long-term goals can cover a few weeks, or up to an entire year and beyond. Examples can include improvement in skill and techniques or enjoying the sport more or even success in competition.

Short-term goals are often a matter of breaking down the big long-term aims into smaller, bite-sized steps to reduce being overwhelmed and also make it easier to track your progress.

Once again, balance these goals with your requirements and reasons for

participating in shooting. Success also doesn't necessarily have to mean winning; it can mean achieving a certain score, performing skills under pressure, executing a competition routine effectively, or dealing with losing.

## *The SMART goal principle*

As mentioned, it is essential to make all goals Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound. Without this structured approach, you might find yourself floundering a bit and it also makes it difficult to track your outcomes and success rates.

### *Specific*

When setting a goal, you should be specific about what you want to accomplish. This shouldn't be a detailed list of how you're going to meet a landmark, but a more holistic approach to goal-setting. To do this, you should try to include an answer to the popular 'W' questions:

**Who** – Consider who has to be involved in achieving the goal such as your coach, parent or mentor.



**What** – Think about exactly what you are trying to accomplish and be sure to be as detailed as possible here.

**When** – You'll become more specific about this question under the 'time-bound' section of defining SMART goals, but you should at least set a time frame just to begin with.

**Where** – If you're setting a personal goal, this question may not apply but if there is a location/relevant event relating to your purpose, identify it here.

**Which** – Determine any related obstacles or requirements. This question can be beneficial in deciding if your goal is realistic. For example, if the intention is to become a national champion this year but you've never competed before, that might be an issue. As a result, you may refine the specifics of the goal to 'learn how to perform under pressure.'

**Why** – What is the reason for the goal?

Goals don't have to be too easy, but they shouldn't be something that is beyond your capability and developmental level.

### *Time-bound*

Anyone can set goals, but if it lacks realistic timing, the chance of you reaching that point is severely diminished. Providing a target date for deliverables is imperative to your progress and your goal-setting abilities. Ask yourself and your coach/mentor specific questions about the goal deadline and what can be accomplished within that time period. For example, if the goal will take three months to complete, it's useful to define what should be achieved halfway through the process. Providing time constraints creates a sense of urgency and motivation that can be a powerful tool in achieving any ambitions set in life.

Overall, goal-setting can be seen as quite a daunting exercise because it involves a lot of internal reflection and is a great way to keep accountability within yourself. These factors are also why it is such a powerful tool that can be used not only for your shooting but in all aspects of your life. For your targets to be effective, it is important to approach writing SMART goals with a positive attitude. After all, it IS something you're wanting to achieve so it doesn't have to be a daunting exercise; it really should be an illuminating one.

*Setting a measurable goal means it is easier to see if you got there and helps form the basis for what to work on next.*

### *Measurable*

When goals are measurable, everyone can see what the aim is, and then assess whether that was achieved. It doesn't have to be a number that is measured either. Sometimes we can quantify success by simply seeing more enjoyment with what we do or feeling more motivated as time goes on.

Setting a measurable goal means it is easier to see if you got there and helps form the basis for what to work on next. This is important not only for your own self-reflection but also to help your coach/mentor track your progress too.

### *Achievable and Realistic*

It is really imperative for you to be self-aware about your shooting abilities so that you don't create goals that are outside of your reach. Otherwise, you're only setting yourself up for failure.



If you're a little unsure where to start, I have a SMART goals worksheet you can use. To access it, scan the QR code or email me at [aws@ssaa.org.au](mailto:aws@ssaa.org.au)



# In pursuit of Pigs

**Don Caswell** provides helpful hints for women wanting to hunt pesky porkers

Australia is host to a vast number of feral pigs. They are highly adaptable and intelligent creatures that have learnt to thrive in diverse terrain and climate from our alpine regions out to the fringes of the great deserts.

In doing that, they create a lot of environmental damage, especially in sensitive wetland and tropical coastal regions. They are also a major agricultural pest which, apart from the sheer damage and destruction they do, poses an enormous threat as a vector for any number of dangerous diseases that might find their way to our shores. A lot of money is spent on professional pig control and recreational hunters also provide a valuable contribution to the control of feral pigs. There are numerous ways to hunt pigs, depending on their location and behaviour.

## Locations

At its simplest, pig hunting is just a walk through some promising country while toting your favourite rifle. It is sometimes surprising how close to settled areas you can see signs of pigs. Agricultural crops and wetlands are obvious places to look. Particularly promising are properties that offer both of these.

The pigs will raid the crops, and any livestock carrion, while camped close by. In drier country pigs will visit waterholes to drink, wallow and forage. On smaller properties you can check waterholes for

fresh pig sign and then wait in ambush. On large properties, especially in dry country, 4WD buggies and quads enable a quick and convenient way of checking waterholes and accessing rough country where you would not want to take a vehicle.

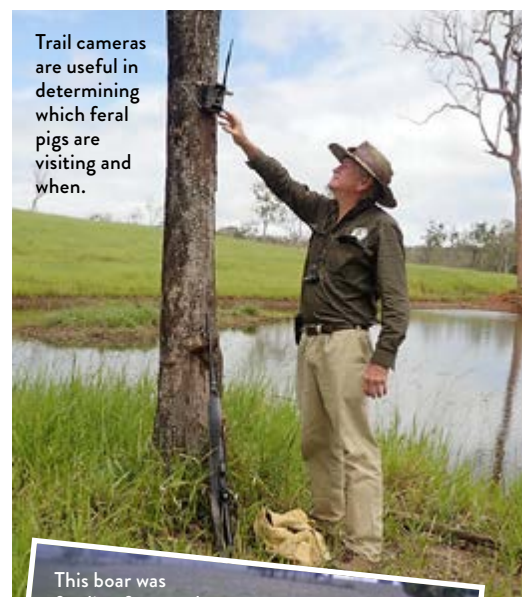
The vast grain fields of northern Australia are a magnet to feral pigs. The ready supply of high-quality food allows them to breed prodigiously. The feral pigs vary their diet by foraging on any nearby wetlands where they eat various plants, insects, small creatures like tortoises and the eggs and young of nesting water birds. Carrion in harder country forms a large part of feral pigs' diet. Landowners can attest to witnessing big old sows and boars killing and eating newborn lambs. As well, some folks have reported attacks on birthing livestock.

## Trail cameras and drones

I have thousands of trail camera photos and videos of pigs feeding off dead livestock, like the trail cam photo showing a boar at the carcass of a cow that died weeks before. In the tropical summer, the cow had first inflated like a balloon then deflated as the pigs tore into it. The boar ate a big feed of what remnant flesh and fat was on the carcass. It had the consistency and colour of the stretchy mozzarella cheese you get on a pizza (I hope that graphic description does not put you off pizza).

To finish off, the boar nosed the carcass aside so he could roll in the black puddle of corruption beneath. That is quite common boar behaviour and the reason to wear disposable gloves when handling pigs. After all the guts and flesh have liquified, pigs vacuum up the loads of blowfly maggots that swarm around in the decomposing goo. Even a couple of months later,

Trail cameras are useful in determining which feral pigs are visiting and when.



This boar was feeding from and rolling in the gore of a decayed carcass.





pigs will root about in the spot where the carcass has been, digging deep for insect larvae and worms drawn to the nutrient-rich bit of ground.

Trail cams are always useful, but especially so on smaller properties where pigs come from outside to forage and raid. Knowing just what is visiting and, more importantly when, is a great help in bushwhacking feral pigs.

A lot of hunters are adopting drones these days. With great ease of use, excellent optics and priced under \$1000, drones are now a viable option for many. Kilometres of large grain crops, and swamplands, can be checked for the presence of feral pigs and a hunting plan developed, rather than just proceeding and hoping to meet some pigs.

## Dogs

Packs of hunting dogs that bail up pigs are a highly efficient way to find and despatch pigs. But maintaining and training a pack of hunting dogs is a big commitment that many hunters are unwilling to take on. An easier option – lone dogs can be invaluable for rifle hunters.

Years ago, when I was a lot younger, I shared hunting access to a property with another hunter, an old fella. In prowling through the lantana-packed gullies I would



A feral boar shot in a large sorghum crop in tropical Australia.



Calibres for pig hunting include everything from .223 Rem to big bore magnums.



The 'Heart of the Huntress' team take down a hefty feral pig in NSW.

often find his kills and was left wondering why he was so much more successful than me. Then, one day, we happened to both be on the property at the same time. We compared rifles, optics and knives, as you do, then he showed me his 'pig dog'. It was the family Jack Russell terrier. The dog's job, which he was very good at, was to trot along about 30m ahead of the hunter and duck in under every patch of lantana.

The pigs that used to lie doggo and watch me walk past were flushed out by the little dog, where the old bloke rolled them with a shot in the ear or forehead from his well-used .222 Rem. As I often saw, he took some big boars and sows.

## Rifles and calibres

Okay, this is a bottomless topic. Let's just say that your choice of a suitable pig hunting rifle and calibre is determined by your hunting circumstances. There is no specific right and wrong in that. I have shot pigs with a broad variety of rifles and calibres from .22LR up to the big nitros and heavy magnums. A hunting buddy and I, on a SSAA Farmer Assist job, set up a 10m range in a large

agricultural feed milling shed where nightly visits by large boars and sows were endangering the workers.

We sighted a .22LR with 50-grain solid subsonics against a pile of hay bales as a backstop. As the pigs strolled through the door into the shed, we took turns at shooting them in the ear. It was a highly effective and simple culling technique – but I would not think of pushing through thick scrub with a .22 in pursuit of big old boars.

Over the years, I have shot a lot of boars with numerous .223 Rem rifles loaded with premium 60-grain projectiles. More recently, I have adopted the .243 Win for all my shooting, again with heavier premium projectiles. A widely popular calibre for pig hunting is the venerable .308 Win.

The key points in your choice of rifle and calibre are:

- Choose a rifle you are comfortable with and able to carefully place your shots.
- Especially in the smaller calibres, use heavier premium projectiles.



# AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S SHOOTER

*Australian Women's Shooter* is a quarterly magazine filled with product reviews, expert knowledge and tips, profiles, and prizes covering all things women's shooting and hunting. AWS features a regular column from three-time Commonwealth Games gold medallist Laetisha Scanlan and practical pieces from experienced shooter Gemma Dunn.

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*I just read your ten tips for beginner shooters, well I'm not so young anymore and I found this so helpful. I shot field and game on a regular basis ten years ago and for some reason I stopped.*

*Fast-forward to now where I have just taken up shooting again with the SSAA and I am truly loving it. I shoot with my dear dad and brother and it's very much a family affair.*

*So, thank you from an old girl.*

- Belinda

”

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