

# Raptor Ridge Hunts 2023 Trophy Hunts - Hunt report

The year started early Jan with one of our long term clients Dennis scoring on a double curl Gold Medal Snowy Mountain Ram. The first hunter in for fallow hunts was Steve from SA scoring a magnificent Gold Medal buck, then another



return hunter Bob scored a monster Gold Medal Fallow as well.



Rob came with brother Charlie to open the Red Stag hunts with a classic pre rut 20 point thumper.

Damian came in for a Trophy Snowy Mountain Ram taking this full curl heavy Gold Medal beauty after sitting in the ferns for a couple of hours waiting for the ram to get inside 300m



Wayne was back this time taking a Gold Medal SCI Fallow with some fancy shooting, almost on dark, the bucks were starting to rut hard spending a lot of time in the scrub. Early mornings and late afternoons were the order of the day to get them in the openings.



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Andrew from the NSW Central Coast could not believe his luck when he replaced a hunter that had to move his hunt to 2024, scoring this magnificent 18 point Red Stag. Mick was back again to chase those big gold medal bucks scoring this very heavy, palmy gold medal fallow buck



The huge Bucks just kept coming, Greg from Qld spent an hour in the dark

waiting for the April sun rise watching fallow bucks return to the timber following there does when Mark spotted a big buck rutting with a few does about 250 meters away they moved in closing the gap to 100 meters, Greg was over the moon with this super heavy, palmy SCI gold medal giant of a fallow.



With the red stags roaring hard, Dylan from Canberra was on a mission to nail a large trophy red, he was rewarded with a stunning 20 point classic red with spectacular points. As the leaves started to fall and the cool nights



kick in the big Reds were in full cry providing some exciting hunting.

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Next in hunting big Trophy Stag and Fallow Buck were husband and wife team Craig and Katie, Craig up first spending time checking over the rutting herds Mark found him a superb Gold Medal 21 point Stag with perfect clean symmetrical antlers. Katie was eyeing off the big fallow over the few days



they were checking the reds, Mark found her a very nice budget buck that brought the smiles out.



Up next was Taylor, Steve had the lead

on this one when after a couple of days of cat and mouse he was able to find a superb 17 point stag in the timber, one of the nicest stags taken for the season.

Finding stags was becoming a little more difficult with the herds of hinds staying in the timber, frosts had started early but the weather was sensational.



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Next in was Darrin chasing a PB trophy fallow, still were still grunting on the frosty mornings Mark put Darrin into a spot that secured him his PB buck another gold medal for the season. Red Stags



were still roaring when the father and son team Mick and Liam came to hunt a trophy red each, Mark had the job and after a couple of issues with wind changes they spotted a big stag bedded in a quiet ferny gully, Mick had passed on one other stag turning down what was a long difficult shot but this time the shot was just 150m he made it happen and was rewarded with a 16 point trophy red. Later they spotted another Stag further up in the same thick gully, Liam did not hesitate dropping the big 13 pointer on the spot, both Mark and the team were



thrilled to take such quality stags in the same area. Securing such magnificent trophies in late Autumn conditions is

why we turn up for work. Meeting top people like Mick and Liam even spending a day fishing for Trout after the hunt provides for lasting memories.



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Long term return customer Terry booked a Trophy Fallow 18 months back and the day had finally arrived, Mark had been skunked by a big fallow on two or three occasions so with the rut closing down it was time to sit on lookouts and glass feeding bucks. The first afternoon out the sneaky buck was found feeding in a gully by itself but light soon faded and the stalk was abandoned. The next day



we formed a team to glass and spot as many gullies and tree lines we could but the buck was elusive. We were glassing a nice Trophy buck that looked like a candidate to harvest when Mark signaled from his position some 100m away to come down, the big buck was laying doggo in some cotton bush just 15 meters from Mark when it busted out and ran about 500m onto a flat, he disappeared into a gutter however 30 minutes later Mark lined Terry up and the largest buck taken for the season was on the ground.



With the Fallow season all but over our first Rusa customer Bob who shot a big Fallow early in the season was guiding to maximize

wet foggy couple of days, being early season the stags are moving around and spending time in the bush, Charlie spotted a trophy stag feeding about 1klm away in a nice green opening, we quickly put a plan together and within the hour we were looking at two big Rusa just 120 meters away, after deliberating on their trophy size and light fading I made the decision to keep looking with plenty of days to find a bigger one. Next couple mornings started foggy and drizzling but the sun broke at around 9 00am, we spent the day glassing all likely haunts but there was no cooperation until around 2 00pm I spotted two big stags in a drainage, they were about 1klm away so we had plenty of time. By the time we were within shooting distance the stags had seen us and began moving towards the scrub however 300m above the drainage they were in I spotted a true monster of a

back with his .338, Charlie and I were glassing opportunities on what was a very

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Rusa, we had about 30 minutes of light left and a 250m shot, Bob put the 220grn 338 right on the money and the stag was down.

Ralph also booked a Trophy Rusa, the rain persisted with the first day proving difficult to sniff out a good stag, day two and a number of stags were seen but passed up until this big stag was spotted feeding out late in the afternoon, Ralph took the shot using a .300 weatherby and another big Rusa was secured. Not to mention the tasty venison Salami Ralph provided made from the red stag he shot with us last season.



Another long time customer Charlie took this magnificent late season gold medal fallow and Dennis was back to take a PB 40" Snowy Mtn Ram that will be Gold Medal pretty much wrapping up the Trophy Hunts for our 2023 season. A big thanks to everyone that



hunted with us and rebooked for next season which is only 8 months away starting in February, if you want the trophy of a lifetime contact us, bookings are going fast so don't hesitate, all the best from Steve, Judy and Mark.



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