

It takes more than luck

to bag a buck



Whether you are chasing roaring stags or croaking bucks this autumn, a little forward planning can help make this Roar a great one!

Remember to always make a plan and then stick to it, treat every firearm as loaded, and identify your target beyond all doubt.

PLAN
safe

ACT
safe

STAY
safe

Think safety this Roar

Nothing is as exciting as heading into the bush on a crisp Autumn morning, listening in anticipation for that first stag roar of the season. You've waited months for the deer rut to roll around again – **and now it's arrived!**

You are all set up for a few days in the hills and you and your mates are ready for action. While you can't control the weather or if the stags will be roaring, you know keeping yourself and any other

hunters in the area safe takes more than just luck. The best hunters follow the seven basic rules of firearms safety and insist that others do the same. This Roar we urge hunters everywhere to have a plan

for their hunt, handle firearms carefully, and always identify your target beyond all doubt. Having a safe and enjoyable time away, with everyone coming home safely takes a lot more than just luck.



When hunting with others make a good plan

In 80% of hunting incidents the shooter and victim are members of the same hunting group. You can avoid this by planning your hunt and hunting to your plan. That's all members of the group agreeing the area you will cover for the day and sticking to these boundaries. If hunting in pairs and you lose sight of each other, or are unsure of your location, stop hunting and re-establish contact and your position before moving on.

Quick tips

- If hunters lose sight of each other in the bush, stop hunting.
- Never fire when your companions are ahead of you.
- Don't shoot at objects on the skyline, you can't see what is on the other side.

Handle your firearms carefully

Rough and challenging terrain makes safe firearms handling even more important. Hunters can trip and fall with their rifles, so stay aware of how you are carrying and handling your rifle.

This also applies when dealing with fences or other obstacles. If handing your rifle to someone else, or being passed one, always ensure the firearm is unloaded.

Quick tips

- Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction at all times.
- Minimise risk by having a cartridge chambered only when necessary.
- Never attempt to cross a fence with a loaded firearm.

Positively identify your target beyond all doubt

It's easy to get excited when you think you have sighted a deer. But 'Stag fever' can lead to poor decision-making. Remember, you probably won't be the only hunters in the hills that day. Don't feel pressured to take the shot – no meat or no trophy is better than no mate! Slow down and take a few deep breaths. Take your time to analyse the target. If you have any doubts, then don't shoot.

Quick tips

- Slow down, take a few breaths, take a closer look at the target.
- Check your whole firing zone, especially to each side and beyond the target.
- Never fire at movement only. Moving bushes or trees might be a person.