

# IS YOUR PACK PREPARED?

G'day everyone, with the holiday season coming up and people aspiring to getting away, figured we should start with packs while out in the bush. Many of you would be all over what works for you. This list is intended to throw some ideas around as each pack will differ from person to person. At the end of the day, do what works for you.

**THE PACK** - Lets start with the pack itself. A pack doesn't have to be anything flash, it doesn't have to cost a small fortune as long as its comfy and suits your needs. Depending on where you live, the weather and even the game you're chasing, your pack can vary from large to small or even a hip bag. In a hot area having something that's hanging off your back may not be as comfortable as having a hip bag which could allow better air flow to your back attempting to stay cooler. On the flip side, in colder country a pack on your back can help keep the chill out. There are stacks of options out there.



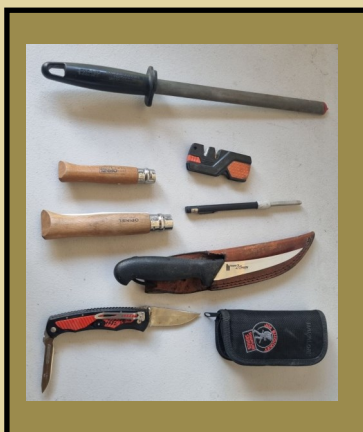
**WATER** - Having Water on a hot day can almost be as good as a cold beverage. Having a couple of litres should go without saying when walking in the scrub even in winter. Having a spare bottle in addition to a water bladder for example, camelback can become the hydration reserve to get back to camp. Even if you are only doing a 5 minute walk. It doesn't hurt to out a water bottle in your back pocket. It doesn't take much for a quick run around a dam to turn into a hike of you see something you want to go after, and next minute you are a mile from where you started.

**FIRST AID** - A first aid kit doesn't hurt, after all, we live in Australia! Having 2 or 3 bandages can help to treat most things. A snake bite kit is worth your consideration.

**BLADES/SHARPENERS** - Now we have covered first aid, lets talk about sharp, pointy things. There are a lot of knives out on the market and finding what works for you, like with everything is key. A good knife or 2 that holds a sharp edge will help to cut out a jaw, butcher your fresh harvest or cape



out your skin. Bigger is not necessarily best in this situation. Having a steel and/or blade sharpener will help keep your knives and broadheads sharp in the go. Nothing worse than trying to work with a butter knife in these situations.



**CABLE TIES AND ROPE** - When hunting/bush walking, its best where possible to only carry in your hands your bow. By having a small supply of cable ties or a length of paracord on hand becomes handy to attach anything to the outside of your pack for example, hindquarters, cape, meat bag etc. Tip: A pig jaw cable tied to the back of your pack is great to help keep the flies out of your face.

**COMPASS/NAVIGATION** - A compass, GPS, UHF or even a phone these days with maps is a good way to help you not get turned around. If you are waling alone make sure at least someone knows where you're going. On a side note having an emergency beacon can be a good thing if you are in an area with no phone service. It may be better to have it and not need it than need it and not have it. There is so much information available online for these devices, doesn't hurt to look.



**TORCH** - A torch or headlamp helps at the end of a late afternoon hunt. It beats tripping over in the dark. Also good to help signal for help and look for cats and foxes up hollow logs. Don't forget spare batteries.

**DUNNY ROLL** - It goes without saying what its main use is for, helps when its dry so pack it in some plastic, you don't want to come back sleeveless or missing a sock. Just make sure to bury it to help keep our country looking good. It can also be used as a fire starter. You can hang it from a tree to



mark a spot you may need to come to later (just not like Halloween!)

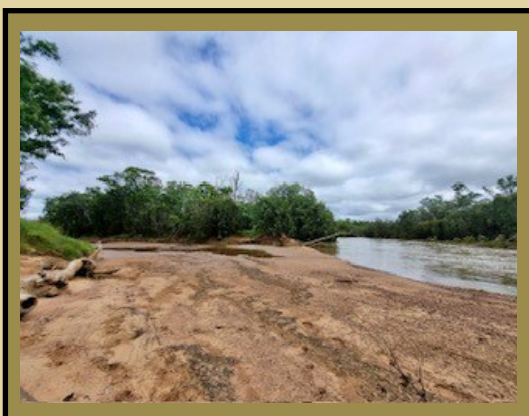
**MEAT BAGS** - If you plan to carry out meat from an area you are hunting in, keeping the meat clean and dirt free - a meat bag is the way to go. You can get the fancy game or meat bags if you like, but a pillow case will do the trick.

**BINO'S** - yes, typically not in your pack. However if they save you from stalking in on a stump pig, cos some of us have done it - you know who you are. A set of 10x42 is the general go to. Any more magnification than 10 can start to get tricky to stabilise.

This is just some pack ideas if you are new to hunting, enjoy bush walking and getting out to take in your surroundings, take from it what you will. Its not intended as a must have list or a perfect pack set up.

As for me, my pack can change depending on what I'm chasing, the area I'm in, how far I'm going and how long I plan to be out .

There are some amazing knowledge getting around in our communities. Don't be afraid to ask anyone for their guidance , most experienced people are happy to share.



We would love to hear your thoughts. Is there something in your pack that is a must have for you?

Is there anything you would recommend in addition?

Keep your broadheads sharp and see you next time.

**Chris Nelson**  
**Hunt Adviser: Risk & Safety Officer**