



Photo: Les O'Rourke

This book - which brings our 3 day Hunt Smart course to life - is the culmination of almost forty years studying Sambar. My Hunt Smart system - which is an A to Z blueprint for successfully hunting these Big Brown Deer - is presented in chronological order, just as I teach it on my course.

It ties together into one concise volume everything that's in our SOTS trilogy, 18 issues of our magazine and what I teach on my course. It includes my latest conclusions regarding Sambar biology, ecology, behaviour and the most effective strategies for hunting them. It does not repeat the content of volumes 1, 2 and 3. Instead, it refers you to the volume and page number so you can read more about that subject.

It explains how to find Sambar in any weather, at any time of the day or year, and in any habitat type. Whether you hunt farm fringe, or backpack into our Great Forested Mountains, this book teaches you how to find this elusive species with comparative ease.

A recurring theme throughout this volume is the Sambar's somewhat systematic and predictable behaviour. In fact, it is this degree of predictability which enables tigers and leopards to successfully ambush them, without which, these predators would have even greater difficulty making a kill. No doubt this predictability made it possible for primeval man to stalk close enough to kill them with primitive weapons. It also made it possible to take the many photographs which illustrate this volume.

This volume will enable you to execute a plan during which you apply the overlays as described, thereby narrowing down where the deer are likely to be to less than 10 per cent of the forest.

When you find them they will have no idea you are there, so you have time to calm down, range the distance, take steady aim and make an instant kill. Sambar Shikar doesn't get any better than this.

The high level of success experienced by countless course participants proves the effectiveness of my Hunt Smart system. Turn to pp. 268 - 271 to read 40 Success Stories from participants. Some of the most educational of these hunts have been included in full in this volume. Go to www.sambardeer.com to read more than 60 Hunt Smart Success Stories.

The author is a Sambar specialist who has devoted the past 30 years of his life to studying this magnificent deer. After walking-them-up for ten years, in 1989 Errol switched from rifle to camera in his quest for a deep understanding of the habits of this elusive species, and high quality photographs and video which encapsulate it.

Eighteen years later, Errol hasn't returned to the rifle, and admits that now he could be more aptly described as a naturalist than a hunter. Errol hopes his intense desire to understand how the natural world functions comes to the fore in this volume, and helps others to derive as much quiet satisfaction from immersing themselves in nature as he does. We are indeed fortunate that there is so "much more to the hunt than the kill."

Errol and his wife Lynne have self-published Secrets of the Sambar Vol. 1, 2 and 3, and 18 issues of their Secrets of the Sambar and Other Cervidae magazine.

They continue to run their ever popular 3 day Hunt Smart Sambar Training Course from their 220ha complex located near Omeo in Victoria's High Country. They reside near Bairnsdale at the foot of the "Great Forested Mountains" in Victoria, Australia.



The HUNT SMART SYSTEM

Errol Mason



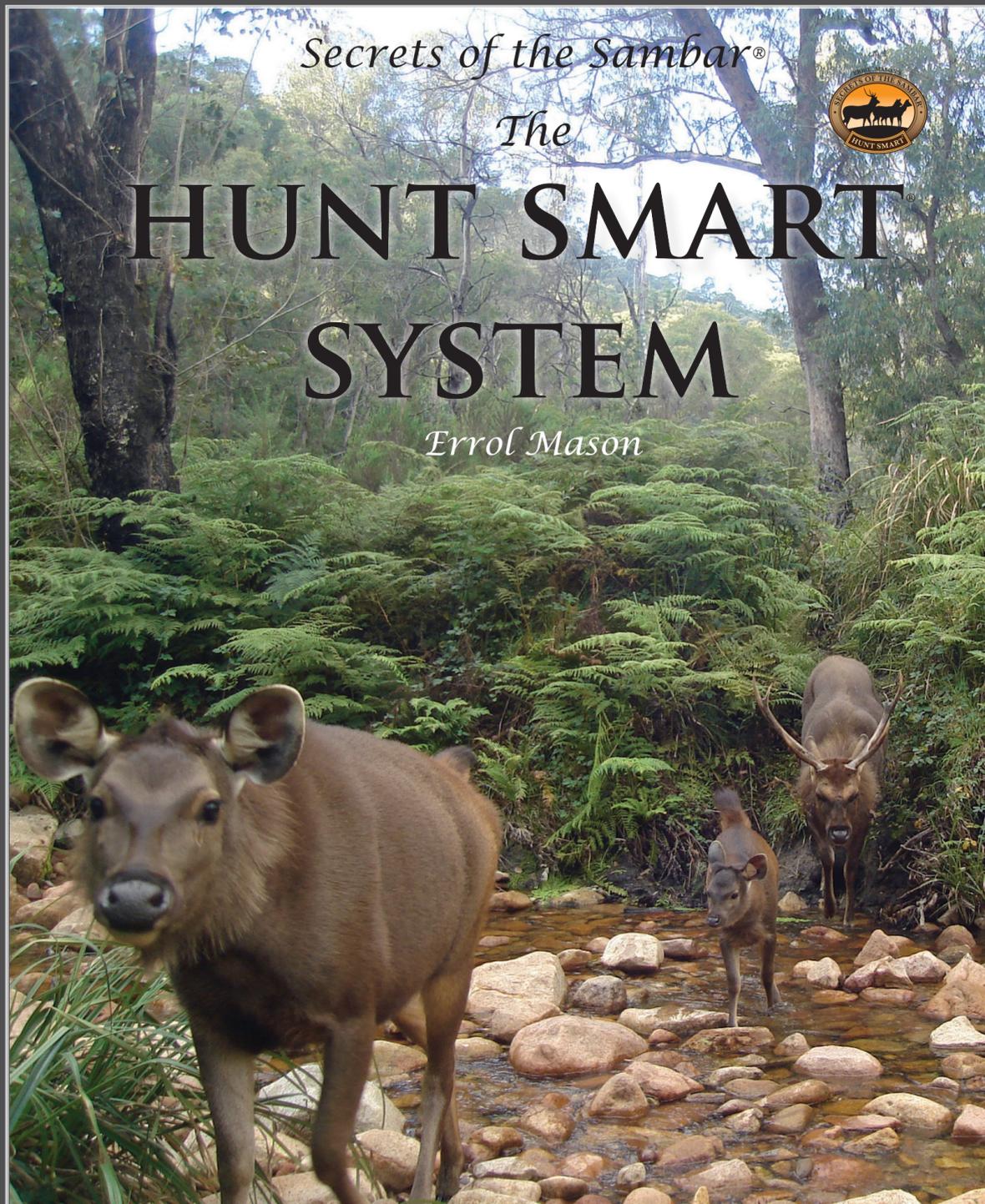
Above: Jeff Goolagong with a magnificent Sambar stag harvested in pristine subalpine wilderness. See p. 420 for the story of this hunt. Photo: Mike Welch.

Eighteen years in the making, this latest volume which comprises 464 pages and 240 colour plates, is full of facts about Sambar not previously published. It will entertain and inspire everyone from naturalists and land managers to deer behaviouralists and from novices to the most experienced deer hunter. This volume's greatest strength is Errol's systematic approach to finding this elusive species, which he has described in minute detail. Whether you hunt for venison for the table, trophies for your den or superb photographs and video, this system is so effective it will make you instantly successful.

Shikari Press
www.sambardeer.com

THE HUNT SMART SYSTEM

Errol Mason



The HUNT SMART SYSTEM



About the Book

This latest book "Secrets of the Sambar - The Hunt Smart System" apparently Errol's last (we'll see) is full of information for today's hunter, from the novice to the most experienced. The many Success Stories in this book written by hunters who have attended Errol's 3 day course, testify to the effectiveness of the system he has developed.

Sambar hunters who read this will acquire information which will hugely increase their success rate on this magnificent deer. I know that it will help me. It shows how to hunt every habitat type - from the foothills to the subalpine, in all types of weather and at all times of the year. This book is a must read - you cannot fail to learn. It has the best terrain shots I have ever seen in a hunting book and each is supported by logical and detailed explanations as to where the deer will be in the prevailing conditions.

Errol's extensive research into the effect of temperature, wind, rain, snow, frost, sun and hunting pressure on these deer, will greatly improve your chances of securing a Sambar - whether it be prime venison for the table or a monster stag.

HUNT LIKE A TIGER
Robert Hoggard - Traralgon

In 1952 when just nine years old, Robert commenced hunting Sambar and Hog deer with his father Jack, and continues to hunt to this day with sons, Wayne and Mark. Robert has hunted all over the world - from the Yukon to Africa - and has taken many wonderful trophies, as well as all the deer species of Australia. He classes the mighty Sambar as Australia's Premier Game Animal, right up there with the most challenging trophies the world has to offer.



