



The Hunting Scene

News, views and insights by Matt Graham

What you see...

AT THE MOMENT I am sitting on a fallen log, notebook in hand, watching a remote Northern Territory waterhole and a pile of particularly smelly dead donkeys. Sitting here waiting for a boar to come in to the bait, I have just realised that I left my binoculars on the seat of the truck back on the hill behind me. Silly bugger. Oh well, I can probably get away without them this morning.

Thinking about those battered old binos it is pretty amazing how well they have served me, especially after the trouble I had trying to find a pair that could stand up to the sort of punishment I seem to dish out to my equipment and the extreme con-

ditions I often hunt in. There are enough brands that have quality optics but the biggest problem I had was trying to find a pair that were actually 100 per cent waterproof, meaning they will not fog up inside or take on water, ever!

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ditions I often hunt in. There are enough brands that have quality optics but the biggest problem I had was trying to find a pair that were actually 100 per cent waterproof, meaning they will not fog up inside or take on water, ever! You see, I have this thing for hunting in the rain and where I live in the mountains it is often cold and damp. Tough conditions on your gear. The last thing I want is to not be able to use them because of a breakdown, especially when I am relying on them. I saw a pair of brand new \$3000 German-made binoculars fog-up the other day while out on a buffalo hunt – that really blew me away! Sure they have a lifetime warrantee and will be replaced but that didn't help the poor guy who had them fail on him. Just because you pay a lot of

money for a piece of equipment doesn't guarantee that it will be up to the task. A \$300 pair of binos that work is better than a \$3000 pair that are all fogged-up! Anyhow, after road-testing about four or five different models and having them all fail I finally settled on these 10x50 Japanese-made Vixen binos (I'm not sure if they are still available?). They certainly weren't the most expensive around, about \$750 from memory, but they certainly did the job so that was good enough for me. What I did when I was looking for a pair was ask if they were REALLY waterproof and I stipulated to the dealer that if they didn't meet

my standard they would be returned for a full refund. That was the deal I proposed and they accepted. At the time I was working at a gun shop so it did make it a bit easier to contract but really it shouldn't be different for any hunting consumer. I guess you could say it is purchasing on approval. Either the product does what it says or you get your money back. With a lot of hunting equipment, new or second-hand, what you see is not always what you get. Well, you know what I mean!

GOING ONCE

Outspoken, flamboyant hunting outfitter Bob Penfold has announced that he is selling off his entire trophy room at an auction set down for 8 November at Harold Park Raceway, in Sydney.

“The entire collection of trophies to be worth in excess of A\$300,000”