

# NEWSLETTER

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## **John Dull – Winner of our school raffle safari**

Being a part of and giving back to the local community has long been a key focus for Mpeti Safaris Outfitter. One way we contribute is by regularly donating meat from harvested game. Another way is by offering a hunting trip on our farm as a gift or donation for fundraising events. In 2023, Hluhluwe Private School was raising funds to install solar panels on its existing building. To support this effort, Mpeti Safaris Outfitter donated a five-day, all-inclusive buffalo hunt package to be raffled off through ticket sales. John Dull from California, USA, was the lucky winner!

Shortly after John won the raffle, we were able to speak with him and set a date for his trip. During that initial conversation, we learned that John wanted to hunt his buffalo with a handgun and extend his stay with 3 days.

At Mpeti Safaris Outfitter, we take pride in offering an authentic buffalo hunt, where we regularly close the distance to less than 50 meters for a shot. However, we also recognized that hunting with a handgun would make the hunt even more challenging.

After arriving at camp, John met with Conrad and Ruan to ensure the handgun was still properly sighted. They then took a drive to show John the area where he would be hunting. The crew enjoyed a wonderful outdoor dinner and turned in early, as the hunt would begin the next day!

Conrad and John made numerous stalks on buffalo; some were successful, others were not, but all were aimed at getting John as close as possible so he could choose the buffalo with the right "look" and be within range for his handgun. On the second-to-last day of the hunt, everything came together. The team managed to get close to a group of buffalo, and one bull immediately caught John's interest. Using the thick cover and terrain, they closed the distance to 30 meters, allowing John to get a good look at the old bull. He decided this was the one and successfully made his shot with the handgun. Although John's shot was solid, the bull, as expected, took off, leading to a tense follow-up. With the help of one of our expert trackers, the team once again closed the gap to within 50 meters, where John was able to finish the bull off.

Congratulations to John on this magnificent 40-inch bull! John, thank you for all the excitement and we welcome you back to hunt with your handgun anytime!



**Truban, Jevos, Mihalik, Halmo, and Krasny Families and Friends Safari**

Later in the month we had the opportunity to welcome a friend group of the Truban, Jevos, Mihalik, Halmo, and Krasny families, all hunting with Mpeti Safaris Outfitter for the first time. Lodging at our location is extremely flexible and allows us to host up to 14 individuals in single or double occupancy chalets, which is ideal for mixed groups such as this.

One of the reasons this group chose to hunt with Mpeti Safaris Outfitter was their keen interest in hunting trophy warthogs, which is one of our specialties and something we are known for! Another reason was, given the size of their group, they wanted plenty of area to hunt without crowding each other. Having quota on the Pongola Nature Reserve adds an additional hunting area of 78,000 acres without having to leave our lodge and is perfect for groups of this size.

Upon arrival, we checked to ensure the guns were still properly sighted, and then the group wasted no time getting started! Their hunting skills, favorable conditions, and a bit of luck resulted in a remarkable safari, with everyone taking some phenomenal trophies. In fact, this may have been some of the best warthog hunting we've experienced in such a short period of time. Combined with great impala and excellent nyala (another trophy we are well known for), it made for a very thrilling week!

Peter Mihalik was able to successfully hunt a zebra, warthog, and an impala. You can tell from the picture his warthog was an old warrior. Having the opportunity to take unique, old trophies, such as this, is a bonus to any safari.





Marek Truban took an outstanding warthog by Jozini Dam on the Pongola Nature Reserve. The abundant food and access to water along the banks of Jozini, combined with limited hunting pressure, consistently produce exceptional trophies on the Pongola Nature Reserve. Hunting this area also adds to the excitement, as you never know if an elephant, hippopotamus, rhinoceros, or crocodile might be just around the corner.



Stefan Jevos shot a warthog, blue wildebeest, nyala, and impala. The mass on this nyala and width of the impala are both a testament to the trophy quality we have at Mpeti Safaris Outfitter.





Michal Truban had his sights set on a warthog and an impala. This warthog had a broken bottom tusk – another sign of the age of the animals we take. As you can see from the pictures, the dry season is upon us, and our animals are regularly visiting the waterholes. This definitely gave us an advantage over these wise old warthogs, which can easily hide in the thick bush at Mpeti.



Ivan Halmo hunted nyala, impala, zebra, and warthog. All were great trophies and the nyala has the classic lyre shape with flared tips that so many hunters seek.

