

The Roar



Australian
Deer
Association

ACT and Southern Regions Branch

April 2020 Newsletter

HUNTERS' PLEDGE

The Hunter should conserve wildlife resources and not exploit them.

The hunter's behaviour should be guided by respect: -

For the Deer and all Wildlife,
For the Land, Forest and Crops,
For the Landholder and his Property,
For Everyone who enjoys the Bush.



'The Roar' is the bi-monthly Newsletter of the Australian Deer Association, ACT and Southern Regions Branch. The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Australian Deer Association Inc. No correspondence will be entered into in relation to anything contained herein. Unauthorized copying or distribution is not permitted without prior consent





The Roar - Australian Deer Association - ACT & Southern Regions Branch

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HUNT COORDINATOR:	Shane Strohfeldt	Ph: 0413 002 700	E-mail: Hunt Coordinator ACT ADA Branch

GENERAL MEETINGS: The ACT & Southern Regions Branch of the A.D.A. meets bi-monthly on the third Thursday of February, April, June, August, October and December starting at 7:30pm, unless otherwise advertised. The meeting place is the [Harmonie German Club of Canberra](#), 49 Jerrabomberra Avenue, Narrabundah ACT

HUNTING, GENERAL NEWS & ADVERTISEMENTS: E-mailed to the [Tom Penders](#) OR [ACT Editor](#)

BRANCH ADDRESS

The Branch postal address is: PO Box 3178, Manuka, ACT 2603. E-mail address: act.pres@austdeer.asn.au

TRADING POST

The '**For Sale**' section within the 'The Roar' is available as a free service to A.D.A. Members for the sale and exchange of personal equipment. All advertisements must include details of equipment, its condition, name of vendor, contact name and phone number/s, ADA Membership number. Advertisements should be forwarded to the Editor. Firearms may not be advertised.

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES

HAVE YOU CHANGED ADDRESS? – Notify directly to the National Membership Office on
Ph: 0499 892 320 Fax: (03) 9870-1173/E-mail: natmem@austdeer.asn.au



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Branch News

A Word from the President

The branch executive met at Harmonie German Club on 19 March. In view of the rapidly changing situation regarding COVID-19, the executive decided that we would not commit to firm dates for branch meetings for now. For the same reason, it was seen as not feasible to invite guest speakers or plan for branch activities such as hunts.

A few days later the government announced that clubs would close, meaning that our meeting venue is not available. Further restrictions have been announced on personal travel, gatherings and group activities.

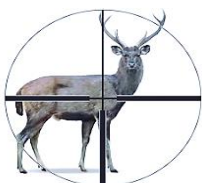
We will keep members informed through the Roar and emails, and bulletins from ADA National. For now it's essential that we take care of ourselves, families and friends, keep informed from official sources, and I'd say, accept that hunting will be greatly constrained this season.

This is particularly galling given the great start to the year from our Keynote Speaker meeting. I want to heartily thank those who planned, set up and made the evening work: Trevor for the annual trophy award and the admission desk, Graham and Malcom for the outstanding trophy display, Luke for IT support, and Tom, Peter, Russell and Shane for setting up and tidying afterwards. I have thanked the Harmonie Club for hosting the night and for their helpful evening staff. Our speaker, Paul Boag enjoyed the night and appreciated the opportunity to address us. He had breakfast with some former clients, and hopefully will get some further business from those who attended.

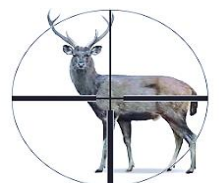
David Carter

Treasurer's Report

**Treasurer's Report
ADA ACT & Southern Regions
20 February 2020 General Meeting**



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Bank Accounts - Financial Position

ADA ACT & Southern Regions has \$10,980.58 in funds as at 31 January 2020. Whilst we have reasonable cash balance the Branch needs to become self-sufficient through fund raising activities (as the Branch is no longer receiving disbursements from National). To date in the 2019-20 Financial Year we have only raised **\$460.99** in total revenue.

Opening Balance as at 1 January 2020		
Petty Cash	\$8.77	
Westpac - ACT - WORKING ACCOUNT	\$10,970.88	
Westpac - ACT - CASH RESERVE ACCOUNT	\$0.00	\$10,979.65
Add Deposits		
Interest Received	\$0.93	\$0.93
Less Payments		
Nil	\$0.00	\$0.00
Closing Balance as at 31 January 2020		<u>\$10,980.58</u>
Represented by		
Petty Cash	\$8.77	
Westpac - ACT - WORKING ACCOUNT	\$10,971.81	
Westpac - ACT - CASH RESERVE ACCOUNT	\$0.00	<u>\$10,980.58</u>

2019-2020 - Fund Raising Proceeds	Revenue	Cost	Net Proceeds
Donations	\$150.00		\$150.00
Branch Membership (Voluntary \$20)	\$40.00		\$40.00
R Licence	\$20.00		\$20.00
Key Note Door Entry			\$0.00
Target Sales	\$171.00	\$45.00	\$126.00
Interest Proceeds	\$8.99		\$8.99
Raffle Proceeds	\$71.00		\$71.00
Total	\$460.99	\$45.00	<u>\$415.99</u>

KEY NOTES

- **National Reporting Obligations** - ACT & Southern Regions Branch Financial Reporting Compliance obligations from Cash Book Complete;
 - 1st Quarter 2020 was provided to ADA National on 12 August 2019; and
 - 2nd Quarter 2020 was provided to ADA National on 19 October 2019.
 - 3rd Quarter 2020 was provided to ADA National on 17 January 2020.
 -
- **Gross Fund raising proceeds** - for the 2019-2020 Financial Year are **\$460.99**.



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- **Budget for 2019-20** - The following Budget was endorsed by the Executive for the 2019-20 financial year on the 18 July 2019.

2019 -2020 Budgets	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Key Note Speaker	\$600.00		\$600.00
Range Days	\$300.00		\$300.00
Trophy Awards	\$400.00		\$400.00
Total	\$1,300.00	\$0.00	\$1,300.00

- **Bank Accounts Operational** – David Carter is a registered as a signatory to operate Westpac on-line. Luke Smee is still not registered as a signatory.

Please note:

NSW R-Licence Testing

Please contact our accredited training officer, Russell Stephenson: russell.stephenson@hotmail.com.
Tom Penders is also now accredited: tcpenders@gmail.com

Latest news from Tough Gear Hunting Supplies

Andrew Paddison

Reminder: Tough Gear Hunting Supplies is an ongoing financial supporter of our ADA branch and you can show your appreciation by shopping with them!

Editor:

Tough Gear Hunting Supplies was open at the time this newsletter was being put together (27 March 2020) but given the COVID-19 situation that may change. Largely as a result of the run on gun shops in the USA and the fall in the Australian dollar all the gun shops appear to be very busy. Please remember that the people who are working in places like Tough Gear Hunting Supplies apart from being hunters and ADA members deserve to be treated with respect – practice social distancing and do not go into the shop if you are sick!



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Keynote Speaker Evening

David Carter

I counted about 60 attendees in the auditorium at Harmonie German Club for our keynote speaker night featuring Paul Boag. His lifelong experience in the bush with Sambar deer was obvious in his well-crafted and enthralling presentation.

I took the following notes:

Bushfires. In the first couple of years after fire the deer will be in unburnt patches, and could be quite concentrated. Two to five years after fire the forest is very productive and deer are still visible to hunters. From five to 10 years the vegetation is still attractive to them but too tall and thick to hunt. After 10 years deer have grazed out the understorey to some degree, allowing them to be hunted again.

Honk. This shows that the deer isn't sure what you are and wants to provoke a reaction from you that might give it more information. If it runs away, stay calm and keep looking. Other deer won't necessarily be alarmed.

Wind. Deer hate it; they can't hear or see movement or get reliable scent and they look for sheltered places.

Ears. Sambar have excellent hearing over long distances but they are not concerned by normal bush noises such as a stick breaking, a branch falling or a few footsteps and then a pause. They are alert to unusual sounds like a metallic click, continuous walking or voices.

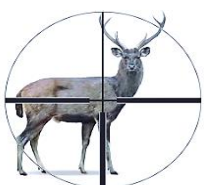
Eyes. They are very alert to movement and have a wide field of vision. They can't see deeply through screening vegetation. They can't see reds and oranges but they can see UV, so don't wash clothes in normal detergent. Use cover, move slowly and stop often.

Nose. Sambar are very sensitive to human scent, but as long as the air is not moving from you to the deer, they won't detect you no matter how bad you smell.

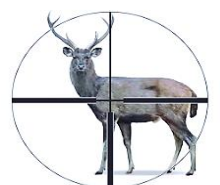
Thermals. Air starts to rise as soon as the sun hits the forest, and falls as soon as the sun leaves the forest and keeps falling all night. Deer move up-slope to bed before sunrise so they are climbing into the descending air and therefore can detect danger above them. They bed in thick vegetation $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ up the slope so the thermals will be coming to them from below all day. They rely on hearing or seeing threats from above or the side.

Food. The best food is usually in the valley floors in the warmer months. But they become frost hollows in winter and sunny slopes often produce better feed at this time. Sambar need more food in cold weather. In Spring the melting snow often reveals sweet growth up high.

Shelter. Sambar don't need much but will seek it in heavy rain or a sudden chill in autumn before they have adjusted to the cold. They rarely seek the sun; Sambar are creatures of the shadows.



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After the shot. If you can't see that the deer is down and finished, wait for 15 minutes. It will run to cover, maybe only 20 -50 m, then stop to assess the situation. It doesn't know what has happened and is looking for further information to decide what to do. If it can't detect any threat it will stay where it is and soon succumb. If you rush over it will know there is danger from that direction, adrenaline will surge and it will sprint away.

There were plenty of other gems in his presentation, and I'm sure folk will have taken their own notes. There's always something new to learn about deer.

Fishing report: Googong, 11 March 2020

Rob Butterworth

Editor: The deer hunting articles have been a bit slow over the summer so a good fishing article is always worth reading!

With good weather forecast and a high barometer I decided to self-isolate from the beer virus and go to Googong for the day.

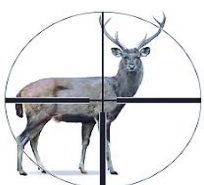
The day started poorly. I arrived at 10.00am to find the southern gate locked. Pretending to be livid I drove back to the northern end to find the ranger station closed. I find that livid is seldom productive. In desperation I telephoned Canberra (dis) connect. A quick 15-minute wait and a tour of all the desperate and dateless maladies of the ACT administration and I spoke to a polite and helpful person. She tried for 20 minutes to find someone who knew something (a challenge I know) and kept asking me if I minded being put on hold.

After a while a truck showed up with a bearded mobile phone user on board. Then a fit islander guy on foot who had on a bullet proof vest or wet suit top or something similar. They both went away again and then a ranger vehicle showed up to use the toilets. I approached the non-toileting ranger and asked why the southern gate was still locked. He looked surprised, apologised, and said he would check. The mobile phone did not provide satisfaction and he used the two-way radio. He said that another ranger was down that way fencing and was supposed to open the gate but hadn't. I asked if he had lost the key.

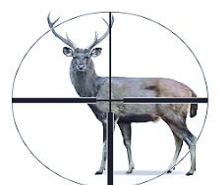
The ranger I spoke to was pleasant enough and said they were installing new automatic gates. Whether this will be an improvement I cannot say.

The upshot was that the ranger and his mate would be going down that way and if I did not find the gate open they would open it for me. So, I drove back to the southern gate, which, by the time I got there, was open. I had lost about an hour and half. And I was sorry for being a nuisance.

The day was fine and cool and I decided, despite my setback, to walk well up the lake. The walk in was uneventful. I kept to the contours and left the road to follow the game trails. There were a lot of mushrooms out but the ones I turned over all had white gills.



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It had been at least a decade since I had been up that way, but I knew to the topography well. I was tempted to start my fishing early but remembered the area was usually barren so I pressed on. In sight of the water it looked good and got even better up close. Water clarity was good and there was more than a metre over the weed beds. There were many large freshly opened freshwater mussel shells on the bank. Importantly, there were no human footprints.

The inlet was, of course, a little different than I remembered it, and all my favourite spots were well out of water. I put on a black bladed spinner bait which proved to be a good choice.

A few casts in and I had a good strike that did not connect. On the subsequent cast the fish connected, and I had a big GP on the bank in good time. It was the first fish of the day and I was a long way from the car, so I returned it to the water.

On a small point I had another bump and along the bank a little further a smaller fish followed the lure to the bank. It all looked quite promising.

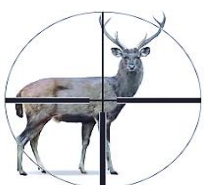
I worked to the east along the bank for about 150 metres before I turned back. On the way back a nice GP followed the lure and took it at the bank. This one I kept for the ladies who are very keen on fried fish and sashimi.

As I looked back up the inlet between casts I saw two fallow deer appear out of the dead ground about 300 metres away. They saw me and ran into a wattle clump and stood. I asked if they wanted their photo taken, but they said they had heard that one before and took off up the gully, at speed. They did not look back.

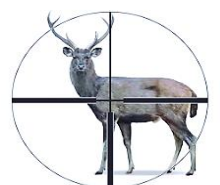
I worked back up the inlet and crossed at the first juncture. There was a big swarm of small redfin harassing the mosquito fish in the shallows. On the far side I had a hit near a sunken tree, then three more follows. At that point I put on a green Jackal Transam and in two casts had another nice fish on the bank. With one in the bag, I added the other to keep the first one company.

I worked along the northern shore intending to go up the steep cliff face. Around 60 metres in there was a small stick poking out of the water and alongside was a nice GP waiting. This was a very vigorous fish that buried me in the weeds. I intended to release it, but the hook was bent at the weight and would not come out of the fish. I have a thing about releasing dead fish so I put this one in the bag. By this time, the bag had become quite heavy. On a big tree on the crest of the point a young crow called out a few obscene names to me. I reciprocated. Three or four hundred metres of ground did not raise anything more other than a few follows and bumps from small redfin, so I turned for home. Back at the inlet terminus I had a few more casts and had quite a deal of action. Two fish self-released, two connected; one to be released and a smaller one kept for the bipeds. I imagined there was a congregation of fish sitting under the sunken tree, but it is hard to tell if they are fresh fish or just the ones I had released earlier. GPs can be sullen and reserved most of the time but at other times they are aggressive and as dumb as batshit.

The bag was now quite heavy, and I had a long way to go so I drank some water, settled the bag on my shoulder and planned my rest stops. I again followed the contours and avoided the road. Near the top of a ridge I came on four fallow deer grazing in a closed glen. They were about 80 metres away and well within range.



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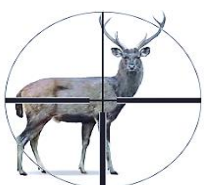
Kangaroos know a thing or two about road grades and the game track worked out well until I regained the road other side to Tortoise Inlet. I had to cross a fresh fence and elected to go under the bottom wire rather than over the barb on top. I have become quite good at crawling under fences in my dotage. I was grateful to the kangaroos for smoothing the way.

The road trudge was relieved by quite a few bronzewing pigeon rises. Back near the Tin Hut dam there were a few more including a double crosser.

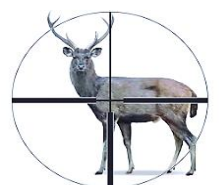
I was back at the carpark before 5.00pm and before I left I retraced my steps to gather a few brown gilled mushrooms for the good wife's breakfast.

On the way out the gate was open. It had been an excellent day.

The four fish I kept were: 52,52,46 and 38cm. The released fish were not measured. The fish contained two or three painted yabbies each; one was full of roe which I kept to make bottarga.

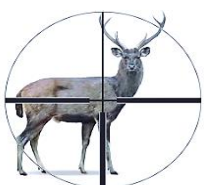


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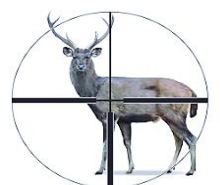




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Flexmark Sambar Island deer calls

Editor

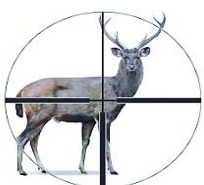
Bob Stott (local branch member and enthusiastic deer hunter) is involved with a number of deer and hunting dog related groups and individuals on Facebook and other social media platforms. Bob has observed some interest from sambar deer hunters in Victoria and other parts of the world for Flexmark Sambar Island deer calls. When one bow hunter recently reported using one of these calls to bring in three sambar deer Bob put together a group of local members to make a purchase from the USA.

There is a youtube video available at: https://youtu.be/y_Rs9STuTQU

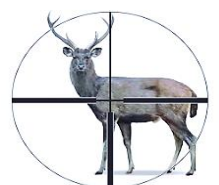
More information is available from Flexmark at: <https://flexmarkelkcall.com/collections/sambar-island-deer-calls?page=1>



The Flexmark calls have arrived in the ACT and been distributed so we are now awaiting the results! Photos please!



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Making an Axe from scratch

Peter Spurgin

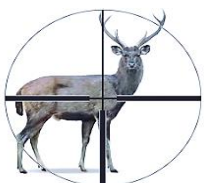


I've always been interested in blacksmithing and knife making so when my son and daughter enrolled me in an Axe making course at the Tharwa Valley Forge as a 60th birthday gift, I was tickled pink. As the big day approached, I went online and watched a few videos on forging axes and other sharp objects so that I would have some idea about what to expect. Actually making the axe turned out to be a very enjoyable and interesting experience.....I learnt heaps!

The Tharwa Valley Forge is a blacksmithing & metalworking workshop/school that was established in 2003 by the renowned local bladesmith Karim Haddad and offers a wide range of courses that cater to budding metal workers with varying levels of experience. Groups numbers are kept low so that there is high degree of individual tuition from the instructor and as you'd expect it is very much a hands-on experience.

The course followed these steps:

- Safety in the workshop (lots of very hot objects and tools designed to shape steel)
- Axe theory and design
- Marking out a steel billet for an axe head



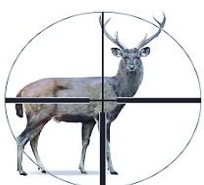
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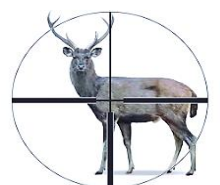


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- Forging, punching and drifting the red-hot billet, solo and with a striker (a partner wielding a 10 lb sledge hammer, you rapidly learn not to move an inch while holding the job)
- Shaping the axe head using various hand and power tools (power hammers are very daunting at first but truly awesome once you get the hang of it)
- Heat treatment of the axe head
- Grinding and profiling the axe head
- Handle design and fitting
- Sharpening the axe



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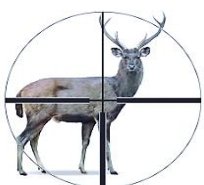
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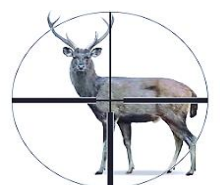
There were three students in my course and we followed the instructor as he went through the process of making an axe. The day kicked off at 8 am and finished just before 5 pm. The time flew by and by the end of the day (and despite a few burns and blisters) I had produced a functional camp axe from a small block of steel. Now it's not going to win any prizes for looks but it works and I made it! It's now at home in the camp box in the back of the Landrover.

If you have every wanted to try something like this, I can highly recommend giving the Tharwa Valley Forge a go. For more information about the courses offered check out;

<https://www.tharwavalleyforge.com/courses/all-courses/blacksmithing/177-camp-axes>



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Deer Management Initiative

Tom Penders

Russell Stephenson, Trevor Stephenson and I are involved with the ADA national Deer Management Initiative (DMI) which aims to contribute to improving wild deer management in Australia. This will be facilitated through expert advice for the development, implementation and review of deer management programs, utilisation of trained volunteers for Deer Management Programs (DMP), and research/data collection associated with deer management programs.

We are working together with ADA members from every State to leverage off the excellent work that has been done in several States managing wild deer on largely public land. While this is very much a work in progress the intention is to setup a standardised high level approach that we can use together with public land managers and private land owners to help manage any adverse impacts of wild deer.

The national group is working on: a national organisational structure to administer the program; documentation; development of appropriate data collection, analysis and reporting methodology; qualification of volunteer shooters - short courses (e.g. first aid); standardised online knowledge testing; and practical shooting tests. This will give us the opportunity to provide a more professional standardised approach to wild deer management across the country.

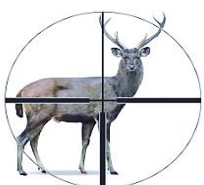
Given that wild deer numbers have increased across Australia, together with the demonising of wild deer that has been occurring over the past few years in the mainstream media, we at ADA need to get involved. If we don't, we can see a future where the standard approach for managing our game animals will be: poisoning, spotlighting and helicopter shooting.

For members with an interest in getting involved at this stage we need a range of skills and knowledge e.g. policy and procedure development.

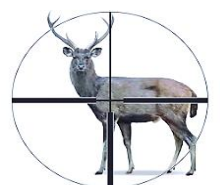
In the situation where deer numbers need to be reduced we would be seeking to put together teams of ground shooters and assistants. If you get involved as a volunteer for a DMP you can expect that there will be a requirement to complete relevant training and testing (including shooting). Ground shooting as a volunteer will be about the numbers of deer taken, data collection and reporting in a fairly regimented approach with a strong emphasis on safety and mitigating risk. This will not be deer hunting but 'shooting deer with an overhead of processes and procedures' and will therefore not be for everybody. We will need volunteers – theoretical and practical testing may be undertaken at a local level in anticipation of deer management programs coming on line.

What we absolutely is public land managers and private land owners to provide us with the opportunity to put a Deer Management Program in place.

Updates regarding this program will be provided as it progresses.



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Irish blessing



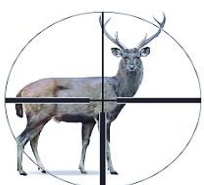
May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

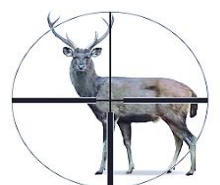
May the sun shine warm upon your face;

the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,

may God hold you in the palm of His hand.



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Branch Trophy Competition



GET YOUR HEADS MEASURED FOR 2020 - Must be received by the Branch Measurer no later than 31 December 2020.

Branch members are encouraged to submit their heads shot in 2020 for scoring as they will be automatically entered into our Branch Trophy Competition. The score sheet for all heads shot in 2020 must be received by the Branch Measurer no later than 31 December 2020 to be included in the Branch Trophy Register or to be eligible for our Branch Trophy Competition (note both unmounted and mounted heads will be accepted for scoring into the Branch Competition).

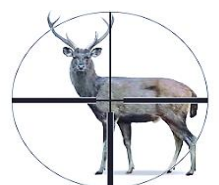
How our Trophy Competition Works

Note our Branch Trophy Competition has three tiers.

- **Tier 1 – Annual Trophies:** The first tier is for the highest Douglas Score relating to Fallow Bucks, Sambar or Red Stags shot in 2020.



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- **Tier 2 – Top Heads:** The second tier is for exceptional heads in any of the six deer species that are either a new Branch Record or a score that would rank within the National Top 50 heads. The current scores required to receive a Top Head Trophy are identified in the table below:

Deer Species	Douglas Score Required for 2017
Fallow	242 1/2
Red	279 5/8
Sambar	205 7/8
Rusa	235 1/8
Chital	173 3/8
Hog	101 7/8

- **Tier 3 – Master Hunter:** The third tier is for a branch member that achieves an exceptional heads (Top Heads in all of the six deer species that are either a new Branch Record or a score that would rank within the National Top 50 heads. This accolade is yet to be achieved by any member.

Heads may be taken to our bi-monthly general branch meeting for collection and subsequent scoring. The heads will be subsequently measured at accredited measures homes and will be returned at the next general meeting (or earlier through negotiated arrangements). Non-Branch members will incur a \$20 administration fee. To make a reservation contact:

Trevor Vivian
Branch Measurer
Phone: 0418 248 063
E-mail: act.treas@austdeer.asn.au

For a head to be included in the National Trophy Register and the National Trophy Competition it must not be mounted and must be scored at least 60 days after it was shot to allow for the antlers to dry out.



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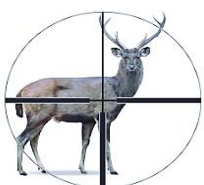
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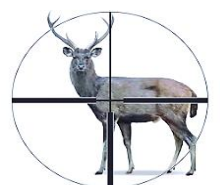
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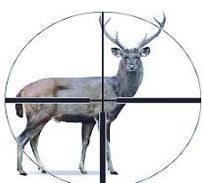
Ph: 6254 6878

13 Denny Street Latham ACT 2615

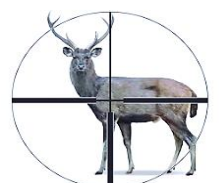
Email: jimsleather@grapevine.com.au

I have had the occasion to visit Jim's Leather Craft in Latham and found that the work he did for me was excellent.

If you need a knife sheath, a sling, a purpose built dog lead or some repairs done it is well worth putting your work to supporting a local business.



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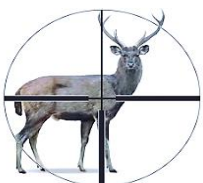
Stone-Free International - John Bladen ACT-FDL N0001802D,

jb.stonefree@bigpond.com , Ph; 0427 257 338.

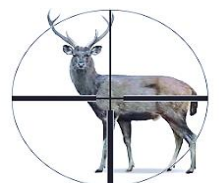
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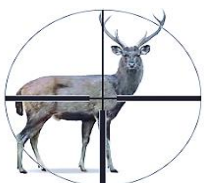




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