



Central Victoria Branch

Branch Meeting: Wednesday 8th April

CANCELLED due to government response to the corona virus

Next Branch Meeting: Wednesday 10th June

hopefully the world will be back to normal by then

Vol 34, Issue 2, \$Priceless

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Club Rooms:

Longlea Recreation Reserve,
Longlea Lane, Longlea
We meet there 2nd Wednesday
of the month of EVEN months
(except December)

**The fallow rut
is not far off.**

**See inside for
some tips.**



Lead Sled Central Vic Branch has a Lead Sled,
It is available for Branch Members to use ... at no cost!

If you want to borrow it other times, we'll need a \$50 deposit (returnable if it's returned before or at the next meeting). The Lead Sled is a must, to sight in new rifles, esp. big calibres. If you'd like to use it, contact the secretary for details:

centralvic.sec@austdeer.org.au

ROAR DISTRIBUTION

The Roar issues 5x a year. Mar, May, Jul, Sep & Nov. To reduce costs, and to bring it in colour, it is distributed to the email address on your ADA membership. To change your email address please advise the ADA Membership Office.



ROAR TRADING POST

Free Member Advertising! Surplus gear? Send details, photos etc to:
sambarsroarcv@gmail.com
(Conditions apply with firearms
(need serial no. and shooters
licence number)

Branch Library

We have a library of DVDs, Books
etc for loan to members.
HUNTING, FISHING & EDUCATIONAL!
Incl Australian, NZ & USA. Pickup at
meetings only. Loan period is from one
meeting to the next.

Presidents Report

We kicked off the year with our meeting at what's becoming our usual February meeting place, Hartley's Hunting & Fishing. A big thank you to Hartley's for hosting us again, organising the speaker and providing discounts to members.

A couple of weeks later we held the annual range day at SSAA Bendigo's range at Marong. Another thanks to SSAA Bendigo who open the range just for us. Bruce Bertram (Bertram Bullets) provided cured venison, venison salami and more venison for the BBQ. Bruce also had a trailer full of brass and projectiles member could buy. If you are looking for any brass to reload, particularly rare or unusual calibres send Bruce an email. bbertram1@bigpond.com. His factory is located in Seymour. Bruce doesn't just have the hard to find calibres, he also makes 223, 30-06 and most everything else.

A couple of dozen members enjoyed the day, with Clint Noble taking out the rifle competition prize and Jake Nixon the shotgun prize. Congratulations!



The Corona COVID-19 virus cancelled our April meeting and is impacting all our lives. I hope you are staying safe and well and that it might end as suddenly as it started, although it's not looking like it will. We're all keen to get back to our normal lives as soon as we are able to do so. But we all have to take the government advice very seriously as this virus has killed people and may kill a lot more. As soon as restrictions on camping in State Forest and organised groups getting together in the outdoors are lifted, we'll be getting our branch camps out again.

The virus and the stay at home order will pass. Be patient and follow the Chief Medical Officer's advice to help eliminate the virus and stay safe.

ANZAC Day is also going to be affected by the virus lock down. Rather than a traditional dawn service, the RSL is asking people to stand at their driveways or balconies at 6:00am, listen to the Ode and the Last Post on ABC Radio then observe a minute's silence. There's some more information on that here:

<https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/commemoration/personal-commemorations>

And here <https://rslqld.org/ANZACspirit>

Safe hunting.

Ern Addington

Central Vic Committee

The committee usually meets “odd” months at Clarkefield (near Sunbury) and general meetings are “even” months. Are you interested in joining the committee or contributing to the branch in other ways? Please let Ern or Richard know (contact details on page 2). Our last meeting they discussed:

Covid-19 issues, the government restrictions, the ADA response and policy.

The CV committee want to continue camps and meetings as far as is possible within ADA policy and legal requirements.

- Treasurer’s Report, Cash balance \$2,442 with approx. \$3,000 share of takings from expo BBQ receivable
- New Sponsor, Fat Rat Trading & Bakers Delight, Ballarat
- Planning, April meeting
- Locations, April camp

- Mentoring weekend
- CV Web page on the ADA site
- New Members Packs
- Publishing minutes and documents on the cloud
- State Executive (no news)

There was also a bit of a social catch up and a counter tea.

New Members

I’d like to help welcome our new members, (since last newsletter):

(this list isn’t available at present, due to a change over in the ADA database)



Like us on Facebook to keep up to date.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/centralvic.social>

We like to think we are a very friendly branch, and the committee try to make an effort to meet new people at every meeting. But if we are distracted and don’t get to you, please come up to us and say hello.

Branch camps/hunts are a great way to meet other members, see new deer hunting country and pick up tips and knowledge about deer. If you’re a new hunter, they are a great way to fast track your deer hunting. Check the calendar for this year’s camps.

If you haven’t got a copy of my unofficial new members’ guide, you can download it. It includes info about the branch and what to expect and bring to branch camps. See the download link on the second last page.



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April Meeting *Cancelled* what you missed

The April meeting was cancelled due to the corona virus “stay at home” rules.

Here's what you missed:

- BBQ—the usual \$8 all you can eat
- Free entry to the end of year attendance prize
- Buy/Sell/Swap night
- Raffle
- Fallow Deer calls and rattles “show and tell”

The last item was what I was looking forward to most. The committee twisted the arm of a couple of members who use rattles and calls while fallow are rutting to give us a demonstration of how they use them and share a bit of information about hunting the rut. Because we missed out on this, I've cobbled together a few bits and pieces on the subject below:



The Rut is when deer behaviour changes in the breeding season. Bucks are on the chase for does in oestrus (heat) and will compete with each other. At this time calls that mimic an oestrus doe bleat or a buck's grunt can attract a buck. So too can the sound of antlers clashing together, the sound of bucks competing for dominance. If you spot a doe during the rut, it often means a buck is nearby.

Before the country went into lockdown, I bought a couple of these gadgets. I hope I still get to use them this year.

Advice I've been given is:

- Don't over use the rattles and use the other calls first. Rattling is more aggressive than calls and not all bucks are looking for a fight. If you watch a video of bucks fighting, they spend most of the time with antlers locked and not making a lot of sound. There's only intermittent antler rattles. Also try picking up a stick and beating a sapling with it.
- Use the right call at the right time. In the pre rut, a doe bleat may attract a buck, but full into the rut, he's only interested in a doe ready to mate. Use the oestrus bleat.
- Use two buck grunt/croak call, one for a young buck (use that more often, 4:1) than the mature buck grunt. The sound of a young buck will piss off a rutting buck and bring him in. Sometimes a doe bleat followed by a buck's grunt will work. I'm told to make 2 doe bleats at a time.
- Don't over do the calls. Doing a sit and wait, some say call about every 10—15 minutes, other say about every 30 minutes. Give 3 to 4 grunts. If you see a buck out of range, give one or two longer loud grunts to get his attention. If you get his attention, give a series of quick soft grunts (the sound a buck makes mating).
- Bucks will follow game trails looking for oestrus does. Set up overlooking a well used game trail between a bedding and feeding area.

What do deer see (revisited)

... or oranges ain't oranges

The June 2018 newsletter had a piece on what deer see. If you want to read it, there's a link on the 2nd last page of this newsletter. In a nut-shell, researchers say Whitetail Deer see UV quite well and because blue is closer to the UV end of the light spectrum, some hunters avoid blues. But on the other hand there's been a lot of deer shot by people wearing blue jeans and blue and black check Swandris.

Whether or not blue makes any difference, common advice is not to wash your hunting clothes with detergents that have fabric brighteners as these contain UV reflectors, which is the point to this.

I think a problem with some blaze orange hunting clothes is they also have UV brighteners in them. Which is why I say, "oranges ain't oranges".

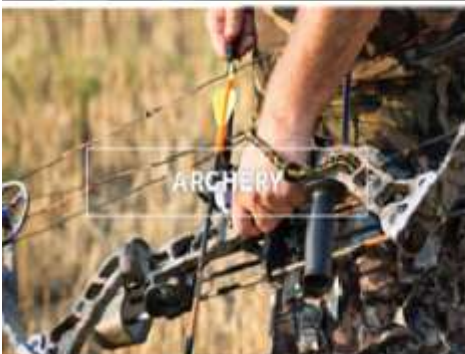
Below is a couple of images of orange cloth under normal light and with a UV torch on them.

While I don't know what deer really see or how important it is, but I think I'll avoid very bright "fluoro" orange and pick fabric that is just orange. Or maybe choose reds and black check.

Next meeting, I'll try to remember to bring my UV light and different orange items if anyone wants to see for themselves.



www.facebook.com/HartleysBendigo



Hartley's Hunting, has hunting, shooting, archery and fishing equipment and supplies.
Ph (03) 5443 5669 8 Stafford St, California Gully (Bendigo) - off the Loddon Valley Highway

Happy Easter (9-13 April)

Easter represents a time of renewal, a new beginning. It is of course the time when Jesus was crucified and resurrected, defeating death. Easter eggs are a symbol of new life and the Easter Bunny comes from German folklore, originally a judge of whether children were good or not, delivering gifts similar to Santa Claus.

The previous Victorian Chief Medical Officer's ("CMO") directives expired on Easter Tuesday at midnight and **have all been renewed**. I have some faint hope that when health ministers meet, Thursday 16 April, the situation will have improved and with a more optimistic outlook might see us revert back to "Stage 2" restrictions. I'll be praying the virus goes away, people are healed and the rest of us can get back to work soon.

When you give or receive Easter eggs, remember they represent a new life and renewal. Let's hope this Easter marks the beginning of the end of this virus.



New Sponsor: DCR Hunting Gear—Designers & Manufacturers in Canvas



Need anything in canvas?

- GPS/Radio harness?
- Ute covers, tarps?
- Swag Bags? Swags?
- Coats for horses or dogs?
- Tool bags?
- Etc, etc

Some items in stock or made to order.

Give Andrew a call, Phone 0428 210 865

<https://www.facebook.com/DCRhuntinggear/>

45 Branjee Rd, Euroa, Vic Phone 0428 210 865
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/DCRhuntinggear>



Reloading Part #1

The cancelled April meeting was to have a speaker on reloading. As that didn't proceed, here's some of my thoughts on reloading.

Why reload? Some people reload to save money, others to get more accuracy. Some because you can tailor a load that can't get from factory ammunition. And some just because it's fun or satisfying, like a fly fisher tying flies rather than buying them. In part 1, I'll look at the cost savings.

If you are on a tight budget, you could buy a Lee Loader kit which has the very basics for about \$65. This has everything you need to load, but it's slow and doesn't full length size the brass, just neck size (which is only what a lot of target shooters do anyway). A reasonable quality projectile will cost about \$60 per 100 or \$0.60 each. Primers about \$6.50 per 100 or \$0.065 each. Powder is one of the biggest costs. You'll get about 140 loads for a 308W out of a 500g bottle of AR2208 which costs about \$55 or \$0.39 each. The cost of 20 reloads, excluding brass will cost about \$1.13 each or \$23.00 for twenty. A low cost box of 20 factory bullets will cost around \$35.00 so you save about \$12 per box of 20. You can either buy new brass or save brass from factory ammunition or scrounge some from a range. If you save the brass from factory ammo, the brass effectively costs \$12 per 20 (the savings on each box) Because brass doesn't last forever (you lose some, necks get brittle and crack or grow thicker and longer etc), if you get 5—10 reloads on average, brass will cost \$0.06—\$0.12 per load. (\$1.20—\$2.40 per box of 20) reducing your savings to about \$10 per box.

So with a very simple Lee Loader, you need to load about 7 boxes of 308's before you get your investment back. If you only use 1 box a year, it's probably not worth it just for the cost saving. And with a simple Lee Loader, (because you're using a basic scoop measure without a scale) you can't load close to maximum and it won't be as powerful as factory ammo, but will be pretty good all the same.

If you buy premium bullets, the savings are a bit different. Premium 308 factory ammunition is about \$55 per box. If you load, say Woodleigh bullets instead, your projectile cost is about \$0.85 each instead of \$0.60. 20 reloads might cost \$30 per 20 compared to \$55 for premium factory ammunition. Savings increase to \$25 per box.

But if you're shooting premium bullets, you'll probably want to try to match factory performance. This means higher velocity and more consistent powder weights than a Lee Loader can give you, because the Lee powder measures are not very accurate. So now you also need a powder scale, powder thrower and powder funnel and a case chamfer tool. Your investment in gear just to the point where you should have bought a kit to start with. An entry level Lee kit is about \$300, RCBS about \$900 including dies. If you shoot 2 boxes a year, it will take you 6 or more years to cover the cost of your gear.

With the magnums, the savings are a bit better. In 338 Win Mag, the reloaded cost with a premium bullet is about \$40 for 20 compared to \$95 or more for premium factory ammunition.

Unless you do a lot of shooting or you already have an investment in a reloading press and other equipment, saving money probably isn't going to be the reason you should reload. But by reloading and bringing the cost down, you might shoot more!

Next newsletter, how reloaded ammunition can be better than factory.



Branch Camp #1

At the time of writing, it's uncertain if we can still do the branch camp. The current declaration of the state of emergency expires early May, but the "stay at home" order could be modified before then (fingers crossed). If camping is allowed and Parks Vic campsites are open, you might still want to try camping here. If not but you are allowed day trips, some individuals might like to try this new area independently and who knows, you may bump into other club members. If "stay at home" orders continue, do not go. If you are feeling unwell, do not go. Follow the government guidelines.

UPDATE: The camp is officially cancelled but you may like to check out the area at a later date when life is a bit more normal.

At XXXX, expect to see fallow and sambar. Fallow may be rutting.

XXXX Camping Reserve (XXXX Road),

Directions:

From

Continue

After 38km from

The campsite is 2.3km from here on the left. There are toilet facilities. Dogs under control are ok. GPS

XXXX has mobile phone network, the camp doesn't.

More campsite info here:

If you haven't camped with the branch before, check out what to expect and what to bring in the members guide. Click on the link to download.

and remember to download your more to explore maps at home. On the old GMA maps, we are on map 3X



Closest police and hospital are in XXX. Ph 000 or Police (03) xxxx xxxx, Hospital (03) xxxx xxxx (24-hr emergency)

Basic Camp Rules

- Wear blaze orange while hunting. A hat is the minimum.
- No loaded firearms in camp or traveling - Magazines empty or removed and checked by another person.
- Don't load firearms until you are ready to hunt & unload when you stop.
- Store firearms in camp in a gun-bag/case. Store ammunition separately.
- All bolts, breeches, and barrels will be opened when stored.
- Have your firearms & game licenses and ADA membership card with you.
- Tell others where/when you intend to hunt and return.
- RESPECT the laws, the deer, hunters and others and the environment

Remember, firearms safety begins with YOU

1. Treat all guns as if they are always loaded.
2. Never let the muzzle point at anything you're not willing to destroy.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target.
4. Be 100% sure of your target and what is beyond it.

Requests - please: Take out what you bring in. Avoid glass if you can and take your rubbish home. Don't leave it to other club members to clean up



Branch Camp #2 23 - 24 May 2020

WONNANGATTA

RSVP by 1st MAY

** SUBJECT TO COVID-19 Restrictions easing

While the official camp dates are the weekend, 23-24th, because it's a long-ish trip some members will go in earlier or stay later to extend the trip.



The Wonnangatta (now National Park but formerly the Wonangatta Station) is an iconic area for deer hunting. It's a long-ish drive on 4WD tracks, but the tracks were graded this year and those who have been in say it's not a difficult drive, but you need a 4WD (creek crossings) and they recommend all terrain tyres. If that seems a bit daunting, go in with the branch! You can follow other vehicles in.



Those who have done it say it's a great trip and the drive is easier than they thought.

This is the only camp that the branch caters for, Saturday night only. Central Vic doesn't otherwise charge for camps, but we will have a raffle. Bring some cash for tickets to help fund the branch trailer and other branch facilities.

Facilities include a long drop toilet, shower (hot) communal tarps, tables, gas BBQ, battery powered L.E.D. lights, 2kVA generator, and other gear. There is some salt, but bring some to preserve a trophy cape.

This camp may cost you \$15 (? to be confirmed) which includes Saturday's roast dinner camp oven roast lamb & pork, etc. For catering you will need to **RSVP**. At this time, I'm not sure who's mobile number is being used for that. There'll be another email in May or else you can RSVP on Eventbrite, follow this link.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/adacv-2020-camp-2-tickets-103023839076>

The 'gatta is a great trip every deer hunter ought to do at least once. Join us at branch camp and enjoy the camaraderie of your branch in one of Victoria's most famous deer hunting locations.

Directions will be advised closer to the date. But note the Wonnangatta Track (from Myrtleford) looks like being closed so the way in would be via Howitt Plain and the Zeka Track (which has been graded recently). This way in will be quicker from Melbourne (about 5 hours), but a bit longer from Bendigo.

Search Google Maps for "Wonnangatta Station

GPS (Dec) -37.207955, 146.831361 (DMS) -37° 12' 28.638"; 146° 49' 52.900"

Requests - please: Take out what you bring in. Avoid glass if you can and take your rubbish home.

Don't leave it to other club members to clean up

Hunting Plan

Fill in this form before your departure on a hunt. Leave it with a reliable person. Ask them to call Police (dial 000) if you do not return as planned. If your plans change or you are delayed, inform the person who has your hunting plan immediately of the changed arrangements.



Your Details: Name:

Mobile No:

Address:

Two way radio ☐ Yes ☐ No Channel:

Personal Locator Beacon ☐ Yes ☐ No Registration No:

Vehicle Make: Model: Colour:

Registration No:

Parked at:

Hunting companions

Name: Mobile No:

Address:

Name: Mobile No:

Address:

Trip Plan

Depart from: Going to:

Route details:

Alternate Route

Camping location/s:

Depart Date: / / 20 Time:

Expected Return Date: / / 20 Time:

Inform Police (dial 000) if not returned or contact made by:

Date: / / 20..... Time::..... AM/PM



Safety Policy

1. **Safety is the RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERYONE.** If you see an unsafe practice, then stop the person, and assist them to undertake the activity safely. This requirement covers all aspects of camp life and while you are hunting.
2. To participate in a branch hunt, members must have completed the daily hunt register. For safety reasons, to participate in the hunt members need to carry a UHF radio and wear an item of blaze orange clothing – cap, shirt etc. Additionally, their ADA Membership, firearms license (where applicable) & game license must be current.
3. All members are expected to attend any ADA Safety Brief and be familiar with the Safety Policy and hunt procedure. Signing of the Hunt Register will confirm that they understand and will abide by those requirements. Failure to agree to abide by those requirements will invalidate the member's ability to continue as part of the hunt.
4. A member of the Branch Committee or nominee will be in attendance to assure that the appropriate forms are filled out. If for whatever this does not happen, the event will be cancelled. If the event is cancelled reasonable steps will be taken to advise members.
5. Hunters will endeavour not to hunt in close proximity of other hunters and the general public. Should a hunter change their listed location, every effort should be made to advise another member of the group or update the register with their new hunting location.
6. No alcohol shall be consumed until the individual has completed hunting for the day and firearms have been checked and stored properly. No member shall hunt if in any way impaired by alcohol – this includes the effects of excessive consumption the previous evening. The ADA encourages the responsible consumption of alcohol and members are reminded that stated under the Victorian Firearm Act a licence holder needs to be "a fit and proper person to possess and carry a firearm"
7. Hunters must sign the "Hunt Register" on arriving and leaving camp. The Hunt Register allows us to keep track of who is

ADA require us to have a camp register. If you attend branch camps, you must sign in.

You must comply with laws and ADA rules and policies for ADA member insurance to apply.

ADA - Branch Hunt/Camp Safety Rules

1. Firearms are to be rendered safe/unloaded upon the completion of any hunt.
2. When hunting with a companion/s the unloaded condition of the firearm should be verified by another person.
3. NOTE: For the purpose of this Branch Hunt/Camp Firearm Safety Code unloaded is defined as no ammunition in either the breach or magazine, this includes detachable magazines.
4. Firearms are to be unloaded and stored appropriately whilst travelling on public roadways & tracks.
5. Firearms are to be in a safe condition & unloaded before entering camp. All hunters, immediately upon entering the camp site – each and every time – must have another member independently verify that the firearm is UNLOADED & SAFE. The person verifying that the gun is in a safe condition should then sign the 'Hunter Register' – in the appropriate column, confirming that the firearm is safe.
6. Firearms are to be stored in a rifle bag /locked box as per firearm regulations.
7. Whenever the firearm is to be accessed at camp for maintenance etc, another person MUST verify that it is in a safe condition.
8. NO HUNTING IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE CAMP SITE/S.

Blast from the past

Got any old photos?

Send them in. sambarsroarcv@gmail.com

Warm Weather Trophy Care

Hunting warmer weather isn't a lot different from cooler weather, except there may be a lot more flies, snakes, noisy forest floors and less water. But one big different is how long it takes for meat, skins and trophies to go off. Peter Jorgensen (a part time taxidermist) has some tips to look after your deer when it's warmer.

Who knows the best way to care for a cape / flat skin from an animal harvested during hot weather?

When I say hot weather, I mean day time temps above ~20 degrees.

In Victoria's Alpine & sub Alpine areas you usually get a little bit of leeway from May until mid - September but this environment is VERY different to the tropical North where a few of us chase Rusa Deer, Chital Deer Buffalo, Banteng, Scrub Bulls & pigs.

In Victoria's mountain areas, in the cooler months you can harvest an animal late in the day & finish face caping it, the following morning without too many issues if you treat it properly. If I were to take an animal that I intended to cape in the Alpine area I NEVER wrap the skin around the head prior to calling it stumps for the day.

Body cape the animal in the field, take that bit of extra time to get the skin off clean as it easier to skin it clean than to trim it later on, once back to camp & showing your mates lay the skin out flat as it will cool better & not trap heat under the skin, the head is a large solid mass that retains heat so the quicker it cools the better. In saying this if the weather is wet you are much better off if you don't allow the skin / cape to get wet from rain or heavy dew. If you wish to face cape the head that evening do so prior to having too many celebratory drinks as scalpels are not very forgiving when it comes to human fingers!

The Tropical North

When you secure an animal in hot weather that you wish to have mounted or tanned for a flat skin, in the warmer areas of the country or in the Southern areas during warm / hot weather the timeline for skinning & caping changes a bit,

In hot weather I will perform ALL skinning / caping procedures (including salting) before calling it a day, in really hot weather I will chill the skin / cape in a cold brine bath prior to salting but I use a little additive in the brine, this brine is made up of clean water, salt, ice & a microbicide.



The mix I use is in the approximate following proportions, 50 litres water, 4 kg salt (fine is better than rock as it dissolves much faster), 2 or 3 bags of ice & 60 ml of microbicide. Add the salt to the water in a large plastic tub, an esky works well, add the ice to the water as well as the microbicide, this brine will be very cold, if you have a good supply of cold water (below 20 *) give the skin a quick rinse & drain then wash it in the brine, the brine will cool the skin, start the salting process & kill a lot of bacteria in & on the skin, the skin can be left in this solution for an hour or so then remove, drain & salt as per normal.

(image from www.abc.net.au and a story about crocodile hunting)

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2009-10-02/croc-safari-plan-shot-down-by-garrett/1088758>

Warm Weather Trophy Care (cont.)

What Causes Hair Slip ?

Hair slip is caused by bacteria attacking the epidermal layer of the skin,

How is it prevented or the risk minimised?

Heat & moisture are bacteria's best mate, for long term storage we have to eliminate 1 or both of these factors,

Heat, this is why we never wrap a skin around a head or roll up a fresh green skin, by hanging or laying out flat we allow the skin to cool , this is why when in a hot area I use the cold brine method to reduce the temperature of the skin .

Moisture, we address this part of the problem with salt , salt WILL NOT kill bacteria but makes the environment unfriendly for bacteria ,

Salting

When I salt a skin I use fine salt, fine pool salt will do as long as it is fine , similar grain size to white sugar . When you salt your skin start in the middle & push the salt into the skin while working it towards the edges as skins have a tendency to curl up on themselves, once you have thoroughly salted your skin FOLD it skin to skin & place on an inclined surface with the open end at the bottom as to allow moisture to seep out & drain. After 16 –24 hours scrape the wet salt off & resalt the skin once again fold skin to skin & allow to drain for another 24 hours or so, after this time hang the skin flesh side out in a well ventilated shaded place to dry, once the skin is dry to touch but still flexible you can deliver it or post it to your taxidermist or tannery.

These are the steps I personally take when dealing with skins, there is never any guarantee that a skin will not slip. However if you look after them you increase your chances of getting the desired outcome .

For further enquiries & advice feel free to contact me on 0431 314 181 or via messenger from the CV ADA Facebook group

Peter Jorgensen

Northern Taxidermy & Skins



Branch sponsors: Simon & Megan, franchisees,

Bakers Delight, Ballarat City

Shop 3, Ballarat Central
7 - 25 Eastwood St, Ballarat 3550

Phone 5333 1258

Email: brittysbakery@gmail.com

<https://www.bakersdelight.com.au/bakery-locator/ballarat-city/>

Staying Alive

I'm not referring to the 1970's Bee Gees disco song. The next couple of newsletters will have tips on how to make an unexpected night out in the bush a bit more comfortable. In cold weather that may be the difference between hypothermia and not. But since the whole world has been affected if not infected by the COVID-19 Virus, I thought I'd start with that hot topic.



First, there's lots of advice on how not to spread the virus and stay safe from it. **Follow the advice.**

People will die from this virus.

We don't know how long this will last. Hopefully not long, but many months has been mentioned. People may die from the measures taken to protect us from the virus. There will be business failures, financial hardship from loss of wages, bankruptcies, and marriage breakdowns. There will be more suicides. **Ask for help if you need it and keep a watch on your family and friends.**

Do you have a business that's a victim?



As an accountant, I've seen plenty of bankruptcies and business liquidations. I've seen people come out of them smiling and others not. I've had neighbours tell me about their business going down the gurgler AFTER they have had liquidators appointed. I was sad for them but sadder that if they had told me sooner, They could have saved a lot of money by using the right type of company liquidator. It's important to know there are 2 types of liquidators; there are ones who work for the banks and ones who don't. If your business is going down, you **must** appoint one of the latter types and you **must** control the liquidation process. The best (and lowest cost) company liquidator I've come across is Greg Andrews in Carlton.

Liquidation is sometimes a good option by wiping your debts and letting you start fresh, but there can be other solutions such as an informal arrangement with creditors or external administration. And as a note about creditors, if it's bad, don't pay the ATO and don't pay anyone you owe less than \$2,000 to. They won't/can't wind up your business.

How are you doing personally, emotionally?

The Vic Department of Health website
<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/mental-health-resources-coronavirus-covid-19>

Has some tips for coping and mental health:

- Keep a healthy diet, exercise and sleep regime
- Talk about worries and concerns
- Engage in hobbies and recreation (not so easy when that's hunting), but do something fun
- Be prepared with food, supplies etc so it's one less thing to worry about
- Reduce alcohol and tobacco consumption
- If listening to the news upsets you, get a friend or loved one to give you updates instead of switching on the news.

We are living through a significant moment in history. Remember, you are not suffering alone. The whole world's affected and millions of people are impacted. But the hope is it won't last long.

Remember, a lot of people are stressed and anxious and may have short tempers or little tolerance, so make allowances with your loved ones and friends. Make an effort to stay connected on the phone, skype, text or email or use social media and talk about normal things, happy things.

Stay connected. If you are struggling and you don't have anyone you feel they can talk to, call me.

Ian Gould, 0428 446 853

Recipe: Preparing Venison for the family

This newsletter, it's not so much about a recipe but cooking tips. The tip has come from a Facebook contributor, Jay Finchy (used with permission).

The top image is from the ADA webpage, a knowledge article about caping a deer. It's worth looking at if you want any tips on caping out an animal. As hunters, we don't usually have a nice clean work area; more often it's like the second image, which is of Jorgie breaking down a hind at the 2018 Eildon camp. (From there is was about a 1km carryout, mostly downhill, then a boat ride back to camp). The point to using this image is, as you know, you will usually have to break down an animal on top of grass and small sticks that can stay on the meat, even when you leave as much skin on as you can. Jay writes:

My family aren't huge fans of venison in general. My wife likes meat to come from the butcher or supermarket and the kids don't want to know they're eating bambi, despite frequent discussions of where our food comes from.

I'm a chef, amongst other trades, and when you break down a carcass in a field environment you'll often get bits of grass, stick etc on the meat if you're inexperienced or the environment you're working in is particularly trying. To combat this issue in the kitchen, I use woody herbs when I pre-prepare the meat for meals.

Woody herbs includes, but is not limited to, rosemary, thyme, oregano and sage.

Usually, I will break down the carcass into sections, boned out to avoid the extra weight, before I carry it out. Cotton pillow slips are as good as anything for this as they allow the meat to breath and dry out slightly rather than sweat. At home, I then leave it in the fridge for a minimum of 24-72 hours before processing it. Don't leave it longer than a week, especially if you're freezing it and then defrosting it in the fridge over another week.

If you process your own beef this hang time is a must. With venison, especially live weight carcasses under 100kg, it just makes for a better final product. I pre-prepare each part of the meat into meal sized portions and marinate or prepare the meat for cooking prior to freezing.



If you want schnitzels, double crumb them before freezing so they are good to go when you thaw them. If you use meat for stir fry, cut and marinate it prior to freezing. If you're dicing for casserole, ensure you add the herbs, garlic and onion with the meat. Not only does it hide any bits of stick you may have missed but it also infuses the favours into the meat during the freezing and thawing stages before you cook.

If it's a larger animal, sprinkling a bit of bicarbonate soda with help tenderise the meat as well. For sausages you want 20-30% fat in them. This preserves the mince and stops it from going off as quickly. Pork fat is the best, but you can also use lamb fat which is a lot cheaper and more readily available.

I hope this has been of some use to a few.

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Tasmania - Big Den Ballot

In a word, Big Den was a Big Flop. But I enjoyed the trip and I'll be going back.

One of my sons recently relocated to Tasmania, so as I'm now a frequent traveller there I thought going into the Big Den ballot would be a good idea. Before I put into the ballot, our president, Ern, said he's hunted Big Den and advised there's better hunting here in Victoria. That was good advice.

The draw was not well subscribed and we drew 3 periods in the antler season, plus every entrant gets access to Big Den for 3 weekends in the antlerless season. Outside the antler season, you can also hunt wallabies (if you have a wallaby permit). When Sustainable Forests Tasmania sent me maps, keys and instructions, I was very excited about the prospects. I was under the misapprehension that each successful ballot draw had an area pretty much to themselves. That was not the case.

Travelling to Tasmania on the ferry with firearms is quite easy. At least a day prior to travel, you need to email a dangerous goods declaration. Ammunition is restricted to factory 250 rounds, no reloads. I took the limit (8 boxes of steel shot shells plus 50 rifle cartridges to leave with my son for future use—it was also duck opening). At the dock, you proceed to the area where firearms, scuba tanks and gas bottles etc are booked in. It's a very quick and easy process at each end.

Travelling into Big Den, our hopes were high as we saw quite a number of fallow deer grazing in paddocks and a few road kill. At the Big Den check in station, I began to have some doubts as I counted the number of people who had signed in and out and the number of deer taken. I guess you could say the good news is if there were deer in there, they were still there. The bad news was only 1 hunter out of a few dozen had been successful. And driving into Big Den itself, we passed about 10 groups of other hunters! So much for the idea of having the area to ourselves!



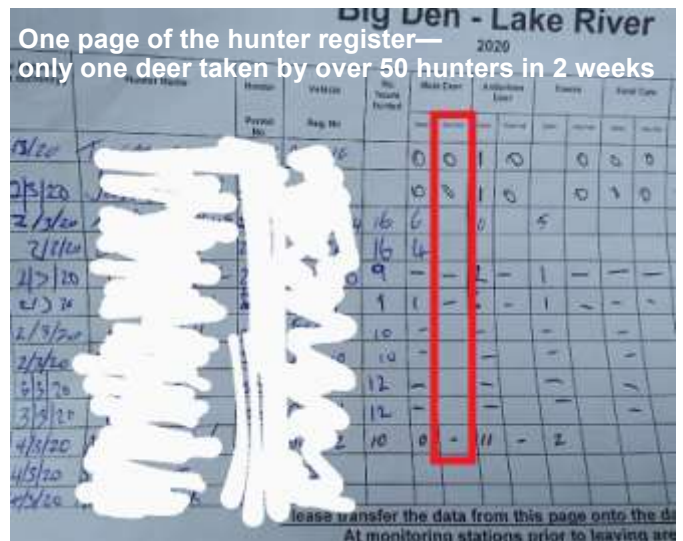
Tasmania - Big Den Ballot (cont.)

Big Den isn't particularly big. It's generally an "S" shaped strip 1—2 km wide near Woods Lake and Arthurs Lake. I'd guess about 15km long. A 2 wheel drive car can get in (we drove in a Golf as the 4WD ute was waiting on some parts arriving). A lot of Big Den is very rocky. From a distance it looks lush green, but get up closer and it's just some sparse leafy vegetation, that nothings seems to want to eat, among a lot of rocks. There is some very good looking habitat along the river flats.

My son Lachlan and I walked over a lot of Big Den, something the Tasmanian's don't do. We walked the river flats and the ridges. We were hoping to find bedding areas as we thought the deer would be feeding in the farm paddocks. (where we saw them in the middle of the day driving in). We found one very fresh rub tree but in 3 days of walking, didn't find any other fresh sign at all.

Walking out one afternoon, we stopped by another camp and chatted with a couple of very friendly Taswegians. They told us the usually way to hunt Big Den was to find a game trail crossing the road and sit and wait there late afternoon. When the hunting starts on the farm paddocks, the deer will move into Big Den along said game trails. Sure enough, when we moved camp to check out a different area, we passed several guys standing on the side of the road waiting with rifles. The problem with that tactic seemed to be there was no hunting pressure on the adjacent private property and with all the hunter activity in Big Den, any resident deer was long gone.

Big Den was an interesting trip and when virus travel restrictions are lifted, I'll go back, but only because I'll be travelling to Tasmania anyway, plus I have a wallaby permit. A lot of Tasmanian restaurants have wallaby on the menu and I quite fancy getting some for myself. If you were wanting to travel across water to go deer hunting, NZ wouldn't cost very much more and would be a lot better. Otherwise hunt locally. Our hunting in Victoria is better than Tasmania.



Factory Visits

Factory Visits In 2019 we had visits to Woodleigh and Bertram Bullets. At each we were treated to a great BBQ (game meats) and got a peek in the factory and trophy rooms. We hope to be able to return to Bruce Bertram in the first half of the year and Woodleigh in the second half. Keep an eye out for future announcements..

Woodleigh make premium hunting bullets. Their “Protected Point Weldcore” bullets are highly regarded.

Bruce Bertram specialises in brass for collectable and hard to get calibres, but also has brass for most calibres including the venerable 30-06. Bruce also makes traditional “cup and core” hunting bullets. I recently bought some of Bruce’s 250 grain 338 Round Nose bullets. They group very well. Can’t wait to put some into sambar.



Top Heads ... to be inspired by ...

*These are the top antlers harvested by branch members since 1st January 2018.
Only financial members will get a head listed. Got a head you want measured and listed?
Talk to Matt King or one of the committee*

Top 10 Sambar

1. Silvio Galea 187 3/4
2. Peter Jorgensen 167 1/2
3. Matt Heath (tbc)
4. Peter Jorgensen (tbc)
5. Jake Nixon (tbc)
6. Damian Griffin (tbc).
7. .
8. .
9. .
10. .

Top 10 Red Deer

1. Rod Reddish - 186 pts
2. Greg Hallinan - 184 7/8 pts
3. Greg Hallinan - 184 5/8 pts
4. Rod Reddish - 166 pts
5. Rod Reddish - 151 5/8 pts
6. .
7. .
8. .
9. .
10. .

Top Fallow Deer

1. Jake Nixon
2. Corey Evans 180 3/4
3. Jason Kleinitz (tbc)
4. .
5. .

Top 10 Hog Deer

1. .
2. .
3. .
4. .



“shit happens”

This expression's first use is credited to Carl Werthman, UCLA Berkeley, 1964.



“Penicillin cures, but wine makes people happy”

- Alexander Fleming, winner of the Nobel Prize for the discovery of penicillin.



“stuff happens”

- GW Bush



It is surmounting difficulties that makes heroes.

- Louis Pasteur created the first vaccine.

The Hunter's Pledge

The hunter should conserve wildlife resources and not exploit them.
The hunter's behaviour should be guided by respect:

- * For the deer and wildlife;
- * For the Land, Forest and Crops;
- * For the landowner and his property; and
- * For Everyone who enjoys the Bush.



Branch Merchandise on sale now!



Order at branch meetings or contact Richard Chan (see details on the contacts page)



Central Vic 2020 Calendar

Summer				
12-Feb	Wednesday	Branch Meeting	Hartley's Hunting & Fishing, California Gully (Bendigo) guest speaker, trade presentation, BBQ, raffles	
15-Feb	Saturday	National Parks Open	Some national parks open to deer stalking	
16-Feb	Sunday	SSAA BGRC vs ADA	Little River - Friendly competition	
22-Feb	Saturday	ADA-CV Range Day at SSAA Marong	Practice, Friendly competition, Deer Management Accreditations, BBQ	
29-Feb	Saturday	Tas Adult Male season opens	Fallow deer	
29 Feb-1 Mar	Weekend	Deer Expo	Bendigo	
Autumn				
Note: Tas Duck Opening, 6th March, Tas "antlerless" season opens 15 March, Tas "Antler" close 6 April, SA Duck Opening 28				
10-Mar	Tuesday	Tracks close after Labour Day w/end		
11-Mar	Wednesday	Committee Meeting	Clarkefield	
01-Apr	Wednesday	Hounds, Hog and Quail seasons open		
08-Apr	Wednesday	Branch Meeting, Longlea	Reloading Info	
10-13 Apr	Easter	Easter		
13-May	Wednesday	Committee Meeting		
18-Apr	Weekend	Branch Hunt #1	Location to be decided after impact of fires known	
T.B.A.		BBQ at Bertram Bullets	incl Factory tour and trophy room	
T.B.A.		Duck Opening, Victoria	dates not announced yet	
23-May	Weekend	Branch Hunt #2 Wonnangatta	Branch hunting camp	
Winter				
01-Jun	Monday	Fresh Water Cray season opens	Cray season closes 31 Aug	
09-Jun	Tuesday	Tracks close following Queen's B'day w 'end		
10-Jun	Wednesday	Branch Meeting "Carve Up"	Longlea - Carcass breakdown	
27-Jun	Weekend	Branch Hunt #3	Location to be decided after impact of fires known	
08-Jul	Wednesday	Committee Meeting	Clarkefield	
4 - 11 Aug	Week long	Branch Hunt #4 Eildon Houseboat	BYO boat or share houseboats, houseboat cost \$250	
12-Aug	Weekend	Branch Meeting - Guest Speaker	Longlea - possible taxidermy - t.b.a.	
Spring				
01-Sep	Tuesday	Trout (Rivers) season opens	Expect more campers in the bush	
11-Sep	Friday	Committee Meeting	Clarkefield	
12-Sep	Weekend	Branch Camp/Hunt #5	Location to be decided after impact of fires known	
14-Oct	Wednesday	Branch Meeting	AGM & Swap Night	
T.B.A.		Woodleigh Factory Visit		
17-Oct	Weekend	Branch Camp/Hunt #6	Location to be decided after impact of fires known	
28-Oct	Wednesday	Committee Meeting	date T.B.C. - planning for Christmas Breakup	
31-Oct	Saturday	Tracks open		
21-Nov	Saturday	Christmas Breakup Party	Lake Eppalock (Bendigo Yacht Club) Free camping	
30-Nov	Monday	Hounds close		
Summer				
5-6 Dec	Weekend	Branch Fishing Camp	Barham Mill Bend (Gunbower State Forest)	
10 Feb 2011	Wednesday	Branch Meeting	To be confirmed	
21 Feb 2011	Sunday	ADA vs SSAA BGRC Shoot	competition at Little River, dates to be confirmed	
27 Feb 2011	Saturday	ADACV Range Day	Marong—to be confirmed	



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with news on Facebook

Get your ADA CV
stubbie holder at the
branch meeting



<https://www.Facebook.com/groups/centralvic.social/>

FISH CAMP Cod Opening 5 - 6 December

This family camp will be in the Gunbower State Forest, at Barham Mill Bend on the Murray River (dogs ok under control but beware of snakes). But if some other group get in this spot first, we'll move along a little.

We don't expect a lot of people, as some have their traditional camp on Cod Opening, so this will be a small friendly camp.

From the Koondrook end of Cohuna-Koondrook Rd, take the River Road across the bridge and follow the river. Just after the Barham Cut Regulator, Look for the ADA camp.

GPS HMS: 35°41'38.4"S 144°13'11.4"E
or DEC -35.693993, 144.219829 (from google)

We're told bank fishing is good and small tinnies can put in here, or at the boat ramp further South or you can fish the Gunbower Creek.

Remember, unless you're a kid (under 18) or have an exemption, you'll need fishing licences. And remember, the Murray, is NSW water.

It's a bush camp. We won't have the branch trailer.

Take you're rubbish out with you.

For more info on this site, see Parks Vic notes here:

<http://barhamkoondrook.com.au/wp-content/uploads/fs0086-gunbowerforest-walks-and-drives.pdf>



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Treasurer	Scot Dowell	Centralvic.treas@austdeer.asn.au
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General Committee	Ron Jones	

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Useful Web Pages

Australian Deer Association	www.austdeer.com.au
Game Management Authority (Vic)	www.gma.vic.gov.au hunting maps:
Victoria Police Firearms page	https://www.police.vic.gov.au/firearms-licensing
Firearms Safety Foundation	http://www.firearmsafety.org.au/
LASSI—Land survey information	https://maps.land.vic.gov.au/lassi/LassiUI.jsp
check the status of land in Victoria	
Land Channel—Download topo maps	http://services.land.vic.gov.au/landchannel/content/
Chuck Hawks (everything shooting)	https://www.chuckhawks.com
Ballistics—a Kiwi website with a lot of good info	https://www.ballisticstudies.com/
24 Hour Campfire—a forum for hunting and shooting.	https://www.24hourcampfire.com/
eBook—Central Vic New Hunters Guide	Download from G-Drive https://drive.google.com/open?id=1DB2b71vELi1KkR1bFOuUUp0YzbIW85sC



Central Victoria Branch

Is your membership up for renewal? Do you have any family or friends who should want to

Thank you for your membership of the Australian Deer Association (ADA). Your support of the association has helped us:

- In Victoria and Tasmania open up more public land including National Parks for deer hunting. We now have hunting access to State Forest subject to grazing leases, where we are previously locked out. ADA is still working on more public land access.
- Also in Victoria, the GMA has started going down the path to introduce some type of test on game regulations before you can get a game licence. The ADA is pro-actively working to get a common sense solution that minimises the impact on existing game licence holders.
- **At our branch level, CV has 6 camps a year, 6 meetings including a great Christmas Party and 5-6 newsletters. For new hunters, we can arrange mentoring in camps and have an eBook guide.**
- Importantly, your ADA membership gives you a “genuine reason” for your firearms licence
- Australian Deer Magazine—6 issues
- 20M public liability insurance, plus firearms insurance up to \$25,000.

ADA membership is great value.

You can renew online or any of the other options on your renewal letter.

If you have a friend or family member that's interested, forward them this newsletter and tell them to sign up online:

www.austdeer.com.au/membership

To contact the National Office:

National Membership Office

PO Box 454, Croydon, Vic 3136

Email: natmem@austdeer.asn.au

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