

THE HUNTER'S HUNTER

Australian Deer Association - Hunter Valley Branch

April 2020



50 YEARS • 1969-2019

Australian
Deer
Association

Special points of interest:

Next Meeting:

TBC

Postponed indefinitely due to COVID-19

President Report

Welcome to all of our HV ADA members.

Hope everyone is well in these challenging and uncertain times.

It has been a bit of a whirlwind last few months and everything seems to be a week by week proposition at the moment. COVID-19 has changed many things and seen all of our lives change in some way.

Our ability to get outdoors and do the things we love are only a small part to this but one that does impact us at what is usually a busy hunting period.

My thoughts go out to all those who's lives have been turned upside down by the pandemic.

The impact this has had to many is really life changing and I'm sure that there are many in our small branch that have been impacted. Please reach out to your mates during this time – even if its just for a chat....

I know we haven't had a meeting for a while and it is unlikely for the foreseeable future so we need to look to other ways to stay connected.

Thanks to Geoff and Aaron for your efforts on Facebook. If members can think of other ways to stay connected please sing out and the Committee will look to make them happen.

Another way that I have found a distraction whilst not being able to get out and about is planning for future trips.

I am really looking forward to a Victorian Branch hunt later in the year and have been doing some Google Map exploring trying to find that perfect sam-bar hiding spot.

We will get back into the hills and I cant wait.

Please take care everybody and look after your families.

Pick up the phone and call a mate. Check in on those not as fortunate and be grateful for everything that you have.

Be safe.

Regards,

Matt Grainger

Hunter Valley President

Join our Facebook group to

share stories :

ADA Hunter Valley Members

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Hunting About

James Barben will be a guest at a future branch meeting and will discuss his various hunting adventures from overseas.

James will tell us about hunting in Asia including in Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan along with a trip to Northern BC.

Hunted species include ibex, tur, moose, caribou, bison and grouse. He'll be able to run through some of the logistics, expected conditions, costs and useful equipment and tips on hunting in these areas.

As a taster to his future guest presentation, check out some of his holiday snaps.



Hunting About... continued



Hunting About—*New England*

New England ADA are a sub-branch of Hunter Valley ADA.

We'd like to invite all members of New England ADA to submit images or articles for this newsletter.

You can send articles to Hunter Valley Secretary, Geoff on tbsconstruction@bigpond.com or directly to newsletter editor Aaron on: aaronmyleshenry@gmail.com

Our first New England contribution is from Noel Willoughby. Noel shot this chital near Texas, Queensland.

"It was a weekend hunt with Noel starting his hunt Friday afternoon. The Chital was taken Saturday at about 100m, just on dusk"

Well done Noel. Absolutely beautiful.



Last Light—quick news

Updating your membership details

Membership management for ADA has been changed from an older system to a new one.

If you need to access your membership record you can use the direct link.

See the link below.

If you have any membership enquires, please email our part-time membership officer, Carol:

Email: natmem@austdeer.asn.au

<https://austdeer.360membershipcrm.com.au/member/>

A joke from Glenn Schofield

Two hunters are out in the woods when one of them collapses.

He's not breathing so his friend calls 000.

'My friend is dead! What should I do?'

The operator replies, "Calm down sir, first make sure that he's really dead."

There's a silence, then a loud bang.

Back on the phone, the guy says, "Ok, now what?"

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Notes from the ADA Executive Officer, Barry Howlett

Sunday 23 March 2020

All,

Another update on the Coronavirus situation following fresh advice from the Government on Friday.

The social distancing parameters of one person per 4 square meters indoors will make it difficult to conduct ADA branch meetings in their traditional form.

It is up to each individual Branch Executive to make those calls based on the advice from local authorities.

One of the advantages of our move to a new Constitution is that we are able to adapt more easily to changed circumstances.

Branch AGM's are able to be deferred until there is an opportunity for members to come together again face to face. The usual Annual President's and financial reports should still be published in the normal cycle.

The Association's AGM will still proceed in August – if possible this will be in a face to face conference, if not we are fortunate that we have already tested and proven our ability to run these meetings online.

There is advice for public gatherings on the Federal Health Department website.

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-public-gatherings-and-visits-to-vulnerable-groups#limits-on-organised-gatherings>

These are extraordinary times and our community is more important now than ever. We appreciate the leadership that you all provide locally.

Meanwhile the deer are busy being deer – unconcerned about the situations of the human world. The Fallow will be rutting soon, then the Reds will be roaring. Hog deer season too is just over a week away.

ADA will continue to take opportunities to be the voice of deer management and deer hunting in Australia.

As always please don't hesitate to get in touch if you need assistance communicating with members or just to bounce ideas around.

- Barry Howlett

Thursday 19 March 2020

All,

As you are no doubt aware the situation with Coronavirus is fluid and is changing constantly.

In recent days we have seen the cancellation of AgFest in Tasmania and SHOT Expo in Sydney.

We are still planning as if large ADA events such as the Victorian Hunter Education Course and the Shelley Camp will proceed and we are beginning planning for other events later in the year.

We will give as much notice as possible as things change (and the one certainty in this situation is change) but we balance that with being wary of not pre-empting the advice from government health authorities.

We understand that some branch meetings have already been cancelled as a result of venue closures etc - we expect this to escalate in the coming days and weeks.

These will be local decisions - as long as you are not running against the advice from the authorities you will have the full support of the Association in making them.

Please let us know as this happens and we will help you to communicate with members through our web, email and social media platforms.

There is a lot of fear and uncertainty out there at the moment - we appreciate the leadership and support that you are all providing to our ADA and broader hunting community. Strong communities are very important right now.

I am on leave and in the field hunting for the rest of this week, however, if you need assistance please don't hesitate to text or email and I will get back to you within a few hours.

- Barry Howlett

Five Stages of a Hunter—*Where do you fit in?*

- This article has been reprinted from historical hunting resources California Hunter Education Manual 1995

Hunters change through the years. Factors used to determine 'successful hunting' change as well for each hunter.

A hunter's age, role models, and years of hunting experience affect his ideas of 'success'.

Shooting Stage

The hunter talks about satisfaction with hunting being closely tied to being able to 'get shooting'.

Often the beginning duck hunter will relate he had an excellent day if he got in a lot of shooting.

The beginning deer hunter will talk about the number of shooting opportunities.

Missing game means little to hunters in this phase. A beginning hunter wants to pull the trigger and test the capability of his firearms.

A hunter in this stage may be a dangerous hunting partner.

'Limiting Out' Stage

A hunter still talks about satisfaction gained from shooting.

But what seems more important is measuring success through the killing of game and the number of birds or animals shot.

'Limiting out', or filling a tag, is the absolute measure.

Do not let your desire to 'limit out' be stronger than the need for safe behaviour at all times.

Trophy Stage

Satisfaction is described in terms of selectivity of game.

A duck hunter might take only one species of ducks. A deer hunter looks for one special deer.

A hunter might travel far to find a real trophy animal. Shooting opportunity and skill become less important.

Method Stage

This hunter has all the special equipment. Hunting has become one of the most important things in his life.

Satisfaction comes from the method that enables the hunter to take game. Taking game is important, but second to how it is taken.

This hunter will study long and hard how best to pick a blind site, lay out decoys, and call in waterfowl.

A deer hunter will go one on one with a deer, studying signs, tracking, and life habits of the deer.

Often the hunter will handicap himself by only hunting with black powder firearms or bow and arrow. Bagging game, or limiting, still is understood as being a necessary part of the hunt during this phase.

Sportsman Stage

As a hunter ages and after many years hunting, he 'mellows out'. Satisfaction now can be found in the total hunting experience.

Being in the field, enjoying the company of friends and family, and seeing nature outweighs the need for taking game.

Not all hunters go through all stages or go through them in that particular order.

It is possible for hunters who pursue several species of game to be in different stages with regards to each species.

Some hunters feel that role models of good sportsmen, training or reading books or magazines helped them pass more quickly through some stages.

ADA Hunter Valley Branch Meeting Minutes

12 February 2020

20 members signed as attending the meeting.

The venison BBQ sausages were supplied by Martin and Barry, cheers guys.

Meeting Opened: 7.30pm

Apologies

Des Buckhurst, Mike Patterson, James Barden, Matt Grainger

Minutes from October Meeting

President Report

With Matt unable to attend emergency work with Ausgrid, see branch mag for Matt's words.

Secretary Report

Correspondence in: New members, Other Branch Magazines received, Madeline Fogarty (journalist for Australian Deer Mag) looking for branch updates and news, Branch members hunting articles.

Correspondence out: Other Branch mags sent to members, Agenda for branch planning meeting, Current members list to Barry Howlett, Public Liability Certificate of Currency sent to all members

Treasurer Report

\$500.00 petty cash

\$2,000.00 account

\$2,500.00 in total

Items of Business

- 2020 planning meeting outcomes. The 2020 plan was presented and discussed.
- Discussion on branches Judgement Criteria for presentation awards.

From last night. The big one “Judgement Criteria”. Glen discussed and gave his views. In summary the generally consensus of members is that we are a deer hunting branch not a trophy hunting branch. Most agreed that a representative head of that species regardless of official score should be eligible for an award for that species. Pete Sweetman would like any head brought in during the year can be eligible regardless if you can attend or not the presentation/xmas party. Whether that be by proxy or what??

The Grand Slam: Again most agreed that this award should have a min, however how is this set?. It was discussed it be a minimum fixed score. So any member over any time can claim the grand slam, as Glen indicated if the scoring criteria is a percentage that increases. A red he shot 15 years ago, and then this season he shoots the remaining species and wants to claim the award. But his red no longer meets the min criteria. I have indicated I’ll send out and email so all members can in point form have their say. Members were informed April meeting on further discuss/finalize the criteria.

- Madeline Fogarty, journalist with Deer Australia Magazine. Looking for branch articles, events etc to

be published in magazine. A member to assist.

General Business.

Peter Sweetman suggested we have a nominated Branch Hunt, mentor/organiser.

Hunting About: Nothing to report at this stage.

Branch presentation discussion

Pat Fitz-Gibbon discussed hunting the West Coast of USA. Thanks Pat, a great presentation with plenty of questions from members.

Meeting closed: 8.45pm

2020 Branch Calendar

All events are TBC due to COVID-19



<p>January</p> <p>Branch Executive Planning</p>	<p>July</p> <p>Saturday 11: Sausage making with Martin Thann</p> <p>TBA: SSAA Range Day, Seaham, 1pm</p>
<p>February</p> <p>Wednesday 12: Branch Meeting, Awaba, 6.30pm</p> <p>TBA: Range sight in day (Deer Season preparation)</p>	<p>August</p> <p>Wednesday 12: Branch Meeting, Awaba, 6.30pm</p> <p>Saturday 20-21: Branch Hunt, Location TBC, NSW</p> <p>TBA: SSAA Range Day, Seaham, 1pm</p>
<p>March</p> <p>TBA: SSAA Range Day, Seaham, 1pm</p>	<p>September</p> <p>Saturday 12-19: Branch Sambar Hunt, Bennies, Alpine National Park, Victoria</p> <p>TBA: SSAA Range Day, Seaham, 1pm</p>
<p>April</p> <p>Wednesday 8: Branch Meeting, Awaba, 6.30pm</p> <p>Saturday 18-19: Branch Hunt, Nundle, NSW</p> <p>TBA: SSAA Range Day, Seaham, 1pm</p>	<p>October</p> <p>Wednesday 14: Branch Meeting, Awaba, 6.30pm</p> <p>Saturday 24-25: Branch Hunt, Location TBC, NSW</p> <p>TBA: SSAA Range Day, Seaham, 1pm</p>
<p>May</p> <p>TBA: SSAA Range Day, Seaham, 1pm</p>	<p>November</p> <p>Friday 20: Christmas Party, Awaba, 6.00pm</p> <p>TBA: SSAA Range Day, Seaham, 1pm</p>
<p>June</p> <p>Wednesday 10: Branch Meeting, Awaba, 6.30pm</p> <p>Saturday 20-21: Branch Hunt, Bago/Nth Maragle, NSW</p>	<p>December</p> <p>DATE TBC: Branch Christmas Party</p> <p>TBA: SSAA Range Day, Seaham, 1pm</p>

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Australian Deer Association - Hunter Valley Branch



Newcastle Lake Macquarie
Clay Target Club
468 Wilton Road
Awaba NSW 2283

President: Matt Grainger
hunterv.pres@austdeer.asn.au
Mobile: 0417 231 760

Please send newsletter content
to Aaron Henry:
aaronmyleshenry@gmail.com

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 all wildlife

For the land, forest and crops

For the landowner and his property

For everyone who enjoys the bush

Licensing

Everything Deer in NSW
Hunter Valley

For Firearms Licensing –
Martin Thann (0428 497 921).

Cost:
\$100 for non ADA members,
\$50 for ADA Members

Shooters License Renewal –
ADA Branch Approval Num-
ber: 407 832 036.

R-Licence Renewal – Approval
number 12852

Members are reminded that
by law to use ADA as your
genuine reason to own a fire-
arm you must attend a mini-
mum of 2 branch meetings
per year to meet qualification
requirements.

ADA Website –
www.austdeer.asn.au