

# Riverina Rub Tree.

## ADA RIVERINA BRANCH

Volume 11

Issue 1

February 2020

### Hunter' 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.**

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**NEXT MEETING: 16<sup>th</sup> February, General Meeting.  
Thomas Blamey Tavern, 10.00am start.**

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## ADA Riverina Branch Directory

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Committee			
New member officer	Steve Glover		
Catering	Scott Williams 0428552267		
Awards	Leigh Logan 0429600926		
Facebook Co-Ordinator	Donald Flanagan 0467592693		
Committee	Robert Jaques, John Foxwell, Jason Thiem, Paul Passlow, Don Lucas, Peter Saunders, Dallas Goldspink.		
Riverina Branch Hunting Coordinators			
Burra Pines, Corryong	Dallas Goldspink	0428 387 706	riverinaadabookings@gmail.com
Koetong Pines.	Jason Flower	0418 930 292	

**ADA approved hunting club number for Firearm Licence applications/renewals – 407832036**

**Game Unit DPI Approved Hunting Organisation (AHO) Number for R Licence applications – 11321**

## 2020 Branch Calendar

16 <sup>th</sup> February	Branch Meeting	Thomas Blamey Tavern	
8 <sup>th</sup> March	Deer Silhouette shoot	SSAA Wagga	
June	Branch Meeting & AGM	Euberta Hall	
August	Branch Awards	Thomas Blamey	Family members most welcome.
October	Branch Meeting	TBA	
December	Branch Meeting	TBA	
ADA NSW State Conference		7 <sup>th</sup> March	Sydney

**SECURE YOUR HUNTING FUTURE  
BY GETTING INVOLVED IN YOUR  
BRANCH**

**PARTICIPATE IN BRANCH  
FUNCTIONS  
INTRODUCE A FRIEND**

**IF YOU ARE NOT PART OF THE  
SOLUTION  
YOU ARE PART OF THE PROBLEM**

Branch Web Site, <http://www.rubtree.com.au>

## Presidents Report

It is a bit hard to know how to start the first newsletter of 2020 with fire season we have had so far and with another couple of months still to run. The fires have been devastating to people and wildlife and no praise is too great to all those that have been involved in either fighting the fires or helping with the aftermath, no doubt that includes some of our members and we hope that everyone involved stays safe.

I have not been out in the bush yet but from reports a lot of the area that our members will be familiar with, including the Burra and RSL hut, have been burnt and I understand that one of our members has lost his home. No doubt many deer have also perished and again we won't know to what extent until people get out and about into deer country. To give some idea there is a YouTube serious called "Hilldog TV", if you scroll through his list of videos there is one with the following title "HDtv: Fire Deer 2020". The presenter goes for a 2 hour walk somewhere in the Victorian high country and finds about 20 dead sambar that mostly seem to have died after the fire from a combination of injury, hunger and contaminated water. No doubt there would also have been animals that would have been totally consumed by the intense heat. This video only covers one small area of deer country, extrapolating the numbers of bodies over area of deer range burnt would result in a significant total.

In the past bushfires are said to help spread the range of sambar and that they are usually quick to recolonise recovering forest from unburnt refuges but if, as predicted by climate science, we continue to have fires of this scale and intensity hunting opportunities may decrease. Personally, I think deer hunting and hunting in general is coming under increasing pressure from multiple fronts. Earlier in 2019 the NSW government announced funding for a 9-million-dollar deer control program, besides stepping up culling to take advantage of the fires you can be sure that some of this money will used to further research into the use of poison, biological and other control methods.

The point I am attempting to make is that if we want to have any hope of maintaining hunting into the future, we hunters need to educate ourselves more on the basics of deer ecology, their impacts on the environment and agriculture but also their social and economic values. I believe that hunters make up the single largest section of the community that spends time directly in the bush and therefore develops a close affinity with the natural world. We love being out in the bush and are happy to put in the hard yakka required to go hunting. However, when it comes time to putting in a little effort to preserve the things, we enjoy we are a hopelessly apathetic bunch.

The ADA Riverina Branch is a prime example of what I am talking about. We have over 200 members, probably about 30 who know each other and half that many that involve themselves in Branch activities. The way we are going we are unlikely to have a Branch much further into the future. We desperately need some fresh blood to inject some enthusiasm into the Branch.

**Our upcoming meeting this Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February at the Thomas Blamey Tavern, Lake Albert, will be a casual meeting followed by lunch at the hotel for those who wish.** It would be nice if a few new faces could come along to discuss what they want from the ADA and maybe ask what you can do to help.

**Our next Branch activity will be a silhouette shoot against SSAA members at the Wagga SSAA Range on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March.** This is a fun day of friendly competition that also provides some practice for shooting in the field in readiness for the coming hunting season.

Safe Hunting

Geoff Pigram

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# Bits'N' Pieces.

## Accredited Douglas Scorers.

The Branch now has accredited scorers; if you have a head that you would like scored for our trophy competition for the August meeting, and or put on the national register contact one of the scorers from the list below.

Please note you can bring the head to a meeting but the scorer will measure outside of meeting hours, and only heads that are skull fixed. "No form mounts please."

### Contact.

Steve Glover, Neil Cole or Warren Flanagan.

## Branch Library.

The hire rate is two dollars for each item.

**\$2.00 \$2.00 \$2.00 \$2.00 \$2.00**

**HUNTING, FISHING & EDUCATIONAL!**

We have a great range,

Australian, New Zealand and American.

Grab a few at the next meeting, hire conditions are from one meeting to the next.

See: Warren after the meeting for hire.

## ADA Membership Form.

Do you have friends or family who would like to join the ADA? Go to [www.austdeer.com.au](http://www.austdeer.com.au) to download a membership form.

## Email Addresses

It saves a lot of time and expense if newsletters can be sent out to members by email and you will get your newsletter in colour resulting in photos being much better to look at. The other advantage is that info that comes to the Branch from other sources, such as Game Council, etc. can be passed directly to those with email. Otherwise you will receive it by mail in black & white.

## Using ADA as a Genuine Reason.

If you use your ADA membership as a Genuine Reason for having a Firearms License, please remember that you are required to attend a minimum of two (2) branch activities. Whether they are shoots, meetings or Branch hunts, it is your responsibility to ensure you meet the requirements. We are required to submit attendance records to State on a regular basis, who in turn collate attendances for the Firearms Registry.

## Branch Merchandise & Property Box.

The branch holds a variety of items in its property box, which are offered to all members. Branch shirts short and long sleeve, camo caps and subby holders. (ADA Logo)

For these great items see, Steve Hanckel at a meeting.

# Cooking.

## SHANKS.

*A classic way to prepare shanks, these are slow cooked in a deeply flavoured red wine sauce until they are meltingly tender. You can't taste the red wine at the end, it completely transforms into a rich sauce. Make this in the oven, on your stove or even in a slow cooker.*

- 4 venison shanks
- 1 tsp each salt and pepper
- 2 - 3 tbsp olive oil
- 1 cup onion
- 3 garlic cloves
- 1 cup carrot
- 1 cup celery
- 2 1/2 cups / 625 ml red wine
- 28 oz / 800g can crushed tomatoes
- 2 tbsp tomato paste
- 2 cups / 500 ml chicken stock, low sodium
- 5 sprigs of thyme
- 2 dried bay leaves
- Mashed potato, polenta or pureed cauliflower
- Fresh thyme leaves, optional garnish

Preheat the oven to 350F/180C.

Pat the shanks dry and sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Heat 2 tbsp of olive oil in a heavy based pot over high heat. Sear the shanks in 2 batches until brown all over, about 5 minutes.

Remove onto a plate and drain excess fat (if any) from the pot.

Turn the heat down to medium low. Heat remaining 1 tbsp of olive oil in the same pot, if needed. Add the onion and garlic, cook for 2 minutes.

Add carrot and celery. Cook for 5 minutes until onion is translucent and sweet.

Add the red wine, chicken stock, crushed tomato, tomato paste, thyme and bay leaves. Stir to combine.

Place the shanks into the pot, squeezing them in to fit so they are mostly submerged.

Turn stove up, bring to a simmer. Cover, then transfer to the oven for 2 hours.

Remove from oven, remove lid, then return to the oven for another 30 minutes (so 2 1/2 hours in total). Check to ensure meat is tender - if not, cover and keep cooking. Ideal is tender meat but still holding onto bone.

Remove shanks onto plate and keep warm. Pick out and discard bay leaves and thyme.

Strain the sauce into a bowl, pressing to extract all sauce out of the veggies. Pour strained sauce back into pot. Bring to simmer over medium heat and reduce slightly to a syrupy consistency. I rarely need to. Taste then add salt and pepper to taste.

Serve the shanks on mashed potato or cauliflower puree with plenty of sauce! Garnish with thyme leaves if desired.





## **How big do Sambar stag antlers grow?**

Actually, no one really knows. Each year there seems to be more and more Stags taken with antlers well into the 30+” length, so it is reasonable to assume that this would be pretty much what a stag can grow to given the right nutritional circumstances. However, if you consider the entire size of the Sambar range and that the areas hunted make up only a small part of this, it is a very strong possibility that there could be stags with antler length well beyond the mid 30” mark.



A mature sambar stag testing the air.

### **ADA Riverina Branch Deer Silhouette Shoot.**

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March, Starting around 12.00 noon.  
ADA v's SSAA team and individual event.  
Presentation and Prizes after shoot.



#### **Rules and Requirements**

1. All shooters are required to sign the SSAA book and make payment to use the range.
2. The shoot will be controlled by a SSAA range officer.
3. All shooters to abide by the rules of the SSAA.
4. All shooters are required to register their names on the ADA score sheet.
5. The minimum calibre size is .243
6. No Bipods, shooting sticks or daypacks to be used as a shooting aid.
7. A maximum of three shots per target for the given range and shooting position.
8. All rifles are to have their bolts removed while not in use or in storage.

## **Fire Update.** *(By Dallas Goldspink)*

Recently the Tumbarumba and Batlow areas experienced catastrophic fire behaviour with large impacts from the Dunn's Rd, Green Valley and East Ournie fires burning through 100,000s of Ha of forestry, private property and National Parks creating one of the largest recorded fires in NSW and Australia's history.

For the first week the fires were burning through approx. 40,000Ha per day; fire spreads that had not been record in NSW history.

The state forests and the "Burra Blocks" were severely impacted with over 37,000Ha of plantation lost.

Areas include are:

- Green Hills State Forest
- Bago State Forest (Including Blowering and all of the hardwood estate)
- " North" Maragle State Forest
- "South" Maragle Sate Forest (Some of China wall/Basin Creek Areas didn't burn)
- Burra Blocks including Maragle Park.
- Mannus State Forest

It is unclear when forests will reopen however it is unlikely for fire impacted forests to be opened for hunting access for many months due to dangerous trees and damaged infrastructure such as bridges and melted road culverts and the large increase in harvesting operations to try and salvage as much timber as possible.

The Burra Blocks still need to be assessed and discussions held with the owners regarding re-entry for hunters due to damage to roading infrastructure and the Burra RSL. The camping areas will need to be assessed for suitability. However, at the moment it is unlikely to be opened until at least after April.

Many rural properties were also impacted during these fires including some of our members. Mark Goldspink's property near Tumbarumba just behind Green Hills State Forest was heavily impacted with Mark losing his family home, sheds, machinery and some stock and one of his beloved dogs.

Mark lost the majority of his possessions including all of his camping, fishing, hunting and trapping equipment and clothing. He was lucky enough to grab his rifles before the impact but lost all of his ammunition.

Escaping to the bush and hunting or fishing with his son Dallas is one of Mark's favourite past times and to help him restock some of his gear so he can find some escape and maybe even find a trophy or two to start replacing all of his lost taxidermy and dog skins. The family would greatly appreciate some financial help big or small. Donations can be made to the following:

Account Name: Dallas M Goldspink

BSB: 032 727      Acc # 229400

Also it should be mentioned the communities need some support and it would be great to see members attending local events such as the rodeos etc. Once the forests re open to hunting there may be a mix of game numbers etc but as they will bounce back and members should remain positive about the future of hunting in the area.





The remains of Mark Goldspinks Home.



Here lies the body of a burnt fallow deer.

#### BURRA MOVIE.

For a full run though the Burra Pines here is a short film put together by Jim Peat.

<https://youtu.be/CbrYJQvdOvQ>

Paul Passlow sent these photos in of Burra Pines.



The Burra RSL.



The Block, Steiner.



# Hunting About.

## Wade Edwards.

After the Victorian fires in and around Stick's favourite hunting spots he headed out for a look found a lot of dead wildlife and seen the survivors also Stick's venture took him in and out of the burnt bush he managed to see over twenty deer and shot a young buck also with velvet antlers.



**Scout looking pretty happy.**