

Riverina Rub Tree.

ADA RIVERINA BRANCH

Volume 11

Issue 2

April 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.**

NEXT MEETING: TBA.

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ADA Riverina Branch Directory

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Riverina Branch Hunting Coordinators			
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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 th February	Branch Meeting	Thomas Blamey Tavern	
8 th 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 th 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

Coronavirus

You are no doubt aware of the situation with Coronavirus (COVID 19) and the ongoing strategies that the State and Federal governments are implementing to curb the spread of the virus. In compliance with the regulations on venue closures and distancing laws the Branch committee has made the decision that branch meetings and activities, including hunts, are cancelled until advised otherwise.

We will provide updated advice as it comes to hand with as much notice as possible as things change (and the one certainty is change) but we balance that with being wary of not pre-empting the advice from government and health authorities. On a positive note both the Federal and State governments are starting to discuss the timing of when it may be possible to start lifting restrictions, so fingers crossed that we may get some hunting in this year.

While the virus has put the brakes on our preferred outdoor activities the organizational part of the ADA is still very active behind the scenes.

New & Renewing Memberships

We have had a couple of recent enquiries from renewing and new members about not receiving a membership card. The reason for this is that due to cost and the fact that most members across Australia do not require the card the National Office has decided to not automatically issue cards with membership. Sending out cards to everyone costs over \$10,000 annually and for an organization like ours that requires all the financial resources it can muster to advocate for deer and deer hunting across the whole of Australia this is not an insignificant cost. It is acknowledged however that there are some instances, particularly in NSW, where members use the card or a copy of it for identification purposes such as firearm or R Licence applications. National is aware of this and is currently working on a digital form of membership identification that will be able to be downloaded from a member only portal on the ADA website, which we are told is not far off. It is also possible that for a small fee cards may still be available for those that want them, these options are being worked through and should be sorted soon. In the meantime, anyone who does not receive acknowledgement of membership can contact us at Riverina or the Membership Office to arrange written advice of your membership.

Website – www.austdeer.com.au

The ADA website has been underutilized in the past, mainly because there was not a great deal of updating information on it. To be fair this was largely due to the fact that it relied on volunteers, who were busy running Branches and other ADA activities, to keep it going. The website has undergone a significant revamp over the last year or so due to ADA's partnership with McPherson Media Group, the company that publishes Australian deer Magazine. Both the magazine and website have greatly improved and contain a lot of interesting stories and informative articles for members who care to look for them. This has taken a lot of behind the scenes work from National, work that members generally do not hear about, and those involved should be congratulated. The website is still a work in progress but is being added to all the time, check out the interesting podcasts in the "NEWS" section as an example. Also, all Branches now each have their own section where they can post newsletters and other items, once the use of this facility becomes fully employed by all Branches it will be a great way for members to keep up with what is happening with the deer scene around Australia.

Deer Management Program

The ADA DMP has been explained previously but again in brief it is an initiative to grow ADA's role in deer management across Australia, including culling of deer where necessary. ADA has already been successfully working with public and private land managers in Victoria for a number of years and may be about to commence a program in SA, we will also be looking to get programs up in NSW. Participants in the program are required to be accredited to have demonstrated knowledge and skills across a variety of areas including firearm use, animal welfare, State wildlife legislation and codes of practice and more. The idea is to develop standards equal to those required for professional animal controllers and to have the ADA accreditation uniform across the whole organization.

Involvement is open to all ADA members and is a great opportunity for anyone interested in the sustainable management of deer. The on-line knowledge tests are about to be trialled before being opened to all participants and shooting skills tests will take place once ranges re-open. Riverina Branch currently has about six members involved but there is always room for more, if you are interested contact Bob Gough at bobgough308@gmail.com.

Stay Safe!

Geoff Pigram

Branch President.

MINUTES OF THE ADA RIVERINA BRANCH.
GENERAL MEETING AT Thomas Blamey Tavern.
DATE: 16th February, 2020.

Attendance: 14 members as per attendance book.

Apologies: D.Lucas, P.Saunders, G.Stoll, N.Cole, G.McLean.

New Members: Nil in attendance. (Current membership 217.)

No Minutes of the previous meeting.

Treasurer's report from Steve Hanckel:

Cash Reserve & Cheque Account:	\$9,803.00				
Cash	\$160				
Total	\$10,713.00	Approx. property box value			\$750.00
Income:	Meeting raffle	\$120	Expenses:		\$ 225.00
	Property sales	\$50			
	Meeting lunch	\$00			
	Bank interest	\$5.50			
	Total	\$175.50		Total	\$ 225.00

Accepted: S.Hanckel sec, P.Passlow

Correspondence:

In; Other Branch newsletters.

Out:

Business Arising:

- Discussion on ADA deer management Programme, key roles needed, coordinators and leaders, NSW state DMP is progressing with ongoing discussion with the Game Licencing Unit. Each NSW Branch has a number of nominated members that are willing to participate in the programme.
- The committee looked into changes to the Awards Day event, there will still be a cash gift voucher for any entry, a perpetual trophy for best deer and medallions for each category.

General Business

- General talk on the planned ADA Shelly hunt camp that a few members had showed interest in.

Meeting Closed at 12.30pm

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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 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 Branch meetings.

Cooking.

HAM.

Ham is traditionally made from a hind leg or shoulder of pork. For beginners, we recommend you try making a 'picnic' ham from the shoulder first. The meat tastes pretty similar and the process is a bit quicker and easier first time around. Once you've nailed the basic process and understand the science of what's going on a little better - taking the next step to making a whole leg of ham from scratch will be less daunting and will have a higher chance of success.

Most picnic ham's will be around 2 to 3kg and this is the perfect place to start. Make sure you accurately weigh your meat before you start the next steps, as it's important for step 2 and 3.

Prepare your brine.

How much brine you make depends on how big your piece of meat is. A general rule is you need to make enough brine to fully submerge your ham in its container + about 25% extra for pumping.

If using the Misty Gully Ham Cure - mix approximately 130g of the pre-mix cure with each litre of room temperature water. If you want to add additional [pickling spices](#), add those as well and stir until most of the sugar appears to have dissolved.

Inject your meat

When making ham, it's very important you inject your meat with your brine as this ensures your meat will cure thoroughly. This is especially important when using a cut with bones in. Inject as deep as possible ensuring cure is throughout the meat. If your meat doesn't cure properly it will not end up as 'ham' throughout. Parts of the meat that aren't cured will be grey, and essentially just roast pork!

Your 'pump rate' is 25%. That is, if your meat weighs 2kg, then you need to inject it with approx. 500ml of brine.

Cure your meat

Once you've injected your meat thoroughly, place it in the remaining brine in your container of choice and place in the fridge. Ensure the meat is fully submerged. Curing generally takes 5-7 days. As a general rule of thumb, allow one day per 500g of meat. So, for a small 2kg picnic ham, you'll need about 4-5 days to cure. For large cuts / full legs of ham, cure for a maximum of 8 days. What happens if you cure for longer? Well, not much. What will happen is the salt, cure and pickling spices will further penetrate the meat, but usually the end product will be an overly salty one, so that's why we recommend sticking to the suggested timeframes.

Rinse and Soak

After the curing process, remove your meat and thoroughly rinse it under a cold running tap, ensuring to remove all excess salt and spices. After this, soak your meat in room temperature water for 2 hours to further remove excess saltiness and cure.

Equalize and form the Pellicle

Place the meat on a plate uncovered inside your refrigerator for 24 hours. During this time two things happen. 1) the remaining cure and salt should 'equalize' throughout the meat, resulting in a less salty and more 'even' tasting final product. 2) your meat will form a 'pellicle'. This is a tacky sheen that will appear on the surface of your meat. The pellicle will help your meat more readily absorb a Smokey flavour when it comes time to smoking.

Bring your meat to temp and turn it into Ham!

Yep, that's right. It's here at this step where you'll no longer have a hunk of meat, but rather, a delicious ham. Set your oven or smoker to 110c. Cook your ham until it reaches an internal temperature of 65c. If using smoke, recommended chips include: apple, maple, cherry, pear, plum, pecan, hickory and peach. Alternatively, if you're just using your oven and don't have a smoker, but would still like to add a smoke flavour profile, For small picnic ham, it should take around 2 hours. For larger cuts like a full leg it will take longer.

VALE



Phil Cammiade

Recently I was informed by Phil Cammiade's daughter Michelle that after battling illness for some time Phil had sadly passed away in his sleep.

Phil was a member since the formation of the Branch and had a stint as one of the first Branch Secretaries, for a number of years he was an active committee member that helped out with any Branch activity that happening at the time, particularly the annual Bunnings sausage sizzles that were one of our main fund raising events in the early days.

Phil made many friends at the Branch and was a regular attendee at Branch hunts where he always had some jovial stories of his past to share around the camp fire.

The Branch committee wishes Phil's family our deepest sympathies.

What does a sambar stag rub tree look like?

Sambar stags use rub trees for two main reasons. The first is to strip velvet from their antlers, as deer drop and grow their antlers each year, it's a good way to track if the area you are hunting has an active stag in the area, to more rubs, the more active the area is. The second is to mark their territory, they do this by both scarring up the trees, and rubbing their scent against it and generally a "preaching" tree located nearby. See the photo for a pretty good sort of "rub", as can be seen by the shavings on the ground and the green marks on the tree, this one has seen some recent use.



A large tree like this does not mean a big stag! Rub trees can be frequently visited by many different stags over the years, if a stag moves on or is shot another will more than likely take up his replacement in the area.

When do Sambar Stags Rut?

Unlike many other deer species around the world a Sambar Stag can be in rut at any time of the year. This is almost certainly due to the fact that there can be a hind in season at any time of the year. Remembering that the Sambar is a deer species that originated in India, where it was hunted by Tigers, if it's safe to breed they will. In Australia there are no natural predators of the Sambar deer so they breed all year round.

A stag tendering an in-season hind, the stag is in full rut mode notice the preorbital glands flared he has also been wallowing, as a mature stag he will not likely have any competition for the rights to mate with this hind.



Hunting About.



Wade Edwards.

Wade managed to get out on private property for a hunt and took this great looking buck during the rut.



Jason Theim.

Jason and his wife Sally spent time in the Victorian high country (before the lock down). They hiked in to a scenic location where they were fortunate to enjoy great weather and a very pleasant couple of days.

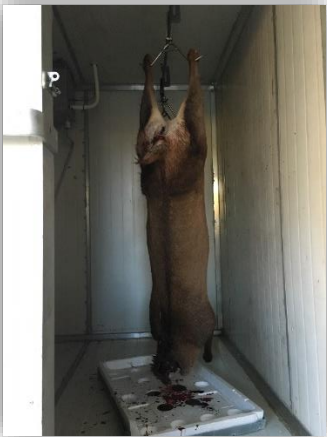
Jason managed to take a young buck for meat on another trip, also in the high country.





Kyle North-Flanagan.

Kyle has been out on the local fallow during the rut, taking a young doe for meat and filming a few up and coming bucks. His hunting companion managed to take a terrific buck that scored a very respectable 230 DS.



A few red deer have also been installed in the freezer by members Neil Cole, Steve Glover and Kyle North-Flanagan.

Neil spent a whole day making all sorts of quality small goods from his hind.

Kyle's red hind in the cool room.

Quinten Swansbrough.

Quinten came across a small group of red deer on a recent trip after looking at them for a short time he decided to take the stag, this is he's first red deer. "Not a bad way to start a twelve pointer!"



A good story from the USA from a person new to hunting explaining his moral and emotional dilemmas experienced in killing a game animal for the first time.

On Shooting a Wild Hog: An Uneasy Hunter Brings Home the Bacon

By Jordan Sillars

September 28, 2019



Feral swine (foreground) in an undated USDA photo (*U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Clint Turnage/Handout via Reuters*)

Romanticizing blood sports obscures the reality of death and suffering. Still, immersing oneself in the natural world, in search of prey, is essentially romantic.

If there's a more redneck way to hunt feral hogs, I'm not sure what it is.

It started with my dog. Not a hunting dog, mind you. Halifax is a mix between an Alaskan Husky and the Queen of Sheba, so when she requested passage out of doors at 3:30 on a Saturday morning, I stumbled out of bed and humbly acquiesced.

My wife and I were visiting my in-laws, who own 40 acres of God's country west of Fort Worth. Like much of the South, their land has succumbed over the last decade to roaming gangs of wild hogs. I and my keen suburban hunting acumen had been attempting to harvest one for the last few nights, with no success. The herd hadn't shown itself, but I knew it wasn't because they were afraid of my skill with a rifle. I'd never hunted anything larger than a bird, and my brief time at the range hadn't won me any awards.

But I was eager to prove to my father-in-law that I could, in fact, bring home the bacon. So, after I opened the back door to let the princess do her business, I forgot about the sleep in my eyes when my ears caught a chorus of squealing, grunting, snorting, and shuffling not 50 yards from the house.

"I've got you now," I muttered, à la Elmer Fudd.

I threw on a pair of shorts and a T-shirt and went searching for the borrowed rifle I had left leaning by the side door. When I reached a spot 40-odd yards from where the snorting seemed to emanate, I flicked on the red flashlight affixed to the rifle's handguard.

Twelve black hogs of various sizes were rooting around the pasture under a clump of oak trees. Their eyes glowed in the red light, and the jerking movement of their heads made them look like so many acorn-hunting demons. The herd didn't notice me, so I had ample time to survey my quarry and select the largest outlaw of the bunch.

I crouched there for several minutes, glasses slipping down my nose, sockless feet sweating inside some hole-y tennis shoes, ears pounding from pig fever and adrenaline. I was, in short, the veritable essence of Esau reincarnate. I leaned into my newfound prowess, took a deep breath, and pulled the trigger.

In the days leading up to that moment, I had thought a lot about Michael Pollan's now-famous critique of the modern industrialized food system in *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, especially the chapters he dedicates to his journey from mild-mannered author to mighty pig hunter. It's a thoughtful, amusing tale, and Pollan self-consciously wonders at the ease with which a well-educated intellectual like himself can slip into an unironic manifesto on the "hunter's instinct." He assures his gentle readers of his embarrassment when he pontificates about the thrill of the hunt, but he sounds pretty thrilled nonetheless.

The first time I read the book, I, like Pollan, had never killed another mammal. I had always been a sucker for "those hard-bitten, big-bearded American wilderness writers" whom Pollan both derides and extols, so I appreciated the honesty with which he critiqued the likes of Hemingway and Ortega y Gasset. Romanticizing blood sports obscures the reality of death and suffering. At the same time, for anyone on the inside of the hunting experience, there's something essentially romantic about immersing oneself in the natural world, in search of prey.

Pollan also offers a variety of lenses through which I can consider my own motivations. I married into a family of sportsmen (and -women), which contributed to my desire to "harvest" a pig (to borrow the euphemism from my online hunting-safety course). But the experience also attracted me because, quite simply, I wasn't sure if I could pull the trigger. As Pollan observes after his first failed attempt to bag a hog, I was "hungry for the experience, to learn whatever it had to teach me," both about myself and about the natural world.

Pollan learns, among other things, that hunting forces one to consider life's big questions.

"Here, I decided, was one of the signal virtues of hunting," he says. "It puts large questions about who we and the animals are, and the nature of our respective deaths, squarely before the hunter."

For even the least thoughtful sportsman, killing another animal forces one to consider one's relationship with that animal and to confront the fact that death is an all-too-real part of life. It allows the meat-eater to see what must happen every time he or she takes a bite of steak or cheeseburger. The pre-packaged nature of our food obscures the realities that hunting and cleaning an animal so viscerally incarnate. To see the animal and feel the unease of death is to reconnect with a process that our industrialized economy has hidden, a process that responsible consumers must understand before it is accepted or rejected.

None of this crossed my mind that morning. It's one thing to think philosophically in a tree stand on a calm summer evening. It's quite another to consider life, the universe, and everything with game in sight. The neurons that happened to be firing were consumed by simultaneously breathing and holding the scope's reticle on target.

Two explosions erupted the moment I squeezed the trigger. A literal explosion occurred three inches from my nose, but I remember most vividly the explosion of the herd. The terrified squealing was louder and

more disturbing than the .308 round. The small clump of hogs expanded into a frenzy of black, brown, and spotted blurs running back and forth across my field of vision in a desperate search for safety. Some of them were too afraid, apparently, to know in which direction to run.

Once the herd dispersed, I spotted a black mass lying about 50 yards from where I stood. I felt nearly as spooked as the pigs, so I circled around beside it, for fear it might spot me and charge. The pig, I soon saw, couldn't move its back legs. It was still breathing, lying perfectly still, and looking right at me.

I'm a child of Walt Disney, which means I anthropomorphize animals just about as naturally as I breathe. I didn't hear the pig speak (thank God), but I knew exactly what he was thinking. The pain and fear I saw in his eyes made me wonder what, exactly, I thought I was doing alone in the woods in the middle of the night dumbly holding a rifle. I'm supposed to be asleep in bed; this animal is supposed to be rooting around under an oak tree. Why had I ventured into this space and destroyed what should have been another peaceful night?

I shot him again, in the vitals this time rather than the backbone, and he died within seconds. Listening to the breath wheeze out of his lungs, I wasn't sure if I could answer the question his living eyes had posed a moment before.

"Every good hunter is uneasy in the depths of his conscience when faced with the death he is about to inflict on the enchanting animal," Ortega y Gasset wrote in *Meditations on Hunting*.

Feral hogs are not enchanting, of course. Feral hogs are gross. They're ugly and dangerous and, in enough numbers, destroyers of natural habitats. But I felt Ortega's unease nonetheless. Witnessing the death of another living creature — a creature I had killed — was a profoundly uncomfortable experience that no amount of adrenaline could erase.

This is not to say that I wasn't also proud in the hours and days that followed. I had done the thing I set out to do. I had pulled the trigger, and over a year later my wife and I are still working our way through the 87 pounds of meat I "brought home." Wild game is also antibiotic-free, and, provided the right equipment and expertise, hunting is cruelty-free.

Killing a feral hog allowed me to avoid the kind of industrialized agriculture that so often treats animals as commodities, and my wife and I have since used that responsibly "raised" meat to cook delicious breakfast sausage and butter-glazed pork chops.

But even though I've been hunting many times since that night, my unease hasn't diminished, and I know I'm not alone. Only 6 percent of the U.S. population hunts, but a full 79 percent of Americans support the practice. Why such a disparity? Urbanization is the biggest culprit, but what if those who support without participating simply feel squeamish about killing anything more evolved than a cockroach?

I was lucky enough to have a framework within which to understand my first hunting experience. Pollan's thoughtful testimony helped me see the deaths that feed my meat-eating habits: If I'm willing to consume grocery-store meat, I should be even more willing to consume meat from an animal that wasn't raised on a factory farm. Others haven't been as fortunate, and their discomfort with killing could be keeping them from getting out into the field.

To make matters worse, the mainstream hunting community rarely discusses the unease new hunters feel. To admit such a thing sounds too much like a PETA promotion, so we pretend like the only natural response to killing an animal is the grin that accompanies an Instagram photo. An emotional response one way or the other doesn't dictate the ethical nature of hunting, but if hunters want to provide an inviting atmosphere for our country's diverse demographics, they must incorporate the reactions of hunters who didn't grow up harvesting their own meat.

Hunter recruitment doesn't concern just the armies of camo-clad men, women, and children who clamber into tree stands every fall. The 11 percent excise tax levied on hunting gear funds a large portion of each state's wildlife-conservation budget, money that helps preserve habitats and species that all Americans enjoy. As the number of hunter's declines owing to increased urbanization, state agencies across the country are frantically working to recruit new hunters in an effort to maintain the funding necessary to protect wildlife and the environments they need to survive.

Acknowledging the discomfort inherent in hunting — and providing a way for new hunters to understand that discomfort — is a crucial part of (re)growing the hunting population in the United States. Hunting can change how a person understands animals, food, and death itself, but those realizations won't happen if Ortega's unease isn't recognized as a valid response to downing a trophy buck. As long time outdoors writer Pat Durkin pointed out earlier this year, hunting needs to become a bigger tent — that includes those of different races, genders, and emotional reactions.

The increased participation of people from demographics that are not traditionally given to hunting offers reason to hope. State wildlife agencies are looking for hunters who “don't fit the traditional mold,” by advertising in urban areas, on college campuses, and at farmer's markets, with the goal of capitalizing on the locavore movement, of which Pollan himself is a part. They've found hunters who hunt not for the trophy or the bragging rights but for the experience of connecting with nature, harvesting their own food, and gaining a better understanding of life and death.

If those individuals can be brought on board in a way that respects their unique reactions to killing an animal, hunting in the U.S. stands a chance of a comeback.

RIVERINA BRANCH AWARDS ENTRY FORM.

I wish to enter the following in the 2020 Trophy Competition

(Please circle the category you wish to enter)

1. Australian Sambar Deer.	7. Best Overseas Hunting Achievement.
2. Australian Fallow Deer.	8. Best Australian Cast Antler.
3. Australian Red Deer.	9. Hunter & Trophy Photo.
4. Australian Rusa Deer.	10. Photograph / Slide.
5. Australian Chital Deer.	11. Video. (10 min max)
6. Australian Hog Deer.	12. Trail Camera Photo.
13. First Deer Award.	

Trophies entered into the Trophy Competition must have been taken legally and in an ethical sportsmanlike manner. You are therefore required to provide the following information.

State; **YES** or **NO**.

1. Was the animal wild and free roaming? _____
2. Was the animal taken legally? _____
3. Was the animal taken WITHOUT the assistance of artificial light or lure? _____
4. Has the head been scored? _____

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

For your chance to win the lucky prize voucher you can enter once in each category.

Heads should be scored prior, if this is not possible please contact me to bring the head along on the day.

All Slide shows, Video's and Trail camera shots must be confirmed with Warren Flanagan prior to the day.

All Printed photos can be brought along on the day.

NOTE: THIS IS NOT AN ENTRY FOR THE NATIONAL ADA TROPHY COMPETITION. YOU MUST SUBMIT A SEPARATE ENTRY AND COMPLY WITH MORE STRINGENT CONDITIONS.

***Note this form will be used as the lucky draw ticket.**