



Australian  
**Deer**  
Association

## “The Rub Tree”



**WA BRANCH NEWSLETTER**

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## WA BRANCH CONTACTS

<b>President</b> Email:	Blair Montague wa.pres@austdeer.asn.au	tel: 0428929421
<b>Vice President:</b> Email:	Jeff Stuart	tel: 0409351180 wa.jeff@austdeer.asn.au
<b>Secretary:</b> Email:	Daren Philippe	tel : 0429 991 010 wa.sec@austdeer.asn.au
<b>Treasurer:</b> Email:	Marc Deas	tel: 0429457727 erlanda4@gmail.com
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b> Email:	Andrew Bekle	tel : 0427191603 andrew.bekle@solvay.com
<b>Immediate Past President :</b>	Craig Verrier	tel: 0403463500
<b>Hunting DBCA Rep:</b>	Mark Mazza	tel : 0418933490
<b>Hunting DBCA Comittee:</b>	Marc Deas Willem VanHeerden Andrew Bekle	tel: 0429 457 727 tel: 0407 156 460 tel : 0427191603
<b>Sub Comittee:</b>	Steve Blackborrow Chris Wood Dan MacDonald Tim Hartley	

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## **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Hello All,

We are half way through the year, the rut has finished but there are still many members reporting signs of deer locally as well as sharing a few pictures. Myself and other members are getting asked more and more about caping and where to take deer to be mounted.

The ADA has two great DVD's that cover the stages after a deer is down. One is Caping & Trophy Care the other Deer Field Dressing & Butchery. I have 5 copies of Caping & Trophy Care DVD coming over; it will be on sale at the AGM 29th June. The Deer Field Dressing & Butchery is on back order.

Recently the National AGM was held with the election of three new Directors, these appointments were outlined in a recent email from National President, David Voss. Locally where possible, our Leadership Structure will reflect most of the board structure with the roles of President, Secretary, Treasurer, Advocacy, Education, Deer Management, Membership Engagement and Environment & Research being filled along with the Editors role.

The new ADA Website is up and running. The website is progressing with new information being loaded daily. One of the tasks that will be taken on soon after the AGM is a calendar of events for WA, this will be sent to members as well as uploaded on the National Website under the WA Branch tab. If you have any ideas for events you would like to see , please let us know at the AGM .

I look forward to catching up with many of you at the AGM, where we will have the usual raffle of donated prizes (keep an eye out on the Facebook page for posts). The famous auction of Prime Venison cuts will also take place along with Sausage Making. The Clay Target event is still subject to approval, we have approval from WAPOL and are waiting on approval from ADA National for insurance. I will keep people posted on this via email & FB closer to the date.

The AGM will be held 29th June 2019 at Ferguson Valley, the same venue as last year courtesy of the Mazza Family. A second flyer will be sent out, so far we have 27 people that have indicated they will be there.

If people can let us know by the 20th June (if they haven't already done so) that they will be attending the AGM it will help with catering and getting provisions for sausage making. We already have 20 people for the Friday Night (limited to 30) . BYO drinks for both Friday Night and Saturday day.

Cheers

Blair Montague

WA President.



# ADA WA AGM- 29th JUNE 2019

## FERGUSON VALLEY

**Early Bird Arrival 3-30pm Friday 28th June. Help prepare for Saturday's sausage making. Steak Sandwiches for dinner, breakfast Sat Morning \$25/person limited to 30 people .Bring Tent,Swag, Camper , small Caravan.**

### **Early Start - Sat 7-30am Clay Target Social Shoot**

**10 targets each , High gun shootout for top 3 Entry \$15 Prizes 1st , 2nd , 3rd. Bring your own Shotgun, Ammo and License . Please note only "Rec/Hunt/Shoot - No Condition " shotguns are to used by License Holder - this is NOT an "Approved Range"**

### **Our Famous RAFFLE & DOOR PRIZES**

**Contact: [australiandeerassociationwa@gmail.com](mailto:australiandeerassociationwa@gmail.com) or Daren Philippe :0429991010 Email: [wa.sec@austdeer.asn.au](mailto:wa.sec@austdeer.asn.au)**



### **HUNTING ABOUT**

#### **10 Minutes of Mayhem**

'Wowee' I thought, as I stood off to the side of the little bench and surveyed the scene around me, 'I'm not sure how I'm ever going to top a morning like this !'. It was roughly 9:00 in the morning, I'd just run out of arrows and I was standing there a bit flabbergasted at what had just transpired. But we're getting a bit ahead of ourselves here gang, so we may as well start at the beginning.

The local pig population had been fairly active for a few weeks leading up to this hunt, but a couple mates and myself had a few hunts in the afternoons without doing much good

despite seeing a truck load of sign and the property owner seeing the grunTERS regularly. So I decided to pull my finger out and go back to my tried and true recipe for success. Namely - stop being lazy, get out of bed early and get to the block before sunrise which is by far and away when I've had the most success compared to the afternoons.

The Prado was already packed, so all I had to do when the alarm went off at 5:00am was boil the kettle, throw my camo on and jump in the car. I was at my standard parking spot on the property by 5:30am and in time to watch the first rays of light start creeping over the hills to the east. I was met by a solid frost, and a thick fog in the valley below, and fresh rip either side of the laneway I was parked in which is always a welcome sight.

I intended to hunt along the lower flats and glass the Eastern facing slopes as the sunrise hit them, hoping to find a pig or two out feeding and trying to get a bit of warmth after the cold start to the morning, I entered the paddock through the nearest gate and made my way down to the flats stopping occasionally to inspect a bit of fresh diggings or trotter print here and there, whilst trying to avoid a couple of toey old Nor-West cows that seem to have a habit of flanking me with a look in their eyes that always seems to be something a bit more sinister than just being inquisitive. Before long I was walking along the river flats, keeping an eye on the hills to my right and listening out along the river banks for any sound of pigs feeding.

Nothing of any interest had eventuated and before long I found myself at the boundary, being such a beautiful still morning I didn't have any wind to worry about so I turned around and headed back in the direction I'd just come from and picked my way up a small ridge to have a bit of fruit for breakfast while I sat and glassed a gully that is normally quite productive as the sun was now lifting the fog affording some better visibility. I sat for maybe 15 or 20 minutes and could now hear the cockie's tractor and the dogs barking over the next hill obviously on their way out to feed the cattle, I decided I'd had enough of sitting and glassing so I put my pack back on and set off down the hill towards the gully on my way to inspect the steep wooded hillside opposite that had good cover for pigs where I thought they were bedding down.

I strolled down the hill towards a small spring fed soak that sits just off to the side of the gully where there's a strut leaning off a strainer post allowing me to jump the fence easily, I hopped over and started off through the middle of the paddock miles out in the middle of nowhere lost in my own thoughts and enjoying the reprieve from the cold of the shadows, when sure enough making their way down from the top of the hill closest to the noise of the tractor and barking dogs was a good sized family mob of pigs, maybe 12 or 15 strong. I froze on the spot and watched to make sure they weren't headed my way, which they weren't, but they were on the move in a hurry and headed straight down towards the gully where I was headed. I followed them up through the pasture not wanting to let them get too far ahead of me before they hit the cover of the hillside, only moving when I was sure I wasn't going to get busted.



By the time the swine had hit the bottom of the gully and crossed the little creek I was only 40 meters behind them, I contemplated getting a shot off into one of the pigs bringing up the rear but I talked myself out of it hoping to get a better shot with a bit more cover hopefully allowing me to get in a bit closer. The little mob was really quite vocal, I'd never heard pigs being so noisy, I put it down to them maybe being stirred up by the dogs over the hill and continued on my way down across the creek and followed the mob into the shade of the trees. The pigs were on their way up the hill by now and were completely oblivious to my presence a little way behind them, still grunting and squealing with little spot fires breaking out every so often with young boars trying to figure out who was boss. Every now and then one would lift its head and look in my direction but the whole mob seemed completely distracted and before long, as long as I froze on the spot whatever looked up would look back down and continue on its way. This little stop-start dance continued up the steep slope and across the hillside, under an old plain wire fence and across a little rocky section with me gaining a meter or two after every little stand-off, continually edging closer.

By the time I'd negotiated my way across the little steep rocky section without displacing any rocks or making too much unwanted noise, I'd made it in to 27 meters of a young boar that was standing perfectly broadside having a bit of a snuffle amongst a few rocks at the base of a Redgum sapling. I figured this was as good an opportunity as I was going to get, one of my last four arrows was already on the string and was promptly drawn back into anchor and released absolutely smacking the boar straight through his left shoulder, he let out a little squeal, dropped on the spot, out like a light and started rolling down the steep hill almost making it all the way down.

At this point I figured all his mates would move out at a rate of knots, but this mob of pigs was that distracted they didn't seem to notice what had just happened to their mate. They just kept on with their grunting and squealing and the odd little fight, as well as what sounded like a bit of a low growl every now and then coming from further up the hill, so as they moved off up the hill I figured I may as well follow them up and see if I could close the gap again and do a bit more damage. We made our way up into a small clearing where I thought I'd been busted again but I stayed in the shadows and let them get a bit of distance between us before leaving the cover and the pig in question soon settled down and caught up with the mob again, I hustled through the clearing and came up just below a small rocky bench where there was now a fair commotion unfolding before my eyes.

Another mob had now joined up with the group I'd been tailing, including a couple of reasonable sized models and one good sized boar. I sat just below for the little bench for a minute and surveyed the scene around me, there was now at least 20 pigs in the mob and by now I'd joined the dots and figured out why they'd all seemed so vocal and distracted all morning allowing me to get in so close repeatedly, it most likely had nothing to do with my stalking skills and a whole lot more to do with several in-season sows and every boar within coo-ee trying to have his evil way with them, and that was exactly what was happening now. Every boar there was unhappy about every other boar being there and there was little

weaners having little scraps, sows squealing and carrying on, pigs going bloody everywhere, but none of them were grumpier than the big ginger boar that was rubbing trees, strutting his stuff, chasing the little blokes off and growling at anything that dared cross his path, he was the big dog around here. It was pretty intense sitting there in the mist that was slowly making its way up the hill, I'd made ground back up while all this was going on and I was now only 30 metres off the action, and to be honest I was a bit taken back by it all. I decided that I'd better swing into action before the mob moved off again, so I made my way right up to the edge of the bench using a couple of gumtrees and the lay of the land as cover, and then slowly crawled up behind a fallen tree and poked my head up when the proverbial really hit the fan, the big ginger boar had obviously taken exception to a another younger fella and a proper barney had broken out.

The sound of the two boars growling while they were smashing skulls is something I'll never forget and I had a front row seat, They smashed into each other for a minute before the younger black and white boar decided he'd had enough of this and made a hasty retreat, the ginger fella strode over to the nearest tree and started rubbing himself on it covering his head but leaving his vitals exposed at a hard quartering away angle. I had already loaded one of my 3 remaining arrows up a few minutes ago while I was surveying the scene so I didn't need to think too hard about it before ranging him at 22 meters, drawing the 70lb PSE back into anchor, settling the 20 meter pin and sending the arrow in behind his last rib and blowing out his opposite shoulder.

The big fella got the death spin up immediately growling and snarling the whole time before falling just about where he stood a moment before, his black and white foe was obviously still fired up and must have figured this was his opportunity to sink the boot in because he came over to have a look at his mate lying on the ground, unlucky for him he was standing still slightly quartering on and I had my second last arrow knocked, my release aid was clipped on and the cams on my bow had started rolling over. I was in auto pilot now and in a flash I was at full draw and had the pin settled low on his shoulder, I clipped off the shot and watched the arrow disappear into the spot where my pin had been a moment before and the black and white boar got the death spin up too dropping no more than 20 meters away. By now a smaller black boar had finally noticed something was up and was looking in my direction, I was still in the shadows and my lower half was still covered by the fallen tree and I can't be sure but he almost looked a bit confused, I wasn't sure if he was onto me or not but I was still in auto pilot, my last arrow had made its way from the quiver to the string and unfortunately for him he was standing broadside too and I didn't like the way he was looking at me. I didn't have a chance to range this bloke but he was a bit further away than the previous two blokes and he made the mistake of looking away for a second so that was all the invitation I needed to draw back again, the 30mtr pin hovered low over his vitals and in the next instant my last arrow was on its way like a homing missile absolutely smoking him taking out both lungs. He wasn't a healthy pig and only made it a maybe 15 metres up the hill before expiring and coming to rest against a jarrah tree.

The rest of the mob had finally figured out something was amiss now, and they were off on the trot, heading further up the hill for the safety of some denser scrub leaving me standing on my own on the little bench, I walked around in a little circle, retrieved my quarry and set them up for a few photos. The ginger boar looked even angrier up close, with a bit of age about him and a solid frame but he wasn't in great nic, if he'd had a bit of condition he would have been a really solid pig but thing really to speak of in the tusk department. The black and white boar was obviously a bit younger but in much better condition and certainly felt heavier than his ginger compadre, maybe 75kg. The little black boar wasn't much to write home about with regards to size but I wasn't really fussed about that after the mornings efforts. I contemplated walking back down to the bottom of the hill and retrieving the 4th pig from the bottom of the gully but a quick look over down the hill at the slope that I'd have to walk down and then back up with another 30 or 40kgs on my back soon had me dismissing that idea.

After a few photos I sat and had another bit of fruit out of my pack and recapped the morning's events, it certainly was pretty intense for a little while there, 10 minutes of absolute mayhem. I wandered over to the side of the little bench, out of arrows and still in a little bit of disbelief at the mornings events, surveyed the scene around me and thought to myself -

'Wowee, I'm not sure how I'm ever going to top a morning like this.'





## Havarti Stuffed Venison Burgers

From Harvestingnature.com

### ***Ingredients***

- 1.5 lbs of ground venison
- ½ cup bread crumbs
- 1 egg, whisked
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Havarti Cheese



### **Preparation:**

1. Mix all the ingredients in a large mixing bowl
2. Press or form the meat into thin patties
3. Divide a cheese slice into four pieces
4. Place the four pieces on top of one patty
5. Place another patty on top of the cheese and press the sides together or use a burger press to seal the cheese inside the meat
6. Pan cook the meat to your liking
7. Serve with your favorite condiments

The newsletter is what you make it and requires contribution from all members. We need more stories, articles, product reviews and recipes to keep it going. If you have something to contribute please email [andrew.bekle@solvay.com](mailto:andrew.bekle@solvay.com)

## **“The RUB TREE” NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL**

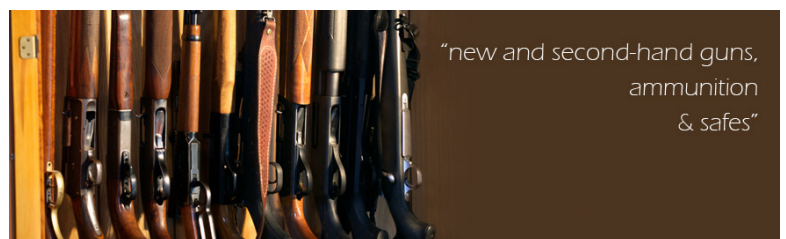

Our newsletter – “The Rub Tree”, is posted to all members who wish to receive their copy in the mail. However, we will be able to reduce costs if we can limit the amount of copies that require printing and postage. If you have access to email and wish to receive your colour copies of “The Rub Tree”, please make sure any changes to your email address are sent to National Memberships

### **ADVANTAGES OF ADA MEMBERSHIP**

- Receive on a bi-monthly basis the prestigious journal *Australian Deer* keeping you factually informed on the Australian deer-hunting scene.
- Meet interesting and experienced guest speakers at Branch Meetings.
- Receive branch newsletters that provide you with up to the minute information on local events.
- The opportunity to make local, interstate and overseas contacts.
- Meet and talk with other members at meetings and obtain information on where it is best to hunt and when.
- The opportunity to voice your opinion at regular meetings and give support to a political voice for deer and deer hunters in Australia.
- Trophies can be entered in competitions and the internationally recognised Australian Antlered Trophy Register.
- Test your skills by competing in photographic competitions.
- Participate in conservation, research and management projects in your area, which will help ensure the future of your hunting.
- Branches conduct hunting activities where members and their families can learn from experienced hunters and share the camaraderie of a hunter's camp.
- Member Insurance – ADA has a \$20 million public liability insurance cover that protects its members from legal liability that may arise out of any activity endorsed by ADA, including hunting on public or private land anywhere in Australia.
- Members are also covered by personal accident (voluntary workers) insurance at authorised functions such as meetings, working bees, disaster relief; property based game management projects and target shooting events on recognised firearm ranges.

For further information regarding the Australian Deer Association, please visit our website at:

[www.austdeer.asn.au](http://www.austdeer.asn.au)



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(08) 9721 4961



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"Western Australia Firearm Traders Association represents the law abiding WA firearms industry, promoting safe shooting, ethical hunting and fair treatment for all members of the firearm community."



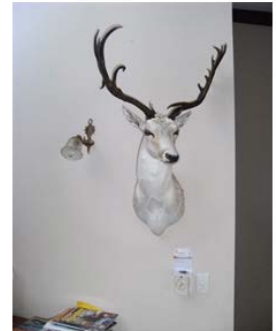
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