

Australian Deer Association Hunter Valley Branch News/Update

Sausage Making Day 26th July @ 9:30am

Once again, this event will be held at Martins house (9 Taylor Ave, Barnsley NSW 2278).
Items to bring: Meat partially frozen cut into strips that will fit into a grinder. If you're going to bring meat, have it in 3.8kg bags. If you don't have any venison don't worry, we will have plenty. We will also have plenty of fat, skins, pre-mix etc. If you want to make your own flavours, you're more than welcome to bring your own seasoning. The plan again this year is to harvest a sambar the week before and butcher it on the day for people to get some experience.

Bennies Hunt (Vic high country) Aug 8th-15th

If you're coming to the Bennies, please complete our attendance form @

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/WKsQ1BBpJf> or scan

the following QR code ----->

Bennies Camp is a maintained camping ground within the Alpine National Park. (-36.963721° 146.537284°)
The hunt pack for this can be found at the end of this document.



August Meeting: **DATE MOVED**

Due to the Bennies hunt overlapping with our August Meeting and several committee members not being available we've decided to move our August meeting back by one week to August 19th. We will post this on the socials and have a text message sent on August 11th reminding them the meeting date has moved to the 19th.

Kind Regards,



Mark Lahey

Hunter Valley Branch Secretary

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ADA HUNTER VALLEY, August Branch Hunt to Victoria

Date: August 8th till 15th 2026

Location.

Bennies Camp is a maintained camping ground within the Alpine National Park. (-36.963721° 146.537284°) There is a nice grassed area on the river with pit toilets. There is no booking or costs in staying there. The road/camping ground is suitable for camper trailers and off road caravans. We've had a 19.6ft caravan previously with no issues. The restriction for caravans is the ground clearance required for the slopped entry. If the weather is wet traction may become a problem driving out of camp.

Direction.

Bennies is approximately 9 hours, 860kms from Newcastle. Turn off Hume Hwy at Wangaratta, heading up Kings Valley to Whitfield. Bennies is along the Upper Rose River. Bennies is approximately 75mins from Wangaratta. From Whitfield its 17kms to the Rose River rd. Turn right, Bennies camp is approximately 10km.



When driving through the ACT your firearm needs to be made temporary incapable of being fired (trigger lock or bolt locked in a separate container) **OR** be stored in a locked container that is attached to the vehicle or locked in a compartment within the vehicle.

Division 11.3 Transportation

52A Transportation of firearms, reasonable steps in storing— Act, s 180 (3)

- (1) A person who transports a firearm takes all reasonable steps to ensure that the firearm is stored safely while the firearm is being transported if the firearm is stored in accordance with this section.
- (2) A firearm must—
 - (a) not be loaded with, and must be kept separate from, any ammunition; and
 - (b) if the firearm is being transported using a vehicle other than a motorcycle—
 - (i) be rendered temporarily incapable of being fired; or

Examples

 - 1 by removing the bolt or the firing mechanism
 - 2 by using a restraining device such as a trigger lock.
 - (ii) be stored in—
 - (A) a securely locked container that is securely attached to the vehicle; or
 - (B) a securely locked compartment within the vehicle; and
 - (c) if the firearm is being transported using a motorcycle—be stored in a lockable hard-case pannier, luggage box or other container appropriate for transporting the firearm; and
 - (d) not be able to be seen by a person who is not responsible for transporting the firearm.

Game Management Authority.

Hunting on public land in Victoria is managed by the Game Management Authority. While hunting from Bennies we are generally hunting the Alpine National Park. All hunters must have a permit issued by GMA to stalk Sambar and be aware of the areas they are in.

General info and home page for hunting

<https://www.gma.vic.gov.au/hunting>

<https://licensing.gma.vic.gov.au/newlicence/>

To apply for a license go to and tick Deer (stalking). It is just a matter of filling the form out and sending it away. There are no booking systems in Victoria as in NSW.

<https://www.gma.vic.gov.au/hunting/hunting-maps>

GMA in the last couple of years have developed an online mapping system using the App “More to Explore”. You can download to your phone and create offline maps in the area you are hunting. I have attached a fact sheet on using “More to explore”, I have also attached the old PDF maps GMA used. Map 31 and 32. Bennies is on the bottom right of map 31. You can walk

straight out of camp and hunt. Map 32 following Cobbler Lake road you can hunt all the country to the right. You can go left but you'll have to cross (walk) through the river As it's a National Park, the maps don't change like in NSW. So, these PDFs are still great maps. If you haven't been there before, don't get too concerned about where you can and can't hunt.

[MORE TO EXPLORE MAPPING FACT SHEET](#)

[BENNIES MAP](#)

[sheet 32](#)

[sheet 31](#)

Avenza Maps also have two good free maps for this area. Search for Getlost Map [8124-8224](#) and [8224-3](#)

Firearm requirements

In NSW we just have recommendations for cartridge/calibre size. **In Victoria, it is law.** Minimum cartridge / Caliber is .270 with 130 gr projectile for Sambar. Note in the Alpine National Park you can only hunt Sambar, nothing else. Don't have any night/thermals in your vehicle that you used the previous weekend on a private property in NSW. Same with that .22 don't have it in your vehicle. GMA compliance officers do drop into Bennies, make sure everything is locked away etc.

Firearm/Bow	Sambar, Rusa, and Red Deer	Hog, Fallow, and Chital Deer
Centrefire rifle	A minimum calibre of .270* (6.85 mm) with a minimum projectile weight of 130 grains (8.45 grams)	A minimum calibre of .243* (6.17 mm) with a minimum projectile weight of 80 grains (5.18 grams)

<https://www.gma.vic.gov.au/hunting/deer/deer-hunting-laws>

Gear

All members must be self-sufficient, camping, food, lighting, cooking, bedding, etc. Remember it can be very cold and wet, so good warm gear, gloves included. Tiger snakes are active in this area so gators are recommended, Gators also stop your pants being destroyed by the environment while stalking.

Safety equipment.

First aid.

Person Locating Beacon (PLB). Contact Peter at <https://www.epirbhire.com.au/> tell him you're an ADA member, he'll do you a good price if you're looking to buy one. A UHF isn't a bad idea

either. Always make sure you indicate to another member an area you plan to hunt. Be prepared to stay out overnight. Heading out of Bennies along the Lake Cobbler Road is a valley, after parking your car you'll head uphill. Get lost, just go downhill and you'll hit the road.

Travelling down

It's a big trip, so take your time. You can break the trip up and stop at an overnight sleep at Yass in the supercentre or down to Gundagai, there's a camp spot on the river. This will get you to Bennies late morning after a good sleep, this gives you time to set up camp and go explore.

Look forward to plenty of members getting down there, it's a great trip. Getting away to a branch hunt is a great way to really get to know other members and make good mates. If you're coming to the Bennies, please complete our attendance form @

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/WKsQ1BBpjf>

Or scan to QR code:



Australian
Deer
Association