

The  
Newsletter of  
the Central  
Victoria  
Branch



CENTRAL VIC



# SAMBAR ROAR

## President Report

With the changing of the Seasons so does the Hunting begin to ramp up. Conal & Myself recently returned from a successful hunting trip to South Australia where Conal dropped his first Red Deer. After numerous days of stalking a number of large Stags & almost pulling the trigger on several Big Stags he waited for his moment on the final day & finally a very Large 14pt Red presented itself....I will leave the rest for Conal in his newsletter article.

I also got my chance on a beautiful Fallow Buck at 260mts.....theres a story on that one as well for the newsletter.

A day later & young Cody dropped another ripper Fallow Buck with a beautiful coat...Well done Cody.



Picture of Cody and his Fallow Buck

As I share another Photo of a Lovely Red Stag taken by Will Griffin have been received.... What a journey your on Will, Well done & keep it up. I can see its going to be a busy year for the Branch scorers.



Picture of Will and his Red Stag

Don't forget those photos.....keep them coming.

With a Full Calendar ahead of us its time to get involved as the CV Branch has never before offered so much to its members. We have just broken another Membership record growing from 351 to 389 members just last month alone.

With the Seymour Expo coming up we are still seeking a couple of volunteers to help out on the Friday & Sunday as thousands attend this Expo..... If you can let me know asap please.

Our first Branch Camp at Bennies, the Mentor Weekend, Branch Duck Shoot & the Seymour Expo will make for an extremely busy few weeks ahead.

Numbers may be affected by the current fuel crisis so I am suggesting that if you are interested in attending those events it may be a good idea to ring around & maybe share a ride & fuel costs.

On an exciting note which is still unfolding, we have had a lot of interest from other Branches who are interested in following our lead with the 6 Deer award Trophies we present to the biggest stags shot. A number of Branches have already submitted orders & we are planning to get a photo spread in the National Magazine so that all Branches Nation wide can see what we are offering.....Great work Alex We can always Bank on you)

On a Final note a special thanks to all the committee members that have contributed to all the "behind the scenes work" over the off season.

Keep up the great Hunting & remember to enjoy the journey, see you all soon.

Regards  
Rod Reddish

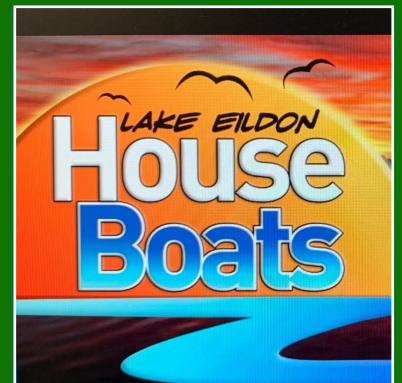
# Index

2026	
President report	...1 -2
Index	...3
2026 Calendar	...4
Story from a Branch Member	...5-8
Recipe for Hunter - Venison Diane	...9
Upcoming Camp's / Events	...10-12
ADA Safety Policy	...13
Trip Intentions Form	...14
2026 Committee	...15

## Sponsor's



Dog & Gun coffee



A Massive thank you to all our current sponsors !!

# 2026 CALENDAR

January	14th	Committee Meeting
February	11th	Branch Meeting - Buy, Sell, Swap Guest Speaker: Sean Kilkenny
	28th	SSAA - Marong Range day
March	11th	Committee Meeting
	TBC	Duck Hunt (Dates, numbers TBC) Private Property
April	8th	Branch Meeting
	11th - 12th	Buxton mentor weekend (Invite only) +Bennies camp
	17th 19th	Seymour Show (Volunteers required)
May	6th	Committee Meeting
	16th - 17th	Wonnangatta Camp
June	10th	Branch Meeting at Trellly's outdoor Bendigo
	13th - 14th	Kevington camp
July	8th	Committee Meeting
	11th - 12th	Buttercup (Campground 4) +General Member - Intro Backpack Hunt Expression of Interest to Ben Wakefield Contact: 0428 590 978
August	12th	Branch Meeting
	15th - 16th	Strathbogie's Camp (James Camp)
September	6th	Final Trophy submission date 2026
	9th	Committee Meeting
	12th - 13th	Eildon Camp (TBC) BCF Camp
October	14th	Branch Meeting AGM
	17th - 18th	Family Camp - Lake Eppalock (Limited sites, booking required)
November	4th	Committee Meeting
	21th	Christmas Party & Awards Night

## Story from a Branch Member

### HE DID SOMETHING I'VE NEVER SEEN A DOG DO

WRITTEN BY: RON JONES

It was about two weeks after my 60th birthday in 2014 when I woke up one morning and it really hit me. If there was anything in my life I wanted to do, now is the time.

There were two things. The first was a boat to fish the bay's, Western Port and Port Phillip. I had been an avid fly fisherman but rarely a saltwater fisherman, so I went and bought a King Fisher Bay Rider which was good for the job. I use it from time to time for fishing and taking friends up the Yarra River through the city to Richmond and back which is a good day out. The other was I wanted another GSP (German Short Haired Pointer).

When I was married back in 1985 and my wife was expecting our first child I knew a fellow at Yarrowonga who bred GSP'S. I had known other men with them and they proved to be great allrounders. He had a pup three months old which he had started to do some training. After I did a bit more work on him he finished up being a good dog. He was good at pointing quail, good at retrieving ducks and great with the kids. He would sit on a pony behind the kids and he would sit still while they put their budgies on his back. He was a great family dog. We lost him at 13 and with work commitments I couldn't commit to another one at the time.

Having turned 60 I knew if I wanted another GSP this is the time to do it, so I started looking straight away. I got onto a breeder in Strathbogie who had a champion show dog. I told him I wanted a pup three months old and he said that he takes orders for pups before they are born and there's a waiting list. If I was to place an order I would have to take the pup as soon as it was weaned. He said he would like to sell me a pup as I was going to use it for hunting and so many GSP'S were now going as pets due to their terrific temperament and being great with children.

He knew a shooter that had a bitch with papers that he put his champion dog over. The bitch was used for hunting and was said to be a good worker. He had sold all of his pups out of the last litter to accept for one which he had kept for himself. The pup was three months old and lived in a small back yard with it's mother. The man's wife said that the yard is only big enough for one dog and the pup must go, so I bought him on the spot.



3 month old Rip

When I got him home, I gave him a week to settle in and then started some basic training. I began with light obedience such as not to eat until he was given the ok to do so, sit and stay while I walked 5 metres away and then let him come which was eventually extended to over 50 metres.

He had his puppy toys to play with, but I wouldn't throw tennis balls etc. for him to retrieve and bought a plastic-dummy duck for training.

There was only one more thing, Is he gun shy. I've seen men that haven't eased their dog into a gun and finished up with a dog that's gun shy and that was the last thing I wanted.

I had friends near Lancefield who had three hundred acres, so I took Rip up there with a 22. I left him in the car and walked ten metres away. I threw the duck dummy where he could see it and then fired the rifle. His mind was only on the dummy. I let him out of the car and he eagerly retrieved the dummy. I did this a few times and moved closer to the car each time with the rifle. When I thought he had had enough I started to drive back to the homestead when I spotted a rabbit sitting over a burrow about 40 metres away. I slowly positioned the car where I could get a shot at the rabbit out of the window. Rip was in the back seat of my Jackaroo and could see what was going on. I shot the rabbit and let him out. He could see the direction I was shooting and the way he headed up towards the rabbit, I wouldn't have been surprised if he had seen it before I fired. It was a perfect retrieve and you could only imagine how exciting it is to see your half grown pup coming back to you with a full grown rabbit in his mouth. With what Rip had just done I immediately started the exercise over again but this time with the shotgun which was a success.

At a meeting Earn Addington said he had an unplucked black duck in the freezer and if I wanted to meet him at his mate's property where there was a small swamp that we could give him some practice with the duck. After a short time there, Ern said "I reckon your pups going to be alright" and that he was.

Labour day weekend 2015 and Rip was on the plane with me to King Island for the Tasmanian duck opening. He was seven months old. I've been hunting on King Island since 1969 with my old mate Geoff Watson. Geoff is born and bred King Island and didn't leave the Island until he was 68 (now living in Tasmania) so getting on properties wasn't a problem. John Burke is another old mate that lived on the Island until recently and he, Geoff and I have been a trio on the duck opening for many years. Geoff's grandson and John's son would join us occasionally. We would shoot a swamp opening morning and then spend the rest of the weekend jumping dams. It was a great eye opener for Rip and he soon picked up the idea.

One week later we are traveling up the Hume Hwy for the Victorian duck opening. There were nine shooters and we all bagged out. Rip was the only dog and he shined. A few of the ducks fell on land which the men picked up. For those that fell in the water they would wait until I came along with Rip and ask me to send him out to retrieve the birds. I didn't get Rip so I could do field trials, I just wanted him to retrieve the birds, drop them at my feet and be ready for the next one. He knew what jumping dams was all about. When we stopped the car he would get out and run straight up to the base of the high side of the dam and wait until I got up next to him and then we would both go over together.

Rip is now approaching ten years old and he has been a great duck dog and has also found a few deer. I take him every time I go fishing, when you cast the line he holds firm on the water where the line went in and when the rod bends he lets out a yelp and gets very excited. I was a Commercial Real Estate Agent before I retired and Rip came to the office with me every day. He has been my best mate and we have had a sensational decade together with a couple more years to come.

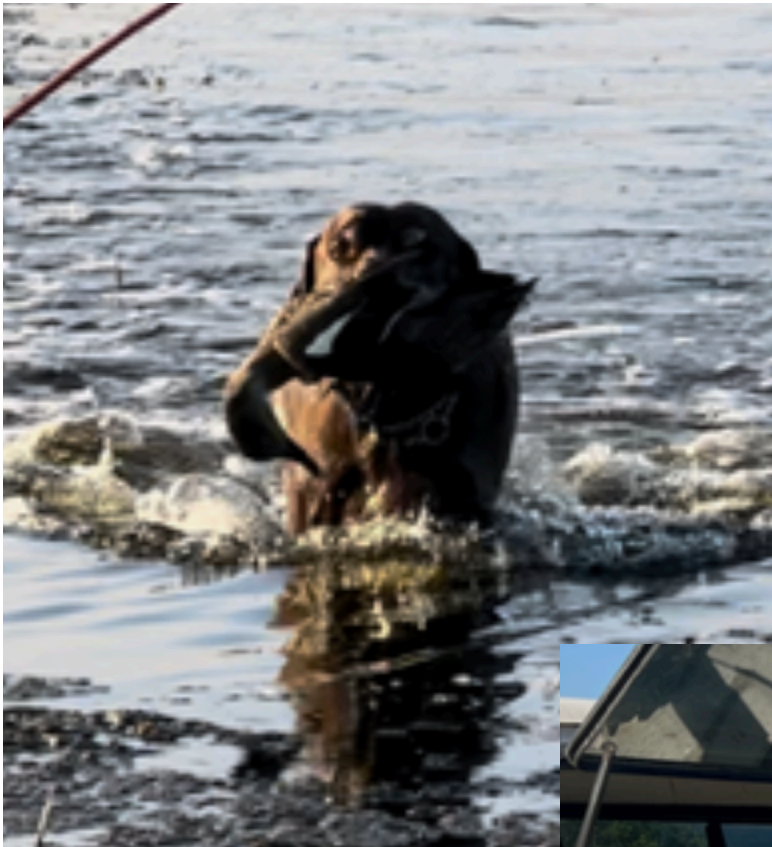
It was Labour day weekend this year (2024) and Rip and I were on our way to King Island for the duck opening. We arrived on the Thursday prior and Peter, Geoff's son was waiting to pick Rip and I up at the airport. Peter is not a duck shooter so he took me straight back to his place to pick up the spare holden rodeo, I then drove into Currie where I did the shopping for the camp. My next job was to call into a mates place and pick up our camping gear and decoys and then out to the duck camp. The duck camp is a mud floor hut with a permanent opening at the front. John, when he was living on the Island built the duck camp with materials from old falling down sheds and it does the job perfectly. He has made a fire similar to a potbelly stove out of a 44 Gallon drum standing vertically on legs that throws out good heat and we can sit a frying pan or kettle on the top. On Friday I picked John up from the airport, we headed back to camp and then went and put our decoys out. Friday night is a bit of a party night at the duck camp. Being an annual event there's always a few of the local boys come out for a yarn, a feed and a beer or three. Its always a good night and as they are life time mates of John and Geoff's its great to catch up.

It's Saturday morning and the day we've been looking forward to has arrived. The alarm goes off about an hour before dawn, we have a lite breakfast and coffee then into the Rodeo. There is only two of us this year, Geoff is now 90 and unable to join us and not through lack of want. We have to drive to get to where we shoot so I drop John where he goes in and then head to my favourite spot. I park the Rodeo behind some bushes, grab my gun and shells and then Rip and I wade into my spot and stand in the reeds where I am camouflaged and where Rip backs in next to me. The water conditions a perfect for a dog, knee deep and not a boggy base.

The day begins to break and not long until shots are heard in the distance and it is soon my turn. The ducks here are predominately Black Duck and a pare of blackies fly across me which I shoot at with no result. Rip stands firm and doesn't move and watches the pare keep flying. Rip is looking around for ducks in the air at all times and won't move until the bird begins to fall and then he's off. It's not long and I get my measure, a bird falls and Rip's off, he brings it back and drops it at my feet, turns around and backs in next to me ready for the next one. There was a bit of wind around and the birds are moving so we finished up having a good shoot. The Tasmanian bag limit is ten and I had a pile of ducks at my feet. Things got slow and there was another clump of reeds about 60 metres so I wondered over to them. I left my ducks where they were as they won't float away being in reeds. I stood in the new position with Rip backed into the reeds next to me when a lone blackie flew over. I swung through the bird, folded him up and Rip was off. He picked up the duck, then my heart sunk in disbelief, he headed in another direction with the blackie. Over the past decade he had never let me down, my disappointment was immeasurable. Then I realised, he did something I had never seen a dog do before.

He headed for the reeds where I was previously standing, put the bird with my pile where he had been placing them all morning and then returned to me. I couldn't believe it. My disappointment turned to pride. When he returned to me, I gave him a pat and a well done then we returned to the car with another story to tell around future campfires.

For those who hunt with their own dog know that there is nothing more pleasing when he is performing well. When another shooter can't find a duck, he has downed and you hear him say, we'll wait for Jonesy to come, his dog will find it. That makes it all worthwhile.



# RECIPES FOR HUNTER

## BEST EVER

### *Venison Diane!*



Simon Winfield knows a thing or two about Game. Born in Cape Town he has cooked in some of the top restaurants both here in Australia, the USA, South Africa and England. Simon started cooking in Australia working in the renowned “Lynch’s” in Melbourne. He and two partners head up Tommy Collins Catering and Events. Currently Simon is the face of a new Bagel chain, “Schmucks” and a new restaurant in South Yarra, “South Central” Here’s his take on an old favorite “Venison Diane”



### *Y*OU WILL NEED

- Olive Oil and butter.
- One eye fillet of Venison.
- 6 cloves of garlic.
- A quarter cup of roughly crushed black Peppercorns.
- Worcestershire Sauce.
- Large tub of thickened cream.

Cut 4, 4cm thick steaks from your fillet or thicker if you like.

Crush the garlic and firmly press onto one side of the fillet.

Turn steaks over and firmly press the crushed peppercorns on the other side. Put a 4cm cube of butter in a fry pan with a good glug of olive oil. Heat pan to very hot. Place steaks garlic side down, and cook for around 4 mins. Turn over to other side, turn down heat slightly and cook for a further 4min, this will give you a medium rare steak. When done remove steaks from pan and cover loosely with foil. Remove pan from heat, pour in around 2 tablespoons of Worcestershire Sauce, use a wooden spoon to loosen up all the garlic and pepper from the pan. Pour in the cream and stir vigorously, until you have a lovely thick rich creamy sauce. Turn heat on low and cook the sauce stirring continuously for minute or so. Return the steaks to the pan and pour in the pan juices left on the plate the steak were resting on. Turn the steaks a couple of times to cover steaks. Place steaks on plate and pour over a generous amount of sauce.



**DO THIS BEFORE YOU COOK THE STEAKS.**

#### **VICHY CARROTS.**

Place peeled and sliced carrots in a pan with a really large blob of butter, 3 table spoons of sugar and a small amount of water, about half way up the carrots. Boil until the water has evaporated and you have a beautiful rich caramelized sauce.

#### **CRUSHED POTATOES.**

Use small potatoes that are good for roasting. Boil potatoes until soft, cover with olive oil and salt and pepper in roasting tin. Place in oven at 210. Just before they are cooked, take out of oven and squash each potato with the back of a large spoon. Place back in oven to finish.

#### **AFRICAN BEETROOT.**

Buy a large bunch and cut tops off the beetroot leaving 5cm of stalk. Boil until soft. Cool and peel, (a good tip is to peel them over the sink with two plastic shopping bags over your hands, stops you ending up with purple hands).

Mix together few glugs of Olive Oil and 3rd of a cup of Red Wine Vinegar, plus a small hand full of Caraway Seeds, and ground black pepper in a roasting tin. Rub all over Beetroot. Roast at 180 for around 20 mins, tossing occasionally, slice.

**ENJOY!**

# Upcoming Camp/Event Reminders

## EVENT 4# BRANCH MEETING 8TH APRIL

A quick reminder to all members that our next Branch Meeting is coming up soon. We'll be sharing information on our upcoming camps, along with working through our usual meeting agenda.

As always, the BBQ will be firing up from 6:00pm, so come along early for a feed and a catch-up before the meeting begins.

We'd also like to encourage members to bring cash for the BBQ. By taking part, you're directly supporting the branch and helping keep the BBQ running for future meetings. Your support truly makes a difference.



Picture of Matt & Eric who keep our BBQ going.

## EVENT 5# BUXTON MENTOR WEEKEND (INVITE ONLY) & BENNIES CAMP 11TH - 12TH APRIL

We're looking forward to our upcoming Buxton Mentor Weekend, an invite-only camp for new members, designed to help build confidence, skills, and connections within the branch.

It's shaping up to be a fantastic weekend, with experienced members sharing their knowledge through activities including a butchery class and tracking sessions, giving our newest members a great opportunity to learn practical hunting skills in the field.



Please note that this weekend will also coincide with the Bennies Camp in the Alpine National Park. As this camp is held within the National Park, dogs are not permitted.

Members attending are encouraged to plan ahead, particularly with the current fuel situation and rising costs, and where possible to carpool and share travel expenses to camp.

It should be a great weekend all around, and we look forward to seeing everyone there.

## EVENT 6# SEYMOUR SHOW 17TH - 19TH APRIL

The Central Victorian Branch will be attending the upcoming Seymour Show, where we'll be running a branch stand to promote membership, raise awareness, and help educate the wider public about hunting, conservation, and responsible hunting practices.

This will be the first of two upcoming shows where our branch will be represented, making it a great opportunity to get our branch out into the community and showcase what we're all about.

We're still looking for volunteers to lend a hand on the day, so if you're available and would like to help out, please get in touch with Rod Reddish 0419 358 397.



President Rod Reddish at the Kyneton Show 2025

## Basic Camp Rules

- Wear **blaze orange** while hunting. A hat is the minimum.
- **No loaded firearm's in camp or traveling** from or to camp. **Magazines empty and removed.**
- **Gun-check from another person in camp** when return from a hunt.
- **Firearm are only loaded while hunting,** unload when you stop.
- Store firearm in **appropriated carrier** and **store ammunition separately.**
- All **bolts, breeches** and **barrels will be open when stored.**
- **Have your firearm and game license on you.**
- **Communicate hunting locations** and **times.**

**RESPECT** the law, the deer, hunters, others and the environment.

### **Remember that firearm safety begins with YOU**

- 1. Treat all guns as if they are loaded.**
- 2. Point the firearm in a safe direction.**
- 3. Keep your finger off the trigger unless you have your sight on a deer.**
- 4. Be sure about your target beyond all doughs.**

## ADA Safety Policy

Note: Central Vic Branch does not organise hunting. Only the camp venue is chosen which is at public campsites, generally managed by Parks Victoria. Members may hunt nearby public land if they are properly licensed. Members hunt at their own risk and responsibility.

1. **Safety is the RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERYONE.** If you see an unsafe practice, then stop the person, and assist them to undertake the activity safely. This requirement covers all aspects of camp life and while you are hunting.
2. To participate in a branch hunt, members must have completed the daily hunt register. For safety reasons, to participate in the hunt members need to carry a UHF radio and wear an item of blaze range clothing - cap, shirt etc. Additionally, their ADA Membership, firearms license (where applicable) & game license must be current.
3. All members are expected to attend any ADA Safety Brief and be familiar with the Safety Policy and hunt procedure. Signing of the Hunt Register will confirm that they understand and will abide by those requirements. Failure to agree to abide by those requirements will invalidate the member's ability to continue as part of the hunt.
4. A member of the Branch Committee or nominee will be in attendance to assure that the appropriate forms are filled out. If for whatever this does not happen, the event will be cancelled. If the event is cancelled reasonable steps will be taken to advise members.
5. Hunters will endeavour not to hunt in close proximity of other hunters and the general public. Should a hunter change their listed location, every effort should be made to advise another member of the group or update the register with their new hunting location.
6. No alcohol shall be consumed until the individual has completed hunting for the day and firearms have been checked and stored properly. No member shall hunt if in any way impaired by alcohol - this includes the effects of excessive consumption the previous evening. The ADA encourages the responsible consumption of alcohol and members are reminded that stated under the Victorian Firearm Act a licence holder needs to be "a fit and proper person to possess and carry a firearm"
7. Hunters must sign the "Hunt Register" on arriving and leaving camp. The Hunt Register allows us to keep track of who is in camp and where members are.

ADA require a camp register. If you attend branch camps, you must sign in.

You must comply with laws and ADA rules and policies for ADA member insurance to apply.

### ADA - Branch Hunt/Camp Safety Rules:

1. Firearms are to be rendered safe/unloaded upon the completion of any hunt.
2. When hunting with a companion/s the unloaded condition of the firearm should be verified by another person.
3. NOTE: For the purpose of this Branch Hunt/Camp Firearm Safety Code unloaded is defined as no ammunition in either the breach or magazine, this includes detachable magazines.
4. Firearms are to be unloaded and stored appropriately whilst travelling on public roadways & tracks.
5. Firearms are to be in a safe condition & unloaded before entering camp. All hunters, immediately upon entering the camp site - each and every time must have another member independently verify that the firearm is UNLOADED & SAFE. The person verifying that the gun is in a safe condition should then sign the Hunter Register' - in the appropriate column, confirming that the firearm is safe.
6. Firearms are to be stored in a rifle bag /locked box as per firearm regulations.
7. Whenever the firearm is to be accessed at camp for maintenance etc, another person MUST verify that it is in a safe condition.
8. **NO HUNTING IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE CAMP SITE/S.**



# TRIP INTENTIONS FORM

**This form could save your life...  
Fill it out before you leave home and ALWAYS leave it with someone reliable.**

**How to use this form...**  
Complete the relevant details on this form and leave it with a reliable friend, family member or responsible authority. The contact person you nominate will raise the alarm if you haven't returned and/or contacted them by the time indicated on the form.

Reporting Person	
Name	Street Address
Telephone/s	Role (Organiser, Professional Staff, Group Leader, Instructor)
<i>Don't forget - the Reporting Person MUST notify the Contact Person ASAP on return, or if delayed</i>	

Contact Person	
Name	Street Address
Telephone/s	Nominated Search & Rescue Notification Time/Date (if applicable)
<i>Note - Police WILL NOT initiate a search unless notified by the Contact Person.</i>	

Activity		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bushwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> SCUBA Diving	<input type="checkbox"/> Climbing / Rappelling
<input type="checkbox"/> Flying	<input type="checkbox"/> Angling	<input type="checkbox"/> Hunting
<input type="checkbox"/> Boating	<input type="checkbox"/> Photography	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospecting
<input type="checkbox"/> Kayaking	<input type="checkbox"/> Four Wheel Driving	<input type="checkbox"/> Cross Country Skiing
<input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing	<input type="checkbox"/> Trail Bike	<input type="checkbox"/> Backcountry Skiing/Snowboarding
<input type="checkbox"/> Rafting	<input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Biking	<input type="checkbox"/> Other .....(Specify)

Others with me are...		
1	Contact Telephone/s	<input type="checkbox"/> Passenger <input type="checkbox"/> Professional <input type="checkbox"/> Participant <input type="checkbox"/> Staff / Leader
2	Contact Telephone/s	<input type="checkbox"/> Passenger <input type="checkbox"/> Professional <input type="checkbox"/> Participant <input type="checkbox"/> Staff / Leader
3	Contact Telephone/s	<input type="checkbox"/> Passenger <input type="checkbox"/> Professional <input type="checkbox"/> Participant <input type="checkbox"/> Staff / Leader
4	Contact Telephone/s	<input type="checkbox"/> Passenger <input type="checkbox"/> Professional <input type="checkbox"/> Participant <input type="checkbox"/> Staff / Leader

*For extra names use an additional form or attachment. Remember medical considerations; allergies, recent/current illness, medication, dose, quantity on hand, duration, result without, student medical plan, etc.*

Trip Intentions <i>Indicated map used and camp references will assist potential searchers.</i>	
Day 1 (Date)	Attach map and further details if applicable
Day 2	
Day 3	
Day 4	
Day 5	
<i>Consider escape plans. Indicate whether planned school activity, outdoor recreational activity or other.</i>	

# Committee 2026

**President:** Rod Reddish  
M: 0419 358 397

**Treasurer:** Alex Hall  
M: 0412 886 807

**Secretary:** Jack Farrell  
M: 0456 406 577

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**General Committee:**

Brett Archer  
M: 0435 428 255

Conal Rush  
M: 0438 123 047

Eric Davidson  
M: 0418 993 385

Matt Heath  
M: 0417 507 098

Selina Klink  
M: 0467 582 547

**Branch  
Scorers:**

Matt King  
M: 0488 56 067

Alan Sharp  
M: 0417 172 193

Gary Hogan  
P: 5442 2852

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**Facebook & Lead sled:**

Rhian Davies  
M: 0429 698 133

**Sambar Roar editor:**

Selina Klink  
M: 0467 582 547