

Sambar's Roar



August 2025

Branch Directory

President: James Leven

Ph: 0412 241 560

Email: centralw.pres@austdeer.asn.au

Vice President: Adam Dolbel

Ph: 0417 256 166

Email: centralw.vp@austdeer.asn.au

Secretary: Pete Bara

Ph: -

Email: centralw.sec@austdeer.asn.au

Treasurer: Andy McBryde

Ph: (H) 02 6337 2067 (Mob) 0448 266 239

Email: centralw.treas@austdeer.asn.au

Hunter Education: James Leven 0412 241 560

Editor: Daniel McBryde

Ph: 0457 606 094

Email: centralw.editor@austdeer.asn.au

Firearms Registry

Locked Bag No 1

Murwillumbah NSW 2484

Phone: 1300 362 562

Game Licensing Unit (DPI)

Locked Bag 21

Orange NSW 2800

Phone: 02 6391 3750

Using ADA as a Genuine Reason

Don't forget 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 club hunts, it is your responsibility to ensure you meet the requirements. The secretary is required to submit attendance records to State on a regular basis, who in turn collate attendances for the Firearms Registry.

Meetings

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month, excluding December and January. Locations will be advised through the newsletter and email communications.

Newsletters

If you would like to submit an interesting article or photo, please send it to the email below.

AGM 2025.

Articles must include the name of the author. We are interested in a wide range of outdoor activities.

The Central West Branch executive no longer have access to membership details. All communication is now via Sean Kilkenny (sean.kilkenny@austdeer.asn.au) and Penny (ada.admin@austdeer.asn.au) from National. Please ensure that your details are up to date, especially your email address as all communication is via email. That way you will continue to receive communications from the branch.

Don't forget to send in any articles or photos to be included in the newsletters. Let the other members know what you have been up to. Email to centralw.editor@austdeer.asn.au.

Coming up:

August Meeting – Railway Hotel, 157
Havannah St, Bathurst, Wednesday 20th of
August, 6:00pm

Christmas Party – 8th – 9th November, Oberon
Dam, the Reef Camping area.

Disclaimer:

The Central West Branch of the Australian Deer Association takes no responsibility for the views expressed in any article in this newsletter. All articles submitted are signed by the relevant author.

Cover Photo: Cody with a bloody good Rusa
stag. Pic by Cody Gearon.

The AGM was held in June and there have been some changes to the executive positions. Thank you to Pete and Andy for filling the secretary and treasurer positions respectively. The president, vice president and editor positions are unchanged. Contact details are listed above for all positions.

Christmas Party.

The Christmas Party will be held at Oberon Dam on November 8th -9th at The Reef camping area. Camping is free but it is a popular spot. Some members will head out Friday afternoon to grab a spot. There are drop toilets and flat areas to park a van or some bush camping under trees. There will be limited supplies provided so please be prepared to cater for yourself (food and drink). Oberon is only two minutes away if you want to duck in for a hamburger!

Bring a fishing rod as Oberon Dam has some good fishing. The dam contains both brown and rainbow trout, yellowbelly, cod and the ever present redfin. The last camp the branch held there, members took kayaks which opens up more water to fish. Lures, bait and fly are all successful though more fish seem to get caught at the boat ramp on orange Power Bait. See you there.

Club Raffle.

There is another raffle under way and it will be drawn at the Christmas Party. The prize is a \$200 voucher at Bullets and Bits in Orange. That's a great prize as the lucky winner can choose how to spend their money. Tickets are \$5 each. Please contact Adam on 0417 256 166 or get some tickets at the monthly meetings. Good luck.

Club Hunt to Southern NSW.

In June, the ADA Central West Branch held a club hunt at Red Hill State Forest. There was a good turnout, with 6 keen hunters attending. Some had arrived early and got in some scouting and even a hunt on the Friday, with others arriving after dark to be greeted by a warm campfire and stories of first day sightings and deer sign.

Saturday morning saw everyone heading separate ways to hunt. A few headed back to camp for lunch, and a couple of the hunters stayed out for the day. James Leven and Chris Horsburgh both harvested Sambar deer on Saturday afternoon. James arrived back at camp late, which had everyone curious about whether he'd had vehicle trouble or hunting success. Turns out it was the latter, having bagged a nice Sambar stag in hard velvet!

Chris wasn't able to locate his Sambar spiker in the dark on Saturday night and had to return to track the blood trail on Saturday morning. The deer was located with a bit of help from James, Peter and Mel.

Cheers

Chris and Mel Horsburgh

James Leven celebrates his successful hunt with other ADA Central West branch members on the June 2025 club hunt at Red Hill State Forest. James' stag measured 28 inches and might be James' biggest sambar to date. Who needs to go to Victoria any more?



Out and About – What the members have been up to.

Cody has sent in three pics of a trifecta, being a red deer, a fallow and a pig. Variety is the spice of life they say. Cody has some new hunters in training.





As can be seen from the front page, Cody also took a Rusa stag with his bow, which is even more impressive. That deserves high praise indeed.



James and Dan had a week out west chasing pigs in July. Despite being winter and quite cold weather at times, the pigs were coming into the dams from mid-morning and right through to evening. Also, mobs of pigs could be seen out feeding at all times throughout the day, which was a bit out of the ordinary on this property. Some mobs numbered up to 20 pigs. The owner had cleared pig blocks of scrub a few years ago and planted oats, so there was some self-sowing oats and native grasses to bring them out. They took around 60 pigs and must of seen 300 - 400 pigs in the week. On one three kilometre long old oat crop, they saw five separate mobs out one mid afternoon, which must of totalled 80 to 90 pigs. Stalking in on the first mob resulted in a few pigs down and the rest bolting back to the scrub. That seemed to be the norm. Stalk in on a big mob, get an easy one down and then a couple more on the run, but most would escape. Bring back the days of the semi autos and 30 round banana magazines.











So for the new members out there learning about cartridges for game, what is a good pig cartridge? The answer is pretty easy.....whatever you are using on the deer. Any cartridge of .257 inch and above, of moderate velocity and with a decent mid weight cup and core bullet will handle pigs well. James and Dan used a .270 (130gn Speer SP), a 6.5x55 (127gn RWS SP), a 6.5-284 (140gn Hornady SP) and James also used a shotgun with SGs, which worked well in the scrub. Simple.



Typical country around the dams. There was just enough green pick to bring the pigs out and keep them feeding throughout the day.



That last photo is probably the best of the lot. As I get older the number of animals taken becomes less important and spending time in the bush with mates for a few days seems reward enough.

PS. Just to fill this space up. One funny incident occurred on the last night. As we came back to the quarters in the home paddock at 11:00pm, a good boar ambled across in front of the car, lit up by the headlights. He was only 60m from our quarters and the farm dogs were only 100 metres away. The boar seemed totally unconcerned with everything and then proceeded to meander over to a water trough and take a leisurely drink, all the while lit up with the driving lights with the idling vehicle 30 metres away. Satisfied, he gave us one more glance and then walked off back to the wild. The cheeky bugger!