



ADA Northern  
Branch Tasmania

**ADA NORTHERN BRANCH  
Annual General Meeting**

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June**

**7:30 pm**

**Followed by Social Meeting**

**Topic TBA**

**THE BUCK SNORT**

**NEWSLETTER**



**BRANCH MEETINGS ARE  
HELD IN OUR MEETING  
ROOM AT THE LONGFORD  
SHOW GROUNDS ENTRY  
OFF BULWER STREET**



## **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June Meeting Agenda.**

<b>7:40 – 7:50</b>	<b>Meeting Introduction</b>
<b>7:50 – 8:30</b>	<b>2025 Northern Branch AGM</b>
<b>8:30 – 9:30</b>	<b>General meeting</b>
<b>9:30 – 9:40</b>	<b>Presentation of Ernie Spencer Award</b>
<b>9:40</b>	<b>Supper</b>

### **Upcoming Events & Reminders**

#### **2026 Branch meeting dates**

The upcoming branch and committee dates are detailed below. Please put these in your calendar, more information will be disseminated prior to each branch meeting.

All members are welcome to attend the committee meetings.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Committee Meeting</b>	<b>Branch Meeting</b>
June		12 June AGM
July	7 July	
August		7 August
September	8 September	
October		2 October
November	3 November	27 November

#### **Northern Tasmania Branch Facebook**

Just a reminder to follow us on Facebook by following **Australian Deer Assoc Norther Branch Tasmania**

If you have any items you would like posted on the Facebook page, please send these to the Secretary at [northerntas.sec@austdeer.asn.au](mailto:northerntas.sec@austdeer.asn.au).

**2026 Deer Season Dates**

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November

Buck season opens

Anterless season opens

Buck season closes

Anterless season closes

**2026 Duck Season Dates**

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June

Duck season opens

Duck season closes

**August Social Meeting**



The August Social Meeting will be held at Sports Hut

Date: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2026

Time: 6 – 9pm

BBQ will be provided



## Tassie Doe Competition 2026

ADA Northern Branch Tasmania is running a Photo competition to promote the taking of Female Deer to control animal numbers in the herd until the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2026. When you harvest a DOE send your picture of the doe to [tassiedoes@austdeer.asn.au](mailto:tassiedoes@austdeer.asn.au) to enter the competition. Enter as many times as you want, every time you harvest a doe send in your pictures. You will go into a random number draw bimonthly for a prize. At the end of the doe season, you will also go into a final draw for a grand prize. All previous entries from the bimonthly draws will go into final draw automatically. So, get out there and harvest as many does as you like and send in your entry's.

**Entry is open to Tasmanian ADA Members**

**Final Draw Grand Prize is a Knife Supplied by**

**R & N Blades**

Drafted by Garry Bowden 26 May 2026

## **VALE Kerry Riley**

Kerry was a keen fisher and hunter committed to the future of Tasmania's fallow deer herd. He was a valued member of the Fallow Deer Club of Tasmania Inc., joining in the late 1980s. He was a strong supporter of club efforts to resolve decades of deer herd mismanagement and stakeholder disagreement.

Following lengthy lobbying the Fallow Deer Club gained admission to the Tasmanian Deer Advisory Committee (TDAC), then an ad hoc body offering advice to the Tasmanian Minister for Parks & Wildlife. By late 1992, ongoing efforts resulted in the cash granting of significant funds from the Tasmanian Government to support a project proposal to employ Brian Murphy, a U.S game biologist experienced in working with deer.

The TDAC was constituted, a project plan was developed, and an executive steering committee was appointed. Kerry was a key member of that executive committee and remained so for the four-year project duration from 1993 – 1997. He played a key role in what was (and still is) arguably the most significant and successful game management project in Australia.

Key outcomes of the project included:

- Management outcomes based on science rather than emotion, facts vs fiction;
- Introduction of Property Based Game Management (PBGM) and Quality Deer Management (QDM) methodologies;
- A critical reduction in (female) deer numbers across Tasmania's traditional deer range;
- A balanced deer herd and improved hunting, in particular the quality of 'trophy' deer;
- Unequalled stakeholder support and satisfaction;
- Financially efficient and effective project outcomes;
- An Australian and indeed global game management success story.

The success of that project carried forward for approximately 20 -25 years. Sadly, the improvement outcomes and learnings have not been maintained and progressed and, once again we are experiencing mismanagement, negative radicalisation, mistruths and a shift away from responsible science-based management.

Kerry was one of the good guys, committed to truth, transparency, honest effort and community cohesion. He understood the social benefits of a well-managed Tasmanian Fallow deer herd, animal rights and welfare and true conservation efforts versus elimination.

Tasmanian and indeed Australian outdoors men and women are indebted to the likes of Kerry Riley, those who stand up, have a crack and give back.

Well done Kerry Riley and thank you - you made a difference.

Drafted by Garry Bowden 20 May 2026

## From around the grounds

It is always interesting to hear stories from the membership. If you have any hunting or related stories that you would like to share with the membership, send them through to [northerntas.sec@austdeer.asn.au](mailto:northerntas.sec@austdeer.asn.au).

### Tasmanian Deer Hunting Rule Changes

Extract from an article published by Sean Kilkenny on Australian Deer Association website <https://www.austdeer.com.au/news/what-hunters-won-what-they-didn039t/>

How Tasmania's new deer hunting rules compare with the ADA's recommendations

The Tasmanian Government has announced the most significant changes to deer hunting regulations in years, with reforms designed to increase deer harvest, reduce red tape and place greater responsibility on recreational hunters in managing the state's growing deer population.

But how closely do the final changes reflect what hunters and the Australian Deer Association asked for?

Following the release of the Government's reforms, we've compared the final outcome against the ADA's to the Deer Management Policy Review to identify where hunters achieved positive outcomes, where concerns remain, and what the changes could mean for the future of deer hunting in Tasmania.

[https://austdeer-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/media/about/submissions/ADA\\_Deer\\_Management\\_Strategy\\_Review\\_2026.pdf](https://austdeer-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/media/about/submissions/ADA_Deer_Management_Strategy_Review_2026.pdf)

#### A Win for Reduced Red Tape

One of the clearest outcomes from the review is the Government's commitment to simplifying deer management rules.

The ADA supported the removal of outdated deer-part labelling requirements and advocated for streamlining the Property Protection Permit (PPP) and Special Purpose Wildlife Permit (SPWP) systems. The Association argued that reducing unnecessary bureaucracy would make it easier for hunters and landholders to work together while maintaining accountability.

The Government's final package reflects much of that thinking, with a strong emphasis on cutting red tape and making deer management more practical for hunters and landholders alike.

For hunters, this is one of the most tangible wins from the review process.

#### The Government Agrees: More Does Need to Be Taken

If there was one consistent theme throughout the ADA submission, it was that effective deer management starts with reducing doe numbers.

The ADA's submission argued that female deer are the primary driver of population growth and that increasing doe harvest is the most effective way to influence population outcomes. Simply taking more bucks would do little to reduce overall deer numbers.

The Government has clearly adopted this principle.

The final reforms place significant emphasis on increasing female harvest opportunities as part of the broader strategy to reduce deer numbers across Tasmania.

This represents a substantial shift in management philosophy and reflects what many hunters have long understood: if population reduction is the objective, does must be part of the solution.

## Where the ADA and Government Disagree

While the ADA supports increased doe harvest, the Association raised serious concerns about taking does during the fawning period.

The submission warned that harvesting females while dependent fawns are still at foot risks creating significant animal welfare issues and argued that education and better timing would deliver better outcomes. The ADA recommended focusing harvest efforts after fawns become independent but before the rut, when population benefits are maximised and welfare risks minimised.

The Government ultimately chose a different path.

The final reforms provide greater flexibility to harvest female deer throughout the year, reflecting a stronger emphasis on population reduction than the animal welfare concerns raised during consultation.

This remains one of the most significant areas where the Government's final position differs from the ADA's recommendations.

## Buck Hunting: Not the Priority

The ADA took a firm position throughout the review that extending buck seasons or increasing buck harvest opportunities should not be the primary focus.

The Association argued that management efforts should remain focused on females and that expanding buck hunting opportunities would do little to influence population growth.

While the Government has implemented broader reforms across the deer management framework, the debate highlights an important point for hunters: deer management policy is increasingly being driven by population outcomes rather than traditional hunting opportunities.

That shift is likely to shape future discussions around seasons, tags and harvest regulations.

## A Different View on Night Hunting

One proposal that generated considerable discussion was the possibility of allowing recreational hunters to hunt deer at night using thermal equipment or artificial light.

The ADA opposed the proposal, citing concerns around public safety, the potential for conflict with other forest users and the distinction between recreational hunting and professional culling operations. The submission argued that night-time control activities should remain permit-based rather than becoming part of normal recreational hunting.

While the broader discussion around night hunting is unlikely to disappear, it remains one of the most contentious issues raised during the review.

## The Biggest Issue Hasn't Changed: Access

Perhaps the most important point made throughout the ADA submission had little to do with seasons, tags or permits.

It was access.

The ADA repeatedly argued that recreational hunters cannot be expected to achieve meaningful population reductions if they cannot access the areas where deer are most abundant. With the majority of Tasmania's deer occurring on private land, improving cooperation between hunters, landholders and government remains critical to achieving long-term management objectives.

The Government has acknowledged the importance of recreational hunters in managing deer populations, but practical access remains the key challenge.

Without access, even the best management strategy will struggle to deliver results.

### What Hunters Won

Looking across the final reforms, hunters can point to several positive outcomes:

These are significant outcomes and reflect many of the positions advocated by the ADA throughout the review process.

### What Hunters Didn't Get

Not every recommendation was adopted.

The ADA's concerns around animal welfare during the fawning period were not fully reflected in the final reforms, and the Association's preference for carefully timed female harvest programs was largely overtaken by the Government's desire to maximise harvest opportunities.

The review also reinforces an emerging reality: future deer management discussions are increasingly likely to focus on population control outcomes rather than traditional hunting frameworks.

### What Happens Next?

The reforms mark a significant change in Tasmania's approach to deer management.

For hunters, the challenge now is to demonstrate that recreational hunting can continue to play a leading role in managing deer populations while maintaining high standards of ethics, safety and animal welfare.

The ADA remains committed to working with government, landholders and hunters to ensure Tasmania's deer management framework delivers sustainable deer populations, meaningful hunting opportunities and continued recognition of hunters as part of the solution.

Because ultimately, successful deer management doesn't happen through regulations alone—it happens when hunters are given the opportunity to do the job.

**More information on the changes can be found <https://nre.tas.gov.au/agriculture/game-services-tasmania/changes-to-deer-hunting-and-take-rules>**

Thanks to our sponsors



**THE SAUSAGE  
BUTCHERY**

**69 MAIN ROAD, PERTH, TASMANIA**

**Phone:**

**6398 2212**



**NORTHERN BRANCH**

Committee Meeting held on the 12 May 2026

at Longford Meeting Room: 7:30 pm

**Present:** Phil Kimpton, Scott Freeman, Lyndal Kimpton, Tanja Hodges, Leigh Dennis, Heath Hall, Martin Peters, Nathan Menegon, Alex Grodski

**Apologies:** John Kerr, Gary Pearce, Andrew Lockett

**Previous minutes:**

Minutes were emailed out prior to the meeting for the meeting from 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026 were approved:

Moved - Lyndal

Second - Alex

**Correspondence:**

In: - Longford Show Society re cancelling invoice issued  
3 new members in April, 1 new member in NW in May  
Agfest correspondence  
Information from a potential member that wants to have a go

Out: -

**Treasurers Report:**

Available funds at 17 March 2026 \$13,037.42

Raffle income	\$372.05
BHG Fees	\$360.00
Prizes	(\$299.98)

Balance at 12 May 2026 \$13,469.49

Moved - Lyndal

Second - Alex

**Action items from previous meeting**

	Action Item	Responsibility	
1	Longford Show Committee wants contribution towards power.  Letter sent to Longford Show Committee based on Andrew's calculations. A response received, waiting on their next meeting for further communication.	Andrew & Lyndal	Invoice received, It has never been conveyed that an agreement was reached. Lyndal responded asking when this was agreed upon and was told they would come back to us.  This is now finalized. No payment required
2	Trainer to run a session on firearms safety  This should be run for all ADA North members, to be looked at for a future meeting.	Scott, Alex & Lyndal	Park for the moment

	Discussed that this should be mandatory for BHG members as part of their membership. To look for appropriate courses.		
3	Andrew to speak to John in relation to a demonstration of the booking system	Andrew	Ongoing
4	North West Branch Scott to contact Sean re future of NW and discuss with Doug.	Scott	Ongoing
5	ADA website wording needs to be updated for North West	Lyndal	On hold at the moment
6	ADA Tas Hunters Education Program. Scott to continue developing the course, Lyndal to provide assistance. Gary to provide materials from previous hunter education courses	Scott, Lyndal, Gary	In Progress, try to roll some into general meetings. May need to step up hunter education with the current climate. Look at contacting some members that are trainers in relation to assisting with training Alex and Leigh to follow up
7	Photographic awards, Gary to organise sponsorship	Gary	Launceston Camera House happy to sponsor prints to the tune of \$250 Lyndal has contacted to confirm sponsorship of \$250. Advertise for the Buck season
8	Agfest Successfully gained a site again this year		subcommittee to steer Agfest. Subcommittee : Garry Pearce - to organise heads Lyndal Kimpton Heath Hall Scott Freeman John Kerr will help with the setup, Andrew Lockett will help on the stand on the Friday. Lyndal to send an email to the subcommittee Theme to be population control Develop documents in relation to: Population control Survey on pertinent topics Mentoring program

9	BHG Mentoring program Alex to send out to BHG members and get their feedback.	Alex	A couple of members have said there is not enough mentoring going on. No other feedback received. Could be expanded to the public land blocks and not just limited to the BHG. Create an ad and include in Bucksnot – Lyndal to create for Alex to have a look at.
10	Longford Show Andrew & Scott to mark out on the ground where vehicles should park on the Friday before next years show.	Lyndal	Lyndal to email requesting a site. Apply for a double site, for a double marquee with the view of having SHOT with us. 17 October.
11	Marquee upgrades Alex and Scott to work on what is needed to upgrade the marquee to rate it to 100kmh winds Martin to source 8 axels	Alex & Scott Martin	Design finalized by Alex Scott to followup Gordon to ensure ready for Agfest. All upgrades been done, just need to fine tune pegs and holes.
12	Bushfest Lyndal to contact Southern Branch to see if they need assistance with Bushfest	Lyndal	Consider attending Bushfest next year, but running sessions on the hour or so such as douglas scoring etc. Potentially look at getting someone down to present some topics, such as Paul Boag.
13	Doe Competition	Scott	Create a branch award for does, send a photo in of the doe you have shot then go into the draw for a prize. 1 prize bimonthly from all entries with a major prize at the end of the year, prize being a Sportshut or Allgoods voucher. To announce at the next general meeting. Scott to organise the email address <a href="mailto:tassiedoes@austdeer.asn.au">tassiedoes@austdeer.asn.au</a> with Don Hopping. Advertised on Facebook and to go into Bucksnot
14	Illegal access to Camelford	Alex	Alex is going back to talk to Bree about this and the gate situation.
15	Marquee Hire by Horse People		Didn't go ahead as the winds were too strong

	Marquee to be setup on Thursday 26th March and pulled down on Monday 30th March		
16	BBQ at BHG blocks to show the membership what the program is about		Phil has talked to Dave, but there lease agreement only allows 10 people on site so this can't be held at the house. Looking at alternate location.
17	Rifle day at the Guild for all ADA members	Nathan to contact the Guild to organise	It can be slotted in next year. There is a rifle day the weekend before the season. 23 Feb 2027.

**Advocacy update:**

Hunter assist program launched for SSAA members.

Scott talked to Gavin Pearce at Agfest, discussed the reduction of calibre down to .223 for deer which Gavin was supportive of. Scott to talk to Felix Ellis about this.

CPCA Deer Control Program – 6 deer taken over the weekend on block 2. The start needed to be pushed back due to the trout season. Look at training for additional hunters as there are only around 12 people that are trained and current, approx. 20 have been trained over the last 3 years, therefore need more people trained to ensure numbers don't decrease further.

Scott and Andrew have booked to hunt one of the public land blocks and have invited 3 NRE bosses and a SSAA representative for lunch and a look around.

**AGFEST**

Agfest was a good event again this year. There appeared to be only one negative person in the tent. The site location appeared to be better than expected. There appears to be a change in the reactions from people and less combative.

There was some good paraphernalia this year in relation to population control, what happens if a deer is classed as feral and what to do with venison.

There seemed to be a larger number of newly retired people that want to get into deer hunting.

We will have a separate Agfest/Bushfest meeting 20 May 7:30 to debrief and plan for Bushfest.

**BUSHFEST**

Bushfest are enthusiastic about running 3 hunter education sessions a day for the 2 days. Scott has spoken with Sean and looking to get Zeb. Have an ADA North & South marquee next to the presentation tent. Trying to get Bushfest to organise a marquee for the education sessions.

**BHG**

2025 take numbers submitted to Bree at Forico and she is happy with the numbers. 670 Wallaby, 324 possums, 7 Bucks and 137 Does. 1,138 animals taken in total. 198 x 8 hours hunted in total.

4 new members signed up. 2 shown around the blocks, another person being shown around this weekend and one more to go.

Discussion held on whether it is time to change the combination on the locks. It was decided that this wasn't a real problem and combinations to be left as they are.

Discussions were held in relation to disciplinary action against a member of the BHG. The committee decided based on the facts:

Suspension of membership and goes to the bottom of the wait list.

Undertake the ADA DMP Course.

Engage with the ADA by attending meetings etc

Hunt take for the blocks since end of stag season until now.

21 antlerless deer harvested. 1 off Philips the rest of Camelford.

General push to hunt other blocks. Limit the number of does that can be harvested on Camelford.

Discussions were held about an injured buck that had to be put down out of the season.

### **Next General Meeting**

- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026 7:30pm
- Speaker/ Theme AGM & General Meeting – Scott to see if Gary will come along to talk about SHOT
- Giveaways Sports Hut
- Meat Tray Fern
- Refreshments Fern

### **General Business**

- Next meeting is the AGM, if people want to continue but can't make the meeting Phil is planning to stand down as President, as long as there is someone willing to take on the role, he will stay on the committee.  
Nominate a vice president that is going to come in as president.
- SHOT – Shooter Hunters Outdoors Tasmania a new organisation that has been developed to give all organisations to have a united voice. ADA is one of the founding members. ADA North to donate \$500 to SHOT. Scott to look at the mechanisms behind the practicality of this.
- Ernie Spencer the only heads that were presented at April's meeting that have been scored were Gary 227 3/8 Lyndal 228 7/8 – Scott to organise trophy and medallion.
- Doe competition – Leigh has organised a knife from RN Blades as the prize.
- ADA facebook or whats app group to enable everyone to know what is going on and volunteer for activities as they are going.

### **Buck Snort**

- Messenger group for volunteering and information
- Mentoring program
- Doe competition

### **Next committee meeting**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2026

**Meeting closed** 9:23 pm

**President**

Phil

**Secretary**

Lyndal



# ADA COMMUNICATIONS

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To ensure you are up to date with what is going on nationally and locally, remember to update your details via your personal login on the ADA website or with the NMO.

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‘Australian Deer Assoc Northern Branch Tasmania’

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AND WHAT YOUR BRANCH IS UP TO

WILDLIFE RANGER  
CONTACT DETAILS

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AH 0417 661 234  
BH 61 730 253

NORTHERN BRANCH  
CONTACT DETAILS

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PRESIDENT (PHIL)  
[northerntas@austdeer.asn.au](mailto:northerntas@austdeer.asn.au)  
0448 506 489

HUNTING GROUP  
[northerntas.hunt@austdeer.asn.au](mailto:northerntas.hunt@austdeer.asn.au)

SECRETARY (LYNDAL)  
[northerntas.sec@austdeer.asn.au](mailto:northerntas.sec@austdeer.asn.au)

TASMANIAN STATE  
COORDINATOR

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SCOTT  
[tasmania@austdeer.asn.au](mailto:tasmania@austdeer.asn.au)  
0428 323 517

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## MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES

To join a mate or family members simply go online to:

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

For any membership enquiries, please contact Carol at our membership office during Business hours.

National Membership Office   [natmem@austdeer.asn.au](mailto:natmem@austdeer.asn.au)   BH 0499 892 320

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