

Sambar's Roar



October 2025

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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. 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:

October Meeting – Railway Hotel, 157 Havannah St, Bathurst, Wednesday 15th of October, 6:00pm

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

November Meeting – Railway Hotel, 157 Havannah St, Bathurst, Wednesday 19th of November, 6:00pm

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: A young buck poses for the camera. Pic by James Leven.

October Meeting Voting.

The club is reintroducing the trophies this year. The two trophies are the Merv Berry Perpetual trophy that goes to the best hunt of the year as voted by the members. This doesn't have to go to the biggest animal, but to the member who put in a good hunt. The second award is the Clubman of the Year trophy awarded to the member that has put the most time into the running and organization of the club or helping members new and old. Both trophies are voted by the members. You can vote at the October meeting or by contacting James Leven on 0412 241 560 or by email at centralw.pres@austdeer.asn.au.

Below is a refresher of what animals were taken through the year by which members. The pictures are presented in the same order as they appeared in the newsletters through the year.



James Leven's fallow buck.



James Leven's 28 inch sambar.

Chris Horsburgh took his first sambar deer on the club hunt to southern NSW. Unfortunately there was no picture submitted.



Cody's red deer hind.



Cody's fallow.



Cody's pig.



Jame's boar.



Dan's boar.



Cody's rusa stag taken with a bow.

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.

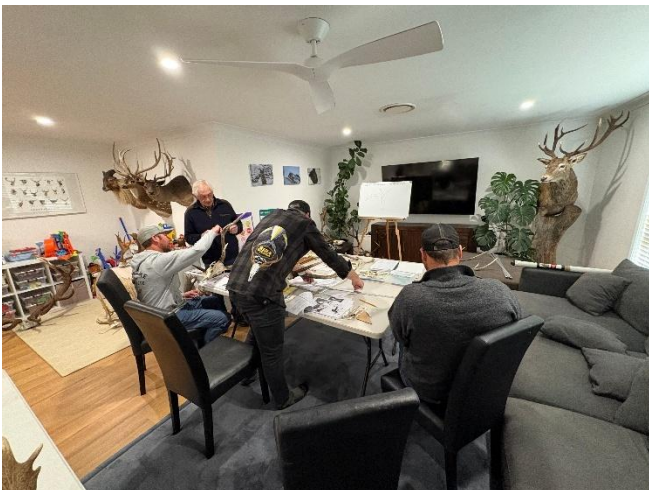
There is another raffle under way and it will be drawn at the Christmas Party. The prize is a \$200 voucher at Bullets and Bits in Orange. That's a great prize as the lucky winner can choose how to spend their money. Tickets are \$5 each. Please contact Adam on 0417 256 166 or get tickets at the monthly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

Measuring Course.

During the last weekend of August the Central West Branch hosted a measuring course at the home of Cody Gearon. This course was taught by ADA chief measurer Ted Wohlers and was attended by the Sydney Branches President and Vice President Rick Bichel and Chris O'Byrne along with Cody Gearon and already accredited measurer and new member to the CW branch Todd Frazer. Unfortunately, other members were unable to attend due to last minute circumstances but the course continued on with the three learning members passing the course.

The members attending also took part in panel measuring of local bow hunting legend and central west ADA member Brett Meldrum's two incredible red stags. With the largest of the two scoring an amazing 401DS making it the largest Archery killed Red Deer in Australia to date.

Cody Gearon.





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

Cody's Rusa Hunt.

I found myself down the south coast for a last minute hunt. My mate John had eyes on a 32 inch Rusa stag and twisted my arm to get down for a crack at him. So I packed the car with bow and rifle and headed down with only one day to find him and get the job done. Rules for the hunt were simple only use the rifle when we saw the big stag or one of equal size. But any deer that would be in bow range would be considered fair game due to an over abundance of hinds and the fact I hadn't yet taken a Rusa with my bow.

In the morning we found ourselves watching a young mob of bachelor stag's feeding and roaring. We stayed on them waiting to see if there was a larger animal hanging around but nothing appeared until we noticed them making their way towards us. John suggested I nocked an arrow and get into position of what might be a good shooting lane. I did as was told and ranged a nearby bit of bush to get a reference for distance and got a range of 32 yards. In doing so I noticed the biggest stag was rutting hard and on the tail of the hind. The hind passed my shooting lane so I drew back in anticipation that the stag would follow and sure enough he did. John made a hind call to pull the stag up and allow me to let loose the Kayuga trizot dropping the stag with an unexpected or unplanned spin shot. I quickly nocked another arrow and sent it into his chest to finish him off. With that I managed to secure my first archery rusa and my second deer species with the bow. A handsome 24 incher. I did find the 32 incher later that day but unfortunately it wasn't meant to be as I seemed to have used all my luck on the archery deer. But still amazing what you can get done in a day.

Water Buffalo.

Dave Young sent in the following pictures of a buffalo hunting operation up north. Dave recently retired and not being the kind of bloke to sit around, he took a job at the buffalo camp. And he ended up taking a water buffalo himself.









A bit more involved than boiling a fallow head!



Dan had a trip out looking for a trout with the opening of the NSW trout season. He went to a stream that was devoid of trout the season before, but as that system had a flush through it in the winter, he thought things may have improved. He was relieved to see three trout in the first hole he came to and thought great, the trout have come back. But then he walked the next four kilometres without seeing another one. The water level was starting to get low which is not good for early October. Despite weather forecasts predicting above average rainfall through spring and early summer, consistent rain seems to be erratic again at the moment. According to NSW Fisheries, these streams are stocked annually, but with dry summers and low, warm water levels it is questionable whether the fingerlings survive. Dan did get a 6lb carp on his #2 weight rod which was a consolation of some sorts.





Not desperate yet, but without rain through spring and summer the trout will do it very tough again.



