

# ADA Brisbane Branch

**Rubs N Roars** Newsletter: December 2025



COMPETITION – Each newsletter cover photo winner gets an ADA stubby cooler.  
Coolers can be picked up at the next branch meeting.  
To win, send your photos into [brisbane.editor@austdeer.asn.au](mailto:brisbane.editor@austdeer.asn.au)

\*\*\* We are always looking for fresh content for the ADA Brisbane newsletter \*\*\* – photos, hunt stories, recipes or product reviews or perhaps you have a new idea – It's always great to hear from our members, new and old, and all contributions received will be given consideration

Please send submissions to the editor's email address above

Next meeting:

- **Saturday December 6 – 2025 Hunting Achievement Awards & Xmas Meeting**  
at ADA Brisbane Clubhouse  
Shotgun shoot from 1:00pm  
Drinks, nibbles and dinner from 6:00pm
- **Friday 19 December - Committee meeting** (all welcome to attend)

6:30pm for 7pm start at ADA Clubhouse @ SSAA Complex - 292 Mt Petrie Road, Belmont QLD 4153

**“To inspire and educate successful, ethical deer hunters”**

## **From The President: Greg Rashford**



The end of the year is nearly upon us and that means its time for the Branch Annual Christmas BBQ and Awards Night on Saturday 6 December.

The day starts with a social shotgun shoot from 1:00pm followed by drinks and nibbles. Dinner will commence from around 6:00pm followed by awards and dessert.

Please bring your trophies, skins, horns, tusks, etc and photographs to share with fellow Branch members. From feedback I've received it appears 2026 has been a much better year for hunting than last year so I'm looking forward to seeing the displays and hearing the associated stories.

There will be no guest speakers so this is a night to socialise and network. See you all there!

The Branch had a busy sausage and burger making day with members learning the finer points of making sausages. For some this was their first time tying sausages and all quickly mastered the technique. Thanks to all involved – Christian, Chris S, Daniel, Glen, Greg K, Jay and Madelein – well done.

As previously mentioned, we have an experienced panel lined up for our Meeting next February to provide hunting tips and answer your questions. Whether you are an experienced hunter or new to the sport this is an opportunity not to be missed. Put it in your calendars Friday 7 February and remember to invite family and friends who may have an interest in hunting.

As the weather warms up, fawns are dropping, stags are sprouting their new heads and a lot of hunters are swapping rifles for rods. That said, it's a good time to prepare for the hunting season ahead. Gear needs to be tidied up, boots reconditioned and subtle hints dropped to Santa for new additions or replacements. Booking dates for R Licence hunts can be put in the calendar, particularly if you intend to hunt the rut. You can never have too many E scouting options as these can quickly disappear once ground proofed. Shooting skills can be also be honed by spending some time at the range over the holidays.

A relatively cheap way to increase trigger time is to practice with rimfire ammunition. A number of smallbore shooting opportunities are available in the evenings during the week in addition to the monthly rimfire field rifle comps SSAA run at both Belmont and Ripley. Any member interested in improving their shooting skills please get in touch as sometimes this can be more fun done as a group.

## Hunting Achievement Awards 2025 – Xmas Meeting Saturday December 6

Bring along your hunting trophies and photos from 2025.

Trophies shall be of wild deer/game taken in Australia during the competition period.

We need nominations for the “Hunter of the year” and the “Chrony award”, so please nominate your friends!!!

For a deer to be classed as wild under competition rules it must have been:

- Free roaming.
  - Not restricted by any form of containment.
  - It must not have been released from containment for the purpose of hunting.
  - It also must have grown its' antlers in the wild without human intervention.
- Minimum attendance required by shooter of at least two (2) branch meetings in 2025 calendar year.

The following categories are open to enter:

- |                        |                                    |                         |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| - Best Fallow Deer     | - Best Overseas Animal             | <u>Photography</u>      |
| - Best Rusa Deer       | - Best Alternate Australian Animal | - Best Hunting Photo    |
| - Best Chital Deer     | - Marksmanship Award               | - Best Photo Overall    |
| - Best Red Deer        | - Best Junior Award                | - Best General Interest |
| - Best Sambar Deer     | - Chrony Award                     |                         |
| - Best Australian Deer | - Hunter Achievement Award         |                         |
| - 1st Australian Deer  |                                    |                         |

Minimum Standards for Deer Trophies (As per ADA National Trophy Competition Rules)

Sambar Deer —min. length of shorter antler 25 inches.

Hog Deer—min. length of shorter antler 13 inches.

Red Deer—min. length of shorter antler 25 inches, & each antler to have no less than 4 points.

Fallow Deer —min. length of shorter antler 22 inches & have a total of no less than 16 antler points.

Chital Deer —min. length of shorter antler 25 inches.



Major Raffle Prize  
**OLIGHT Array 2 Pro**



## **Branch Directory**

### **ADA Brisbane Clubhouse**

SSAA Complex – 292 Mt Petrie Road  
Belmont QLD 4153.

### **President** – Greg Rashford

[Brisbane.pres@austdeer.asn.au](mailto:Brisbane.pres@austdeer.asn.au)

Mob.0417 740 520

### **Vice President** – Chris Szymanski

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### **Secretary** – Jay Heni

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### **Treasurer** – Cameron Wicking

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### **Editor** – Michael Gronert

[Brisbane.editor@austdeer.asn.au](mailto:Brisbane.editor@austdeer.asn.au)

Mob. 0475 877 568

Paul Swan – Ripley Comp.

Dave Cupitt – Silhouette Comp.

Norm Gibson – Shotgun Comp.

### **Committee**

- Mitch Pocklington
- Jason Baker
- Daniel Brogden
- Joe Ford
- Michael Gronert
- Madelein de-Jager
- Dilan Ponnudurai

### **QLD Accredited ADA Scorers**

- Jason Baker – 0403 166 227
- Chris Szymanski – 0416 149 886



### **Branch Calendar 2025**

Month	Date	Event
Oct	4 ~ 7	Piliga R License Hunt
	10	General Meeting - 6:30 for 7pm start
	17	Committee Meeting - 6:30 for 7pm start
	18	Field Rifle – SSAA Belmont
Nov	14	Social Drinks @ Clubhouse from 3pm
	15	Field Rifle – SSAA Belmont
	20	Rimfire Silhouette Shoot – SSAA Belmont
Dec	6	Xmas BBQ and Awards Night
	19	Committee Meeting

## **ADA Brisbane Branch**

### **Containers for Change Member Details**



**Team Member number**

**C11555661**



# Heads and Tails

By Jason Baker

I wasn't game to move. I had three pairs of eyes fixed in my direction. The girls knew I was there but couldn't make out whether I was a threat or not. The stand-off was intense. Not even the flies hovering around their head could break each stare. I watched on, and as she raised her front left hoof, I knew she had busted me, and my stalk was over. I moved the cross hairs off the hind and back on to the heavy stag, only to watch him turn and disappear into the shadows.



I slid the bolt back and removed the round, ejected the magazine, checked the breech was clear, then slid the bolt forward. My forehead came to rest on the butt stock, as the weight of failure bears heavy on my shoulders. Not once, but twice in two days. I rolled over and leant up against my pack and looked up through the mottled foliage of a mountain beech. A smile slowly rolled across my face as the realisation hit me; the girls got me again!

I removed my ear plugs and replaced the round in the mag. I had maybe two and a half hours before the day heats up. I could work my way back down the valley and glass a couple of the guts that opened out onto some small grassy patches or push up into a small saddle a few hundred yards above me and glass down into new country. I looked up toward the tops then at my watch. For a fleeting moment I contemplated a hard push up the hill, but that wasn't going to happen given the time of day and the sweat rolling down my forehead and into my eyes.



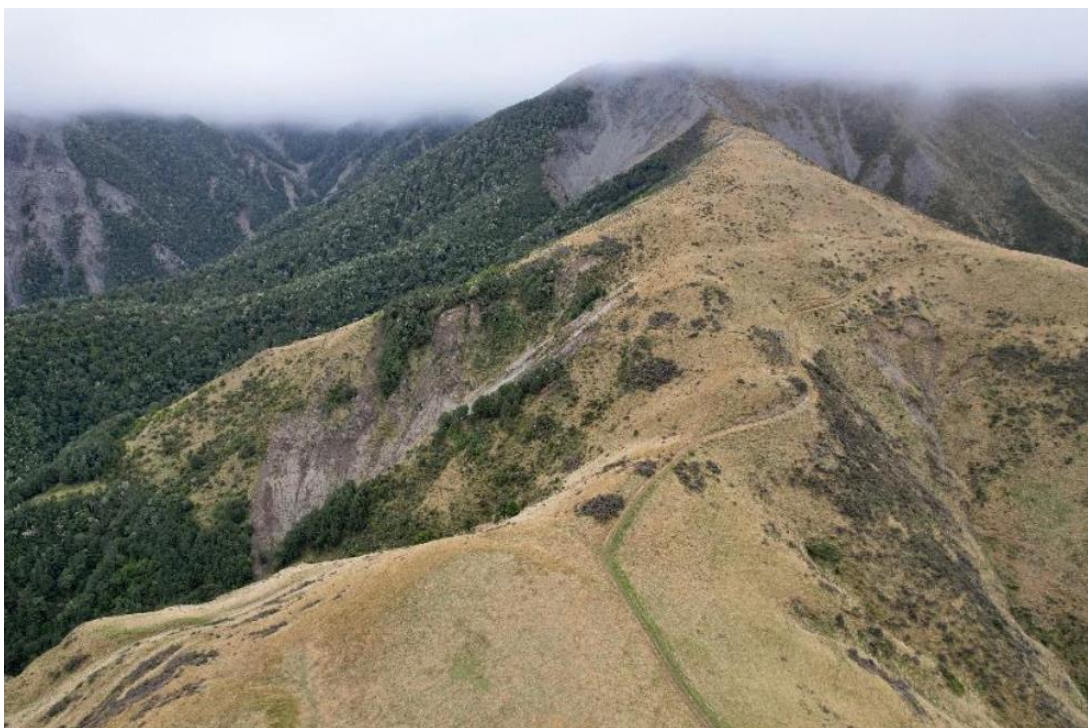




With my pack on and rifle in hand, I headed back toward the Can Am several hundred meters away. Upon reflection of another failed stalk on a good animal in this system, I was beginning to think I was running out of opportunities. Then without warning, I startled two fallow does maybe fifty yards in front of me. I watched as they effortlessly dodged and weaved through the gauze then disappeared without a trace. I hadn't seen fallow on this side of the hill and up this far before and it had me a little intrigued.

I pushed on down the valley, regularly finding myself stopping and glassing when the vegetation opened up enough to see out. Boy, oh boy was it heating up! I arrived back at the Can Am just after 8:00am and the temperature on the dash said 27 degrees; it felt more like 35 degrees at least. I threw my gear into the tray and placed my rifle on the travel rack. To be honest, I was a little lost as to where to go next given the predicted heat wave over the next week or more. Might be great for the crops and getting your clothes dry, however definitely not the best for the deer; seeking the comfort of the cooler southern facing gullies. Might be time to head south and stretch a line to a brown or a rainbow trout were my immediate thoughts. However, while I was here, I still needed to put an animal on the deck for the farmer with the prime cuts going in the freezer and the rest to his dogs.

I made my way back to the hut, stopping to glass and always on the lookout for something out of place when I came upon a small clearing that had never caught my eye before; a stand of pines had been cleared allowing lush green foliage to grow. I jumped out and threw my pack on and grabbed the rifle. From the stock track I couldn't see where



the game trails led into or away from this patch of greenery but was definitely worth a look. I didn't like the idea of hauling out a couple of deer three or four hundred yards from the Can Am and decided a buck or a stag would only be taken if the opportunity presents itself.



It didn't take long before I saw a few does feeding on the fringe of heavy cover when I heard the clash of antlers long before I saw the two bucks sizing each other up. Prancing back and forth then dropping their heads and getting right back into it. The chocolate buck in particular caught my eye, with a flawless cape that seem to glisten in the sunlight. I dropped the pack and extended the bipod legs out on my rifle. At 265 yards with a light cross wind, I set myself up for a shot. With the cross hairs on his shoulder, I squeezed the trigger. The buck folded right where he stood as the bark of the 7mm reverberated down the valley. Wow! That happened all too quick I thought to myself.



I sat back up against my pack and took a moment to reflect on how the morning had panned out. I may have not taken the big stag earlier up the valley, however I just bagged a beautiful chocolate buck not more than three hundred meters from the Can Am. I emptied my pack leaving only my knives and meat bags in it, then headed down in the direction of the fallen buck. I have to admit the climb down wasn't the easiest and I was already dreading the haul out, however all that faded away when I first laid eyes on my buck. I took the prime cuts and put the head and cape on my pack and climbed out.

Back at the Can Am I set the camera up and took a few photos then threw the meat in the chilly bin. The trip back to the hut, I hung the meat and met up with my mate who had seen very few animals over the past day or so. With the rising temperatures predicted for the next seven to nine days we pulled stumps on the hunting and decided to head south to chase a few trout with the long wand.



We packed up and made the five-hour journey without any unexpected delays and arrived just after 1:00pm. Twenty minutes later, we were already on the water and casting to our first feeding trout. We went fish for fish for the next hour and a half with some truly impressive fish brought to the net. However, one fish in particular had me scratching my head for answers to the point my mate left me to ponder my thoughts and fish the next run up stream.

It had just gone three thirty and a quick glance over my shoulder confirmed that this last section of river would be the last for the day. Shadows had now extended in length and appeared alien like as they stretched across the tussocks and scree lined braids. I had fished this stretch of water many times over the past several years and it had remained fairly unchanged. I had made repeated casts to an undercut tussock lined bank I knew held a fish with my offerings going unnoticed.

As I rounded the top of the run, I noticed that in previous years the tailing water consisted of a slow shallow pan handle that lazily fed the next pool, had been altered to form a narrow chute that channeled a huge amount of water into the head waters resulting in a deep oxygenated pool that just 'looked fishy'. I immediately thought rainbow country, but knew that a big brown would more than likely dominate this pool given the current flow rates and time of year.



I approached the pool with some hesitation as the wind began to strengthen and my window of casting opportunity had just been reduced by more than half at the tail. I opted to retrace my steps and come from the opposite side simply because of the angle of glare on the water and the resulting height of the bank made glassing the water easier resulting in less fished spooked. I had walked no more than a half dozen steps when out from the opposite bank a solid brown moved to the centre of the run and took a sub-surface morsel only to return to his lie under an overhanging bank and out of site. I stopped immediately and lowered my profile to reduce my silhouette in the event he should turn down stream. Several minutes had passed without another sign of this fish. I was toying whether to keep going or sit and wait. Chances are there would be another fish in this run, however I decided to sit and wait for this fish to make his next move.

Fifteen minutes had passed with only a few half-hearted sideways movements into the feeding lane only to return without incident. I decided to make my way back toward the tail of this pool and sieve the surface film to identify what tasty morsels were trapped. Nothing! Not even a spent spinner. By this stage I was seriously considering bypassing this fish and then cut back in on the stream twenty yards ahead of him. However, I do struggle leaving a fish that has been spotted and appeared to be feeding; although on what remains a mystery.





I made my way back up to where I had first spotted this fish and there, he was again swaying casually out into the flow taking something off the surface only to move back to the security of his lie. Again, I found myself sitting and waiting. By this time the sun was well and truly sinking in behind the mountains. My attention went back to the fish, and then to my rod as two blow flies played leap frog on the cork grip of my rod; and like a bolt of lightning to the brain, I now had a plan. I would tie a size 14 Blue Blowie to the tippet first and if this doesn't draw any interest, I would add a nymph

dropper from the gape of the dry.

I made my way slowly toward the big brown that was now swaying casually in the middle of the stream. Dropping to one knee, I cautiously stripped several metres of line before making a false cast to the wayward side of the fish. Once happy the length was right, I cast the fly several feet ahead of this fish and to the right. The fly had rolled out perfectly allowing a drag free drift. The brown moved over to the fly, rose then moved back to his lie. A definite refusal, however, another cast wouldn't hurt just to make sure. Again, the fly landed softer than a feather again several feet above the fish but this time to the left of the initial cast. At this point the fly drifted drag-free, then time stood still as if in slow motion the brown rose, refused, then headed down stream for another look. Again, he rose to the Blue Blowie and this time inhaled the offering, barely making a ripple on the surface. I waited until the fish turned and his mouth closed before I lifted the rod skyward to set the hook.



The 5 weight Loomis buckled under the pressure of a feisty fish trying all sorts of trickery to dislodge the Blowie that bit back. Line screamed from the reel as it sang through the guides. The strength and tenacity of this fish caught me unaware as I struggled to get to my feet only to have the brown turn and head toward me. Slack line on the water and no direct connection to the fish usually meant certain freedom to a fish however luck was on my side as I frantically stripped line from the water in a hand over hand retrieve more accustomed to fly fishing for saltwater speedsters like tuna or golden trevally. As luck would have it, I quickly felt a solid connection as it continued downstream and into the shallow tail waters of this run. My only choice was to follow and regain as much line as I could before he turned again.

I couldn't believe the stamina of this fish for its size as it shuffled and splashed frantically in the shallow tail waters only to find deeper water in a last ditch effort of freedom. I thought to myself that this was not a first for this fish as he now lined himself up in the fast water to add additional pressure to the tipper. All I could do was follow and hope that he would soon slow or hold up in the deeper head waters of the next pool. I was struggling to keep a solid connection as I stumbled all over the place. At one stage losing my footing sliding down the bank to the water's edge only to bounce back up and continue on my merry way. If you blinked you would have missed it, but I had the bruises to prove it.

I had to do something as I couldn't keep up this level of physical exertion nor could I understand how this fish continued to fight in the manner he had for the last several minutes. I immediately thought that this fish was worthy of mention around the campfire tonight, not for its size but for its spirited fight; either way he deserved his freedom if he finds his way to my net.



As predicted, the brown turned and held deep in the bottom pool as it attempted to regain its strength. Several half-hearted attempts to dislodge the fly against large rocks were in vain and for the first time in this fight I had the upper hand, leveraging the fish up from the depths. I moved into the water to allow me to bring the fish to the net. By this stage he was battling against the current and was easily led toward the net. Finally, the end was in sight as the brown made one last ditch effort to avoid the net only

to be leveraged back toward the surface and into the net. At 6  $\frac{3}{4}$  lbs. it was a well-conditioned buck with bright colourings, not usually synonymous with the Godley browns.



I held the fish by its caudal fin until it regained its strength and I began to feel it trying to pull away under my grip. I gently released my grip and the brown moved away of its own accord only to hold up behind a rock at the water's edge. I stayed there watching this fish for the best part of fifteen minutes wanting to make sure it had not exhausted all its energy in the fight and could not recover from it. I decided to take an underwater photo and a small video clip hoping that my intrusion would be enough for him to move into deeper water. As predicted, I got one photo and a short video clip of this magnificent specimen as he slowly swayed from side to side and then out into deeper water.

I sat back on the bank and viewed the video and the photos that would become prized treasures to accompany memories of a fight that reinforced my love of the back country, brown trout and the thrill of making that first cast count. The rest is all in how you tell the story and give homage to your foe's spirited fight to gain his freedom...





# Luvele's products for "From Field to Almost Plate"

By Joe Ford

You have come home from a successful hunting trip with an eski full of meat; the question is - now what? You could do what I did my first time and have horrible results - wrapping your goods with glad wrap, or, a much better option, invest ahead of time in some processing tools best suited for the job.

A few items that are invaluable for any deer hunter looking to get the most out of their harvest are:

- Vacuum Sealer
- Mincer
- Sausage Maker
- Dehydrator



Luvele offers some great options for these, as well as handy tips for their use. Unfortunately, I cannot comment if they are the best, or value for money, as all of mine have been gifts. I can say that they are very good quality, and eight deer later are still performing strong with no issues.



My model of vacuum sealer is the Luvele Deluxe PRO Vacuum Sealer. This model does a dual seal, fitting both their 22cm and 28cm wide bags. This model contains the bag roll holder, cutter and numerous vacuum options. Once warmed up, after initial seals, the sealing is very quick.

Vacuumping sealing is not just for airtight storage in the freezer; you can also use this to "wet age" your meat in the fridge. When wet aging, I usually do one week but have done for as long as four weeks. If you are planning on wet aging before freezing, I recommend draining the juices and resealing after its time in the fridge.

Handy tip - for sealing foods with extra juice, fold up a paper towel and place at the top of the bag to absorb moisture before the seal.

This model also comes with the canister attachment, which can be used with Luvele's own range of vacuum seal-able containers, that significantly increase the shelf life of perishable items. A minimal effort way to store your freshly dehydrated jerky in an airtight container.





I am a big fan of Luvele's dehydrator; it's a dream way of making some of the best snack food!

Using the dehydrator is super simple. Just set the temperature and time, then forget. The dehydrator comes with multiple racks that stack higher depending on the batch size. The racks that come standard with the dehydrator are stainless steel mesh; biltong hanging hooks are also included.

Additionally, there are silicone mats that can be purchased for drying fruits and more fragile items. When making my jerky, I opt to lie the meat on the racks and then periodically flip as I remember. Lastly, the dehydrators manual has useful guides and recipes for drying meats, fruits and herbs.

My current favourite jerky marinades are:

#### Sweet

- Brown Sugar
- Salt and Pepper
- Mustard
- Minced Garlic
- Maple Syrup

#### Savory

- Paprika
- Chilli
- Salt and Pepper
- Cumin
- Oregano
- Minced Garlic
- Lime / Lemon juice



Depending on my level of preparedness, the vacuum sealable containers marinate the meat in the fridge for 1-3 days. They then go into the dehydrator for 4-10 hours depending on the batch size. Basically, I dehydrate meat until they show signs of "dried" or "white fibres".



Luvele also have a range of mincers. I have not used any of these but have heard positive reviews. However, how could you go past our clubs own mincer and sausage maker for hire of \$10 per week, and if you have no, or limited, experience, come along to our sausage making days!

## Wiser Precision - Quick Stix

By Chris Szymanski

A couple of years ago I purchased some trekking poles for hunting big and steep country. They were/are a game-changer for getting up, down and across steep hills and gullies. I feel like they have really opened up some hunting opportunities. Those big steep hills and gullies that look inaccessible don't seem as intimidating to get in and out of anymore. I can't think the amount of times I would have slipped or fallen without them.



I'm sure plenty of hunters already carry trekking poles and don't need me to sing their praises. Since I have started carrying trekking poles my shooting sticks have always remained attached to my pack. In all honesty they often were there beforehand too. I found them a little cumbersome to carry and deploy. Unfortunately shooting sticks attached to your pack aren't that accessible nor that usefully when you need them.

After I started to carry trekking poles I came across attachments for the poles that quickly turned the poles into shooting sticks. Wiser precision a USA company make a product called Quick-sticks. They attach to the top of your trekking poles (just under the grips via clamping screws) and utilise a magnetic system that can quickly lock the trekking poles together. They can with be swivelled into a shooting rest or allow the poles to be carried together (which can also be really useful). Locking and unlocking the poles is quick and easy as they snap in via a magnet. They have allowed me to get rid of shooting stick off my pack and I can now utilise my trekking poles as shooting sticks if needed.

If you carry trekking poles or are thinking about getting rid of your shooting stick than these might be of worth a look. They can be ordered directly from the USA via the Wiser Precision website.

<https://www.wiserprecision.com/products/quick-stix>







**Proudly supporting Brisbane Branch,  
Australian Deer Association**

Broadsound Hunting Safaris Australia is owned and operated by Greg Coyne. Offering a wealth of experience, Greg's vast knowledge of the Australian big game and native wildlife, is second to none!

## **For Sale**

### **Leupold Scopes**

- 2 x 3.5 – 10 VX3
- 1 x 2.5 – 8 VX3
- 1 x 1.5 -5 VX3 (Unused – New in Box)

### **Dies:**

#### **Lyman**

- .308Win (New)

#### **Simplex**

- .375 H&H Master 3 die set

#### **Brass (Rem)**

- 7mm Rem Mag x 100 used, x 50 new
- 6mm Rem x 200 used, x 100 new
- .300 Win Mag x 200
- .338 Win Mag x 50 new, x 100 used

#### **Brass (Sako)**

- 9.3 x 74mm x 50 new

#### **RCBS**

- .338Win Mag
- .300Win Mag
- 7mm Rem Mag
- 6mm Rem
- 9.3 x 74mm

#### **Projectiles**

- .375 H&H Hornady 300gn FMJ x 50,  
Soft point x 50
- 9.3 x 74mm Woodleigh, Norma

#### **Double Rifle case Aluminium (New)**

Prices Negotiable – Call **Ron Rains: 0434 648 509** for further details

## **MINCER FOR HIRE**

The branch has a new mincer and sausage stuffer which is now available for our members to hire.

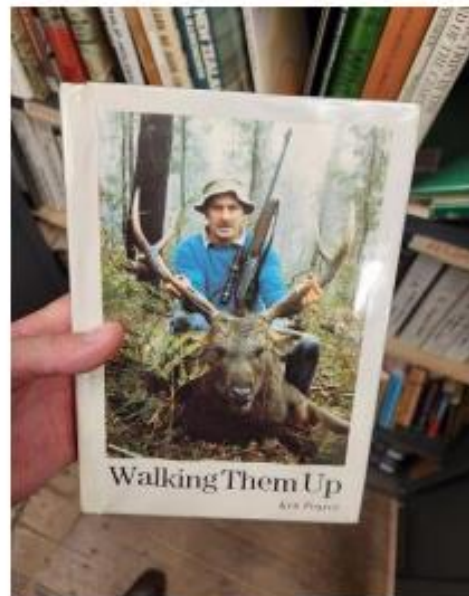
Cost \$10 per week with a \$50 deposit. Equipment must come back clean and in good working order (the same as when it was checked out).

Pick up and drop off from the Branch building, SSAA Belmont.

**Contact Peter Cohen to arrange pick-up on 0438 774 213.**

## **Member Hunting Book Library**

Please note: There is an extensive hunting/shooting book library available to all Brisbane Branch members who attend the meetings. The library is located within the ADA building at Belmont, so just ask a member for assistance. It's an honesty system – so ALL borrowed books must be returned once finished. Speak to Peter Cohen for more information.





EST.



2019

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