

ADA Brisbane Branch

Rubs N Roars Newsletter: February 2026



Mitch Pocklington with a nice New Zealand bull tahr.

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

*** 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

Upcoming meetings:

- **Friday February 6 – General Meeting –**
Topic: Hunting Tips and Discussion with panel of four experienced hunters
- **Friday 20 February - 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



Being the first Newsletter for the year I wish all members best of health and rewarding hunting during 2026.

We had a good turn out of heads for our annual awards last month, particularly Fallow trophies, which reflects increasing hunting activity by Branch members. I'm confident we can build on that for 2026 and have even more stories to tell during the year. Congratulations to all those that received awards and thank you to everyone that contributed to a successful afternoon and evening.

The process for selecting photo category winners needs some work but otherwise all involved in contributing to the night should be proud of their efforts (any suggestions on selecting photo category winners will be gladly received).

The Branch has an exciting year planned for 2026 with many activities outlined in the Calendar published in this Newsletter. Our February Meeting will be highlighted by a panel of experienced deer hunters who will provide valuable hunting tips and answer any questions members have. This is a not to be missed opportunity for those who would like to take their hunting success to the next level.

Our second meeting of the year in early May will be an opportunity for members to share their results of hunting the upcoming rut. These presentations were well received last year so looking forward to hearing another round of exciting hunting stories.

During 2025, the Committee discussed how the Branch could increase hunting opportunities for members. One initiative discussed was to investigate entering a commercial arrangement with a property owner/s for recreational hunting access. If any member knows a property owner who may be interested in having discussions with the Branch could they please let me know so I can follow up.

Branch Directory

ADA Brisbane Clubhouse

SSAA Complex – 292 Mt Petrie Road
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Daniel Brogden – 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



ADA Brisbane Branch

Containers for Change Member Details



Team Member number

C11555661

Brisbane Branch Calendar 2026

<u>Month</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Event</u>
<u>January</u>	Saturday 17th	SSAA Field Rifle
<u>February</u>	Friday 6th - 6:30pm for 7pm start	General Meeting
	Friday 20th - 7pm Start	Committee Meeting
	Saturday 21st	SSAA Field Rifle
	Saturday 28th	Dan Petterson - Knife Making
<u>March</u>	Saturday 21st	SSAA Field Rifle
<u>April</u>	Saturday 18th	SSAA Field Rifle
	Friday 24th - 7pm Start	Committee Meeting
<u>May</u>	Friday 8th - 6:30pm for 7pm start	General Meeting
	Saturday 16th	SSAA Field Rifle
	Friday 22nd - 7pm Start	Committee Meeting
<u>June</u>	Friday 5th - 6:30pm for 7pm start	General Meeting
	Friday 19th - 7pm Start	Committee Meeting
	Saturday 20th	SSAA Field Rifle
<u>July</u>	Sunday 12th	Bernie Mascord Shoot
	Saturday 18th	SSAA Field Rifle
<u>August</u>	Friday 7th - 6:30pm for 7pm start	General Meeting
	Saturday 8th - Sunday 9th	Venture Hunt Fest ADA BBQ
	Saturday 15th - Sunday 16th	SSAA Shot Show Sydney
	Saturday 15th	SSAA Field Rifle
	21st-24th	Pilliga State Forest Branch Hunt
	Friday 28th - 7pm Start	Committee Meeting
<u>September</u>	Saturday 12th	SSAA Shotgun day & Social drinks
	Saturday 19th	SSAA Field Rifle
	Saturday 19th	Sausage making day
<u>October</u>	Friday 9th - 6:30pm for 7pm start	General Meeting
	Friday 23rd - 7pm Start	Committee Meeting
	Saturday 17th	SSAA Field Rifle
<u>November</u>	Friday 13th	Social Drinks
	Thursday 19th	Rimfire Silhouette Shoot
	Saturday 21st	SSAA Field Rifle
<u>December</u>	Saturday 5th	Christmas BBQ & Awards
	Friday 18th - 7pm Start	Committee Meeting
	Saturday 19th	SSAA Field Rifle

Gettin' the goat

By Michael Gronert

I hadn't had much success with hunting in 2025.

The property alongside a farm I hunt sometimes in Central Queensland changed hands in late 2024, and on a four-day trip in March 2025, I discovered the new owner was quite fond of the local rusa population. The deer were also apparently aware of this newfound safe-haven and while I saw plenty of rusa over the course of my stay, I could never find them on my side of the fenceline... I did collect a few foxes and some hares but unfortunately returned home empty-handed on the venison front.



In June, I managed a single day hunting on the ADA Brisbane Nundle trip, before being called home for a family emergency. Thankfully it was nothing serious, but such is life and priorities are what they are. Despite holding an R License for a few years, Nundle was my first NSW state forest hunt and fair to say I've been hooked ever since.

Looking for opportunities a bit closer to home, I found little positive feedback on the SFs within 5 hours drive of Brisbane located closer to the coast, however, looking further inland, came across Severn state forest and decided to check it out on a mid-week hunt in late August. Many thanks to Chris for kindly sharing some valuable advice and experience on the terrain and camping spots beforehand.

From the booking information on my chosen dates, I was aware that all three spots were taken, and being a relatively small SF, I wasn't sure whether I should expect company – but as luck would have it, I had the high ground camping spot to myself and so parked up and I set off on foot with my dog soon after arriving at around 2pm on the Wednesday afternoon.



Navigating through relatively steep terrain and dodging cacti, I came across a few old goat carcasses strewn about in various stages of disassembly, but nothing even remotely fresh, and besides spooking a few wallabies from time to time, there was very little by way of animal life over the first couple of hours. With shadows growing taller, I decided to walk the main trail and cover as much ground as possible in the 45 minutes before sunset, with the aim of getting a rough idea of the lay of the land and where I might kick off the following day.

Coming over the crest of a hill, I scanned the immediate horizon and my eyes were drawn to a white nanny goat, a stark contrast to the

surrounding bushland. On a closer look, there were about a dozen goats in total, mostly a mix of browns, black and grey, all blending well into the grass. Taking my time in selecting a target, I had not noticed two smaller goats further up the trail and they clocked onto my dog and I, and sent the herd running before I could take a shot.

Slightly disappointed, but feeling pleased that I had located some animals, I was optimistic about the following day. There was about 15 mins remaining before sunset and at least 3km back to camp so I got on my way walking the loop back to the main road.



Suddenly, a healthy-looking black boar trotted out of the bush and crossed the trail from right to left about 80m ahead of me, then wandered into the nearby stand of pine trees and started nosing at a fallen log, completely oblivious to my presence. I shouldered my .223 Ruger, dropped to my knee and squeezed off a shot. It was a shoulder hit, but didn't drop him on the spot and he took off into some nearby lantana.

The following morning, I packed up camp and set off around 7am, parking close to where I shot the pig and had a look around, but I was unable to find him or any trace other than some blood spots.

I headed back to where I saw the goats the previous evening, but finding none, I continued in the direction they had ran and soon came across the same mob grazing in a clearing further down the hill, their presence again betrayed by the large white nanny.

I crept off the trail and set up for my shot on a pile of logs, surveying the herd for my target. I had chosen a large grey billy with an impressive set of horns and was lining him up in my crosshairs when a deep "Bang!" rang out from the distance, followed by three more shots that sounded clearly a much larger calibre than the .223 I was carrying.

The goats took off up a steep, rocky embankment and disappeared. From what I could see, none were hit, so I assumed the other hunter in the vicinity had either missed or was shooting at a different mob. I waited for a bit, then decided to circumnavigate the hill and see if I could find the goats, but after a couple of hours without a result I made the decision to head back.

Along the way, I started to get intermittent whiffs of campfire smoke and eventually came across the other hunter, quietly processing a couple of goats on a gambrel at his camp. We chatted for a while, and I made my way back to the car and then home, again empty-handed.



A few weeks of back-to-back travel for work throughout September and October prevented me from joining the branch Pilliga hunt, but once my schedule settled down a bit I locked in some leave and snagged a couple more mid-week dates in Severn for early November, keen to have another crack before the year was out.

My departure from Brisbane was delayed, and I didn't get to Severn until 3pm. It appeared that I had the spot to myself again, so I dropped my swag at the campsite and in the interest of expediency, drove a short way into the forest and set off on foot to the clearing I had seen goats on the previous trip. Nothing. Checked out a few spots further downhill, and the spot where the other hunter on the previous trip had suggested - nothing. Over the next 3.5 hours, I encountered nothing but a single faint bleat in the distance and I couldn't even be sure which direction it came from.



Next morning, I packed up and set off at 6am, keen to explore some new territory and this time with my .308 in hand, keen to ensure nothing would get away on this occasion. It was still quite green, but much drier than in August. A couple of the dams were close to empty, and devoid of any animal sign.

As per the day before, there were no animals grazing in the clearings, but I did hear a couple more sporadic bleats in the distance, in very thick forest and likely outside the boundary. I began climbing a hill covered in large boulders and gradually found myself creeping toward the top of one of the higher peaks within the state forest. I figured at the very least, it would be worth the view, so I pushed on and around 60m from the top heard a very clear bleat and looked up to see four juvenile goats staring at me from between large rocks on the peak. They were wary of my presence, but not in a hurry to escape. I, on the other hand, found myself struggling to get a clear enough line of sight on any of the animals for a safe shot and eventually they disappeared over the crest.



I climbed to the peak and spent some time having a drink of water and enjoying the view, then, spent the next few hours trying to find the goats that had escaped me. After taking the long way over, then around, the mountain, I found myself back at the original point where I had begun my ascent. Figuring all was lost, I made the decision to again head halfway back up the hill – just for the sake of it, and just in case, but to no avail.

Slowly making my descent back to the track via a large, sloping granite boulder, and feeling disappointed, I looked to the down and saw eight goats quietly grazing in a gully about 50m ahead – so close, and so far unaware of my presence. I couldn't believe my luck! Desperate and completely caught up in the moment, I rushed to flick off the safety, took aim at the closest one and let off a quick shot that left my ears ringing – the bullet, however, clean sailing over the goat's back and sending all of them running off into the distance at warp speed.

Hot, sweaty and dehydrated and now feeling like a complete idiot, I began trudging my way back up the trail in the direction of my car, dejected and rolling through a list of excuses in my head that I could perhaps use to smudge over my incompetence when inevitably questioned on my continued lack of success in the field. Of great concern was what will I say to Andrei - my colleague of Russian heritage who is always keen for some game meat, and quite the cook to boot... it's been well over 12 months since I've had anything fresh to give him. Maybe I'd just tell him I didn't go.

Rounding a corner on the well-worn trail, I caught in my periphery two large black objects, moving slowly between trees up on the hill about 100m away. Pigs? A quick check with my binos confirmed them to be a pair of healthy-looking billies. This time I was determined to get the shot. Taking my time to methodically insert my ear plugs, slow my breathing, and find a solid tree to brace against, I lined up the larger of the two and dropped him on the spot with a single shot to the vitals. His friend ran off, then stopped to assess the situation – providing me with another slow-motion broadside opportunity, but I decided against it.



Heading home later that day, tired but satisfied and with an esky full of meat, I was replaying the events of the past 24-hours in my head – my final hunt of 2025 was a proper adventure, a successful hunt and a complete emotional rollercoaster all rolled into one.

What a way to close out the year – I'm excited to see what opportunities 2026 will bring.



For Sale: Projectiles – Nosler Ballistic Tip, 30 Cal, 150gn



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.

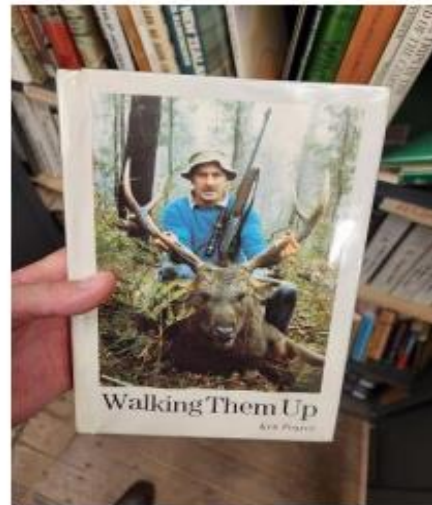
Cost \$10 per week with a \$50 deposit. Equipment must come back clean and in good working order (the same as when it was checked out).

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.




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

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