

ADA Brisbane Branch

Rubs N Roars Newsletter: October 2025



A trio of red hinds – Photo by Joe Ford

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

Next meetings:

- General – Friday 10 October
- Committee – Friday 17 October

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



Our annual shotgun shoot was a big success with many members turning out for this fun day. Norm Gibson and his helpers know how put on a well organised event and this year was no exception. Congratulations to Chris Szymanski for taking honours for the day in a shoot off with Peter Cohen. These events are a wonderful networking opportunity, and it was good to see the camaraderie within Branch members on the day.

With so much going on the year is flying past quickly. In July I was fortunate to head up north chital hunting with long term member, Darren Gould. Absolutely fun trip with

wonderful guide, good country, good critters and great food. We both managed nice trophies so anyone looking to hunt chital hit us up for details.

Venture Hunting and Outdoors continues to provide strong support to the Branch. First with a catering opportunity for the Women who Venture night and then again for their Hunt Fest weekend. These opportunities provide the branch with exposure to the hunting community and assist with funding for Branch activities.

The Branch would not benefit from these events without the heavy lifting done by Madelein, Mitch and those who volunteered their time including Johan, Daniel, Joe, Darren, Craig, Lindsay, Louis, Neale, Catherine, Adam, Chris S and Chris F (apologies if I missed anyone). A big thanks to all on behalf of all our members.

The annual meat run to St Lawrence gave a number of members the chance to practice their knife skills. A record 27 deer were culled over the weekend. Two deer have been donated by Broadsound for our sausage/burger making masterclass to be held on 25 October. Put this date in your calendar and watch socials for more details for this hands-on experience.



In late August I managed a holiday in the NT to enjoy the lovely winter weather the top end is famous for. The Coburg Peninsular is a hunter/angler's paradise with so much wildlife. Banteng were a little skittish, so I spent more time chasing them than planned and didn't get an opportunity to get out on the water. That said, I did manage a nice bull banteng, water buffalo and many feral critters that run around Arnhem Land. See more details later in this Newsletter.

As the end of the year approaches it's time to dust off your heads and photos for the end of year awards night on 6 December. All members are encouraged to bring along trophies for display whether or not they meet the criteria for awards. All trophies have a story, and this is the night to share with others. For those interested in submitting trophies for judging see eligibility criteria below.

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.

Branch Directory

ADA Brisbane Clubhouse

SSAA Complex – 292 Mt Petrie Road
Belmont QLD 4153.

President – Greg Rashford

Brisbane.pres@austdeer.asn.au

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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

ADA Brisbane ANNUAL CLAY TARGET SHOOT - 6th Sept 2025

By Norm Gibson - Shotgun Shoot Coordinator



The Annual Shoot was well supported with 15 shooters signed on for the 1.00 pm start. This shoot was run using the traditional 5 stand sporting layout. The Rabbit target continues to be a serious challenge, however, often serves to be useful for shooters to gauge if they are in front or behind the target. This target is fast moving from the trap, often bounces and rapidly slows down.

Special thanks to all those who helped in the set up and pack up. Supporting Range Officers Noel and Alex together with Peter C. provided technical expertise and ensured all ran safely and smoothly.

This year Peter and Chris shared the top score of 21 targets each. The consequential shoot-off resulted in Chris becoming the winner after a 5-target shoot-off. Congratulations Chris!

The Christmas Shotgun Shoot precedes the Brisbane Branch end of year function which is one to look forward to on 6th December. The format will be Down the Line Trap 2 X 25 targets. Although Down the Line has its own unique challenges it is arguably more shooter-friendly for those relatively new to clay targets.

The Branch Marksmanship Award is based on the aggregate of the Ripley Shoot, the Rimfire Metallic Shoot and the first round of the September Clay Target Shoot.



Lance about to break the incomer.



Mitch, new to clay targets gaining useful pointers from Daniel.



Focusing on an incoming target.



Volunteer Range Officer Alex controlling the targets with Peter scoring.



My First Deer

By Madelein de Jager

This is not a legendary story about tracking for days to finally land a trophy stag that will hang proudly on my wall for years to come. Rather this is a story and the process of killing my first warm blooded animal as a woman... I distinguish between warm and cold blooded as I've gone fishing and have had my fair share of pet fish... but I digress.

So, growing up in South Africa, the practice of hunting for meat for the freezer is not unusual and something that was just part of life. I have distinct memories of sitting on the back of the bakkie (ute) as a little girl, as the impalas are being loaded up that dad and his friends had just shot. Being around weapons and hunting was just the norm and something I thought I would likely one day do myself.

Fast forward a few years from that memory and life happened and we relocated to Australia as a family, where rifle ownership and hunting was no longer part of our normal life, until I joined the military. Hunting was still not part of life, however basic weapons handling and marksmanship became part of my professional requirements. I always enjoyed practising marksmanship, however as with many things in our professional lives, over time it became a chore and I effectively fell out of love, until now.

With the right things in place, my dad and I decided we should apply for our weapons licence, as the need may arise for pest management on my property. Naturally, this led to talking about deer hunting as a means to stock the freezer and active steps were being taken to make this a reality.

This was also the cue for my overthinking and questioning myself on whether I could actually point my rifle at an animal and pull the trigger, something which when I was a little girl I thought was completely normal. As a grown woman, experiencing and processing emotions in a completely different way I was genuinely unsure whether my emotions would get in the way, and I would not be able to pull the trigger at the critical moment.

Before I knew it, an unexpected opportunity was presented to my father and I, where we could go for a meat hunt and it was locked in, so the clock was ticking. With time no longer on my side, I dissected what was causing me to think I wouldn't be able to pull the trigger. It came down to two things, first, the fear of not being able to hit my target, so am I good enough of a marksman and secondly, a fear of injuring an animal causing suffering, rather than getting a clean shot.

The first reason was well within my control and with a few practices at the range I was reasonably confident I can hit the target that I aim at, that left the second reason and the one which involved a lot more emotions. I realised it was lack of knowledge, which was driving my fear, never having aimed at an animal, I wasn't confident I knew the best shot placement and so the research began.

In a blink of an eye, time was up and I was sitting next to my dad in the car on our way to Broadsound, my first hunting trip, admittedly a meat hunt, however still my first hunting trip and to boot I would be shooting with someone else's rifle... enter fear one all over again, can I hit my target.

With the morning upon us and an opportunity to take a couple of practice shots with an unfamiliar rifle we were on our way, and I was front seat being encouraged to take my first shot and I did with no hesitation. It is odd to describe, but it was almost mechanical in nature, there was the ease of shouldering the rifle and taking aim, there was no overthinking, there was no fear, it was all very quick and controlled. As I sat there after taking the shot and watching dad run out to bleed the deer, I took a

breath and said to Greg Coyne the owner of Broadsound, 'I think I did a lot of overthinking leading up to this moment'.

Was it what I thought it would be, no, it was calm. Did I think I would have far more emotions running through me once I've taken the shot, yes. I thought I might be upset and could potentially shed a tear, but I didn't, other than a slight tremor in my hand from the adrenaline, the main thing I felt was relief, relief that I successfully took a head shot minimising the animals suffering. It was not until after shooting my second deer that morning and sitting down for breakfast that I allowed myself to feel a little bit proud, I did it!

So, the moral of the story is, if there is a fear or emotion holding you back from taking your first shot, especially for the ladies, try and understand what is driving the fear or emotion as a little bit of knowledge and understanding can go a long way in giving you the confidence to try. On that note, a shout out to my dad, Johan, thank you for all your patience in answering all my questions and pointers in dressing the deer, it was great fun and look forward to our next adventure!



Hunting in the NT

By Greg Rashford

I've been very keen to hunt banteng and water buffalo for many years. As a result, I purchased a 375H&H for this purpose some time ago but until now it's been a 'safe queen'. Earlier this year I contacted Pato from Dingo Creek Hunting Safaris, and a plan was hatched to finally get me access to these wonderful creatures.

I was greeted at the airport by my guide and after necessary stops and bottle shops, tackle shops etc we were on our way to Tiger's Camp east of Coburg Peninsular. The drive includes traversing the legendary Cahills Crossing where tourists visit to photograph crocs. Beyond this crossing you need a permit to enter Arnhem Land. To hunt in Arnhem Land a special permit must be obtained through a 'Commercial Operator'. Having booked my hunt, all the necessary permits had been arranged for me in advance back in Darwin.



Tiger's Camp is right on the coast and while the water is inviting its full of sharks and crocs. The plan was to harvest a banteng and then spend the rest of my time here catching mud crabs, fishing and shooting pigs. Being the only hunter in camp we decided to explore some new country in search of monster bulls.

My guide, Langer, didn't disappoint as on the first morning we breasted a rise to see a massive bull in the creek bed below just 20m away. Unfortunately, all we could see was his head and he was looking straight at us. For the next 10 minutes we had a Mexican standoff – we couldn't move but didn't have a shot

anyway. Eventually the bull trotted off, momentarily stopping behind a tree that covered its vitals. Despite visiting this spot again, that was last we saw of what would have been a terrific trophy.

Over the next two days we spotted lots of banteng, dingoes, Timor Ponies and birdlife etc but no shooters presented themselves other than some pigs along the way. After seeing such a big bull on day 1 we were looking for something special.

On the fourth and last day of banteng hunting we were up earlier than normal to maximise time left hunting. We saw a number of bulls, but they were uncharacteristically skittish. The wind was swirling in the tight scrub and at one point we had animals running all around us. They could smell us but couldn't work out exactly where we were.



We cut our losses and tried some open ground and located a number of lone bulls on some dry mud flats.

Finally, we identified a shooter. As we approached to within shooting distance this bull would move off – time and again. While stalking this evasive bull we became aware of two slightly smaller bulls in the tree line off to our left. As it was getting late, my guide said the bull to the right was a mature animal and the pick of the two if I wanted to make a play. I didn't need to be asked twice, I was yet to open my account for this introduced species. I stalked into shooting distance using occasional trees as cover and finally had my first banteng on the deck.



Banteng bulls sharpen their horns by digging pits in the ground. A wonderful trophy bull is one with horns $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 times its ear length and with multiple growth rings at the bases. My bull was about three ear lengths so a good representative mature bull. We spent the rest of the day caping and salting – these massive creatures are a logistics exercise compared to processing deer.

We packed up camp the next day and headed back to Darwin for a night in civilization before heading down to Katherine for water buffalo hunting on private land east of Beswick.

Early on my first day of hunting I passed up on a 95"-ish bull that my guide Craig talked me out of. This early in the hunt we were after the magic 100" bull. We both thought we may later regret that decision, but it was early on day 1 or 4 hunting days. As I learn more about hunting, I've discovered two camps – the first is "You don't shoot great animals by shooting good animals" and the second is "Don't pass up on the first day what you would be happy with on the last day". Depending on the day I can fit into either camp!

We managed to shoot plenty of feral equines that are common in the area. Later in the day my guide asked if he could have 4 of my bullets – when asked why he said he wanted to make sure I some left in case we saw a buffalo! Needless to say, NT is a target rich environment.

On day 2 it all came together. The Outfitter, Pato, and I got a very early start and almost straight away we were amongst buffalo. It was only time before a shooter presented itself and finally Pato yelled "get a bullet in that bastard! Get out, get behind a tree and shoot". At this stage I didn't know what he was looking at, and then, after a few seconds I saw the subject of his attention.



By this stage I had practiced my shooting on so many feral animals that it was almost a reflex action. I hit the buff with a good first shot. As it wandered off looking worse for wear, I put follow up shots into it as the opportunity presented and then the big beast was down. Banteng look big until you get up close a personal with a water buffalo.

Finally, my dream was realized – a hunting trip in the NT. Many firsts for me on this trip and I can't wait until the planets line up again to return to this wonderful hunting mecca.



**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!

MINCER FOR HIRE

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

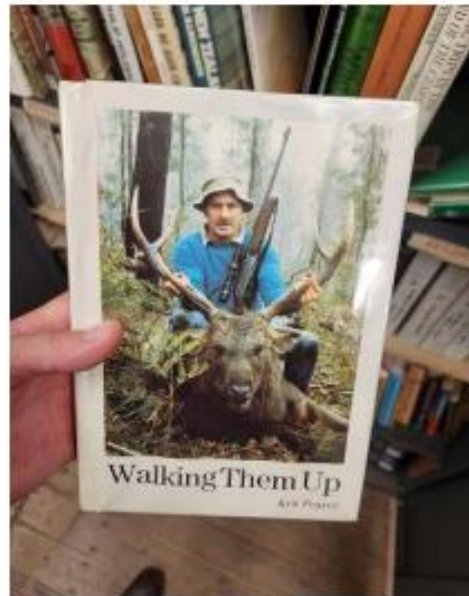
Cost \$10 per week with a \$50 deposit. Equipment must come back clean and in good working order (the same as when it was checked out).

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.





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