

The Western Roar



August 2026

ADA Western Victorian Sub Branch Newsletter

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Next General Meeting will be:

Buy, Swap & Sell Night

Friday August 21st 2026 @8pm

Where: The Pura Pura Fire Station VIC 3271

HUNTERS' PLEDGE

The Hunter should conserve wildlife resources and **not exploit them**. The hunter's behaviour should be guided by respect:-

*For the Deer and all Wildlife,
for the Land, Forest and Crops,
For the Landholder and his Property,
for Everyone who enjoys the Bush.*

ADA WESTERN VICTORIAN SUB-BRANCH

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WESTERN VICTORIAN

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E H & J E WOHLERS

TAXIDERMISTS

31 Ford Street Ararat Vic 3377
Phone 03 53523842
www.gamemounts.com.au

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WESTERN VICTORIA General Meeting.

Friday 17th April, Pura Pura Fire shed.

Starting time. 8.24 pm.

Finished. 8.45 pm

1. Present. (14)

Visitors & New members. Nil

2. Apologies. Ted Wohlers, Thomas Spokes and Steve Kerr.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting correct per newsletter. Moved Geoff Ovens. Sec. Gavan Currell.

4. Business arising from the minutes.

* Nil

5. Correspondence In.

* ADA updates via E Mail.

* West Vic Newsletter

Correspondence Out.

* AGM and General meeting Minutes to Newsletter Editor.

Moved James Kerr Sec-. John Kerr.

6. Treasurers Report.

* Current Balance \$5871.15

Tabled- Katrina Currell Sec- Craig Mitchell.

7. General Business

* Jamie and Danielle Hinton thanked John and James Kerr, Craig Mitchell, Geoff Ovens, Daryl Panther, Daniel Forbes and Allan Wohlers for their mighty effort of helping tie up nearly 8kms of fencing after the devastating January 9th fires, it was once again a Saturday of a long holiday weekend. A great job on West Vic ADAs behalf.

* Daniel let us know that he had one calendar left for anyone to purchase.

*A request for photos for branch photographic competition and calendar to be sent to President Daiel Forbes, with all in attendance agreeing to him editing the photos to show them to their best. Past photos once copied and sent haven't always come out any good for reproduction, but once tidied up have shown their true quality.

* Editor in his absence also asked that members send him stories of hunts and fishing.

* Next General meeting at Pura Pura Fire shed, Friday August 21st starting at 8.00pm.

A buy swap and sell night will be held along with the Presence of Melbourne President and Secretary, so come along and introduce yourself to them.

* President Daniel Forbes thanked Rehfish Outdoors once again for discounting the competition prizes for our club. Rehfish Outdoors has also put us on their computer so they can share any sales, discounts and nights of interest.

Raffle Winners

- Daniel Hinton-Caping Knife
- Katrina Currell- Jerky
- Geoff Ovens- Camo Cap
- Allan Wohlers- Mug

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Craig Mitchell (Vice President of West Vic Branch) presided over the AGM.

He declared all positions vacant and thanked the outgoing executive for their roles over the past 12 months. Once the elections were finished he once again congratulated the new executive on their appointments and wished them well for the next 12 months.

President- Daniel Forbes, nominated by Danielle Hinton, Seconded Craig Mitchell Accepted

Vice President- Craig Mitchell, nominated by Jamie Hinton, Seconded Geoff Ovens Accepted

Secretary- Jamie Hinton, nominated by Katrina Currell, Seconded Allan Wohlers Accepted

Treasurer- Katrina Currell, nominated by Jamie Hinton, Seconded James Kerr Accepted

Newsletter Editor- Thomas Spokes volunteered

Committee-

Luke Preston

Gavan Currell

Thomas Spokes

Allan Wohlers

Craig Mitchell

Darcy Meade

All accepted their position on the Committee



Treasurers Report

Western Victoria ADA Working Account					
Opening Balance		1/07/2025			<u>\$6,533.05</u>
Date	CHQ#	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
2/07/2025	200046	Pura Pura CFA Hall Hire	\$20.00		
10/07/2025		Members Draw		\$26.00	
10/07/2025		Competition		\$65.00	
10/07/2025		Pura Pura CFA Hall Hire	\$20.00		
25/07/2025	200047	Members Draw Winner	\$500.00		
16/09/2025		Members Draw		\$20.00	
16/09/2025		Competition April Meeting		\$34.00	
16/09/2025		Stickers		\$4.00	
16/09/2025		Members Draw Competition		\$80.00	
16/09/2025		Pura Pura CFA Hall Hire	\$20.00		
31/10/2025		Hampden Hotel Camperdown	\$490.00		
24/02/2026		Members Draw October		\$20.00	
24/02/2026		Donation		\$1.10	
24/02/2026		Members Draw		\$22.00	
24/02/2026		Competition		\$58.00	
24/02/2026		Pura Pura CFA Hall Hire	\$20.00		
15/06/2026		Members Draw		\$20.00	
15/06/2026		Competition		\$78.00	
15/06/2026		Pura Pura CFA Hall Hire	\$20.00		
			<u>\$1,090.00</u>	<u>\$428.10</u>	
<u>30/06/2026</u>		<u>Closing Balance</u>			<u>\$5,871.15</u>
<u>BOOK BALANCE AT:</u>			<u>30/06/2026</u>		<u>\$5,871.15</u>
<u>BANK BALANCE AT:</u>			<u>30/06/2026</u>		<u>\$5,871.15</u>

Presented by Katrina M Currell

Photo Competition Prizes

Our 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize award winners will have a chance to claim either a, Deer Pedestal mount, Voopeak TC37 Solar Integrated hunting camera or a TC24 Digital Trail camera.

Let's make sure we all get our favourite photos sent in to be in the running for a prize and if you haven't done so just yet, please don't leave it to the last minute or you may miss out. **Get snapping**



Junior Photo Competition

For our junior prize we have a Vortex Triumph 10x42 Binocular.

This comp is a great initiative to get some young kids involved in the outdoors fun that us adults have and to potentially for those juniors to eventually get involved with our wonderful club.

Buy, Swap & Sell Night

The committee has decided to have a buy, swap & sell night at our next meeting on Friday the 21st August. If everyone could please bring along something they don't need/want to get rid of that would be much appreciated for this night to work. Would be great if we can fill the room with people and items for a busy night of buy, swap or selling!

**buy
sell
swap**

Biggest Stag Competition

Our biggest stag competition of the year is now in full swing. With plenty of members out in the bush, and a branch hunt coming up, could you be the one to take out the trophy this year. Goodluck to everyone chasing that elusive trophy stag, and stay safe when out and about. We can't wait to see what the rest of the season brings.



Riddle Me This

I speak without a voice,
Warn without a word,
And disappear before I'm seen.
Hunters respect me, but rarely
Welcome me.
What am I ???

Dan's Dartmouth Monster

Id been trying to get away for a few nights since April and it just didn't happen, so feeling as though this was a now or never, I made the decision to go. I checked the boat was ready to go and...it wouldn't start! Quick trip to the boat doctor and it was only a poor earth connection... I'm off again!

Arriving at the carpark at 9pm I set up camp in the tub of the Hilux, off to sleep dreaming of the days ahead.

The carpark was mostly empty, maybe 5 other vehicles, as I drove down to the ramp there were already a couple other fellas getting their boat into the water ,and what I thought was a dog swimming out in front of them. I jumped out for a closer look and one of the fellas commented "yea, that's a deer in the water"! You know it'll be a good trip when the deer meet you at the boat ramp! The men explained that they'd heard a bark, looked over the bank on the far left and there were dogs chasing the deer into the lake! The fellas said they were going to head out and drag it back to shore (away from the dogs who had retreated back into the trees).



Boat in the water and 1 hr later saw me arriving at my favourite camping location. I set up camp about 70m off the river (the only relatively flat spot) Raining on and off I was grateful I had brought along the gazebo to give me some shelter from the showers.

What was last trip a flowing creek running off the main creek I had set up on, was now just a lush green, semi flat, deer magnet of a gully! I quickly decided I wanted to follow this in the morning and take my time exploring.

Now 2pm (and being impatient to get out there) I opted to head higher up where I have seen deer on the previous trips. I began venturing upwards behind camp and immediately the sign was everywhere! Rub trees galore, droppings, fresh tracks and heavily





used trails were in abundance. I moved slowly and looked a lot, but the wind was not being kind to me at all, every which way I turned it seemed as though the wind was always behind me. Hours quickly passed and as I was making my way back to camp I came across two deer. I struggled to make them out clearly in the dense brush, and only as they went up and over the rise could I make out the massive body size of the stag following the doe to safety. Excited I had at least seen deer I continued my way back to camp in the quickly fading light. Following the bank along the creek I made my way towards camp. Almost dark, raining heavily on and off and about 250m from camp, the shape of deer appeared on the opposite side of the river! I crouched down and did my best to make out the number of deer, closely looking for a stag. I counted 5. 3 sambar making

their way out feeding down along the bank just out of the tree line and two more, cautiously staying on the fringe of the trees. One of the sambar staying back caught my eye as the body seemed larger than all the others, but in the poor light and limited visibility due to the rain constantly fogging up the scope and trees blocking my view I just couldn't make them out. Just then, I noticed that one of the deer out feeding away from me, half hidden by a tree, had an antler!! STAG!! I couldn't make out the size of his antlers, but I definitely saw an antler! I thought he looked ok? With light disappearing by the second and only having his neck barely even visible, I had to make a choice to shoot now or never. The .300 wms sent the \$9.05 projectile flying, as I lost all visibility in the recoil. Everything was quiet. I could still see a single sambar standing at the treeline looking back, in no hurry to leave. I desperately searched the opposite side of the bank for a body... I think I see it? I moved closer to where I thought the deer lay on the opposite side up against a fallen tree, but I just

couldn't be sure. I marked the location by tying a handkerchief to a stick and went back to camp, saturated now.

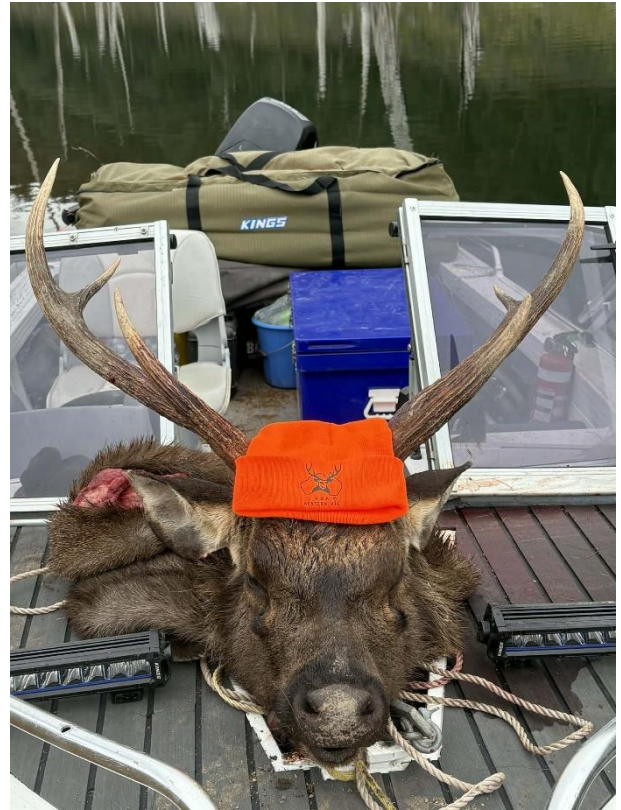
I briefly considered getting in the boat and going for a look but in the rain and dark, it wasn't a good idea.

I tried for a long time to get a fire started but even with the firelighters, everything was just too wet. I opted to head to bed and looked forward to the morning, hoping that I hadn't missed. 2am and I'm woken by honking, not too close, but something had upset one of the locals and the honking continued for the next 5 minutes or so.



6:30am and the alarm goes. I hurriedly got in the boat and headed the short trip up the creek hoping to find a stag.

There he was, my stag! he had fallen down the embankment towards the creek and gone smack into a fallen tree. At first glance I thought he was only an average stag, his body hidden by the tree and antlers were wedged into the branches and partially hidden from sight. It was only when I reached him, I could see the enormous body and large antlers, he was a good one! First thing I noticed was a small piece of antler broken off and stuck in his head! No doubt from fighting. I took what photos I could in such a steep position and began the capping out. Trying to roll him over on such an incline was not only hard work but stressful as I could just picture him sliding out and down the hill into the water! Eventually the capping was completed and I was so relieved to load him into the boat to safety.



Back to camp and I quickly realised that my right knee had decided to remind me that I am getting old. I contemplated staying longer and hunting the beautiful green creek bed as I had planned, but I knew that my knee wasn't going to allow that to happen for at least a couple days now. Packing everything up I was sad to be cutting the trip short after only one night, but so grateful to have finally taken a respectable high country sambar stag!

