

SAMBAR'S ROAR

EAST GIPPSLAND BRANCH

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HUNTER'S PLEDGE

The hunter should conserve wildlife resources and not exploit them, and the hunter's behaviour should be guided by respect :

AUSTRALIAN DEER ASSOCIATION INC.

Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land.
:--Aldo Leopold



For the deer and all wildlife
For the land, forests and crops
For the landholder and his property
For everyone who enjoys the bush

JUNE 2020 NEWSLETTER



Local hunter Cath Rayment, with a handsome stag taken from some local fringe country.

BRANCH DIRECTORY 2019/20

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ALL BRANCH CORRESPONDENCE TO:
PO Box 140, BAIRNSDALE, VIC. 3875 or
Email: eastgippsland.sec@austdeer.asn.au

GENERAL MEETINGS are held bimonthly on the second Thursday of the month
Commencing at 7:30pm at Howitt Park Hall, Princes Highway
Bairnsdale unless otherwise advised.

MEETING DATES FOR 2020

Thursday 13th February 2020 Trophy Presentation Night
Thursday 9th April 2020 **Cancelled**
Thursday 11th June 2020 **Cancelled**
Thursday 13th August 2020 **Annual General Meeting**
Thursday 8th October 2020
Thursday 10th December 2020 Christmas Break up

President's Report

Hello and welcome back my fellow deer hunters.

At last we are allowed back into the bush to do what we like to do best. Hunt sambar. It was limited to day hunts at first, and now overnight stays.

Being prevented from hunting for what, in the end was a small length of time in the overall scheme of things. If it in some small way helped stop the spread of this insidious virus it will have been worth it.

It goes to show how much we all should value and defend the freedom's we all enjoy as hunters, fishermen and Australians. Recent events demonstrate how quickly things can change. The wolf is never far from the door. Be it fire, flood, drought, disease or the stroke of a politician's or bureaucrat's pen.

If you are reading this newsletter you are probably already an ADA member. The best thing you can do to defend deer hunting in this state is get your mates to join us. Or any of the other associations or clubs that represent our interests.

Enough of the politics. Let's talk deer hunting.

And there has plenty of it going on since the lifting of restrictions. Personally, I have had a couple of runs with the Eaton hound team. Haven't fired a shot yet, but I know my chance is coming. It's a bit like fishing, if you keep the bait in the water long enough you'll get a bite. The only deer I have seen so far have been in the headlights on the way to hunt or on one of my trail cams. From what I am hearing there is plenty of deer being taken, both over the hounds and by stalkers. And some more than handy stags amongst them. Conditions have been ideal, damp and cold since restrictions were lifted. My advice is get out there among them, knock over a meaty or two. who knows that thirty incher might be the next one you bump into.

We were supposed to hold our annual general at the now cancelled June general meeting. This will now be held at our August General Meeting. Please come along and get involved, it's one thing you can do to promote and defend deer and deer hunting.

Good Luck

Wairewa Deer Control Program

On Hold for now.

If the situation changes, you will be kept informed via the newsletter or our Facebook page.



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BAIRNSDALE TYRE SERVICE
Ross & Peter Davidson (Props)

GOODYEAR **DUNLOP**

Peter Davidson
Proprietor

85 Macleod St. Bairnsdale 3875
Telephone (03) 5152 4570
Facsimile (03) 5152 6087
Email bairtyres@bigpond.com



Blond Bay

The sad state of Blond Bay State Game Reserve and its hog deer were discussed at the last Committee meeting. A number of initiatives could be implemented to try to turn the situation around. It would be good to get support from the members to help with this.

Clamping down on poaching was seen to be the highest priority, particularly in the months prior to balloted hunting commencing.

- Branch reps will be approaching the Game Management Authority to lift their involvement – the GMA needs to recognise the importance of these deer, establish a presence in the reserve and also liaise with local landowners and hunters to keep tabs on illegal activities.
- “Poacher patrols” by ADA members could also be re-instated.
- Surveillance cameras could be installed and trialled to see whether they are useful in gathering information on those using and abusing the area.
- Sambar, roos and foxes need to be controlled on the adjoining private property and to minimise the risk of this being used as a cover for poaching. Branch members could carry out this role for landowners.

An attempt will be made to organise a meeting with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and Parks Victoria to inform them of the importance of this deer population and to explore options for their better management.

A tour of the area by Branch members is probably required to look at other issues such as off-road driving, poor track maintenance, vehicle damage to tracks and wetlands and rubbish dumping. Improving the habitat in the reserve for hog deer was discussed but given the constraints on Parks Victoria change is likely to be difficult.

Ken Slee



Phil Maher with the help of his Pointer Dixy took this young stag for the freezer recently.



645 Deptford Rd Bairnsdale 3875

Phone: (03) 5157 9339

Email: info@cliftonmobilehomes.com

Upcoming Branch 40th Anniversary Celebration

These plans for this event are still being finalised. At this point it's looking like being a Sunday afternoon event some time in November. So get those old hunting albums out and dusted off to share those great memories with the rest of us. If you can help or want to be involved give Ken Slee a call.

WHERE WERE YOU ON NOVEMBER 7 1980?

Branch Hoodies

Now Available Polo Shirts & Caps
Check them out at our next meeting

The popular branch hoodies are available again. At the time of writing, only two sizes remain in the Green - Large and Extra Large. All sizes are available in the Charcoal.

\$70 a pop. If you would like one, contact Michelle Young at the meeting or on 0400 168 173. Stocks are limited so be quick. If there is enough interest we will be doing another run.



BRANCH ACCREDITED TROPHY SCORERS

Doug Read 03 5156 7610,
Neil Mahomed 03 5152 3101,

Reini Strecker 03 5157 9499,
Mark Young 03 5156 8173

Hunting About

As mentioned to previously plenty of animals have been taken in the short time allowed so far. And quite a few nice stags among them.

Local hunter Cath Rayment knocked over a beauty. 26x26x29 with all the fruit (see cover photo). Solid beams, shangi tops and big brows. I haven't seen it in the flesh yet but it looks very impressive in the photo. A very pleased Cath told me that she took the stag on a "sit and wait" hunt on some local fringe country. Cath said that right on last light, the stag marched out rather than crept out as if it was on a mission. She said that she had to yell Oi! Twice to get to stop before it walked out of view. Using her .325WSM Browning X Bolt off shooting sticks Cath took the shot from ninety metres. The 200Gn Barns XXX did its job, taking the stag cleanly though both shoulders. As usual with big bodied stags it bolted into the thick scrub and took a

An advertisement for Bairnsdale Automotive and Transmissions. At the top, it says 'BAIRNSDALE AUTOMOTIVE AND TRANSMISSIONS' with a stylized car roof graphic. Below that, the address '15 Wood Street Bairnsdale VIC 3875' and phone number 'T 03 5152 3979' are listed, along with the email 'E batefi@bigpond.net.au'. There is a photo of a ute and a logo for 'ROOSTERS' with a rooster. At the bottom, it says 'NEEDING MORE POWER AND BETTER FUEL ECONOMY?' followed by the website 'WWW.ROOSYSTEMS.COM.AU' and the phone number '1300 305 709'.

bit of finding due to there being very little blood. From Cath's description the stag was a true "Bull" in the 300 kilo range. It took two men to be able to roll it over when doing the caping and butchering. Cath is a very accomplished hunter and has taken in excess of fifty deer in the past few years. This one by far the biggest and best. Well done Cath.



A couple of pics of Cath's Stag



The Eaton crew have been getting one or two most trips. Chris "Yogi" Williams with the best of them so far, a stag with 26 inch antlers.

Talking to a few other crews, it seems that there is plenty of competition in the country close to Bairnsdale, Heyfield and Traralgon. Hopefully every one can get along and sort it out between themselves. We are all out there to enjoy the bush and the hunting, rather than arguing who got to this or that gully first. Now that camping overnight is allowed travelling further afield is possible, this should alleviate some of the congestion in the close country.

On the Stalking front it's been a bit quiet, a lot of hunters are keeping things close to their chest or they haven't got started yet. Local hunter and videographer Tony Gillahan, has been right amongst them. His recently released videos on YouTube show him knocking over a couple of handy stags. These videos are worth a look.

Local member Phil Maher and his pointer Dixy have harvested a couple recently. That dog is turning into quite a weapon.

Walking them up guru, Doug Read is recovering from a recent mishap. Doug was sidling around a steep rocky face a couple of weeks back when he lost his footing and took quite a tumble. When he recovered his composure, he discovered that he had staked his upper thigh to some depth on a wattle spike. This resulted in Doug losing a significant amount of blood. Always well prepared Doug performed first aid on himself with a couple of pressure bandages that have probably been in his day pack for twenty years in case of this type of emergency or snake bite. He did say that if he hadn't been able to walk or tend to the wound effectively he would have had to deploy his PLB (Personal Locator Beacon). As it was he had to endure a painful hobble of a few kilometres back to the car. The Doc fished out

remnants of sticks and bark back at hospital. Followed by the inevitable stitches and the good old tetanus shot.

Doug is well on the way to recovery and I'm sure he will be back out on the hill in no time.

The following true story was sent in by David Pettman

Paddy had shot a lovely big stag and was dragging it back to camp by its back legs. When another hunter Mick sees him and tells Paddy it would be much easier to drag the stag by its antlers. But Paddy says "yes it would, but I'm not going that way".....

Ranga Ramblings, the thoughts of a Ranga

Geez this bloody "Carowner" virus let-off was in full swing over the long weekend. 4WDS, caravans, camper trailers, circus marques you name it they were everywhere.

Stihl and Husqvarna would have been rubbing their hands together judging from the numbers of chainsaws that were singing from what seemed every trackside in the mountains.

It would have to rate up there with one of the busiest weekends I've seen along the Upper Dargo Rd. For the most part they were pretty well behaved from what I observed. It made planning a hunt difficult though. I made it my business to speak to people that were camped near the area we intended hunt over the weekend about our hunting plans. On the whole they were very supportive and understanding of hunting and hound hunting. They were all interested and keen to know how it worked.

On Sunday arvo I called in and spoke to a couple of them and they were pretty excited to have heard the hounds singing on the hill above their camp. One hound was collected from the back seat of a car in camp and the owner said "he's happy in there, nice and warm". Lucky there was no food nearby.

I've been keeping a bit of an eye on Facebook of late and there was a discussion started up the other day about what rules etc hound hunters should play by. The usual first in best dressed stuff was trotted out along with a few other historical terms, or was that hysterical terms.

But they all pretty much boil down to RESPECT.

It's something that Captain Pugwash and I have been banging on about for a long time. People just need to go back to the good old Respect thing. Respect the deer, the bush, other hunters and forest users. Respect yourself. I could go on for a while with the respect thing. I could probably make it a whole article/column.

Stop throwing cans and stubbies out the window or in the fire. Pick up your rubbish and if the camp is messy when you turn up clean it up. Yeah I know that's a big ask but if you don't respect the bush and clean it up who is going to do it. Leave some firewood at the

camp for the next person. If we don't do a better job of this we can't expect DELWP, Parks Vic and other land managers to respect us..... **It's not that hard.**

Anyhow tea is calling and if I don't get up and stir the pot no one else will. So get out and enjoy camping, hunting and fishing and send Pete some stories and pics for the newsletter.

Once was a **Ranga**, now I'm a Silver Top!



Clockwise from top left:

- *Chris "Yogi" Williams with a handy stag taken off the Eaton hounds.*
- *A young stag also off the Eaton hounds.*
- *A hog deer calf being predated on by a pair of Wedge tail eagles near Blond Bay (Trail cam, KJ Slee)*



Piscatorial (fishing) News by captain Pugwash

From what I've been told, the entrance at Lakes entrance looked like the Dunkirk evacuation the morning after the Covid 19 fishing restrictions were eased.

"Old Silver" Mal George, who's a bit of a guru on the off-shore fishing tells me that after a slow start the fishing picked up with the rising moon and some good catches were made on the gummies and snapper. This is now old news, so ignore it.

The "Old Sages" who specialise in the river and lake for black bream are of course the Morecroft brothers, Robert and Jeff. They tell me that the bream were going hard on shrimp around the jetties at Paynesville. But that has now gone off, the focus is now the Mitchell River, either side of the Eagle Point Bluff where bags of large bream are being taken. Bass yabbies and peeled prawn being the preferred baits. Middle of the day is best.

Tight Lines!

*They start em young up there in Orbost if Will Farley is any example. Will bumped into this fine billy while out deer hunting with his dad Jason. Using the "Lucky .300WSM", with the help of Will managed to bag the billy. Will is telling anyone who will listen that it's his first Big Game trophy.
Good on ya Will!*



dad

June Meeting Agenda

Cancelled due to the bloody virus

Annual General Meeting

If you want your sport of recreation deer hunting protected. It's time for you to step up.

See Pedro if interested

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MINUTES OF THE LAST Committee MEETING

Held at the Bairnsdale Rowing Club rooms, Thursday 21/05/2020

Present: Peter Atkinson, Mark and Shelley Young, John Barry, Jason Farley, David Stevens, Chris Eaton, Doug Harvey and Bruce Bowden.

Apologies: Nil.

Correspondence: Invoice for the post office box - \$139, and an account from the Bairnsdale Advertiser for the advert notifying the cancellation of the April meeting - \$86.46.

Treasurer's Report: Balance in bank of \$4688.46. A report was sent to National in March itemising transactions for the past year.

General Business:

Shelley reported that she had ordered polo tops, hats and stickers. Tops with logo to cost \$32 and hats with logo \$20.

There will be no June meeting but it is hoped that a meeting can be held in August. A notice to be put on Facebook regarding the June meeting and a newsletter needs to be sent out in the next two weeks. Material is needed for the newsletter.

There was discussion of Executive positions for the coming year – Bruce and Shelley are keen to step away but no-one was keen to fill their roles. Members to approach Brett Mills, Wayne Lawson, Peter McDonell and other prospects to sound them out.

There was discussion of the Wairewa Project, but the area north of the highway has been burnt and is still too dangerous to hunt. DELWP are still keen to pursue deer control south of the Highway.

Fundraising and a repeat of a major raffle was discussed. A rifle, chainsaw, binoculars and fuel were suggested as prizes and 500 tickets to be arranged.

The sad state of Blond Bay State Game Reserve and its hog deer were discussed. An informal ADA group could pursue publicity, liaison with farmers and GMA, anti-poacher activities, rubbish removal, roo and sambar control etc or a formal "Friends" group could be formed to try to achieve these activities plus habitat management. The dead hand of Parks Victoria was suggested to be a reason for not trying to create a Friends group. Ken Slee to organise a tour of the reserve to look at issues and possible responses.

A New Member Pack was discussed made up of a welcoming letter, a GMA meat bag and other inexpensive items. The prospect of a 2021 calendar was raised but this requires high quality photos and advertising to make it viable.

The meeting closed at a little after 9:30PM.

EAST GIPPSLAND BRANCH PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2020

- * HUNTER & DEER – taken between 1/1/20 and 31/12/20 with manually operated camera.
- * LIVE DEER – Of free-roaming deer taken between 1/1/20 and 31/12/20 with manually operated camera.
- * GENERAL INTEREST – That relates to deer hunting or the ADA.
- * BEST TRAIL CAM – Of free-roaming wild deer taken between 1/1/20 and 31/12/20 with a non-manual camera.
- * Your photograph will be retained by the branch and placed in the branch photo album.

SECTION BEING ENTERED (please circle): HUNTER & DEER LIVE DEER Photo LIVE DEER Video
GENERAL INTEREST TRAIL CAM Stag TRAIL CAM Hind

NAME.....ADA Membership No.....

ADDRESS.....Postcode.....

PHONE.....

SIGNED:.....DATE OF ENTRY: / /2020

BEST OVERSEAS TROPHY 2020

- * The animal must have been a free-roaming wild animal and may be of any overseas species.
- * The trophy must have been taken between 1/1/20 and 31/12/20.
- * A brief story on how the animal was taken is to accompany the entry form and photo of the trophy which will be retained by the branch.

NAME.....ADA Membership No.....

ADDRESS.....Postcode.....

PHONE..... DATE ANIMAL TAKEN.....

SPECIES.....

SEND ENTRIES TO: ADA EAST GIPPSLAND BRANCH
TROPHY & PHOTO COMP
PO BOX 140 BAIRNSDALE, VIC 3875

EAST GIPPSLAND BRANCH 2020 TROPHY COMPETITION

NAME.....ADA Membership No.....

ADDRESS.....Postcode.....

PHONE..... DATE ANIMAL TAKEN.....

SPECIES BEING ENTERED (please circle): HOG FALLOW.....SAMBAR....RUSA CHITAL..... RED

I declare that the animal was a free roaming wild deer taken in a legal, ethical and sportsmanlike manner without the aid of an artificial light, bait or lure and that I was a financial member of the East Gippsland Branch at the time it was taken.

- * The trophy **MUST** have been taken between 1/1/20 and 31/12/20 or during the prescribed season, if applicable.
- * A copy of the OFFICIAL score sheet and a photo of the trophy (to be retained by the branch) are to be included with each entry.

SIGNED:.....DATE OF ENTRY: / /2020

EAST GIPPSLAND BRANCH FIRST DEER AWARD 2020

- * This should be the **FIRST DEER** taken by the hunter and must be taken between 1/1/20 and 31/12/20.
- * The deer must have been a free-roaming wild deer of any Australian species and of either sex.
- * The hunter **MUST** have been a member of the East Gippsland Branch when the animal was taken.
- * A photo of the trophy (to be retained by the branch) to be included with the entry.

NAME.....ADA Membership No.....

ADDRESS.....Postcode.....

PHONE..... DATE ANIMAL TAKEN.....

SIGNED:.....DATE OF ENTRY: / /2019

Hope to see you on the hill or at our next meeting, Probably the second Thursday night in August

Cheers Pedro