



Australian
Deer
Association

The Cast Antler



Geelong

GENERAL MEETING

February 17th, 2021

6:30pm at Abe Wood Reserve,
Come along and learn from other hunters.
We look forward to seeing you all there.
70 Edgerton Road, Lovely Banks



The Geelong Branch of the Australian Deer Association.

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GEELONG BRANCH CALENDAR FOR 2021

- February- 17th 2021:** Branch Meeting – District Firearms Officer Mr John Dunston
- April 21st 2021:** Branch Meeting – Guest” Yeti “ quality drink ware & coolers.
- May 14th, 15th & 16th 2021:** Branch hunting Camp – Sheep yard flats, Howqua.
- June 16th: 2021:** Branch Annual General Meeting - Guest Speaker Yet to be confirmed
- August 18th 2021:** Branch Meeting – Guest Speaker Yet to be confirmed
- October 20th 2021:** Branch Meeting – Guest Speaker Yet to be confirmed
- December 4th 2021:** Branch Get together – Christmas break up.



HUNTERS PLEDGE

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

For the landholder and his property

For

For the deer

Everyone who enjoys the bush.



Eat “more” free range organic red meat, “Harvest hinds as well”. It’s also important for the herd structure.



PRESIDENTS REPORT

Hello members and families,

I hope this cast antler finds you well.

The past year has been very trying to say the least, some of us losing our jobs and some a lot worse due to the covid

related issues.

Most importantly is our families and to look after them.

It’s great to announce the ADA Geelong Branch and able to continue our branch meetings and fellowship, once again as there is nothing better than talking to real hunters about hunting.

The February 17th meeting is our kick off, please pass the word around within your friendship groups, for all families and friends welcome, come and enjoy a BBQ and chat.

With the past quiet time, some have purchased new guns, done heaps of fishing, diving, and enjoyed outdoor activities with families, whatever we have all done we all look forward to the coming deer hunting times ahead, which is just around the corner, new tyres on the 4 x 4’s, re tension and straighten out that winch ropes or wires, go over all the recover gear to make sure those isolated trips are safe, and give that chain saw a once over and chain sharpen or replace.

With last year’s bushfires in Gippsland, it did reduce our hunting areas, and put more hunting pressure on the available areas, regrowth is coming back and the deer populations are now rebounding and expanding again, it’s going to be an exciting and great times ahead.

Your ADA Geelong branch committee has had a number of committee meetings via zoom during Covid to keep in touch and talk possibilities to hold a meeting but didn’t take off due to continuing Covid restrictions.

A calendar of events will come out soon for the year ahead, including hopefully 3-4 branch camps.

Our first meeting for 2021 Feb 17th, our guest speaker is our local divisional firearms officer (DFO) John Dunstan.

Please bring to anyone on the committee attention any members that have taken their first deer over the last year, let's talk everything about deer hunting at our next meeting, members taking deer on trips away.

Please remember the branch elections will be coming up on the very near future, think about being a committee member and support your branch, and contribute to the future of your branch and why we get together, for the future of deer hunting and management, I can speak from my personal and I know of past and present committee members, it is very rewarding to be a part of contributing and also to meet great people from other branches, great contacts and lifelong friends, not to mention hunting areas.

I know there are a couple of people interested in coming on board, I appreciate you putting your hands up, as the future of our club and the ADA needs new people, if you are interested and just want to know more or unsure please ring myself or anyone on the committee. Looking forward to see us all soon.

Regards Steve

Hunter training courses for 2021;

The renowned ADA Victorian **Hunter Education Course** is returning in 2021 to Forest Edge (Neerim East).

You can book and pay online now. Go to the ADA web site for more details.

The ADA Victorian Hunter Education Course is a residential program conducted over a very full weekend at spectacular Forest Edge in the heart of sambar country.

The 2021 course will commence at 6pm Friday 30 April and conclude at 2pm Sunday 2 May.

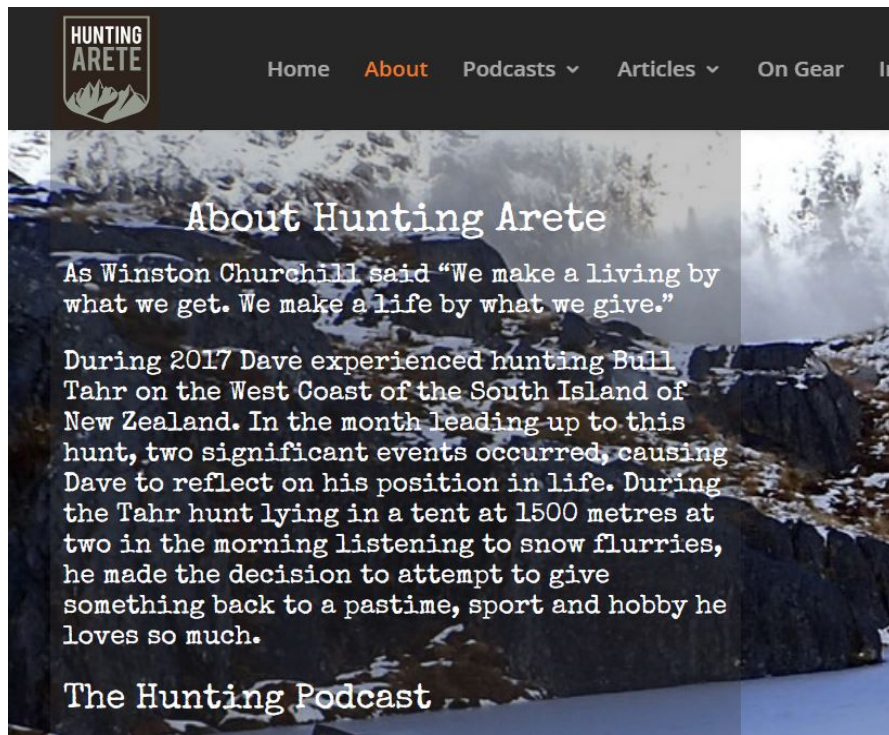
Participants enjoy a mix of theory and practical sessions covering an introduction to Australia's deer species, hunting and the law, firearm safety, firearms for deer, bushcraft and survival, animal welfare, deer tracking, hog deer hunting, stalking sambar, carry out and break down, an intensive full afternoon field trip into deer habitat, hunting with hounds, hunting with gundogs, caping and trophy care, meat care, deer management and considerations of the future of Australia's wild deer and deer hunting.

The Victorian Hunter Education Course is Australia's longest running, most successful and best regarded deer hunter education program. The course remains the benchmark for deer hunter education in the Southern Hemisphere.

Podcast Review, stay informed & exercise your brain:

If like me, you have been going around the twist, not being able to go hunting, have a think about putting in your ear pieces and have a listen to a hunting pod cast. There are many out there, which I will review over time.

Hunting Arete is a great Australian hunting Pod cast. With 44 Episodes to choose from, there is something for every hunter to listen to. If you need to learn the importance of carrying an Epirb, you should listen to episode 20 from 7th Feb 2019, called Loss Adversity & Culmination.



Junior Ballot - Fallow Deer Hunt, ADA South East Branch

2021 JUNIOR BALLOT FALLOW DEER HUNT ADA SOUTH EAST BRANCH The South East Branch will be holding a balloted hunt for juniors aged between 14 -18 years of age. To be eligible, applicants must be an ordinary, junior or family member of the Australian Deer Association. The hunt will be conducted from FRIDAY 2nd - SUNDAY 4th July 2021 within the Branch's management areas, via Naracoorte in the South East of South Australia. Experienced guides will accompany all juniors, and lunch and dinner will be catered for. Hunters must supply all other equipment. Conditions 1. All applicants that apply must be under 18 years at the date of the hunt and be a minimum of 14 years. (those who applied for the 2020 ballot and missed out due to covid-19 restrictions and are now 18 will still be considered for a position numbers permitting) 2. Successful applicants will be required to pass the Branch shooting proficiency test and sign a 'Permit To Enter Property' form prior to being allowed to participate in the hunt. 3. Only one application is allowed per junior. 4. The South East Branch executive reserves the right to specify the sex and number of deer to be harvested. 5. Hunts are non-transferable 6. Juniors who are drawn in the ballot must obtain a SA Hunting Permit. Applications close 15th May 2021 Any enquiries to – Pat Mahon (coordinator) on 0411736651 or email pat.mahon90@gmail.com Or Jake Nicholson on 0468 897 235 or email southeast.pres@austdeer.asn.

After the Shot?



Everything looked just right. At last, after three frustrating weekends, the hunter felt his heart beating a little faster as he got ready to fire at the bigger of the two sambar stags which were grazing without a care in the world feeding on the other side of the gully. There was not much this hunter could use to rest his rifle on, but he reassured himself that this “200 meter shot,” from a sitting position was “kid - stuff”, and with that, he let drive. As the shot rang out one of the deer arched its back, lashed out with its hind legs,

and slowly but steadily disappeared into the scrub. The second shot the hunter sent after the deer did not improve things. The hunter swore, and hastily fought his way across the gully and up the other side. By now the sun had risen quite high, which made pushing through the bracken tough work indeed. Where now was that spot where the deer had standing? Tracks everywhere. Slowly the hunter began to circle, looking for blood – that thin red line should have led him to his quarry. He grew quite frantic. To – hell that projectile was supposed to be a sure killer. His mate swore by them.

Still hoping to trip over the dead animal any minute, he forced his walk into the dog bush. Somewhere, he thought he heard some twigs crack, but that was all. He felt a bit sick and depressed when he finally decided to give up the search and look for other deer. The day was still young after all – *he might be luckier next time.*

Does that story sound familiar? I think this story plays out with most hunters at some time, including myself.

The fact that our hunter went home without any venison does not worry me at all, but the fact that every week possibly wounded animals drag themselves about the bush to die in a slow and terrible way. That’s my friends is no joke. We all know that hunting is a tough game, and we should all realise that the game we have wounded becomes our responsibility!

It is our job to finish the job that we started by pulling the trigger, as humanely as possible.

Although every hunt is somewhat different there are, however, a number of principles to be observed if you do not want to gain a reputation of a bad shot, or even worse a bad hunter.

Ammunition;

A bullet calibre, 30-06 or smaller, even if travelling at ultra – high velocity, will not,” if badly placed” kill the animal outright on the spot. Nine times out of ten the animal will be able to travel a short distance before dying. Sambar deer are very tough indeed, and often the projectile rarely passes completely through the animal and come out the other side. This means that most of the bleeding will be inside the chest cavity of the animal, and not on the ground. The animal loses lots of blood, but because there is only a tiny entrance hole wound, there is not a lot of blood to be seen by the hunter.

A good blood trail is the A, B, C of a successful recovery of deer, second to a sent trailing dog. To sum up, a good heavy calibre with enough power to push an expanding bullet through the body, in most cases will leave a lot of evidence such as blood, bone – splinters, hair, bowel contents etc., on the ground. This together with the behaviour of the animal after the shot, will tell a complete story for those hunters able to read it.

Shooting distance;

Having made sure of our armoury, let us endeavour to stay within sensible shooting distances. There is a huge ground swell now to shoot “Long- Range”. We see it all the time on social media, those shoots out to 900 meters and longer. I wonder how many misses (wounded deer), that these guys must have, and why don’t they show these video’s as well. It’s a bit like gamblers only ever tell you how much they win. Having said that with today’s scopes, long range shooting is very possible. But the secret is three words, Practice, Practice, and Practice. I have the old saying, and that is “Own one hunting rifle and get very good at using it!”

I myself will only shoot out to 300 meters max. My rifle is zeroed at 200 meters, and will shoot 9 inches low at 300 meters. So rather than changing the turrets on my scope, I will just aim just below the back line of a deer which will give me a high chest shot. Mind you one needs to be able to know the distance, so I always hunt with a good quality range finder to take the guess work out of that.

Rule No 1- Try to watch the reaction of the deer when you shoot at it, for it will tell you so much about where you may have hit the deer.

Whenever a shot is fired at a deer, it is a wise move to mark the place from where you fired that shot with dunny paper. Tie it up high in a small tree or bush. Next try to work out where the deer was standing when you took the shot, and mark in your mind the nearest land mark. Make your way to that land mark and again mark that spot with dunny paper.

Rule No 2 - You must wait 15 to 20 minutes before you start walking after the deer. That is unless you can see it and its dead on the ground. By all means have a very close look around the place where the deer was standing at the time of the shot. Do not be alarmed if you do not see blood on the ground. Look hard as there may only be one tiny little speck of blood, or possibly a small amount of hair.

Quite often a wounded deer will run into thick cover, and pause some distance inside, especially if the hunter had not been spotted. So approach cover with the utmost care. Many a deer has been jumped by hasty, careless hunters, and charged with fear and adrenalin, has run many km without stopping. I have often found that a badly wounded deer will almost always run downhill, contrary to healthy animals, who prefer to sidle in hill country. A wounded deer which takes off on a sidle or even uphill still has a lot of life left in it. But try to follow the tracks of the deer which has been shot and keep marking the trail with dunny paper. After a while you will be able to look back and you will be able to start to see a picture of where this deer is heading. Keep following, and again, do not expect to see a lot of blood. Don't give up! If darkness beats you, you can return the next day and as long as you have marked the trail, you will be able to find the same spot and continue the next day.

Rule No 3 – You must mark your trail while following the deer with dunny paper.

Rule No 4 – If you cannot find blood on the ground, it doesn't mean that you have not killed the deer.

Here is a bit of a guide that may tell you some of the story of after the shot,

1. **Heart – Lung shot.** Deer takes off in a dead run sometimes up to 200 meters, often hitting obstacles, may not be very much blood at all. But deer will fall over dead. So keep listening for a thud.
2. **Brisket shot.** Deer bucks up with front leg but will run off at varying speeds. Long, hard follow up, may need a dog to help find this one.
3. **Front leg shot.** Deer sags in without hitting the ground. Immediate flight with leg swinging.
4. **Hind leg shot.** Much the same as front leg shot but deer may travel slower. Could be evidence of more blood on ground.
5. **Gut shot.** Stomach, liver and small intestines (Green fluid) on ground. Deer will arch its back as if pushed together. Leaves area slowly, frequently stopping to look back, back still arched. Often bedding down after a short distance. Additional kick with hind legs if shot in small intestines, further back the stronger the lashing out.

6. **Kidney shot.** Deer collapses on the spot, but comes up again to run or trot with stretched out, trembling tail.
7. **Just above or below the spine.** Sledge hammer collapse. Animal on its back or side. Kicking wildly with legs, but regains its feet after a short while and takes off. Sometimes the same with a neck shot. A quick second shot required.
8. **Jaw shot.** Lower jaw hanging down, flight with deer shaking its head at intervals. Long follow up. May need a dog.
9. **Neck shot.** Mostly a clean kill. Deer drops on the spot.
10. **Clean miss.** Generally when missed deer quite often just stand and look around for a very short time before running off, especially if the deer has not seen you.

Note that generally wounded deer will nearly always separate from the rest of the group. Except for fawn's which will try and stay with the mother.

To try and put this into a prospective for you, below are two stories using pictures of two hunts on sambar deer that have been successfully shot but not a lot of blood on the ground was found.

Story 1, was a stag we shot in low fringe country in Gippsland. The stag was hit with a 30-06, using 180 grain Woodley bullets. The thing that was interesting was the lack of blood trail. The animal would have run 120 meters and following the tracks, we started to doubt whether we had hit it or not.



Stags tracks after the shot.

Running full pelt, over a bush track.

No blood at all. Any hunter would start to doubt whether the deer was hit or not. If you feel confident after the shot, do not give up following the tracks. Keep a keen eye out for blood, for if you look hard you will find some, perhaps when the animal stops for a rest



Blood found around 100 meters from where the deer had been hit. Two drops only. Note the size of the blood trail compared to a 30-06 round. That's all the blood found on this tracking of this deer. But it confirms that the deer was hit and we must do all we can to find it. Just be careful not to follow the deer too soon after the shot. Give it time to feel safe and settle down, and they will often die quietly. If you go after them too soon you run the risk of pushing them further and further away.



Sambar deer found dead around 120 meters away from the place where it had been shot.

Story 2, was a sambar hind shot with a 30-06 rifle using Woodley 180 grain projectiles.

The tracks were hard to follow as this gully system had a lot of animals living in it. Without a blood trail it can get very confusing as to which tracks to follow. But remember to give the animal time to settle down and stiffen up. Mark your process with toilet paper so if you lose the tracks you can go back to the last positive mark. If you feel confident of the shot keep looking for blood. You owe it to the animal to find out what happened.



Sambar hind was standing here. A quick off hand shot with the 30-06. Felt good about the shot. Deer ran off. You must sit down for 20 minutes and give things time to settle down. Do not run after the animal. Even if hit really well, they can still run at least 100 meters, even if technically dead.

No blood anywhere. Start to doubt the shot placement.



Follow the marks carefully and mark your progress with toilet paper. That way if you lose the marks, you will be able to find them again.

Keep looking for blood sign. But so far there is none to be seen around 50 meters from where the shot was taken.



First bit of blood found at around 75 meters from the place where the animal was shot



Deer jumps over a log. More blood. The most that I have found so far.



Good blood sign. It looks very orange in colour. That's a good sign as it's full of oxygen. Lung shot. If we keep looking we will find this deer.



Here the deer has crashed into a low tree branch. The deer is very unstable on its feet. This is a sign that the deer will be close by. Note all the sambar hair on the ground. Healthy deer do not do this.



Found the deer. It had run around 150 meters from where it had been shot and had died while running.

Now the real work starts. We need to get all this venison out.

This will be a good eater.

HUNTING STORIES, WHO'S BEEN OUT AND ABOUT?

We all would like to hear your hunting stories, so please send them to the newsletter editor Peter Izzard at geelong.sec@austdeer.asn.au

This hunting story is a little late making the Cast Antler, but it's still very relevant. The hunting of Red deer can be difficult at the best of times, particularly with this virus floating around.

FIND US AND LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Keep up to date with news and events on our branches Facebook page. We invite you post up some pictures of recent hunts, whether you harvest an animal or not, some photos or links are welcome.



BRANCH MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE

Our Branch has to fund its own running cost's. Support your club if you can.



Just remember that your membership money all goes to ADA National. For the Geelong branch to find money to support its self it has to come from you guys.

Branch Polo \$35.00

Stubbie Holders \$7.00

Fox Knife Sets
\$100.00

Spika Branch Fleece
\$90.00



DON'T FORGET TO SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES WHO ASSIST THE CLUB

At the ADA Geelong Branch we are lucky enough to have some great local businesses who support our Branch. When we are looking at making that next purchase or referring someone about a product,

please keep our local supporters businesses in mind.



Desert Oak

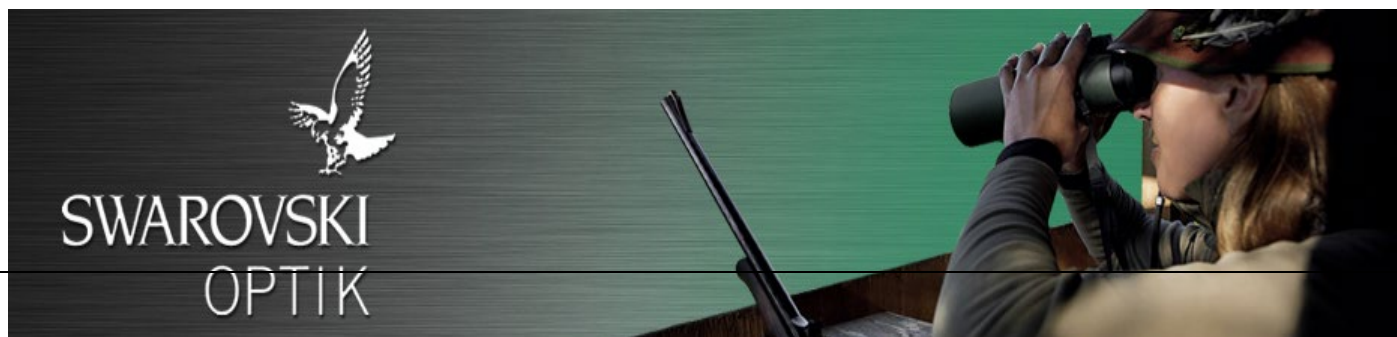


24 Foch St. North Shore
Mon-Fri: 9am-5:30pm. Sat: 9am-1pm
Ph: (03) 52781929 wildoutdoors.com.au

EXPERIENCE
THE MOMENT



SEE THE UNSEEN
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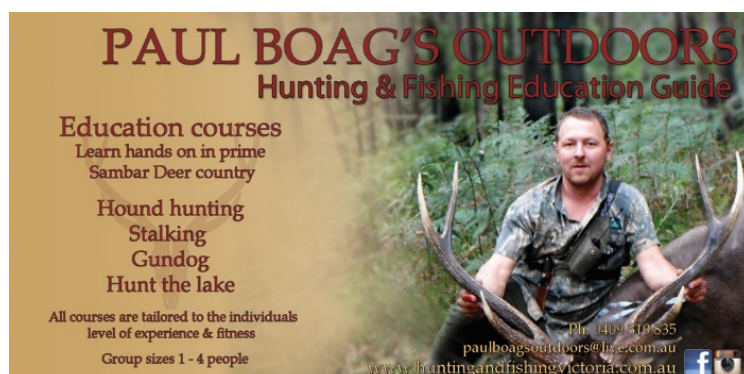
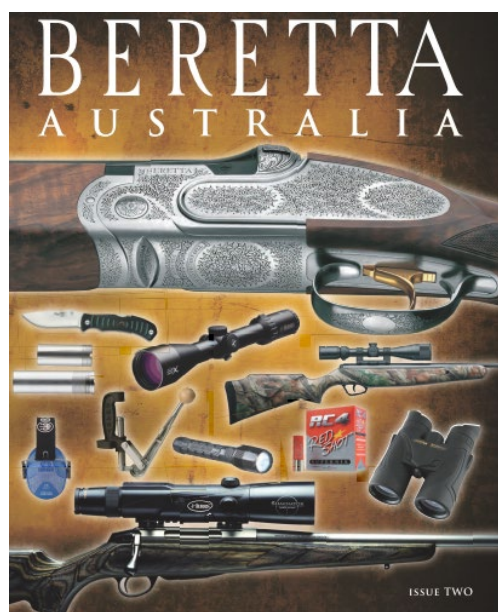


THANKS & APPRECIATION

On behalf of the committee and members of the Australian Deer Association – Geelong Branch would like to thank all of the businesses that have helped and supported our Branch through donations and gifts for us to raffle off to help our club make some money. Without your generosity it would make things a lot harder to raise funds for example the great marquee we have just purchased which looks fantastic.

The businesses that have helped and supported us are

- OSA
- Wild Outdoors
- Mansfield Hunting & Fishing
- Outdoor Sportsman
- Ridgeline
- Peter Bourke
- Dessert Oak
- Jolly Swagman
- Swarovski Optic
- Spika
- Noel O'Connor
- Paul Boag's Outdoors





Australian
Deer
Association

ABN 44 060 933 897

Membership Application

- Please select:
- ☐ New member
- ☐ Current member renewing
- ☐ Previous member re-joining

To pay by Visa or MasterCard visit www.austdeer.asn.au and join on-line or call the National Membership Office on 0499 892 320 (Int: +61 499 892 320)

To pay by cheque, please complete the following form and mail to the NMO as instructed below

First Name:										Surname:													
Address:															PC:								
Occupation:															Date of Birth:								
Home: ()					Work: ()					Mob:													
Email for receiving branch notices and other contact from the ADA (use CAPITAL letters for clarity):																							
@																							
•						•																	

☒ Please select preferred or nearest branch:

Victoria <input type="checkbox"/> Melbourne (Heidelberg) <input type="checkbox"/> Westernport (Cranbourne) <input type="checkbox"/> Upper Goulburn (Alexandra) <input type="checkbox"/> Gippsland (Tyers) <input type="checkbox"/> East Gippsland (Bairnsdale) <input type="checkbox"/> Central Vic (Bendigo) <input type="checkbox"/> Murray Valley (Wangaratta) <input type="checkbox"/> Western Victoria (Lake Bolac) <input type="checkbox"/> Geelong (Lovely Banks) <input type="checkbox"/> Western Australia (Perth) <input type="checkbox"/> ACT & Southern Regions (Narrabundah)	South Australia <input type="checkbox"/> Adelaide (Hectorville) <input type="checkbox"/> South East (Naracoorte) Queensland <input type="checkbox"/> Brisbane (Belmont) <input type="checkbox"/> Logan & Albert (Pimpama) <input type="checkbox"/> Darling Downs (Toowoomba) <input type="checkbox"/> Gympie/Mary Valley (Gympie) <input type="checkbox"/> Pumicestone (Moreton Bay) <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Territory (Darwin) <input type="checkbox"/> Overseas	New South Wales <input type="checkbox"/> Sydney (Cabramatta) <input type="checkbox"/> Central West (Bathurst) <input type="checkbox"/> Hunter Valley (Toronto) <input type="checkbox"/> New England (Tamworth) <input type="checkbox"/> Sapphire Coast/Monaro (Eden) <input type="checkbox"/> Riverina (Wagga Wagga) <input type="checkbox"/> Western Sydney (Penrith) Tasmania <input type="checkbox"/> Northern (Launceston) <input type="checkbox"/> North West (Burnie) <input type="checkbox"/> Southern (Hobart)
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☒ Please select type of membership and period:

<input type="checkbox"/> One Year Only	<input type="checkbox"/> Three Years*	<input type="checkbox"/> Five Years*	(* multiply the price below by your selection)
\$95 Ordinary - single membership	\$47.5 Junior - Under 18. DOB required		
\$118.75 Family - includes spouse & children U18	\$67 Overseas - single membership		
\$142.50 Extended Family - includes voting spouse & children U18	\$71.25 Disability - copy of current Disability Support Card must be included		

Please clearly write **Family** names, dates of birth and email addresses (if appropriate) on the reverse of this form

I hereby apply for membership of the ADA and agree to uphold the Association's objectives and to abide by its Code of Conduct. I have been given access to the ADA code of conduct prior to signing this document.

Signed:

I enclose a cheque/money order payable to
"The Australian Deer Association Inc" for \$
 in full payment of the above subscription

Mail to: ADA National Membership Office, PO BOX 454 Croydon VIC 3136 Australia

Email: natmem@austdeer.asn.au Internet: www.austdeer.asn.au Phone: 0499 892 320 (Int: +61 499 892 320)