

# Monthly Update

We promote  
*conservation hunting*

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### FACT FILE: Rabbits

- Feral rabbits cause severe damage to the natural environment and to agriculture;
- They breed from as young as only 4-months-old and at any time of year;
- Rabbits can produce 5 or more litters in a year with 4 or 5 young in a litter;
- They impact on native wildlife, damage vegetation, degrade the land and may have caused the extinction of several small ground-dwelling mammals in Australia.



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## APPROVED HUNTING ORGANISATIONS Applications rolling in

APPLICATIONS are streaming in from around the State in response to the release of criteria for Game Council Approved Hunting Organisation (AHO) status.

All successful AHOs will be listed on Game Council's website and will be able to offer their membership opportunity to apply for the Restricted NSW Game Hunting Licence, provided they have completed adequate training.

The Restricted licence, or R-Licence, will be required for hunting on declared public land in NSW when it becomes available in the future.

If your organisation did not receive an information package and application form, please contact Game Council NSW on (02) 6360 5100 or download a copy from our website:

[www.gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au)

### Accredited training

To date, the following hunter education courses have been accredited by Game Council NSW and will be classed as 'adequate training' for the R-Licence:

#### ■ Australian Bowhunters Association:

Bowhunter Proficiency Course

#### ■ Australian Deer Association, Victoria and Queensland:

Hunter Education Course

#### ■ Sporting Shooters Association of Australia, NSW and Victoria:

Hunter & Conservation Accreditation Course



## Consultation in the New England

FOLLOWING a state wide mail-out in February targeting commercial deer hunters, Game Council NSW staff recently visited the New England region.

Game Manager for the New England/North west Robbie Lynn and Game Council Operations Manager Brian Boyle (pictured above) met with representative Commercial shooters and chiller operators in the region.

The aim was to gauge opinions and discuss any issues regarding changes to commercial deer hunting under the Game and Feral Animal Control Act.

As a result of this consultation Game Council is:

- ▶ Making the minimum commercial deer tag number 20, rather than 100.
- ▶ Making the tag point on deer the skin near the base of the tail (as in kangaroos), not the hock;

"We informed commercial shooters that there is no "expiry date" on the deer tags," Brian said. "It was a good meeting and we hope to do it on an annual basis to stay in touch with key representatives of commercial shooters and chiller operators."

## LICENSING

### General hunting:

**Licence Class:** NSW Game Hunting Licence (General), or G-Licence

**Licence Type:** Standard (\$60 or \$40 concession)

**Licence terms:** 1, 3, 5 years

**Insurance:** \$10-million public liability

**Land tenure:** private land, with permission

**Game Species:** Deer, pheasant, partridge, peafowl, turkey, California quail, ducks.

**Hunting Seasons:** Hog deer (April only); Red, Wapiti, Fallow deer (March-October)

**Hunting methods:** Bows, firearms, dogs.

**Application forms:** Game Council NSW

### G-LICENCE METER:



Number of G-Licence applications processed:

# 3908

(Period September 1, 2004 to April 26, 2005)



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## Hunting with dogs: emphasis on education

*Code of Ethics to be developed by new hunting organisation*

**Question:** How do you attempt to control a population of feral pigs that is in the multi-millions?

**Answer:** with every means possible!

HUNTING pigs with a disciplined, trained dog is one of a number of useful tools in the ongoing effort to control feral pig populations across NSW.

But in the past, the ethics of this hunting practice has often come into question.

To address these issues, hunters from around Australia have come together to establish a national body representing people who hunt with dogs.

After much time, effort and research, the group has recently established the Australian Pigdoggers & Hunters Association Inc (APHA).

A major focus of the APHA will be on the promotion of responsible and ethical hunting through the development of a Code of Ethics and education programs.

"We want to educate and mentor young people and improve the image of hunting with dogs," APHA president Tony O'Toole said.

"APHA intends to provide practical information and training to members and liaise with like-minded groups and relevant authorities as a united voice for responsible pig hunters."

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact APHA on (07) 3376 3243.**



**There are between 13-23 million feral pigs spread across Australia, causing damage to our natural and agricultural environments.**

### APHA EXECUTIVE:

**President** - Tony O'Toole, Director of Go Bush, hunter.

**Vice President** - Ian Colley, Editor/Owner of Boardogs.com, hunter. **Secretary** - Katrina Hartwell, dog breeder & trainer, hunter.

**Treasurer** - Mark Beattie, business manager, hunter. **Media Officers** - Vic Attard and Dave Brazier.

Including the Executive, 10 other people from around Australia are on the APHA Board.

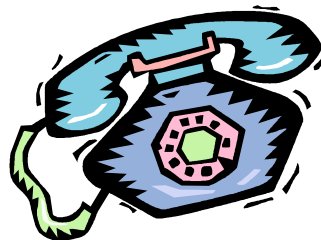
## Frequently asked questions...

**Q. Why do hunting seasons apply to certain species of deer in NSW under the Game and Feral Animal Control Act?**

By law, four of the seven species of wild deer in NSW can now only be hunted at certain times of the year under the Act.

This includes hog, red, wapiti and fallow deer. As in Victoria, bag limits apply to hog deer.

While hunting seasons apply to these deer species, landholders and licensed, commercial



deer hunters may hunt all species of wild deer all year round.

The closed seasons reflect animal welfare considerations of the defined fawning periods for the European deer species.

In the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Heritage's model Code of Practice for ground shooting of feral deer, it states: "Female deer will often hide newly born young until they are old enough to be mobile. To minimise risk of missed dependent young suffering a slow death from starvation, shooting programs should not be undertaken when females are calving/fawning."

**See website: [www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/publications/humane-control](http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/publications/humane-control).**

# Pest Animal Inquiry... Call in the hunters

**CEO's Message,  
By Ross McKinney**

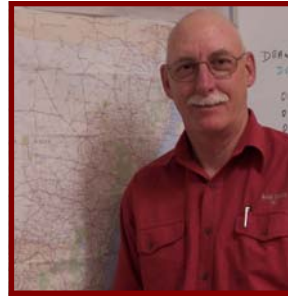
I'VE been watching with great interest the national inquiry into the impact of pest animals on agriculture, being conducted by the House of Representatives' Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Committee.

The inquiry will examine such things as linking Commonwealth and State government processes for more coordinated management of significant pest animal issues across state boundaries; the approaches to pest animal issues across all relevant jurisdictions; the adequacy of government expenditure on pest animal control; ways to promote community understanding of and involvement in pest animals and their management. In light of the Pest Animal CRC report that feral animals have a cost

impact of \$719-million a year on our natural and agricultural environments, this inquiry is very timely. The submission to the inquiry from Dr Jeanine Baker on behalf of the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA), highlighted the role hunters play and have the potential to play in pest animal control efforts.

Dr Baker was quoted in a recent edition of the Weekly Times as saying: "The problem of pest animal species can often be addressed by bringing together...the key stakeholder groups...and developing an integrated program that may include methods from ensuring buffer zones and poisoning through to ongoing control of numbers by hunting."

Dr Baker also said the Hunting and Conservation branch of SSAA had been helping



control animal pests for more than a decade, but had the resources to do far more. I couldn't agree more with Ms Baker's comments.

In NSW, the establishment of the Game Council—through its licensing system—will advocate the use of licensed, responsible hunters in integrated feral control programs. In line with organisations such as SSAA and Field and Game Australia that have played a key role in conservation hunting activities, Game Council NSW aims to help continue lifting hunting standards and encourage membership of Game Council Approved Hunting Organisations.

*Safe hunting.*

*"Game Council NSW aims to help continue lifting hunting standards and encourages membership of Game Council Approved Hunting Organisations ..."*

## In the news: Illawarra Mercury 29/1/05

THE Illawarra Deer Management Working Group, which brings together government agencies such as Game Council NSW, NPWS and RLPBs, as well as landholders and other stakeholders, was featured in the Illawarra Mercury.

The article focused on the Group's plan to develop a regional control plan for growing deer populations; as well as the threat wild deer in the area poses to the environment and driver safety.

Game Council licensed hunters will be assisting local farmers in the area with tailored control programs where deer are causing agricultural losses. An Expressions of Interest was recently advertised, resulting in a positive response from licensed hunters.

Local landholders are currently sifting through the applications and will contact successful hunters in the near future.

**Feral deer cull plan for Mt Kembla**

**Green issues**

The various species of deer introduced into NSW since colonisation have a major impact on the natural environment by:

- trampling and grazing on native plants
- ring-barking young trees
- fouling waterholes with faecal matter
- causing soil erosion
- transmitting diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease
- spreading weeds

Source: NPWS

executive officer Ross McKinney said. "Pest species can put human lives at risk, damage native plants, attack livestock, cause erosion, spread disease and destroy crops, pastures and fencing."

The Illawarra Deer Management Working

vice, Rural Lands Protection Board, the farming community and NSW Police.

The group will meet regularly to create a short and medium-term deer management strategy for the Illawarra escarpment, involving a comprehensive risk assessment and a public awareness component.

The Game Council was set up last year to control pest species with licensed programs co-ordinated across government departments.

Earlier this month a plan allowed Fort Macquarie landholders, including Hastings Council, to engage the area's shooters for site-specific control programs for private land. The Illawarra working party will draw on this program's success.

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prmgr@gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au

**Fax:** (02) 6361 2093 (send your name & address)

**Ph:** (02) 6360 5100



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**DID YOU KNOW???**

► Field & Game Australia has been collecting data on pest animal hunting activity from its members over 10 years. The FGA believes the value of this voluntary effort equates to between \$350,000 to \$750,000 annually.

► The SSAA has over 100,000 members across Australia. Since 1992, members of the SSAA have culled 25,000 feral goats across the Flinders Ranges region. This has involved about 700 Hunting & Conservation members and in excess of 3800 shooter days since the program commenced, providing much needed assistance to enhancing biodiversity in the Flinders Ranges.

**GAME COUNCIL  
NSW**

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# Staff Profile: The CEO

ROSS McKinney may sound like a Canadian and he may even look like a Canadian ... but his passion is the Australian bush and all that goes with it.

Arriving in Australia in 1969, Ross grew up in Alberta, Western Canada where he extensively hunted in the northern and western regions.

"Apart from supplementing the table, hunting was and continues to be a family tradition. I considered myself to be more fortunate than most, with my father being extensively involved in gun dog field trials and hunting migratory and upland game birds," he said.

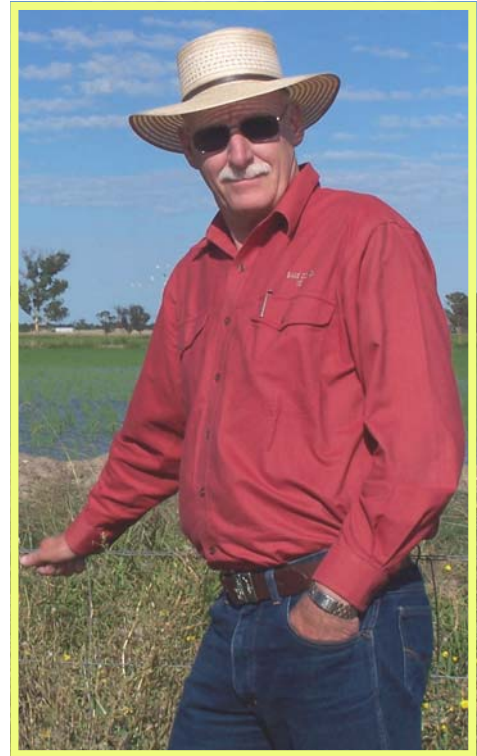
"Canada is not unlike Australia in many ways and when it comes to hunting, the international hunting community can learn a lot from each other."

As Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Game Council NSW, Ross heads a team of 10 people with backgrounds as diverse as his own.

Appointed CEO in 2003, Ross brings some 30 years of conservation management experience to the Game Council.

"Game Council NSW provides a wonderful opportunity for hunters in this state to really show the broader community the valuable contribution they can make in reducing feral animal impacts," Ross said.

"It is also a great opportunity for hunters to become even more educated and help raise the profile of responsible hunting. Game Council looks forward to working closely with farmers, hunting organisations and government agencies to deliver better managed hunting and more hunting opportunities."



**CEO Ross McKinney brings 30 years experience to Game Council NSW: "...the international hunting community can learn a lot from each other."**

Ross is a natural and cultural resource management specialist.

As a former National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Officer for 25 years, he has managed a variety of conservation projects. He also continues to hold his membership of FireNet—dedicated to the improvement of fire planning in the natural and built environments.

**NO PERMISSION =****NO ACCESS**

Are you a responsible, ethical and informed hunter?

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