

# **THE DEERSTALKER**

## **February 2010**



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# THE DEERSTALKER

**web address: [www.newsouthdeerstalkers.org.au](http://www.newsouthdeerstalkers.org.au)**

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## **NSW Deerstalkers Association**

**COMMITTEE FOR 2009**

**Formed:** 7th June 1972

**Life Members:** the late Gordon Alford  
Bob Penfold  
Wayne McPhee  
Jack Boswell  
Paul Wilkes

### **Affiliated To:**

Australian Deerstalkers Federation  
Game Management Council (Australia)  
Inc.

### **Contributions:**

The editor and editorial committee reserve the right to modify any contributions.

All contributions are to be mailed or emailed to:

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### **Advertisements:**

Advertisements for products sold by NSWDA Members are accepted and printed free of charge provided a discount is given to club members.

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Cover Photograph

Red stag in rut, Richmond Park London 2008.  
Photo by NSWDA member Stephen Hopkins.

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**Representatives:** Greg Haywood, Steve Isaacs  
Mark Isaacs, Greg Lee, Peter Clark, Les King,  
Darren Plumb.

### **Licence Testing**

**Co-ordinator:** Greg Haywood

**Video Library:** Terry Burgess

**All Memberships & General Correspondence to be  
posted to:** PO Box 519 PICTON NSW 2571

## FROM THE EDITOR

This year we will publish four issues of this newsletter. We tried to publish five issues a year, but there is just not enough material submitted. To ensure that we get each issue out on time, there will be deadlines for submission of materials to be included. If material reaches me after a deadline, it will be included in the next issue, if appropriate.

Expect to receive each issue about three weeks after its deadline.

Remaining 2010 deadlines are;

- \* end of March
- \* end of June
- \* end of September

### Guidelines for submissions.

Material which is emailed saves me a lot of work.

**Preferred font is Times New Roman.**

**Preferred font size is 12 point.** Writing can be sent as a Word file, or a text file. For those without an expensive word processing program, you can use any writing program included with your operating system, or download "Open Office" free from the internet which is virtually identical to "Microsoft Office" & can exchange files with that famous program.

**Photographs should NOT be included in the article itself**, but sent as separate files (attachments to the email). You can indicate where each photo might be placed by typing its file name in brackets in the text.

**Photographs** should be . jpeg files, saved at about 15 cm X 10 cm size at quality 8 (which gives the best quality for the smallest file size).

**Photos** can also be prints or negatives or slides. These can be returned to you if you include a stamped self addressed envelope. If these photos are valuable, send copies rather than originals.

**Printed on paper submissions** need to have clear black typed text. Faintly printed text will



## Meeting dates for 2010

**18th February**

**20th May**

**22nd July (Also AGM)**

**14th October**

**Trophy Exhibition & Christmas Party**

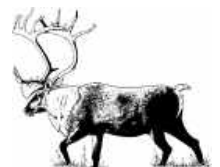
**Saturday 20th November**

not scan & cannot be included. **Very short pieces, such as personal adverts can be hand written.**

**NSWDA Hunting Club AHO (for R licences) is 10111, & the Agent No. is 7185**

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**Please Note:** The N.S.W.D.A. Inc. takes no responsibility for views expressed in "The Deerstalker". All articles submitted are signed by the relevant author. The Editor & Committee do however, take responsibility for views expressed in articles & reports submitted by them!



## Provisions for Visiting Overseas Hunters

Bob Penfold.

I had a lady friend (a friend is all) who wanted to come hunt with me in Australia. After her taking me fishing in Minnesota I offered to host her in Australia. She is short and shoots both 7-08 and 30-06 Remingtons with shortened stocks so I asked around to see if I could get her to bring in her own rifle.

I am a life member of NSWDA and a life member of SSAA, however now retired from being in the guide business. I wanted the lady to be able to hunt with me. All of the answers were not “no” but “Hell no”. So I began to push harder to see what the criteria were for a legitimate sports person to bring their own golf clubs, tennis rackets or sporting rifle into Australia as a visitor. I found that she had to have several things that would satisfy them.

1. A recognised gun safe for safe storage in Australia. I used my registered gun safe as her safe storage.
2. A legitimate reason to bring her rifle. SSAA provided me with an invitation to shoot at any of their competitions at any of their ranges. NSWDA provided me with an invitation for her to attend any of the NSWDA hunts. I had a landowner give her a letter of permission to go onto his land to hunt pigs and foxes. After going around and around with firearms registry (who were at all times friendly and helpful) they finally gave her permission to bring her own rifle in to go hunt with me. However, close to her arrival I found that in fact she had applied for two separate licences. One for the purpose of hunting and one for the purpose of target shooting.

Firearms Registry put me on to a very good professional lady in Leanne Ahu. I telephoned her

to discuss the arrangements and Leanne advised me “You should have simply called me in the first place and I would have guided you through the paperwork trail that was required for the lady to bring her rifle in as a visitor”.

I am writing this to you so that you can inform all of the NSWDA members that they can invite friends to visit them in Australia for the purpose of hunting and that import paperwork and correct NSW police licensing are available. All that is required is for the visitor to have a letter of invitation from NSWDA or an official landowner; fill out the appropriate forms that are available via the police website and pay for the licence service charge by credit card. One point to remember is that the applicant should send the application (filled out) by FedEx and with a pre-paid FedEx return with the application. If you attend to the paperwork with a long lead time and give NSW police firearms registry their departure date from their home country, then the police will get the paperwork to your friend before their departure date so that they have their NSW licence and customs import forms (all provided as part of the service by NSW police firearms registry (Leanne) so that they have all of the required paperwork copies in their hands when they arrive.

If any member requires any further information on this matter they can contact me at any time. I will be inviting several international friends to visit me to go hunting over the next few years now that I have worked out the system for them to bring in their own firearms. The lady had a great time visiting and hunting with me and is very thankful to the friendly and helpful staff at the NSW Police Firearms branch for their assistance.

Regards BOB



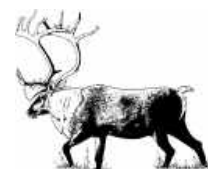
## **Actor David Gulpilil wants to revive croc hunting in the Northern Territory**

By Tara Ravens, The Australian Newspaper.  
From: AAP March 23, 2009 5:25PM

ACTOR David Gulpilil hopes to swap movie sets for swamps in a new venture to take people hunting for crocodiles. In a bid to get croc safaris up and running again in the Northern Territory, Mr Gulpilil has teamed up with croc hunter Mick Pitman and elders from his home country in Arnhem Land. The Gupulul Marayuwa Aboriginal Corporation will apply next month for a 12 month trial that would only target problem crocs. "Hunting will create new industry and employment for Aboriginal people and take out the larger problem males," said one of the corporation's directors Michaela Johnston. "People down south don't realise that all waterholes are dangerous." Twenty years ago people could swim in places you can't even stick your big toe in now. "The Northern Territory Government applied to reopen game hunting for 25 big crocs a year in 2005, in a bid to earn valuable income for impoverished Top End Aboriginal communities.

But the former Howard government shot down the proposal, saying trophy hunting would send the wrong message to the world. Last week, the NT Government confirmed it was considering safari hunting as part of a revised croc management plan. It will be completed in a few weeks before going to the Federal Government for approval. Jida Gulpilil, who is the actor's eldest son and also a director of the corporation, said game hunting would provide a useful community service. His comments follow the death earlier this month of 11-year-old Briony Goodsell who was savagely mauled at Black Jungle Swamp. Her body was found almost 24

hours after the attack in rural Darwin. "More and more crocodiles are venturing into places where there are people and more and more people are occupying territory where crocodiles are," Mr Gulpilil said. "Today's legislation is preventing us from managing our natural and cultural resource economically and keeping areas safer." Mr Gulpilil said that after a crocodile was hunted there would be experts on hand to process its skin. "These crocodiles must be used in the proper manner," he said. "This crocodile is our mother's dreaming." Mr Pitman, a crocodile products industry consultant and taxidermist, will run the tours along with David Gulpilil, whose movie career began in the 1971 movie Walkabout. The actor's career has undergone a revival in recent years after he narrated the award-winning Rolf de Heer film Ten Canoes. He also featured in Baz Luhrmann's epic Australia as the character King George. "David's looking forward to getting back to Arnhem," said Ms Johnston. "We're talking to traditional owners from the region at the moment and there is a lot of support out there." The corporation hopes to meet with the NT Government and present it with the proposal in mid-April. A proposal will be sent to the Federal Government at the same time.





## Secretary's Report!

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The start of the deer season is fast approaching so I wish you all a successful year of safe hunting. We will try and organise a sambar club hunt later in the season with Ken Leatham at Mansfield, Victoria. Please contact me if you are interested.

### Membership Dues

Some memberships are now due and if your fees are due then we have included a membership renewal form separately with this magazine.

### Members Card

We forwarded your new gold members card for 2010 with the meeting notice sent out in January 2010. Please contact me if you did not receive your membership card.

### Member Attendances

If you are using our Club as your Primary Club and have been attending other authorised clubs for attendance purposes to comply with the mandatory two activities per year for hunting, then please advise me in writing so that I can maintain our records.

### Resolution

At our meeting on Thursday, 18 February 2010 we passed a resolution to include as an authorised activity hunts on approved lands managed by Game Council NSW under your R-licence.

The reason for this is that your R-Licence covers your Genuine Reason, although you still need to be a member of AHO.

So that the Club can record this activity, you will need to send me a copy of the "Written Permission" as issued by the Game Council.

Good Hunting!

Greg Haywood





# President's Report

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Firstly, I would like to take the opportunity in wishing you all a safe & successful upcoming hunting season. The season appears to be shaping up as a good one.

Several members have utilised the Clubs AQIS permit which is encouraging & thus far we have only had one minor hitch by an over zealous Quarantine official. After a heated telephone conversation we settled on a win/win. Well sort of.....

It has been mentioned as to why the Club did not have booths at then Wild Deer expo & the upcoming SCI expo. The Committee decided that whilst we fully support & encourage the Expos it was financially un-economical to have a booth.

>From the reports I have received the Wild Deer Expo was hugely successful, with in excess of 18,000 people through the doors.

Hope to see you at the next meeting & Safe Hunting

## List of Official NSWDA Scorers.

The following members of NSWDA qualified as NZDA scorers at the workshop held in Sydney last year.

Members should contact any of these official scorers to get a head scored officially for NSWDA records.

As I think this list is incomplete, would any scorers who need to be added to the list please contact me, preferably by email. My contact details are in the front of this Deerstalker. Editor.

**Chris Graham (Liason Officer with NZDA)**

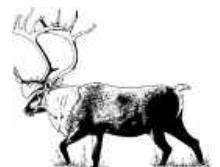
**John Desanti**

**Wayne McPhee**

**Steve Isaacs**

**Darren Plumb**

**Josh Raffin.**



# Video Library

Free hunting videos for members to borrow for one month if picking up video's at a meeting. Members must pay postage by registered mail back to the club in carton supplied. You can phone or write for videos to be posted to you, however the member must pay postage both ways. When returning videos to the club within one-month members must include cost of postage to them in stamps inside the box.

If members are to lend these video's to fellow members, remember that the original person who borrowed them from the club will be held responsible if they are not returned within due time. As these videos are the property of the club, you are expected to look after them. If you loose or damage a video you will have to pay the replacement cost. If you don't return them after 4 weeks you won't get anymore.

To borrow a Video contact:

**Terry Burgess**

**Ph: (02) 9909 1267**

**P.O. Box 80**

**Cremorne Junction NSW 2090**

## Library List

1. Black Death, Cape Buffalo, Lion
2. Capstick, Botswana Safari Buffalo, Lion
3. In the Blood, Capstick, Rhino
4. Zambia Safaris
5. Whitetail, Mule Deer, Pronghorn, Late Season Elk
6. Monster Elk, Horns of Plenty, Hunt Exotics 1 & 2
7. Hunting Bugling Elk, Big Muleys, Caribou
8. North American Big Horn Rams, Greatest Whitetail, Wild Hogs of Texas
9. Col Allison Hunters Home Video, Big Bears, Russian Boar, Whitetail
10. North American Mixed Bag, Big Horn Rams, Whitetail
11. Great Trophy Bucks Mixed Bag, Big Horn Rams, Whitetail
12. Wild Boar Pig Hunting Down Under Part 1
13. Hunting Sheep, Goat & Moose in B.C.
14. Big Rams Brooks Range, Big Horn Rams, Mouflon
15. The Bow Hunter, Whitetail Deer
16. Big Rams, North American Big Horn Sheep, Mouflon Sheep
17. North American Big Horn Sheep, Big Rams Mixed Bag
18. Mouflon, Bow Hunting Elk, Whitetail, Mule Deer etc.
19. Challenge of the Mountain Monarchs, Thars, Mouflon Sheep, Red Deer in Qld





20. Pig Hunting in Qld, Wild Goat in Qld, Mouflon
21. Pig Hunting in Qld, Red Deer in Qld
22. Hunting in Spain, Pig Hunt in Tunisia, Red Deer in Scotland
23. Hunting Fallow in Scotland, Red in Scotland, Kiwi Hunts North West Territories
24. The Wildlife Bow Hunter, Deer, Pigs, Foxes, Mountain Hunting NZ, O'Rourke's Deer, Chamois, Thar
25. Mountain Hunting N.Z., Deer, Thar, Chamois, Red, Sika, Bow Hunter
26. N.Z. Hunting, Sambar in Victoria, Red Deer in France
27. Hunting N.Z. Red Deer, O'Rourke's N.Z., Chamois in Europe
28. Bowhunting Red Deer in N.Z., Bugling Red Deer Rifle
29. Fox Shooting at its best-Volume 3 & 4
30. The Ultimate Whitetail Hunt
31. Sambar Hunting, Mountain Hunt N.Z., Thar in N.Z.
32. Caping Demo by NSWDA
33. Roar Red Stags, Shadows in Scrub, Great Trophy Bucks
34. Hunting the Elusive Wild Dog, Hunt to outsmart Wild Dogs
35. Dark Continent
36. Red in Qld, Dingo, Fox, Fallow, Hog etc., Sika N.Z., Cape for Trophy Mount
37. How to cape for a Trophy Mount, Shoot the Bull, Hunting QLD Red Deer, Deer Attack
38. Hunting African Lion, Hunting Cape Buffalo
39. Big Horn Rams, Nth American Mixed Bag
40. Shadows in Scrub, Red Deer - Clark McGhie
41. Sambar Stalking 1 & 2 - Reg Gordon
42. Bucks & Bulls, NZ Chamois, Thar, Whitetail, Sportsmans Paradise, Pigs, Barramundi, Tusk Versus Tooth, Pig Hunting with Dogs
43. Bucks & Bulls, NZ Chamois, Thar, Whitetail, Hog Deer in Victoria
44. Bucks & Bulls, NZ Chamois, Thar, Whitetail, Sambar Stalking 1 & 2 - Reg Gordon
45. Dogs, Guns & Grunters, Tusk Versus Tooth, Lifes a Boar NZ
46. "How To Load From A Disk" Ballistic CD-Rom
47. Huge Hogs of Aust. North Part 1 & 2
48. Sambar Safari Vol 1, SHIKARI
49. Venison Hunters, Hunting Northern Cape, Hunting NZ Southern Alps.
50. Hunting the Zambeze Delta, Trophy Seekers, Trophy Seekers Shadows End
51. NZ Hunting, Hunting Safaris Vol 1 & 2, Rusa Hunting



## A Richmond Park Experience.

Richmond is a lovely leafy suburb in west London at one end of the District Line of the London Metro. Richmond Park, once a hunting ground for kings and their retinues, covers a couple of square kilometres and is open to the public for walking, running and horse riding. The Thames flows along one boundary. There is a golf course, a school, riding stables and of course herds of both Red and Fallow. Undoubtedly there would also be some of the smaller deer species. A couple of roads cross it and the traffic flow is pretty constant. Sections of pasture are fenced for cattle because they viz, “conserve the variety of



grassland species” to paraphrase the signs. Other sections of the park are fenced off from the larger deer and these areas have formed thickets; ideal homes for foxes, small deer, birds and small mammals. My attention was drawn to Richmond Park a couple of years ago when NSWDA member Stephen Hopkins sent me some photographs of Red deer he had taken there, many of which have appeared on the cover of this newsletter. Since then, Stephen has revisited the

park a couple of times. There are other locations where deer can be watched and photographed relatively easily in the UK, but none so conveniently located to London. In the Northern Autumn of 2009, my wife and I had completed a fairly busy schedule of touring South West England, Spain and Morocco and had returned to London for eight days before flying home. I had planned to be in Richmond Park for at least one of these days. After settling into Bayswater and making a couple of forays into the great city, it was time for the deer. The following day promised to be fine (i.e. not raining all the time) with patches of scattered sunshine. The train trip lasted about forty minutes and landed us in the Richmond high street. After the mandatory coffee, a steady uphill walk brought us to the top gates, past typical well-to-do terrace houses, expensive cars, gardens and fine views of the Thames. Not more than a hundred metres inside the gates we found two good looking Red stags roaring their heads off, each with a big bunch of hinds and lesser stags which stayed at a respectful distance. Around and past all of this drama mothers pushed prams, people sat, drove, rode, walked, photographed and jogged. Squirrels scampered about competing with the deer for the sweet chestnuts which littered the ground. After so many hundreds of years Henry VIII would have been well pleased that his deer were thriving in his magnificent park and being enjoyed by so many of his subjects. Make no mistake however, despite their familiarity with people, these are wild deer, doing what wild deer do in the rut. Being near the end of October, the real action was drawing to a close. Some very impressive stags, thin and with scars of combat from previous weeks, were resting well away from the action. That’s not to say that those still bellowing weren’t impressive. Those two just inside the gates sported massive heads with 13 and 14 points respectively. A few hinds were still being chased



vigorously by these big boys, and were watched with interest by the smaller stags. Further into the park I tracked down a couple of mobs of Fallow, hiding out in groves of oaks. All were common, white or menil colour. The best buck would probably have made 215 Douglas points and he was still showing interest in a few does, walking back and forward between two scrapes and giving an occasional grunt. Of some interest to me were the couple of old bucks whose antlers had really gone back. Their faces were aged, their coats worn, looking all the world like some old moth-eaten trophy mounts. The Fallow were much harder to approach, but with patience they accepted my presence and settled down. The light inside the oak groves was dim, making photography difficult. Because of our other travels, I had not brought my bulky specialist tele-lens, electing to rely on an all-purpose zoom and a super wide angle for the trip. Stephen Hopkins had taken great pictures there with a shorter lens, and as it turned out, what I brought was adequate. With a limited area, the deer are



culled by the Royal Parks Board to maintain stable populations. The park was closed at night at this time, to allow culling to take place. When one thinks about all of this, the difference in

attitude between the English and ourselves is a yawning gap. Deer are wild animals. Fallow were introduced into England, probably by the Romans, so are not a native species. Both species interact negatively with humans from time to time. Both are shot in numbers in a public park, partly surrounded by the mansions of middle-class city dwellers, at night. Yet the English on the whole accept the small risks which come from living close to wild animals because they so enjoy the deer (and other wild things) in their midst. I dream of a fenced section of the Royal National Park, with managed numbers of deer, kangaroos and wallabies all being enjoyed and valued by the Sydney-siders who drive or catch the ferry across to walk, ride and picnic amongst them. Dream on! Wowsers reign in sunny Australia.

This story has an nice sequel. A few days after my Richmond Park experience, I walked across Hyde Park to the Natural History museum to see the World Wildlife Photographer of the Year (2009) Exhibition which had just opened. The judges select just a hundred images from an entry of over 30,000 pictures, so you can imagine the quality of this exhibition. Stunning. I go to drool, dream and disagree with the judges (of course). This exhibition by the way is at the Australian Museum in Sydney over summer every year. Anyway, there I was absorbing these magnificent images when I noticed a 10 year old boy, also drooling. I struck up a conversation and found out that he passionately wanted to be a wildlife photographer. He was full of questions about when & where to start, what the cameras these people used were like etc. As it happened we were standing in front of a shot which had been taken by the same camera model as I had in my back pack, so I pulled it out, turned it on and handed it to him. More questions resulted in me finding out that he lived in Richmond, so I told him about the deer and asked if he wanted to see

**cont. over page.**



some shots I'd just taken of them. He was leafing through these on the rear screen when a much more senior American sauntered up to join the conversation. Turned out that this bloke was a "real" wildlife photographer. This time it was my turn to be gob smacked. I hope we have inspired that boy to love wild things and to get out there and find them for himself. His Mum had a big smile when they walked away. I hope she took him to the park that weekend. Oh, I got the camera back OK. Couldn't help thinking if Mum's smile might have faded when she found out the cost of the equipment, but then again, I lost count of the Bentleys, Range Rovers, Audis, Morgans, Porches etc in the Richmond high street.

Dal Birrell.

### **An Opportunity to hear Brian Murphy, Tony English & Graham Hall on Game Management.**

By Dal Birrell.

On Saturday December 5th, the Game Council ran a Forum entitled "Game Conservation in Australia – where to from here?" at the UWS Hawkesbury Campus Richmond. The hosts were Brian Boyle & Andrew Moriarty & the audience included members of various ADA branches, SSAA branches, Parks Victoria, Dept. of Conservation Victoria & various private people including breeders & members of property based deer management schemes from all over Eastern Australia. I seemed to be the only NSWDA member there.

The session was divided into three parts, Game & Pest Management in the South Pacific, Game Management & Utilization & Adaptive Harvest Management. At the end of each formal lecture there was a question time & at the end of the day the audience had an opportunity to suggest some "where to from here" activities which the Game Council might run. The whole was recorded on video, & the intent is to make the addresses available on DVD.

Brian Murphy, probably best known in Australia for setting up property based Fallow management in Tasmania, & CEO of Quality Deer Management Association (USA) was the first

speaker. Although I took notes throughout, a good deal of what Brian & QDMA is about can be found on their web site, which I recommend readers to visit & read. Brian outlined the current status of Whitetail deer in the USA & contrasted that with the dire circumstances which existed for all wildlife towards the end of America's great period of exploitation (1880's). Numbers of Whitetail & quality have exploded under proper management, much of it quite recently implemented, as organizations like QDMA & hunter groups slowly changed the attitudes of hunters & governments to conservation & proper management techniques.

In 2009, revenues from Whitetail hunting in the USA were estimated at some US\$12.4 billion (equal to half of New Zealand's GNP). Deer numbers are up (in some areas over 100 animals per square mile), buck quality has improved dramatically & hunters can harvest several deer each season. The Georgia bag limit e.g. is 15 including 2 bucks over 2 yrs old. Brian estimates that the Whitetail population overall is just reaching carrying capacity, so from here on in, numbers should be kept stable (varying with changes in weather & resources). Buck quality improvement has come about through the harvesting of many more does than bucks, & by leaving the smaller bucks to grow up. Brian emphasized that the situation in Tasmania was similar to the US some years ago, when he first took on the job of introducing scientific



management to the Fallow of that state. He speculated that although NSW herds had not reached carrying capacity (& probably shouldn't & wouldn't), the same principles of management were needed. He also emphasized the need to work at the grass roots level to bring about proper management of property based herds. Brian covered many other topics of concern both in the US & Australia. Hunter numbers are falling slowly, principally through changes in lifestyles & reduced time to hunt, because people are working longer hours & are increasingly urban. There is also a need to mentor youth, not just in hunting skills, but also in all of the related skills needed to properly enjoy the outdoors, e.g. camping, fishing, survival & general bush craft. In contrast to NSW, private land available for hunting in the US is diminishing as more & more people buy hunting blocks for their exclusive use. (The hunting press was full of this when I was in Montana & Wyoming two years ago. Ed.). In both countries, knowledge of deer & game management has increased. Hunters in the US have effectively marginalized the anti-hunting animal liberation groups through effective campaigns emphasizing the health benefits of exercise in the outdoors, their provision of free ecological services (vermin control e.g.) and particularly the idea of "food miles" (relating food to the distance it has to be transported; venison is overwhelmingly locally sourced).

All speakers addressed the confusion which exists in Australia between "game" & "pests". This is reflected in our laws, & needs to be addressed. The general public, & certainly green groups like to artificially divide our animals into "introduced" (= bad) & "native" (= good), whereas many native animals in certain places & times are most certainly pests (grey & red kangaroos in NSW & Qld; wallabies & Brush tail possums in Tasmania). In a recent survey of landholders in Queensland deer range, 56% said it was

"important" to maintain healthy deer herds in their area (introduced = good).

Brian Murphy suggested that game animals shared the following characteristics; they are challenging, can provide food, often provide trophies & have a high public image. Pests on the other hand are characterized as having negative environmental effects, high reproduction rates and low public esteem. It is important to use these or similar criteria to decide which species are to be defined as pests & which as game, rather than the simplistic & erroneous native / introduced idea. The aims of game management should be to provide a sustainable crop of high quality animals from a population which is within its carrying capacity so as to minimize habitat problems and with minimal conflict with landholders and the public.

Speakers emphasized that although legislation is needed as a framework within which managers & hunters work, the process needs to be driven, funded and controlled by hunters (& hunting organizations). It is dangerous to rely on government because even the most satisfactory situations can be terminated at a moment's notice at the whim of some bureaucrat, as happened recently in Tasmania where the Game Management Unit ceased to exist virtually overnight.

Brian saw the NSW Game Council as potentially vulnerable and welcomed the fact that license numbers were increasing, reducing reliance on government funding, while its acceptance & relevance to hunters was rapidly increasing. There is a need he said, to work at the grass roots level to educate & assist hunter groups to manage deer & pest populations effectively. At the same time work needs to be done at the highest levels to iron out problems with legislation. (The Game Council announced at the seminar its intention to form a South Pacific Game Management organisation Ed.) Above all, hunters need to take



control & accept the need to pay the costs so as to keep control. None of this will be achieved quickly, but it is an exciting challenge for hunters & wildlife biologists alike, to make it all happen. Game Council representatives heard from the audience that it wanted the Council to facilitate small scale meetings of hunting groups who are already engaged in property based management schemes, so that they can learn from each other. It also wanted help from the game professionals in planning & carrying out investigations on their herds. With technology changing & becoming cheap enough for hunter groups to afford, & with some expert input, it is possible for hunters to undertake studies from which we can learn a lot about our deer populations, and give us better control over them.

To conclude, Brian Murphy stated that he saw an urgent need in NSW to curb poaching, to end accidental & other releases of deer into the wild, & to stop species cross-breeding.

The other two speakers, Tony English & Graham Hill, had much to say which was more on a theoretical & historical level. Although no less important, they covered too much ground for me to report fully in this article. My apologies to both gentlemen, but I will here only touch on some of the points they made.

Unfortunately the Australian community still doesn't take wildlife management seriously. As an example, on the day of the lecture there were 600 jobs for wildlife biologists advertised in the USA, and NONE in Australia. Only one University (UQLD) in Australia, runs a course in wildlife management, & this has only been running for three years. Australians have been fed romanticized ideas about aboriginal environmentalism and animal rights. We think that if we leave ecosystems alone, they'll be just fine (maybe governments have embraced this view because it means they don't need to do anything

which might upset voters, & they don't need to spend money).

Being a mostly urbanized nation, our citizens have for the most part lost touch with nature and find difficulty understanding why management of wildlife populations is essential, especially the killing aspects of that management. Consequently it has been very hard to sell the public on the fact that "wise use" can be a cost-effective part of conservation. This is despite the fact that management of the Red & Grey kangaroo populations of Eastern Australia is one of the largest, best controlled, profitable, sustainable, pest management programs in the world. Other species (e.g. crocodiles) can sustain an annual harvest which would deliver benefits to some Aboriginal communities. Removing large dangerous individuals using trophy hunters would have increased community safety & provided employment & funds for community development. Unfortunately politics got in the way & so local people continue to "remove" rogue crocs themselves, at some risk & expense. Because our important pest animals cannot be eradicated they will always need to be managed. In assessing the importance of any pest species we need to measure the impact levels, not just population numbers or kill numbers. What most people don't realize is that pests are a symptom of habitat degradation, not the cause of it. The promise of global warming is that we will see more pressure on some species, & more need to manage our environment.



## **Hunting park offer to farmers Peter Ker From The Age Newspaper, November 22, 2008**

VICTORIAN farms could be transformed into hunting zones for deer and birds under a State Government plan to boost farmers' income and expand the shooting of animals for sport. The Department of Sustainability and Environment said it wanted to "increase the hunting opportunities" for Victorians, and has asked farmers to come forward if they are willing to allow recreational shooting of animals on their property. Dubbed the "property-based game management" project, the scheme offers farmers financial incentives to turn their farms into "game parks". The plan has infuriated conservationists. Under Victorian laws, four types of deer, ducks, quail, pheasants and partridges can be shot recreationally, within certain seasonal rules. The duck season has been cancelled for the past two years because of low numbers. A decision is expected soon on whether the 2009 season will go ahead. In this week's communique, the department asked farmers: "Does the prospect of receiving a monetary or in-kind payment for providing access to hunters to hunt game species on your property interest you?" It described the project as a "unique opportunity" for farmers to have vegetation and habitat work carried out on their land "to attract the game out into good hunting positions". Its biodiversity policy director, Dr Paul Smith, said the primary aim was to help the environment by removing "pest animals" and improving habitats. However, he added: "A secondary benefit is providing an extra potential income source for rural landholders. It does not provide landholders with the opportunity to create commercial game parks." Animal rehabilitation worker Marcus Ward has waged a long battle against plans to start a hunting park next to his Kyneton wildlife refuge. He dismissed

claims by the department that "increasing biodiversity" was a motivation for the project, and labelled it "sickening". "That's the worst kind of public relations spin I've ever heard," he said. "It's about making money out of exploiting animals in the most cruel, abhorrent way." Mr Ward said safety would also be compromised if more people were encouraged to recreationally shoot guns. Greens MP Greg Barber was also dismayed by the plan. "Imagine if one of these shooting galleries opened up next to your bush retreat," he said. "What is the Government doing ... promoting this?" Officials from the department met animal welfare groups yesterday to discuss shooting and culling issues, including possible kangaroo culls north of Melbourne. Environment Minister Gavin Jennings declined to say whether he was a recreational shooter, but said hunting could help the environment. "When overseen by the appropriate and stringent regulations and policies, hunting can deliver a number of conservation benefits," Mr Jennings said.



## An Interview with Robert Borsak on Elephant Culling.

The face of voluntary conservation hunting in NSW, Game Council Chairman Robert Borsak, remains unapologetic about hunting the world's largest pest species on the world's largest hunting stage; rogue crop raiding elephants in Africa. "I enjoy hunting and I'm going to continue doing it; because it's in my genes," he says.

Robert knows the depth of feeling from self-styled environmentalists, having been the centre of a media storm earlier this year after a two-year old website account of an elephant hunt in Africa was picked over by the mainstream metropolitan media.

"I was the subject of death-threats, abusive mail, and a whole raft of wildly-inaccurate allegations — that I was paid \$342 a day as head of Game Council, that I had improperly directed Game Council contracts to companies I had an interest in — it was an object lesson in media assassination-by-innuendo," he explained.

Yet he doesn't regret for a minute posting the original article; "Bulls in the Rain" on a hunting interest website where it had sat without comment or controversy.

"Hunting is an instinct with some people, it doesn't have to be a majority of people, as long as they're following the laws, helping people and the environment, they should be congratulated, not demonised for this work," he said.

Most galling were the claims regarding the situation in southern Africa — that elephants are endangered; that they provide no threat to local farmers; that the work was trophy hunting; and that the money from the hunt goes to Robert Mugabe.

There are 100,000 elephants in Zimbabwe, an impoverished country half the size of NSW, with elephant herds battling subsistence farmers who survive on an annual income of less than \$100 per year.

"The villagers only source of food are subsistence crops — maize, cotton, melons, and sorghum...

and bananas, you should see what an elephant does to a banana plantation!"

"They've killed hundreds of Zimbabweans every year, but none of my critics care about that, to them, the wildlife is more important than the people. If that's not racism, I don't know what is."

He tells of the devastation of seeing whole crops; the only food that a village has to survive for the year, destroyed by elephants and cape buffalo.

"These elephants and cape buffalo come into the crops at night, the villagers have little huts on stilts on the edge of the crops. They keep guard in the crops at night and beat pots & pans when the elephants come; people are killed by these elephants so we're saving lives as well as livelihoods."

One answer to the problem was the development of the local Communal Areas Management Program for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRES) program.

Developed in Zimbabwe, CAMPFIRES charges international hunters to remove the elephants destroying the crops while utilising the meat, hide, and tusks of the harvested animals to fund local projects.

The unique program helps support schools, health clinics, and drought relief in rural Zimbabwe, and hunters are not allowed to retain any trophies.

"CAMPFIRES is a perfect example of an indigenous program benefitting grass-roots work in these impoverished communities," he said.

"Monies from the Program helps support schools, health clinics, and drought relief in rural Zimbabwe."

Research supports these claims with a Biodiversity Conservation study finding that: between 1989 and 2006, CAMPFIRE income, mostly from high-valued safari hunting, totalled nearly USD \$30 million, of which 52 % was allocated to sub-district wards and villages for





# NSWDA Merchandise

**I have organized some new club shirts, polar fleece & caps.**

**The colours are at this time ;**

**Polo shirts .....white/navy trim.....\$ 25.00**

**Micro fleece top.....Moss green.....\$ 35.00**

**Caps.....bottle green.....\$ 15.00**

**Caps.....blaze orange.....\$ 15.00**

**All garments have the club emblem embroidered on the item**

**We will have the items at the next meeting for sale & also at Coffs Harbour.**

**For further information members could contact me on 48 210 774 / 041 202 1741  
or at 20 John street. Goulburn. 2580**

**Postage will be at \$5.00 for members.**

**Also, other colours are available but will need to be a special order.**

**Thanks Darren**

community projects and household benefits.

“I spend about \$25,000 on each visit and I’m always accompanied by a professional guide. We go from village to village asking ‘have you had any crop raiders last night?’”

“Many of these hunts are in tsetse-fly areas where they cannot keep cattle and therefore the locals do not get any protein. However, local wildlife are immune to the fly. Once we shoot one of these elephants, the locals turn up in their hundreds to get the meat,” Robert said.

He describes the process as: “conservation hunting; African-style.”

“I do enjoy hunting and I don’t deny that, I don’t care what the politically-correct say. I’ve been on

these trips six or seven times since the early 1980’s and you do see a discernible difference in the lives of the people in these villages,” he concluded.

Ends

Editor’s Notes. Readers who want to read more about the “Campfires” program can find an extensive article at the following web address [http://www.resourceafrica.org/documents/1993/1993\\_campfire\\_bg.pdf](http://www.resourceafrica.org/documents/1993/1993_campfire_bg.pdf) However, this dates from 1993. Since that time the program has spread to some neighbouring countries only one of which operates it as originally intended, which is a crying shame.



## Nyngan Hunt - Jan 09

Andrew Palmer

### SAMBAR DEER TRAIL CAMERA PROJECT LAUNCH

Game Council NSW is seeking deer hunter assistance with an important research project on sambar deer. Despite the importance of sambar deer as a game animal and its potential to colonise much of eastern Australia, the sambar has remained a largely-unstudied species. This shortcoming is being tackled by the Sambar Deer Trail Camera Project. Cofunded by SCI Down Under Chapter, this project will document aspects of the population ecology of sambar deer in south-eastern Australia. This information will help in the management of sambar deer as a game animal in NSW and Victoria. The project will be based on the use of trail cameras used by conservation hunters. Not only will your images help provide important data for this vital industry research, but you will also get rewarded! Each hunter that sends in useable trail camera footage will receive an embroidered Sambar Deer Trail Camera Project cap (in blaze orange), and each participating hunter also goes into a draw to win a Moultrie trail camera, two Moultrie game feeders, two Auspitt rotisseries and other prizes. Come and help launch this important project. Bring your sambar deer trail camera images in on the day and receive your free cap and go into the draw for a Moultrie Game Feeder worth \$150. There will also be Game Council merchandise give aways, R-Licence testing and 100 copies of the Victorian Deer Hunter available. Come and discuss the project and view the trail camera interactive display. When: Saturday 24 October 2009 Where: Elks Hunting and Fishing 582 David Street Albury, NSW 2640 Time: 9:00am to 1:00pm BBQ: A Sausage sizzle will be available from 11:30am to 1:00pm For more information and instructions on how to send in your images, go to [www.gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au/sambar](http://www.gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au/sambar) or contact: [andrew.moriarty@gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au](mailto:andrew.moriarty@gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au).

Last week I went out west of Nyngan on a hunt with Rob, a fellow I've got to know on a hunting forum. It had been 5 months since I had shot my last pig and last year's western NSW pig hunt was cancelled due to the dreaded lurgy. Consequently I was eager to get into the pig action again. On Saturday morning I rendezvoused with Rob in Nyngan; from there we travelled in convoy to the property. Upon arrival we conducted an inspection on the first tank located adjacent to the access track. The fresh sign was encouraging and the abundant feed in the paddocks was paramount.

After unpacking our vehicles and setting up camp at the hut, we ventured out on a recon of the nearby tanks where we saw a total of 30+ goats and 5 pigs.

There was a lot of water laying about in ponds and depressions, evidence of the substantial rains in December. That evening Rob suggested we each select a tank to sit 'n' wait. No pigs were seen and we were both carried off by the mosquitoes.

With regimented regularity we were up at 4:30am, munched down marmite on toast washed down with brewed coffee and off walking to the old wheat crop paddocks now overgrown, in places with knee high, lush feed. On Sunday morning Rob spotted a sow and three young pigs and suggested we stalk in close. With "spotters privilege" Rob set up his pack as a rest, took the shot at ~80m and missed. Due to the low morning light I didn't realise what had happened and asked Rob if he connected. Then I tried unsuccessfully to hit the sow on the run out ~200m, then ~250m & then further with each round narrowly going behind her.

Due to the extreme heat 37C - 42C we took shelter and rested in the hut from 10:00 to 18:00 only venturing out to check nearby tanks for any



recent pig activity. Large mobs of goats were usually seen and some photographed to simulate a stalk and shot.

At midnight we went for a spotlight around the old crop paddocks. Approximately 120m out from the track was a mob of two sows, a small boar and approximately five young pigs. Once the light was on them they were off. I opted for the larger animals; with the 120gr Nosler BTs smacking a sow in the head, the other sow in the neck and the third dropping the small boar. All were “floppies”.

A couple of foxes also presented themselves only to meet their demise with a 120gr Nosler BT to the scone. We were back at camp at 01:30.

Up 04:30 we had a breaky and then walked to the old wheat crops again. At approximately 400m from the hut was a sow near a water filled depression. Within seconds she was dispatched by a 120gr Nosler BT. We walked a wind row out in the centre of the crop area noting all the water sources available to game. Just after sunrise we were walking through the scrub towards the remote tank where we saw pigs earlier. Within 400m of the tank a large boar appeared from the right and trotted only ~30m in front of me, instantly the 7mm-08 was shouldered and dropped the boar on the spot, another “floppy”. We followed a pig grunting for a couple of hundred metres then commenced the arduous task of walking 3km back to the car in 39C heat.

While I recuperated, Rob went and sat on a tank for a few hours. He saw a few goats, but no decent billies. That evening Rob & I each went to a tank to sit ‘n’ wait. Again, no pigs were seen and I was eaten alive by mosquitoes. RID does not work! We went spotlighting that night with a nil result.

The next couple of days were repetitious in terms of tactics, nil result and extreme heat. We hadn’t seen pigs for a few days. I mentioned to Rob that the pigs weren’t in their usual spots due to the abundant amount of feed and water about.

Consequently we walked a lot more in the scrub early morning and late afternoon locating a multitude of watering holes with pig sign and a myriad of bird life. Excellent photo opportunities presented themselves.

Later that afternoon Rob nailed a crow @ ~90m and early evening a young fox @ ~80m, each with a 130gr Hornady SST from his 270.

On Thursday morning we had hunted unsuccessfully for pigs and were checking out a couple of tanks on the way back to the hut. I saw a pair of Hardhead ducks on the water and got the camera out. The tranquillity was shattered by a series of three shots from Rob’s 270. Rob had nailed a 34" Billy Goat at ~70m. All three shots connected, but it was third that finally finished the animal. The head was impressive.

With the sleep deprivation of the last few nights both Rob & I passed out and slept through the heat of the day. Later, while Rob sat on a tank, I walked some scrub north of the hut following fresh pig spoor until the light faded.

On Friday morning after another uneventful hunt for pigs the 7mm-08 belted a crow at ~80m and being the last day I opted for a Billy later in the day. Rob & I headed out to a couple of tanks in search of Bill, nothing was seen at the first tank but a mob of 20 were seen loitering around the second tank. I stalked to within ~75m and dropped a 31" Billy with a single 120gr Nosler BT to the lungs. F\*\*\*, it was hot too!!!

Friday night, we went “moonlighting” for pigs. Early in the hunt, the 7mm-08 belted a crow in a tree. We walked for over 700m to the tank near the access track to see if the resident boar was about. Then we traversed the tank wall and headed south to another old wheat crop paddock. After 300+m we then glassed for porky. Rob located a boar at ~200m and we stalked to within ~80m. Rob took the shot with a 130gr Hornady SST, which I saw hit the boar mid length. While Rob “yahooped” and danced



under the moonlight excited with the hit, he didn't notice the boar runoff. I did and he didn't believe me until we walked to the spot,... no pig! The question was; which way did he go? Approximately 30 minutes later after searching, much cursing and frustration on Rob's behalf, I almost tripped over this lump in the stubble. Rob got his boar, and a very plump and healthy specimen it was too.

Talking to the Cocky on Saturday morning he said the rains had scattered most animals and the neighbours had hunters on but packed up early and went home frustrated by not seeing any pigs at all. So we were fortunate to get the game we did.

.....



**Every man needs a ball scratcher (source; internet).**



# **NEW SOUTH WALES DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION INC.**

Dedicated to the Sound Management and Conservation of Deer in NSW.

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

SURNAME:.....CHRISTIAN.....MIDNAMES.....

DATE OF BIRTH..... SEX: Male/Female

DRIVERS LICENCE NO:..... STATE.....

SHOOTERS LICENCE NO:..... CLASS:.....

POSTAL ADDRESS:.....POST CODE:.....

HOME ADDRESS.....POST CODE.....

HOME PHONE.....BUSINESS.....MOBILE.....

OCCUPATION.....

**FEES** (Please tick payment being made):

### **1 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION**

FAMILY: \$55.00

SINGLE: \$50.00

JUNIOR: \$25.00 (Under 18)

### **3 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION**

FAMILY: \$150.00 (SAVE \$15.00)

SINGLE: \$145.00 (save \$5.00)

JUNIOR: \$70.00 (Save \$5.00)

PLEASE NOTE: By law, to possess a shooters licence you must hold appropriate insurance. This is included in the subscription with the exception of FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS which include only one insurance payment. Insurance must be obtained for each additional family member after the first at the rate of \$10.00.

INSURANCE @ \$10.00 PER FAMILY MEMBER AFTER THE FIRST TOTAL: \$.....

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FEE \$.....

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$.....

I AGREE TO ACCEPT AND PRACTICE THE NSW DEERSTALKER'S CODE OF ETHICS AND TO ABIDE AT ALL TIMES BY THE CONSTITUTION, FEDERAL, STATE AND TERRITORY LAWS.

Signature: .....

Date:...../...../.....

PLEASE NOTE: This form is an application for renewal of membership only and is subject to Committee Approval. An application will only be considered if accompanied by all the necessary Fees, This form must be completed in full and is due for renewal 1<sup>st</sup> July of Membership expiry.

**PLEASE PAY PROMPTLY.**

Return to: The Secretary, NSW Deerstalkers, P.O. Box 519, Picton NSW 2571

**NEW SOUTH WALES DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION INC**  
**Dedicated to the Sound Management and Conservation of Deer in NSW.**  
**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

SURNAME.: ..... CHRISTIAN. .... MID NAMES.  
 ..... DATE OF BIRTH ..... GENDER..... Male / Female  
 DRIVERS LICENCE NO..... STATE.....  
 SHOOTERS LICENCE NO..... CLASS: .....  
 GAME LICENCE..... CATEGORY.....  
 POSTAL ADDRESS..... POST CODE:..  
 HOME ADDRESS:..... POST CODE:..  
 HOME PHONE..... BUSINESS.....  
 MOBILE.....  
 EMAIL.....  
 OCCUPATION ..... DEERSTALKER MAG DELIVERY BY ..... POST / EMAIL

FEES (Please tick payment being made): 1 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION FAMILY: \$55.00 SINGLE: \$50.00 JUNIOR:  
 \$25.00 (Under 18) 3 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION SINGLE: \$145.00 (Save \$ 5.00) FAMILY: \$150.00 (Save \$15.00)  
 JUNIOR: \$ 70.00 (Save \$ 5.00) NB: Insurance is included in the subscription with the exception of FAMILY  
 MEMBERSHIPS which include only one insurance payment. Insurance must be obtained for each additional family  
 member after the first at the rate of \$10.00. Please list family members on the back of this form INSURANCE @  
 \$10.00 PER FAMILY MEMBER AFTER THE FIRST \$..... MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FEE  
 \$..... TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$..... I AGREE TO ACCEPT AND PRACTICE THE NSW  
 DEERSTALKER'S CODE OF ETHICS AND TO ABIDE AT ALL TIMES BY THE CONSTITUTION, FEDERAL,  
 STATE AND TERRITORY LAWS. Signature: ..... Date:..... I..... I.....

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 Approval. An application will only be considered if accompanied by all the necessary payment. This form  
 must be completed in full and is due for renewal on 1 July of Membership expiry. PLEASE PAY  
 PROMPTLY. Return to: The Secretary, NSW Deerstalkers, P.O. Box 519, Picton NSW 2571**

Family Member No.1 SURNAME.: ..... CHRISTIAN. ....  
 MID NAMES. .... DATE OF BIRTH ..... GENDER..... Male / Female  
 DRIVERS LICENCE NO..... STATE.....  
 SHOOTERS LICENCE NO..... CLASS:..  
 GAME LICENCE NO..... CATEGORY.....  
 MOBILE.....  
 EMAIL.....  
 OCCUPATION .....

Family Member No.2 SURNAME.: ..... CHRISTIAN. ....  
 MID NAMES. .... DATE OF BIRTH ..... GENDER..... Male / Female  
 DRIVERS LICENCE NO..... STATE.....  
 SHOOTERS LICENCE NO..... CLASS:..  
 GAME LICENCE NO..... CATEGORY.....  
 MOBILE.....  
 EMAIL.....  
 OCCUPATION .....



NEWSLETTER  
DECEMBER 2009  
International Edition

RIDGE Inc

www.mcghieswildcountry.com

Australian  
**WILD  
COUNTRY**  
Adventures

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FROM CLARK MCGHIE

As Christmas draws rapidly near, I have finally found the time to get another newsletter out to all. On behalf of Kurt, myself and the Wild Country team, I would like to extend our very best wishes for the festive season to all our friends around the world.

**Ramblin' Men**

We certainly have covered some miles this year with Kurt's year being even more hectic than mine. We have travelled from one end of the country to the other in our dual cab Hilux 4x4's and they surely were a top advertisement for Toyota once we got over some damage caused by a badly replaced timing belt.

Was going to include a map of Aussie with red

lines from Brisbane to Cairns to Darwin to Townsville to Charters Towers to Brisbane, to Melbourne and back up the coast through Sydney to show some of the distance we have travelled.

**Chital Deer Hunting**

We started off with our usual hunts in "Chital" deer (*Axis axis*) country around Charters Towers, Central Queensland in late December through to early February. The weather was hot and dry to start with before the season broke and it turned into the biggest flood for many years. We only just finished with our last hunters, John, Paul and Pat "Ringo" Kennedy before we had to beat a hasty retreat for dryer ground.

Clark



NEW JVC VIDEO CAMERA



It would have been lovely to buy a new rifle or any of the hundred other things on my wish list but the thing I wanted most was a new video camera. So I splashed out and got the latest JVC GY-HM100E SD card HD camera which has all the features I was looking for in a light weight, robust unit but with excellent sound and picture quality.

Kurt is now carrying the smaller cousin to my camera, the JVC Everio Full HD camera so we are now suitably "armed". We have taken a heap of top class HD footage of bulls, buffs, pigs, chital, reds and sambar which we will turn into Axis axis 2 , Red Stags Down Under 2 and others DVD's next year.



## Red Deer Hunting

As soon as we got back from the North, we were preparing for the red deer hunting season. The stags were on the prowl during late March and we were there to find them. My first hunter went with me into a very remote block where a landowner has tried to improve the genetics of his herd by culling the worst stags, stopping all harvest of young stags and introducing some better blood-lines by crossing a top class stag over resident hinds. by crossing a top class stag over resident hinds. We again ran the RIDGE ballot for those hunters who like to self guide on red deer and again we saw some lovely stags come out of our Brisbane Valley ranges. Kurt kept his long legs stretched up and down the hills, helping out hunters during the four weeks of the season. I managed a few days with Leigh Hall and Richard Fenning and again we were successful with a lovely trophy 6 x 6 stag.

It is rare to see "Golden" red deer and very rare to see one carrying such a lovely rack.



## SCRUB BULLS AND PIGS

No sooner had our feet recovered from the red deer "roar", than we were heading up into the central Queensland pig and bull country. We started up a new pig hunting block and it has proven to be a beauty with heaps of pigs and lots of top boars. As usual, our dogs proved their worth with some impressive bail-ups on big boars but again "Ernie" the dingo took a bow too soon and copped an impressive scar on the backside. Sadly I lost my good mate "Tank" to a speeding motorist which has seen me start a new dog named "Axe" who may be little but is certainly full of courage.

We did not have time to do many bull hunts this year but still took some impressive big guys. Emmanuel Gregory and John Cooper took these two big guys on a 5 day hunt with me in September.





## BACK TO MT BUNDY, NT AUSTRALIA

Up until the late 60's, my Grandfather Alben Perrett Snr, owned a huge spread in the NT known as Mt Bundy and neighboring properties "Jim Jim" and "Cannonhill". Much of this land went back into the first stages of Kakadu National Park so the property was sold when the buffalo skin and meat markets fell.

It sure was an experience for Kurt, to drive into the property which was home to his father, Grandparents and Great-Grandparents for so long. He found the new owners to be very glad to see him and keen to know as much as possible about our time on the property. With Kurt was our buddy Chris Boyer from the US who had a ball chasing pigs, hunting for buffalo and fishing for barra. I'm not sure if he liked our big "suitcases on legs" as he reckoned they were a lot bigger than 'gators.

Kurt spend a couple of months working for Glen Giffin and Muckadilla Safaris on other properties, shooting donkeys for bait stations, guiding bowhunters on boar hunts and helping with the buffalo guiding. It was a great experience for a young hunter and guide like Kurt who wants to make a career in this industry.



## Cape York Peninsular

For some time now, I have been pushing good mate and the major RIDGE ballot landowner, Rob Grieve, to take a few days off and head out on a hunt with us. Finally, the chance appeared through his seeming never ending job of cattle work, building, timber treatment etc so Rob and his "keen as mustard" son Sam were loaded into our truck.

We had to call in at one of our chital deer properties on the way to undertake some culling of excess female deer but were soon on the way North through the Palmer river area and to our destination. For those not familiar with Australia, this is a distance of over ..... km from the Brisbane Valley and the further you go North, the worse the roads and the deeper the bull dust.

My intention was to check out a property that we wish to take pig and bull hunts on in future and we were not disappointed. This truly is great country for both bow and rifle hunters, with plenty of big boars and bulls along the long swamps which are a feature of this area.

I will be flying to the Cape again this month to look at more possibilities for other game species across a vast area of true wilderness land in one of the most beautiful parts of Australia. Stay tuned for more hunting opportunities in the future.



## THE HOME OF THE SAMBAR



Last month, Kurt and I grabbed a few weeks for ourselves to celebrate our birthdays and headed right down south to Victoria to hunt for sambar. On the way we picked up our buddy Luke in Canberra and then drove to see a hunter who should be an inspiration to us all. Clyde Thomas was an accomplished hunter and very experienced deep sea diver when a tragic accident put him in a wheelchair for the rest of his life as a quadriplegic.

Not one to just lie down and die, he has achieved far more on two wheels than many hunters will ever do on two legs and his impressive trophy room is testimony to his relentless spirit and the true dedication of his lovely wife Jenny and brother Rod. Clyde is still actively involved in many clubs and organisations and does so much for hunters and anglers of this country. Truly a lesson to us all on true grit.

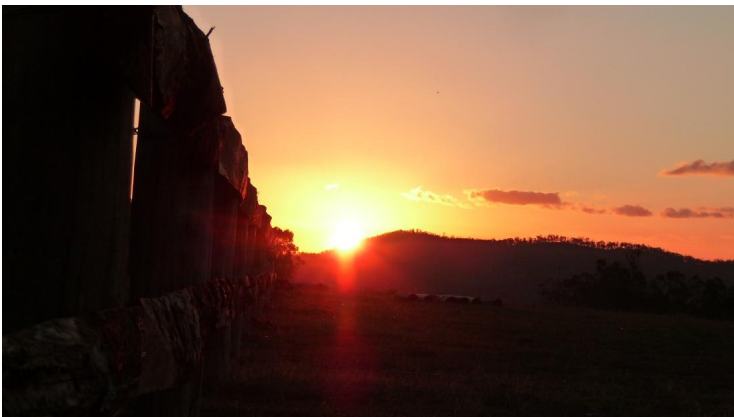
From there we headed into the high country, set up camp and went looking for what I feel is Australia's premier big game animal. Recent rain and the end of the main breeding period had shifted the bigger stags up off the low country and into the thickest cover. In total we saw over 77 deer for our 8 days hunting which amazed even some locals. We were looking to film the next leg of the "Luke's Quest" series so we were on the lookout for a really big stag. On day five, Luke passed up on a young 26" stag which showed true dedication as most hunters dream of shooting any sambar stag.

Unfortunately, although we put the time and effort in, no bigger stag came our way before Luke had to head back home. Kurt and I hunted extremely hard for the next few days and were rewarded with the sight of 4 more stags but alas, none stayed long enough in the open to give any chance of a shot. We headed home happy but vowing to return

## THE VALLEY OF THE DEER – GLENFIDDICH

As mentioned in our previous newsletters, we have set up a large property within the red deer historic area, for hunters to join in with us and help with the management. Rifle hunters are most welcome but rifle shooting is limited to certain sections of the property and only during the peak red deer season.

For the rest of the year, bowhunters can hunt for stags, venison hinds, wild pigs and small feral animals like fox, rabbit and hare plus shoot our 3D course. The main centre is set up in such a way that it will appeal to the ladies and children as well, with good camp sites, plenty of space and a large central cooking and entertainment area. The main flyer for this project is below but contact me if you would like more information on [clarkmcghie@bigpond.com](mailto:clarkmcghie@bigpond.com) We still have approximately 15 spots available and once these are gone, membership will be capped until a member retires from the team.



The RIDGE group is still working hard to maintain some form of protected status for our wild deer herds in this State. Unfortunately, our present Government seems intent on classing them all as Pest species and having strong control or eradication measures put in place.

We have had encouraging meetings with landowner groups and some Government Departments who see the obvious benefits of sustainable management of deer herds for the future but other Departments will not be swayed in their view that all “non indigenous” animals should be removed.

As one landowners wisely said, “what we call utilization of pasture reserves, they call destruction of native grasses... what we call woody weeds, they call valuable native flora.... How do we win??”

On our recent trip to Victoria, we saw the horrific damage caused by the recent bushfires as well as bushland that is trying to recover from bad fires in previous years. It is clearly evident that poor fuel load management due to restrictions on clearing or strip burning, brought about by “Green” legislation, kills more trees and has a worse impact on forests than deer ever will.

### Deer as a Pest species

At the time of writing this, John Lacy and I have just arrived back from a meeting in Brisbane. The “Feral Deer Strategic Workshop” was put on by Biosecurity and well attended by representatives from all Government Departments linked with deer or the environment in some way.

We got a chance to put forward the RIDGE Policy for wild deer management and we felt that it was very well received overall. All wild deer have been classed as Pests but we suggested that

landowners can soften this status and be allowed to manage their own herds if they adopt Property Based Management Plans and Quality Deer Management principles. (Thank you Brian Murphy and Joe Hamilton)

Our permit system would be the already established Waybill and PIC (Property Identification Code) system currently in use for other livestock. It certainly isn't the perfect system but it will at least give landowners and hunters the chance to work together, to keep numbers under control and herds managed without too much interference from “Big Brother”. It is still a long way off but we are back in with a chance now and the future looks a lot brighter than a few months ago for our deer herds. As we have always said, “The future is in our hands”.

## SUPER SALMON

Anyone who has been following Kim Bain-Moore's exploits in the US will have heard of her latest win in another round of the King Mackerel circuit which now has her as possibly the most accomplished international female angler ever in the States.

Not to be outdone, here is Dad, Steve with a ripper “King” Salmon (Threadfin) caught in our local water recently.

*Well done mate, I'm green with envy!!*



# The Valley of the Deer “Glenfiddich Hunting Lodge”



Combining access for members to quality bush camping and recreation activities with the sustainable use of wildlife.

Membership to the “Glenfiddich Hunting Lodge” is now available and will be strictly limited. It is offered on a “first in” basis to members of the RIDGE Inc group and their families and friends, in recognition of their past involvement. Membership starts- 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009. Annual membership can be purchased for as little as \$330 (includes GST), which includes access to the lodge facilities, camping, bushwalking and photography.

Additional activities (below) can be purchased upon joining at any time during the year. This tiered system allows for full family participation, groups, clubs, couples, singles and international guests. Non members welcome by invitation only.

### Additional activities:

- Use of a 3D target archery course (20 target ABA)
- Rifle hunting for red deer during the Ballot season (March/April)
- Year round bowhunting opportunities on red, fallow and rusa deer, wild pigs, rabbits and hare.
- Free Game Council NSW “R” Licence tests for full members.
- Bowhunting accreditation available.

For more information contact:

Clark McGhie 0429 688192  
email: clarkmcghie@bigpond.com



## Game meat - butchering basics



OK, you've got your deer on the deck what now? It's surprising how many hunters don't really know how to handle game meat and think it is tough, or gamey or whatever? Follow some simple basics and you will have some of the best, tastiest and healthiest meat you can get.

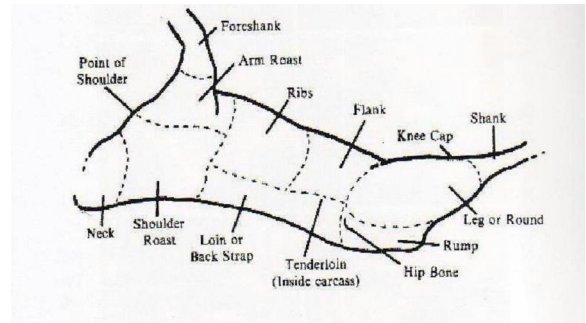
It is generally a good idea to hang game meat for a few days in order to let it drain and also to let the enzymes work and tenderise it.

The length of time you hang an animal depends on a number of factors: the time of year, heat, humidity, air circulation, where it is shot and the age of the animal. A younger animal is generally more tender and requires less hanging time. An animal that has been gut-shot already has a good dose of bacteria at work.

If it's winter you can skin it and hang it in your garage for a week or longer and it will form a dry skin over the exposed meat, but the meat under it will be fine.

If it is a really cool period you can leave it for up to 3 weeks and the meat will be fantastic – you just need to check it each day and make the decision when

to butcher it. If you bone the animal out on the spot – keep it in plastic bags in the fridge or esky for a few days – check it and drain it every day if necessary. The diagram below shows the basic cuts.



In this newsletter we'll talk about field butchering an animal. If you manage to take a deer and it is a long way from a road or track, you can bone it out on the spot and only carry out the meat – it will save you a heap of weight – and sweat!!!

I suggest that you consider getting a Hunttech canvas meat bag and also carry a little plastic tarp to lay out on the ground to keep your meat clean (you can get the Tarp from Bunnings or disposal shops for a couple of dollars).

The Hunttech meat bags are really good value and can carry a fair amount of meat comfortably – I have carried out both hind legs, a fore quarter and the back-strap and fillets off sambar hinds through some steep country – takes two trips for a sambar stag.

You can easily put the quarters and backsteaks off a fallow doe in one and carry on hunting. The bags are machine washable and roll up to a small size and fit in your bumbag or

daypack.

### **Field Butchering**

Get your deer on its side, if you are going to field butcher and you aren't after the heart, liver and kidneys, you don't need to gut it – you can get the inside fillets out after you have got the rest of the meat off the animal by carefully slitting the flank – and avoiding the gut bag - from the ribcage up near the spine down to the hind quarters.

You then reach in and with your fingers separate the fillet from the spine, reach around and follow it up to the diaphragm, hold it away from the spine and carefully nick it off with your knife.

If it is really fresh it will contract when you cut it. Using your fingers push right up to where it joins the spine below the hind quarters – separate it and then carefully nick it off.

*Forequarters:* If the forequarter/s are ok just bone them out and keep that meat in a separate plastic bag. Forequarter meat is great for casseroles, curries, pot roasts and mincing. Don't waste it.

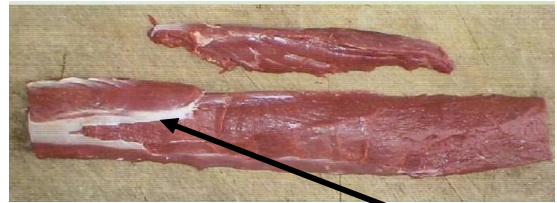


You've taken off the forequarter, cut the skin right down the centre line of the spine to the tail and around the hindquarters. From the inside cut down to the hip joint and then follow the bone out until you remove the hind quarter and lay it on your tarp or plastic bag for

later.

*Backsteaks:* Run your knife down the spine from the neck to where the backstrap ends and then keep running your knife hard down against the vertebrae and skin the backstrap off.

Place it on the tarp or plastic bag to cool.



Later you need to cut off all the silver muscle lining (do this back at home on the bench) as it contracts when you cook it and toughens the meat.

Turn the deer over and repeat these steps and then get the fillets out as described earlier.



*Hindquarters:* skin out one leg, lay on tarp with the inside of the leg up, run your knife down the bone to the joint and then just keep carefully following around the bone until you separate it.



Rump

Knuckle

Topside

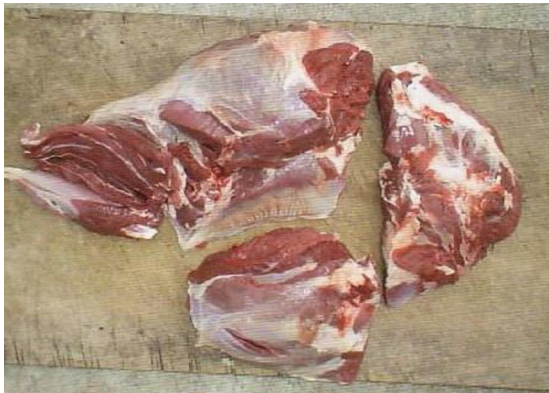
Then skin out the shank and put the shank meat with your forequarter meat. Next carefully pull apart and cut muscles into the cuts shown in the pictures that follow.



Knuckle for casseroles and roasts.

Silverside for casseroles or mince

*Good luck – BB*



Rump and topside can be used for casseroles, steaks or roast.

#### **Venison Recipe:**

#### ***Jungal's Venison Osso Bucko (without the Oss and the Bucko!).***

This is a simple recipe from a mate of mine and uses the tougher cuts – shins, forequarters – silverside and off-cuts.

1 kg diced venison – big cubes

½ bottle shiraz or cab sav (optional but adds richness to meal – *drink the other half while preparing it!!!*)

2 large cans roma tomatoes

1 tube tomato paste

2 jars pesto

1 red and 1 green pepper diced

3 zucchinis dices

6 small squashes diced

1 jar of sliced black olives.

10 mushrooms sliced

3 red onions sliced thinly

1 pack large chunky pasta.

Sear the diced venison on the barbeque or in frying pan and put in crock pot.

Fry the onions until they start going transparent and put in slow cooker  
Add wine tomato paste, pesto and slow cook for 4 hours.

1 hour before serving add tomatoes, diced pepper, zucchini, mushrooms, squash and olives and season to taste with ground rock salt and pepper.

Serve on bed of pasta drizzled with olive oil and mop up with chunky bread.

*Cheers - BB*



**Harvest Summary**

**All Areas From 01/02/2006 To 03/11/2009**

Species	Number Seen	Number Taken	Permissions Issued	Permissions Returned	Days Booked	Time Hunting
			34012	30305	91532	32433
Feral Cats	1794	546				
Deer – Unknown	407	20				
Chital Deer	106	17				
Fallow Deer	15277	1271				
Hog Deer	47	8				
Red Deer	1813	197				
Samba Deer	225	34				
Rusa Deer	194	20				
Wapiti Deer	22	1				
Wild Dogs	1261	221				
Fox	9735	2815				
Goats	32903	5174				
Hare	5146	1185				
Pigs	9348	4239				
Rabbits	76730	14316				
Other	59					
	<hr/>	<hr/>				
	155067	30064				

# Bowhunting Workshop 2010

The Bowhunting Workshop fee is \$200 (inclusive of GST)



## Enrolment Form

**PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS & WRITE CLEARLY**

**Personal Details**

Mr/Mrs/Ms

Family Name

--	--

First Name

Other Names

--	--

e-mail:

--

**Postal Address**

Flat/Unit/House No.

Street/Road Name

--	--

City/Suburb/Town

State

Post Code

--	--	--

**Phone Numbers:**

**Emergency Contact**

( )	Home
( )	Work
( )	Fax
( )	Mobile

Name:
Phone Number:

	Individual Course Fee	Total Payment
Workshop fee (Please attach individual Enrolment Forms if payment is for multiple registrations)	\$200	

\* Please detail any specific dietary requirements \_\_\_\_\_

Please Note: A refund policy does apply to all registrations. For a copy of our policy please refer to website: [www.gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au)

**Preferred Payment Options (PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH)**

Credit Card details. Please charge my:  Mastercard  Visa

Card Number

Month

Year

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Name on card

Amount

	\$			
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Signature

Date

**Other Payment Options** (Please make cheques payable to Game Council NSW)

Bank cheque enclosed  Money order enclosed  Personal cheque enclosed

**PLEASE NOTE:** A fee of \$20.00 applies to dishonored cheques.



**ENROLMENTS and ENQUIRIES TO:**

Phone: 02 6360 5111

Fax: 02 6361 2093

Email: [info@gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au)

**Postal Address:**

PO BOX 2506, ORANGE NSW 2800

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

# Deer Hunting Workshop 2010



The Deer Hunting Workshop fee is \$325 (inclusive of GST)



## Enrolment Form

**PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS & WRITE CLEARLY**

**Personal Details**

Mr/Mrs/Ms      Family Name

--	--

First Name

Other Names

--	--

e-mail:

--

**Postal Address**

Flat/Unit/House No.      Street/Road Name

--	--

City/Suburb/Town

State

Post Code

--	--	--

**Phone Numbers:**

**Emergency Contact**

(   )	Home
(   )	Work
(   )	Fax
(   )	Mobile

Name:
Phone Number:

	Individual Course Fee	Total Payment
Workshop fee (Please attach individual Enrolment Forms if payment is for multiple registrations)	\$325	

\* Please detail any specific dietary requirements \_\_\_\_\_

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Credit Card details. Please charge my:     Mastercard     Visa

Card Number

Month

Year

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Name on card

Amount

	\$		
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Signature

Date

**Other Payment Options** (Please make cheques payable to Game Council NSW)

Bank cheque enclosed     Money order enclosed     Personal cheque enclosed

**PLEASE NOTE:** A fee of \$20.00 applies to dishonored cheques.

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# Game Management Workshop 2010

The Game Management Workshop fee is \$250 (inclusive of GST)



## Enrolment Form

**PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS & WRITE CLEARLY**

**Personal Details**

Mr/Mrs/Ms      Family Name

--	--

First Name

Other Names

--	--

e-mail:

--

**Postal Address**

Flat/Unit/House No.      Street/Road Name

--	--

City/Suburb/Town

State

Post Code

--	--	--

**Phone Numbers:**

**Emergency Contact**

( )	Home
( )	Work
( )	Fax
( )	Mobile

Name:
Phone Number:

	Individual Course Fee	Total Payment
Workshop fee (Please attach individual Enrolment Forms if payment is for multiple registrations)	\$250	

\* Please detail any specific dietary requirements \_\_\_\_\_

Please Note: A refund policy does apply to all registrations. For a copy of our policy please refer to website: [www.gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au)

**Preferred Payment Options (PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH)**

Credit Card details. Please charge my:     Mastercard     Visa

Card Number

Month

Year

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Name on card

Amount

	\$		
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Signature

Date

**Other Payment Options** (Please make cheques payable to Game Council NSW)

Bank cheque enclosed     Money order enclosed     Personal cheque enclosed

**PLEASE NOTE:** A fee of \$20.00 applies to dishonored cheques.

 <b>NSW</b> GOVERNMENT	 <b>GAME COUNCIL</b> New South Wales CONSERVATION HUNTING	<b>ENROLMENTS and ENQUIRIES TO:</b>
		Phone: 02 6360 5111
		Fax: 02 6361 2093
		Email: <a href="mailto:info@gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au">info@gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au</a>
		<b>Postal Address:</b> PO BOX 2506, ORANGE NSW 2800 <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au">www.gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au</a>

# Pig Dog Hunting Workshop 2010

The Pig Dog Hunting Workshop fee is \$200 (inclusive of GST)



## Enrolment Form

**PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS & WRITE CLEARLY**

**Personal Details**

Mr/Mrs/Ms

Family Name



First Name

Other Names



e-mail:

**Postal Address**

Flat/Unit/House No.

Street/Road Name



City/Suburb/Town

State

Post Code




**Phone Numbers:**

**Emergency Contact**

( )	Home
( )	Work
( )	Fax
( )	Mobile

Name:
Phone Number:

	Individual Course Fee	Total Payment
Workshop fee (Please attach individual Enrolment Forms if payment is for multiple registrations)	\$200	

\* Please detail any specific dietary requirements \_\_\_\_\_

Please Note: A refund policy does apply to all registrations. For a copy of our policy please refer to website: [www.gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au)

**Preferred Payment Options (PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH)**

Credit Card details. Please charge my:  Mastercard  Visa

Card Number

Month

Year







Name on card

Amount



Signature

Date

**Other Payment Options** (Please make cheques payable to Game Council NSW)

Bank cheque enclosed  Money order enclosed  Personal cheque enclosed

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