

# THE DEERSTALKER

## July 2009



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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

**President:** Darren Plumb  
Ph: 02 48447071; 0412021741

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

**Secretary &  
Public Officer:** Greg Haywood  
1 Struan Street  
Tahmoor NSW 2573  
Ph: 02 4681 8363

### **Affiliated To:**

Australian Deerstalkers Federation  
Game Management Council (Australia)  
Inc.

**Treasurer:** Nalda Haywood

**Snr. Vice**

**President:** John Natoli  
Ph: 04138514336

### **Contributions:**

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

**Jnr. Vice**

**President:** Peter Birchall  
26/39-41 Railway St., Engadine.

All contributions are to be mailed or emailed to:

Dal Birrell - Editor  
14 Blackall Street  
Bulli NSW 2516  
[dbi93465@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dbi93465@bigpond.net.au)

**Club Armourer:** John Natoli.

**Game Management**

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

### **Advertisements:**

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

**Licence Testing**

**Co-ordinator:** Greg Haywood

**Video Library:** Terry Burgess

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### **Cover photos**

**Top:** NSWDA Secretary Greg Haywood & President Darren Plumb with Meg & Lorraine, our hosts & caterers for the NSWDA Dinner.

**Bottom:** Some well known NSWDA identities enjoying themselves at the dinner, "Xmas in July".

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

## FROM THE EDITOR

This year we will publish five issues of this newsletter. 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.

**2009 submission deadlines;**  
**September 15th**  
**October 23rd**

### 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).

**Printed on paper submissions** need to have clear black typed text. Faintly printed text will not scan & cannot be included. **Very short pieces, such as personal adverts can be hand written.**

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### Meeting dates for 2009.

The venue is the German Austrian Club Cabramatta – Thursdays at 7.30 pm

### 2009 Meeting Dates.

15th October (day, Southern Highlands / Central Tablelands).

14th November (Saturday) Trophy Exhibition.

**Other -** SCI Expo February 2009,

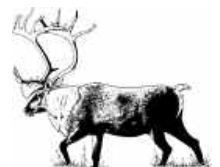
**Photos** can be prints or negatives or slides.

These can be returned to you if you include a stamped self addressed envelope. If these photos are valuable, send copies rather than originals.

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



## Emailing photos - How to.

Everyone with email has at some time received massive photos which don't fit on the screen & which force you to move the screen window around to see the whole picture.

Some of these pictures are giant files, needing a long time to download. It can all be pretty frustrating.

If you are one of those people who send these giant illustrations, but want to stop annoying your friends with them you need to address two aspects of picture size.

The first is the actual dimensions of the picture. Most digital cameras make images which are quite large, say 30" X 40" (750mm X 1000mm). This is way too big for a computer monitor. Your photo software may automatically reduce the image size to fit the screen, but other programs like your email viewer will show them at their real (giant) size.

The second is the number of pixels (picture dots) in the image, often shown as dpi (dots per inch). For an email picture which needs to fit on a screen you need to reduce both physical size and dpi.

How can these pictures be cut down to a usable size? Let's start by thinking about where the picture comes from. If you are using a scanner to digitize a paper print, it can be fairly simple. You need to adjust the scanning software to scan at both the size and the dpi you need. When scanning a normal postcard print say, set the output size to "same as" or to 6" X 4" and the dpi setting to either 72 or 96 dpi.

There are many different digital image formats, the

most common being jpeg. Jpeg is a compressed format which can be saved in a range of qualities, from 1 to 10 or 12 (or often as a %, where 1 is about 8% & 10 or 12 is 100%). 3 (or 30%) is suitable for emailed images to view on a screen. 8 (or 80%) gives the best quality for the smallest file size when the person getting the file wants to make a print from your picture.

So, if I'm sending someone an image by email from a print to only view on their computer screen, I'll scan it at 6" X 4" (or "same as" size), at 96 dpi, then save as a jpeg at quality 3 (30%).

On the other hand, if I'm sending the same picture to someone who needs to send the image off to get a print made on paper, I'll use 150 to 200 dpi, 6" X 4" if they want a postcard print, & save the jpeg file at quality 8 (80%). This file will be much larger than the one sent to just view on screen.

Reducing the size of an image taken on a digital camera requires you to use either a special program designed for the job, or your normal photo software which maybe came with the camera.

A free resizing program like "PicSizer" can be downloaded from the web at <http://www.photo-freeware.net/picsizer.php>. The program is fairly simple to use & will let you downsize to the specifications above.

If you prefer to use your usual photo software program, it should have the ability to downsize & save the smaller files as copies of your originals. Best not save the smaller pictures over your originals, so use "save as" rather than the "save" option, & specify a different location to save the smaller files. Without knowing exactly which piece of software the reader has, I can't give



specific instructions. Just spend a little time experimenting & it should all work out.

Once you have your pictures saved at the smaller size, you need to start up your email program, select the recipient from the address book, give the email a heading, type in a message, then attach your picture.

To attach any file to an email, click on the paperclip (or “attach”) icon which will be somewhere on the top of the page. A new window will open. You then need to navigate to where you saved the picture files, click on one, then click on “open”. You will be returned to your email & the picture file will be attached to your email (it will appear as an icon somewhere on screen). Repeat the process to attach more picture files. You can attach several files at once if you know how to highlight them all at once.

### Game Council Issues

#### “Issues and Position Statements” document.

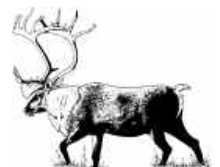
The Game Council has distributed via email a 19 page document outlining the rules and ethics of hunting in NSW forests, and on private land. This is an excellent and informative document, which answers most of the commonly and less commonly asked questions about hunting & shooting in NSW.

I was recently contacted by Bob Penfold about obtaining a permit for an overseas hunter to shoot & hunt here. Apparently he could not get an answer from anyone, including the Registry. The answer to this question is in this document, in detail.

Persons wanting a copy should be able to request one from the Game Council by email. They might also be able to supply printed copies.



Cartoon courtest of Bircho; did he most appreciate the irony or the boobs?





# Secretary's Report!

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## Secretary's Report

### Next Meeting – Thursday, 15 October 2009

This meeting will be our Annual General Meeting as well as a General Meeting so we will be calling for nominations for those that want to be on the Committee. This meeting we want to do something different and it may be a rimfire shoot at the SSAA St. Marys indoor range.

### Christmas in July (Saturday, 18 July 2009)

Ron and Meg Tinning were again our hosts on their deer farm and we expected a good turnout as many members suggested having a get together in July. Unfortunately, numbers were disappointing however, those that attended had a great time. Plenty of food and drinks good company around the campfires.

A special thanks to Meg and her sister Lorraine for organising and preparing the food, it was a feast. Ron and Laurie for setting things up and getting the wood with help from Greg Lee and Mal Ambrose.

### End of Year Trophy Exhibition (Saturday, 14 November)

This will be held so that we can celebrate the end of the hunting season and share our stories together.

We are looking for a suitable venue and we will keep the food simple e.g. sausage sizzle.

### Game Council

I sent out with the last magazine a copy of Game Council letter advising that our AHO and Agent number will now be the same number i.e. 7185.

This came into effect from 1 June 2009.

Therefore, if you are a Club Assessor or if you are a member renewing your Game Licence or R Licence, then use this number in future.

If you hold a R licence many of the available State Forests hold good numbers of deer. So we

should support the Game Council and do our bit for conservation hunting.

### The Shooters Party

The Hon Robert Brown MLC introduced a Game and Feral Animal Control Act Amendment Bill 2009 in Parliament to allow Volunteer Conservation Hunting in National Parks and making Private Game Reserves legal in New South Wales as they are in other states. Also, the authorised culling of certain native species by properly licenced game hunters.

### Club Guessing Competition

The Tony Bianco mount to the value of \$750 will be drawn at the October meeting. Contract Darren Plumb. The tickets are \$10 each.

### Game Con

The AGM and General Meeting will be held on Sunday, 23 August 2009 11am at the German Austrian Club.

Game Con and member Clubs have been asked to make a contribution to host Brian Murphy from the US to speak at a symposium on Game Management particularly deer. I will advise the date if this gets off the ground.

Good Hunting!

Greg





# President's Report

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I trust everyone had a successful & safe hunting season so far this year. I have heard of some outstanding trophies being taken & congratulations if you did get Mr Big.

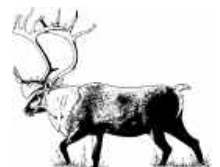
Due to some unavoidable issue arising the AGM will be held at our next meeting on Thursday the 15th of October. I urge as many of you to attend as possible. Nomination forms for anyone wishing to stand on the Committee will be forwarded out soon.

**I still have tickets for our guessing competition for witch the prize is a mount to the value of \$750 by Tony Bianco. Tickets are \$10**

**If anyone requires any of the Club sloppy joes /t shirts etc please let me know & I will bring them to the next meeting.**

I would like to extend a special thank you to Ron & Meg Toning for once again allowing the club use of their facilities for the July get together. I want to also thank Laurie & Lorraine, Greg Lee, Mal Ambrose & Greg Haywood for their assistance in making the night a success (for those who attended }.

As Greg said it was disappointing that so few members turned up. To those members who did turn up , Thank You.



# 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



## **Another hunting contact from Roy Hrelja.**

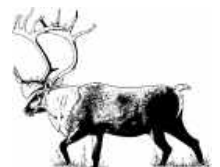
Hi all, As you see by the pic..... i've been busy in the Congo. I was sort of successful with a Dwarf Buffalo, sort of not. Its not a Bull but an unlucky cow that my local hunter said was a bull (more like his meat) that was just about to walk into the jungle. Hopefully next time I'll know what im looking at. Only saw the one group. There was lots of sign though but too much VERY tall grass as they haven't burnt much yet. More than 3m sometimes. Saw sign of Red River Hog, Sitatunga, Bush buck, Water Buck and Duiker though but lots of french hunters hunt there so animals probably nocturnal.



## **A Buffalo, a Bull and a Black Pussy Cat. Peter Birchall.**

What an adventure! As this saga unfolded it truly became an African safari type hunt, Aussie style. My previous story, "Banteng 2005" was the first half of a great couple of weeks in my life. I had been to the N.T. Fifteen years prior, but my lovely friend "Zarah" hadn't. She swam in croc infested water (I told her she was crazy), harvested a few wild oysters for dinner on a couple of occasions & saw wildlife not seen to the south. We dined in expensive Darwin restaurants where mud crab was more expensive than lobster. We had a great time even if it was way too humid for comfort, but then there was the hunting; almost forgot that little detail! Once again we left Darwin with Glenn (Stretch) Griffin of Muckadilla Safaris. As camp cook, Megan, Stretch's partner and three of our Anzac mates, Greg Morton & Brendan & Angela Matthews of Matthews Trophy Hunting New Zealand. Brendan hunts Red stags, Chamois, Tahr, Fallow bucks & Arapara rams, plus all of the other NZ game species. Greg Morton is a freelance writer. We decided to hunt Stretch's block in S.E. Arnhem Land. August & September in 2005 was just about as hot as I like it but it gets a lot hotter in summer. Because there were seven people in this half of the safari we hired an air conditioned Land Cruiser tray back to carry all the gear. Zarah & I drove it to camp and back to Darwin at hunt's end. It was fitted with a CB / UHF radio which came in handy more than once. When travelling in that country make sure you carry more than one spare tyre, a shovel and a good jack. As we neared Roper Bar we stopped to take photos and video of the scenery. A fairly new Toyota Troopie full of traditional owners (T.O.) pulled up beside us. First they bludged a light for their smokes & Zarah gave them a couple of roadies. Second time they stopped beside us they told us about the Aboriginal history of their

area which was most interesting. The man-mountain of a bloke driving was a T.O. Of the locality. Just before we reached Roper Bar we passed them again camped under a good shady tree, finishing off their carton of VB, as no alcohol is allowed over the border at Roper Bar. This spot was a complete mess with thousands of empty cans lying about. The thirteen hour drive from Darwin took its toll & we were glad to reach the beach camp. To break the trip you can stay overnight at the motel in Mattaranka. The T.O.s continue with traditional bush management, which makes perfect sense. The fires they light can be seen from a great distance & the black kites appreciate the thermals created as they circle above the flames, catching their dinner. Buffalo appeared, yet we still had about three hours drive to camp. Earlier, brumbies and the odd Dingo were seen sneaking off the road. Once we stopped we really appreciated the ocean breeze. The five travellers in Stretch's Land Cruiser nearly ran out to the ocean to get some relief from the heat as the air conditioning in their vehicle had broken down mid-morning. We quickly set up camp; two person tents on the flattish sand dune, 100 m from the ocean's edge & out of the crocodile zone according to Stretch. The kitchen area was a couple of tarps over a carport frame; shady & comfortable for most of the day. This was home for the next four days and many a story was told whilst seated there, enjoying a cold drink at the end of the day's play; stumps!  
To be continued next issue.



**Some scenes from the Black Fallow Scheme end-of-season meeting and Working Bee 2009.**



**Bircho blacksmithing a part for the new fireplace, made by Geoff Way.**





**The Way boys show one of their heads**



**Custom knife presented to this year's winner of the "best" (most awful) cull.**



**A Fallow buck, "gone back" and still in velvet from the 2009 season tooth aged at 6 to 8 years old**



## **Game Management Corner.** **Dal Birrell**

Over the years, deer have appeared in more and more places across the state. While some see this as only a good thing because it affords more hunters the opportunity to hunt them, it also has negative aspects which threaten our sport, and the herds themselves.

Only a few decades ago, only a very few hunted deer. Those hunters were pretty much a closed & secretive group who guarded the location of the herds & their access to them fiercely. Poaching was a big part of this & was considered pretty much a “folk tradition”.

Then, the shooting magazines began writing about deer hunting, authors like Col Allison & Arthur Bentley published books about deer hunting in Australia and in no time the hunting public at large had caught the bug.

Deer farming brought about a big increase in the numbers of deer of all species, & placed them in locations where they had never before existed. The farmers might not have made any real money from their enterprises, but they learned a lot about breeding quality animals and some of these have escaped to establish new herds.

Professional guiding has increased on the back of these increased numbers, with, one has to say poaching by some. Unfortunately most of these herds are not under any sort of management.

The next “big thing” has been (in some States) the establishment of game farms & trophies of exceptional quality. There is a push by the Shooters Party to ammend legislation to allow game farms to operate here as in other States. While not all of us want to hunt animals behind fences, it can be justified, provided the fences are

not too close together.

The situation we now find ourselves in, with more herds & greater numbers, is that a back lash has been created against the deer & against deer hunters in some cases, who guilty or not, have been blamed for releasing deer to hunt.

Land owners whose properties the ever increasing herds spill over onto, are forced to try to control “another feral” at their cost, which in some cases involves the use of helicopters at around \$1000 / hour. Poachers sneak on, which causes some real concern & crops are raided. Many fine animals are destroyed during these raids, which is at least “very unfortunate”.

Then there are the “greenies” who, through various means (such as threatened species legislation) want to get rid of all deer. Many of these same people are attacking hunting & hunters as a way to remove or reduce firearms ownership & hunting per se. They are determined & unscrupulous.

If anyone is still in denial about the seriousness of this combined threat, the declaration of deer in Queensland as a pest species ought to have convinced them.

The Game Council is concerned about these issues. It would like to effect control over NSW herds which are located in & around state forests. A way to do this is to recruit groups of local hunters who will take responsibility for a herd & to give them basic game management training so that they can do the job effectively, reducing the size of herds which are causing real trouble & improving the quality of the animals generally. Proper management should not reduce the opportunity to hunt deer ethically & it might just take a lot of the heat out of the push to eliminate them, and us, from the NSW bush.

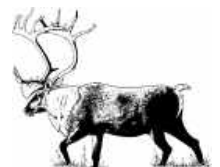


## Rabbit Scan.

Rabbit Scan is a project to map the Australian rabbit population, hopefully to enable better control. Launched earlier this year, the reporting has been extended to the end of September this year. Most wildlife biologists agree that the three most destructive pests in this country are the rabbit, fox and feral cat. This project has the support of prominent individuals like Glenn McGrath & a raft of farming & conservation groups as well as hunting organisations. To get involved, turn on your computer & go to the following address, which has all the details. Unfortunately space precludes including it all in this newsletter.  
<http://www.rabbitscan.net.au/joomla/index.php>

## Yet Another Post from Roy.

Just came back from another Tur hunt in Azerbaijan. Some of you know how many times I've tried for these. I don't know how much blood sweat and tears I've lost over these, not to mention time and money. But I have finally done it, and in a big way. As you can see, lots of snow still. I spent 11 days in the mtns and got about 6 days hunting due to weather etc. Very tough hunt and dangerous with slippery melting snow, avalanches and incredibly steep mtns. I'm back in Kiev now with the little lady,; I need a few days of special rehab after this hunt:) Hope you're doing fine!!  
Roy



## **Excerpts from A Report About the Belgrade Workshop “Trophy Hunting, Hunting Trophies and Trophy Recording” CIC International Council for Wildlife Conservation.**

(This piece was written prior to 2008 & was submitted by Steve Isaacs, with the comment that we in NSWDA should be aware of & thinking about these issues ourselves Ed.)

The Belgrade Trophy Hunting Workshop, a joint undertaking of the CIC Commissions on Sustainable Use, Tropical Game and Trophies & Exhibitions and African Indaba, brought together more than one hundred hunters and experts from around the world – amongst them representatives from Iran and China – during the 54th General Assembly of the CIC for two mornings.

The organizers were particularly pleased by the presence of representatives of FAO, CITES, IUCN, Dallas Safari Club, Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Boone & Crockett Club and Rowland Ward. John Jackson III, President of the CIC Sustainable Use Commission, and Dr Francois Schwarzenbach, CIC Vice President, chaired the first day.

Gerhard Damm of the CIC South African Delegation gave the participants an in depth overview about “Trophy Hunting – Past, Present and Future” in a comprehensive, albeit rather long presentation. “We are here, because there is a need for critical analysis”, said Damm, and “trophy hunting will face serious problems, if we fail to establish trophy hunting as conservation tool, if our actions are perceived as uncivilized and decadent, and if they are seen as morally or biologically wrong.” Hunting Associations around the world need to cooperate to counter the

widespread simplistic public perceptions that the recreational aspects of hunting are uncivilized and decadent; morally wrong as “to take pleasure in killing”; biologically wrong as “killing the strongest and the best”; and utterly wrong, if “the objective of hunting is a trophy”.

Serious consequences for hunting in general and trophy hunting in particular will be the result, if the associations and all concerned hunters do not act decisively now. Hunters are but a small minority.

If the majority perceives, right- or wrongfully, that our activities are undesirable for whatever reasons, hunting and hunters will soon be added to the Red List of highly endangered species!

The objective of the meeting in Belgrade was to start a consultative process, well aware of the fact that it would be painful. CIC members and indeed the hunters around the world need to critically review entrenched concepts.

There is no substitute for permanent dialogue and interaction with scientists and researchers on the one hand and with other hunting organizations on the other hand. And if evidence points towards changing traditional concepts then change must be for what hunters and the CIC stand for.

Damm had critical remarks regarding the extreme competition factor introduced into hunting with the Safari Club International Record Book and of the hijacking of the CIC scoring system by commercial interests in Europe. He highlighted the shortcomings of the CIC scoring system in the evaluation of deer trophies.

Bubenik then claimed “that the designers of the trophy scoring formulas were all more experienced as hunters, rather than as biologically minded sportsmen or naturalists”. In view of the mentioned issues around horned and antlered game, Bubenik’s concluding remarks, written almost 20 years ago, are still valid today:

“Hunters who are concerned with the fate of horned and antlered game on the one hand, and the fate of hunting on the other, should also give





# 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.

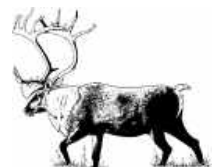
Thanks Darren

thought to the scoring formulas. Hunters cannot compete in harvesting world record trophies for the improvement of personal status without losing face before the public. Socio-biological trophy formulas are designed to undercut such efforts.

**The trophy should not be regarded as a status symbol of the hunter, but once more as a status symbol of the game itself and as a species specific feature. Under such conditions, trophy shows and record books will be unique educational aids and valuable scientific tools presenting evidence as how hunters can improve the welfare of the game.**

**The largest antlers and horns are carried at the transitional age between the prime and post-prime stages of the animal. Males in that age group can be harvested as best trophy bearers and as a reward for the conservation of the primes.”**

In concluding his key-note presentation, Damm said “We need contemplate what threatens to destroy the hunters’ image. We need to establish the real meaning of trophy hunting. We need to reaffirm our credibility as conservationists and true hunters. We owe it to the wild spaces and the game we pursue therein. We owe it to ourselves. We owe it to conservation, because



sustainable trophy hunting is an indispensable conservation and wildlife management tool in the 21st century.”

Dr. Betz concurred in his review that all involved in hunting need to be pre-occupied with the image of hunting. He mentioned that trophy hunting and hunting trophies gained public notice at the 1937 International Hunting Exhibition in Berlin, which served to bring international game biologists together for the first time. **Dr. Betz agreed with Damm that hunters need to be revise trophy scoring methods which lead to the hunting of young (pre-breeding or breeding) trophy animals. He suggests that this could be achieved by scrutinizing the different trophy scoring methods with respect to the relevance or absence of age factors. He also suggested that subjective aesthetic criteria like in the CIC cervidae formulas be replaced by “age points”, respectively penalty points if a trophy animal has been taken before the species-specific target age.**

According to Dr Betz opinion, the changing of formulas and trophy scoring methods does have a negative connotation. Changes will complicate or even prevent the comparison of trophies measured according to “old” standards with those measured according to “new” standards. This is, however, according to Dr Betz, negligible in view of the importance of the general relevance of biologically correct trophy scoring methods

The second key-note presentation of the day was given by Gray Thornton in his capacity as Executive Director of the Dallas Safari Club and the Dallas Ecological Foundation. Thornton’s passionate speech, which kept the listeners spell bound, explored the “Essence of Hunting”. Thornton led the audience through the six stages of a hunter citing personal experiences from his decades of hunting experiences. Thornton stated that most if not all hunters go through these stages

– “not necessarily through all of them, and not necessarily in the same sequence”. Of interest in the context of the workshop was the “Trophy Stage”, where according to Thornton **hunting success is judged by quality, not quantity, and record books may become a means to define such success**, just as slams, or collectors’ lists.

Yet, according to Thornton, **the objective for all hunters should be the “Sportsman Stage” and the “Give Back Stage”**. **The first one measures success by the quality of a total outdoor experience, and not by the moment when a trigger is pulled. The latter one brings wildlife conservation and habitat protection into focus, just as the sharing and passing of the values and traditions of hunting to the young hunters and the people around us.**

Peter Flack, Chairman of Rowland Ward, said with respect to public perception of hunting that „every organization has an image – **if the organization does not manage it, somebody else will do it and this might not be positive.**

This has unfortunately been the case for most hunting organizations”. Flack continued to state that hunting associations need to apply strategic planning procedures and establish an effective communication and information policy. „When you need positive public opinion, it is already too late. Hunting needs PR-experts and a clear strategy is the first step,” he said.

CIC Honorary President Dr. Nicolas Franco concurred, saying „that ongoing cooperation with scientists seems to be of essence, especially since a trophy record book should be monitoring species and habitat and include scientific data. Trophy recording is for the good of the species and not for the ego of a hunter.”

Gerhard R. Damm CIC South African Delegation



# AWMS media release and letter on Game Bill are misleading and contradict its own members' views

**Dr Andrew Moriarty**

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A recent Letter of the Week in *The Land* newspaper and a media release by the Australasian Wildlife Management Society (AWMS) has attacked the Game and Feral Animal Control Amendment Bill 2009 (the "Bill") and questions the ability of Conservation Hunting to reduce the long-term impact of pest or game animals on the environment and agriculture. Both the letter and media release were prepared by the AWMS President and former long-term National Parks and Wildlife Service Director, Western, Mr Terry Korn. This move by Mr Korn and AWMS has left a number of wildlife management scientists, many of them AWMS members, perplexed at some of the claims in the letter and media release.

Of particular concern are the assertions that the Bill has the potential to set wildlife management in NSW back 150 years and that it will create more rather than fewer problems. The two documents also fail to consider scientific evidence on the effectiveness of Conservation Hunters in NSW and other States.

The claims by Mr Korn about the Bill's impact of wildlife management and its potential to create more game and feral animal problems are generalisations and fail to focus on any positives of the Bill. For example, the Bill outlines increased powers of inspectors to regulate hunting, like vehicle search powers as well as new offences like not complying with an Inspector's directive. Similarly the listing of four kangaroo species as game animals will be seen by most wildlife scientists as a positive and necessary change to current policy. The utilisation of kangaroo species for non-commercial purposes has been actively debated in NSW and other States for decades. The Bill provides a common sense solution to this issue in NSW and when ratified will set a positive example for other States to follow. Is Mr Korn genuinely suggesting that these new provisions have the potential to set wildlife management back 150 years and create more rather than fewer wildlife management problems and costs in the future?

The first spurious claim by Mr Korn in the AWMS letter and media release is that "there is no scientific evidence that recreational hunting reduces the long-term impact of pest or game animals on agriculture or the environment". A quick search of the literature shows that there are many overseas examples of this situation (Dickson *et. al* 2009) and at least one project involving Conservation Hunters reducing long-term impacts of game or feral animals in Australia (Norris *et. al* 2005; Anon. 2009). Many smaller, short-term programs have also been completed or are ongoing both in NSW and interstate. The most prolific example of Conservation Hunters helping to reduce the impacts of feral animals in the long term is Operation Bounceback in South Australia's Flinders Ranges. This program has successfully seen the restoration of many of the degraded ecosystems of the Flinders Ranges through an integrated approach, based on community and government partnerships, including Conservation Hunters. One of the program's most important achievements has seen populations of the endangered Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby stabilise after the removal of foxes, feral cats, and feral goats (Norris *et. al* 2005). In addition, this cooperative community-based approach to conservation, involving Conservation Hunters is recognised in Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2020 (Anon. 2009).

In NSW, Conservation Hunters have been at the fore-front of efforts to reduce the impacts of game and feral animals. For example, in 2006, a Game Council-organised Conservation Hunting

Group successfully removed a new incursion of four Canada geese, a bird which has serious implications for agriculture and public safety in Australia. In a similar example, Conservation Hunting Groups in NSW removed 49 out of a population of 50 deer impacting semi-urban areas around Cowra in western NSW and have also removed a total of 1053 rusa deer from areas on the NSW South Coast around Wollongong. These activities are in addition to the now 25,000 game and feral animals removed from public land throughout NSW and the estimated 626,000 game and feral animals removed on private land by Game Council licensed hunters in NSW (Game Council 2009).

The second spurious claim by Mr Korn in the AWMS media release is that: "Wildlife management science clearly shows that large scale coordinated, persistent and strategic approaches are necessary to reduce impact of feral or pest animals in the long term. This cannot be achieved with recreational shooting". The truth is that wildlife management science does not have any evidence that recreational shooting and hunting cannot be a major contributor to a large-scale coordinated, persistent and strategic approach to reduce the impact of feral or pest animals in the long-term. In fact, the above example of Operation Bounceback is one example that clearly contradicts Mr Korn's assertion. In addition, wildlife management science clearly shows that large-scale coordinated, persistent and strategic approaches to feral animal management rarely happen in Australia. For example, in a review of how feral animal control operations were conducted in Australia, it was shown that of 1306 pest control operations undertaken by Government agencies in Australia between 1990 and 2003 the majority (67.5%) consisted of a single treatment without any monitoring of the pest or biodiversity (Reddiex *et. al* 2006).

The Letter of the Week in the 2 July 2009 edition of *The Land* by Mr Korn titled "Park cull bill witless, pointless" also has several contradictions with both the views of AWMS members as well as AWMS position statements. For example, the letter objects to the culling of common bronze-wing pigeons, purple swamp hens, white ibis, straw-necked ibis, black swans and the top-knot pigeon on national parks and on private land. However, why would Mr Korn and AWMS view these species any differently to other native species like kangaroos and waterfowl which are harvested under an accepted sustainable use and adaptive management system? This objection is also in direct conflict to the AWMS position statement on Sustainable Commercial Use of Wildlife which:

"SUPPORTS the concept of achieving habitat and species conservation goals through the sustainable use of wildlife, whether consumptive or non-consumptive, as spelled out in the resolution adopted at the December 1990 General Assembly of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which recognised, *inter alia*, that '... ethical, wise and sustainable use of some wildlife can provide an alternative or supplementary means of productive land use, and can be consistent with and encourage conservation, where such use is in accordance with adequate safeguards...';"

In the same position statement, AWMS outlines that;

"The Society must place particular emphasis upon the application of scientific information and methodology but, in doing so, should not ignore values, and should strive to find a consensus view reflecting the values held by a majority of its members;"

It would appear that the AWMS committee have not served the interests of wildlife management or AWMS members, by generalising about the Bill and by publishing information that might mislead members and the general public about hunting and its effectiveness. In a recent planning workshop, two of the membership issues raised by the AWMS Committee included "Poor retention of members, outside of its core members" and "AWMS is seen by some as a 'clique' and not responsive to new ideas". These issues and others are likely to continue to impact AWMS if media releases like that addressing the Bill continue. A more consensus-driven

approach to the representation of AWMS members and their views and the embracing of wildlife management for all its complexities will be required for AWMS to further develop into a credible and professional wildlife management society.

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 GAME LICENCE..... CATEGORY.....  
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 MID NAMES. .... DATE OF BIRTH ..... GENDER..... Male / Female  
 DRIVERS LICENCE NO..... STATE.....  
 SHOOTERS LICENCE NO..... CLASS:..  
 GAME LICENCE NO..... CATEGORY.....  
 MOBILE.....  
 EMAIL.....  
 OCCUPATION .....