

THE DEERSTALKER

April-May 2008



THE DEERSTALKER

web address: www.newsouthdeerstalkers.org.au

NSW Deerstalkers Association

COMMITTEE FOR 2007 - 2008

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.

Cover Photo:

Two more of Stephen Hopkins' great photos from London's Richmond Park, UK. What a wonderful wildlife asset for any great city to have right on it's doorstep.

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Steve Isaacs

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Co-ordinator: Greg Haywood

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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.

2008 submission deadlines;

January 20th

April 23rd

July 2nd

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 or rich 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. Feintly printed text will not scan & cannot be included. **Very short pieces, such as personal adverts can be hand written.**

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The following are the meeting dates for 2008.

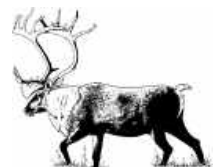
The venue is the German Austrian Club Cabramatta – Wednesdays at 7.30 pm
20 February
21 May
30 July AGM & General Meeting
15 October
Trophy Exhibition & Christmas Party
15th November.

Members; please check Secretary's report for changes to meeting days

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 10111, & the Agent No. is 7185

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 Editorial Committee does however, take responsibility for views expressed in articles signed by them!





The NSWDA Raffle.

Total value of this Hunt is normally around \$6000US

Raffle Tickets \$20 each.

The Maximum number of tickets available is just 200.

Tickets should be attached to this issue of the newsletter, & will also be available at upcoming shows & events where NSWDA is represented.

This year's prize includes the following.

8 Day Thar and Chamois Hunt with Peter Chamberlain, Kiwi Wilderness Safaris, to be taken during Nov to March 2009. All expenses are included during the hunt, including Helicopter fees to \$400 Aus for the Chamois hunt. All you need to do is purchase a ticket to NZ. Peter will do the rest; Peter will pick you up from Christchurch and drop you back. The package includes overnight stays before and after the hunt.

Trophy fees included are for one Thar and one Chamois. A rifle can be provided at no cost.

Return Air Fares from Australia to NZ are at the winners cost

Other Trophies may be taken at the winners expense & taxidermy, transport of firearms and licences in NZ are not included in the package.

Please return your ticket stubs (not the ticket) with your cheque or money order to Greg Haywood ASAP. Greg's address is on page 3 and on the membership renewal form in this newsletter.



Snowy Mountains see feral deer ‘explosion’ - ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

The National Parks and Wildlife Service says there has been an “explosion” of feral deer numbers in the Snowy Mountains.

Snowy Mountains region area manager, Pam O’Brien, says many of the deer have come over the border from Victoria or been released from farms.

She says the deer can devastate native flora and the parks and wildlife service has set up cameras to monitor them as it works out how to address the problem.

“There’s always been deer around in very small numbers and in very small groups, but at the moment we’re seeing them throughout the park in all of the different vegetation communities,” she said.

“They’re even moving higher up in elevation and up above the tree line.”

She says remote cameras have been set up in the national park to monitor deer numbers.

“The deer will often be in the timbered areas, but then they’ll come out onto private property to graze at night,” she said.

“So one of the areas that we’re looking for in the near future is working with the Rural Land Protection Board and neighbouring land owners that are having a problem with deer.”

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Will ‘animal rights’ become the next great social justice movement?

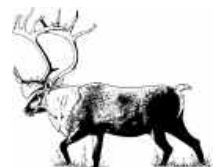
Increasing concern for animal welfare and consumer demand for organic and free range products- backed up with stricter food labelling requirements-is likely to trigger the next great social justice movement in Australia, according to the latest edition of the Australian Law Reform Commission’s journal Reform, launched in Sydney today.

ALRC President, Professor David Weisbrot AM, said that the treatment of animals is increasingly becoming a social and legal issue, as well as an important economic one.

“Within Australia, there is good evidence that labelling laws have failed to keep pace with consumer demand. A quick visit to the supermarket indicates this problem-the shelves are full of boxes of factory-produced eggs confusingly stamped with labels such as ‘farm fresh’, ‘all natural’ and ‘barn raised’. It is difficult to know how consumers can make sense of these labels when they want to make an informed choice to support the humane treatment of animals.

“To date, the focus of food standards law has been on human health, with no consideration of the treatment of animals in the farming and food process. “Laws that address animal welfare and anti-cruelty are a matter for state and territory governments, which has led to inconsistent approaches to regulation, creating confusion for producers and animal welfare groups.

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Secretary's Report!

Secretary's Report

to promote conservation hunting in NSW.

Future Meeting Dates

The German Austrian Club have advised that they are changing their opening days from Wednesday to Thursday evenings.

Please note the change in dates and Thursday will be discussed at the next meeting.

If Thursday nights are not suitable then we will need a change in meeting venue.

The Australian Shot Expo 2008 (24th -25th May, 9.00am to 5.00pm)

This is again being organised by the SSAA and will be held at the Sydney Showground Homebush.

We have a booth to promote our club and sell our clothing as well as support the Hunting and Shooting Sports and fellow clubs and sponsors.

Please let me know if you can help man the booth over the two days.

Game Council

The Game Council has a new newsletter called HUNT NSW (this incorporates the quarterly update and Hunt NSW).

Highlights of the year include:

- The second anniversary of conservation hunting in NSW with 180 State Forests declared for conservation hunting.
- 11,000 game and feral animals taken in State Forests by R-Licensed hunters
- Proposed declaration of another 191 State Forests for conservation hunting adding another 400,000 ha to declared hunting in NSW.
- Licensing of the 10,000th Conservation Hunter this year.

There will be greater liaison between Game Council and AHO's in education and advisory fields and at Expos.

The future looks great as they secure long term funding for Game Council and continue

Club Raffle

A Hunt with Peter Chamberlain, Kiwi Wilderness Safaris, an 8 day Thar and Chamios Hunt to be taken during November 2008 to March 2009. This hunt is normally around US\$6,000.

Many members have hunted with Peter before with great success. Drawn at our AGM in July, tickets limited to 200 at \$20 each.

The 2008 Hunting Season

The 2008 Rut has produced some great trophies as in most areas the draught has broken and with good feed the bucks and stags have produced some good heads. Hopefully some of our successful members will share their trophies with us at the next meeting.

This year I was laid up with having just had a total hip replacement.

I cannot wait until next year and have given me the incentive of having purchased a new Blaser .270.

Good Hunting

Greg

Important!

The club raffle is to be drawn in July. Please get your ticket butt and cheque or money order back to Greg Haywood ASAP.

Don't miss out!





President's Report

Hi everyone; it looks like the height of the hunting season "The Rut" went off with a blast with a number of our members securing great trophies, no excuses for the end of year trophy exhibition. As with all good seasons patience will be rewarded, as I have said in past reports just wait till next year.

We are now well into the club year and one meeting away from the AGM to be held in July, the year has gone like lightning for me having just returned to work after a two months break I had some opportunity to hunt some of my favorite spots with mixed results, suffice to say it was pleasing to see trophy quality up and fatter than ever stags rutting to their hearts content.

One of the items I would like to bring to members attention is the recent correspondence the club sent to "Wild Deer" magazine concerning a regular column written by the the head scorer of a prominent Deer hunting club on scoring antlers using the Douglas System, whilst I have no problem in the way clubs per say score trophies it is of concern when interpretation of the Douglas scoring system is bent to the point that there becomes a major difference in scoring trophies in this country.

The NSWDA has been a stalwart of the Douglas Scoring system and has been rigid in the way Norman Douglas explains the system in his hand book. The New Zealand Deerstalkers Ass also upholds the Douglas Scoring system in its original form as to make any change and nterpretation

would consider all heads scored prior to that time null and void.

Thankfully the weight from most scorers around the country favors the Douglas system in its original form. Articles such as those that bend the interpretation confuse the younger up and coming scorers and create doubt

The response from Wild Deer I must say was of concern as they basically told us to go mind our own business, the club has been a strong supporter of Wild Deer and the Wodonga Show, I am concerned that as a public magazine particularly leveled at Deer Hunting that they are unable to accept constructive criticism all be it from a supporter. I have to say that The Douglas Scoring system in its original form is in Jeopardy because of interpretation and I would encourage members to remain loyal to the system.

The NSWDA has a number of accredited scorers trained on the Norman Douglas handbook, those members that wish to have there trophies scored please contact the Club Secretary for a NSWDA registered scorer near to you and please send the results back to the Secretary for inclusion in our records.

Finally at our last meeting Wayne Mcphee brought along a number of Fallow trophies to discuss the in's and out's of scoring and understanding Fallow, this was well received by the members, we hope to have more of these discussions in the future and look forward to some of our new members

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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

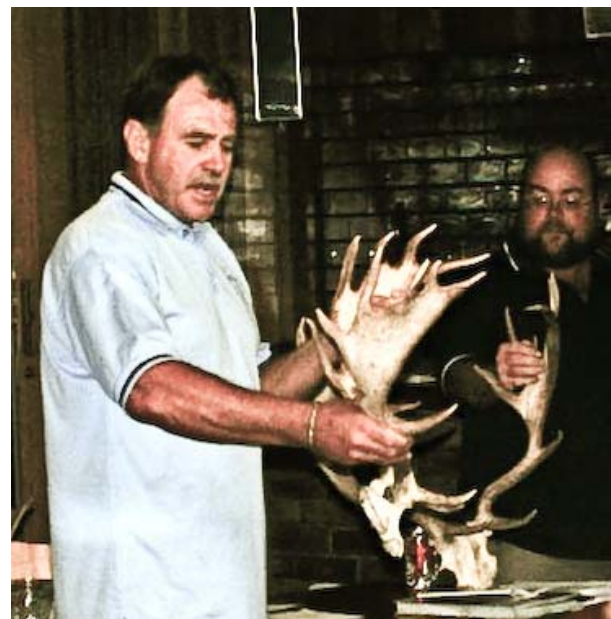


20. Pig Hunting in Qld, Wild Goat in Qld, Mouflon
21. Pig Hunting in Qld, Red Deer in Qld
22. Hunting in Spain, Pig Hunt in Tunisia, Red Deer in Scotland
23. Hunting Fallow in Scotland, Red in Scotland, Kiwi Hunts North West Territories
24. The Wildlife Bow Hunter, Deer, Pigs, Foxes, Mountain Hunting 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



attending and promote deer hunting in NSW and abroad.

**Regards
Steve Isaacs**



Wayne McPhee shown discussing Fallow heads at a recent monthly meeting. This was so well received that we plan to have more displays and discussions of this kind at meetings this year.



continued from page 5

“At the same time, some animal activists have begun to push for a more radical approach, based on a model of ‘animal rights’ rather than ‘animal welfare’.

“As with other social justice movements, activists are seeking to push the existing boundaries and achieve law reform through a range of strategies, including lobbying for legislative change; utilising targeted and test-case litigation; undertaking community and professional education campaigns; and harnessing the power of consumers in the marketplace.

“Animal products are a significant part of the local economy, and remain an important source of exports for Australia. The recent decision by Swedish-based international retailer H&M to ban Australian wool due to concerns over mulesing demonstrates that Australian practices face increasing scrutiny, with potential major consequences for exporters.

“The remarkable recent growth of animal law courses in Australian universities parallels a similar growth in environmental law courses a generation ago, and indicates that ‘animal rights’ is now firmly on the agenda for serious consideration.

“These are complex matters, requiring the balancing of social, economic and environmental interests. Debates about possible changes to the law are at an early stage in Australia. By publishing this edition of Reform-which includes a range of perspectives from food producers, lawyers and animal rights advocates-we aim to stimulate informed community debate about these

issues.”

ALRC: Will ‘animal rights’ become the next great social justice movement?

Media contact for the Australian Law Reform Commission is Vicki Jackson.

Vicki can be contacted on 0413 167 329 or (02) 8238 6309, or by email at

Further information on the work of the Commission can be found at

www.alrc.gov.au

Last Day of Hunting Season USA Report Date: January 2008

I just wanted to share with you an amazing end to a great 2007 hunting season. Yesterday I was sitting in my stand on a small food plot just off Colly Swamp in Bladen County. I was enjoying a beautiful sunset and hoping that I might get one more opportunity at a doe



to take to the butcher for processing. Then I spotted some movement in a corner of the food plot that was partially blocked from my

continued next page.



view by some trees. I was able to tell that a mature doe with two button bucks entered the food plot but I did not think that they would move into an open area for a shot before dark. Suddenly all three deer became alarmed and began looking toward the woods where they had entered the field. The doe then blew at whatever was approaching and turned and bounded into the middle of the field followed by the two smaller deer Well this gave me a clear line of sight at the doe so I put my crosshairs on her. I started to squeeze the trigger but then I began to wonder if it could be a big Buck that was making the deer nervous. Then the three deer all blew and ran a little further across the food plot, stopped again and looked back on full alert. Well I decided that it was most likely not a buck that had them startled so I shot the doe. When I shot, the two button bucks ran away while simultaneously a 20 pound bobcat ran into the field and put the death lock on the neck of the doe I had just shot. Amazed by what I had just seen, I shucked another (also my last) shell into the chamber. I could not believe that the bobcat was still there after the sound of the shot and me reloading but he had locked onto a big meal and did not intend to give it up. I put the cat in the crosshairs and squeezed off my last round, he did not flinch. I thought I had missed him. I sat still for a little while and then I yelled at the cat to see if he was still alive, I got no reaction. I climbed down from my stand and approached the two animals in the field. The Bobcat still had a death grip on the doe and was looking right at me as I approached, with an empty gun. What I saw amazed me. The Bobcat was stone cold dead but he still maintained his grip on the doe. I called everyone at camp to come look and take pictures. When it was time to load the doe in the truck we had to load both the doe and the bobcat because I

could not separate them. Attached are **some** pictures of this amazing event. I hope you all have a safe, successful 2008.

—
J. Tinsley Oden



Some more hunting pictures from member Roy Heyja, this time in Mexico.



Terra Incognita Guides Australia
Hunting World News # 13 – February 2008

1. Australia

The Australian Dollar is becoming stronger versus American Dollar. As it was revealed yesterday, US \$ 0.90 equalled AUD \$ 1.00. Since nearly all overseas outfitters quote & price their wares in American currency, it is now a wise move to book and to lodge the deposits asap when anticipating overseas hunting trips before the current trend on the exchange rates market may reverse..

2. Azerbaijan

Eco Club of Azerbaijan, the local hunting outfitter offers hunt in Azerbaijan for Dagestan Tur, Caucasian Brown Bear, Roe Deer, Caucasian Chamois, Wolf and Russian Boar. There is also bird shooting with no bag limits available for duck, geese, stone partridge and woodcock. Falconry on stone curlew, stone partridge, quail, pheasant, black francolin, little bustard and Caucasian black grouse is also offered. Eco Club claim they can organize hunts for group up to 6 hunters at the same time and that there is enough game available to satisfy everybody. Their prices sound very reasonable and their services –surprise, surprise ! – also include hotels before and after the hunt, apart from transportation from and to Baku (The Capital City), all licenses, permits, meet & greet services, free rifles and shotguns, trophy export documentation and even spotlighting which also is included in safari price. I am now in the procedures of checking on their offers, we shall let you all know the outcome of such researches in due time. The photos of their game show some good trophies taken. It appears that there is plenty of game in those parts (yet !) It is worthy considering to plan for the next hunting safari to those parts before their game is thinned out by other, European and American hunters.

3. Botswana

Ivory tusks harvested by sport hunters in Botswana are getting better and better. In 2007 season 254 trophy elephants were taken in Botswana. Johan Calitz Hunting Safaris and Holbrow Hunting Safaris each had three trophies in the top ten trophies.

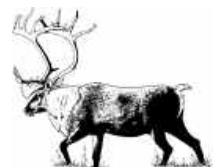
In 2007 a magnificent 180 lb tusker has been taken . The average trophy in Botswana in the past season was 108 lb.

4. Zimbabwe

Despite the gallant efforts by Zimbabwe Wildlife Authorities who run the program of de-horning rhinos in order to make them worthless for poachers, 2 de-horned black rhinos were shot at Ruware Ranch in Chiredzi. Those were most probably killed for bush meat. Poaching for rhinos still continues in many parts of the country.

5. Mozambique

In December last year crocodiles killed 14 people as they went about their daily chores as fishers or when fetching water from Zambezi River. In January 2008 three people had already been



killed by crocodiles, while two others were seriously injured. Last year, seventeen crocodiles, two hippos and one elephant were killed after the animals tried to attack officials patrolling the area. In Mozambique, crocs, hippos, elephants and lions are among problem animals which have killed people in various human-animal conflicts. Government authorised the national army to shoot problem animals.

6. PNG

Saltwater crocodiles are breeding in great numbers and cause so much havoc among coastal communities, that authorities has ordered an all- out cull of those reptiles. Police on Manus Island asked licensed firearms holders to form a hunting party after mating crocodiles killed a villager.

7. Argentina

Effective from 1st January 2008, Argentina now requires fingerprints before travelling into the country with firearm – as SCI Newsletter has reported. If you live too far from and cannot make it to the nearest Argentinean legation where you can be fingerprinted, your firearm won't be allowed. We are afraid that the same procedure will apply to Australians. Consider hiring firearm locally when travelling to Argentina for hunting.

8. RSA

Prices for White Rhino at game auctions are on increase. White rhinos are now being priced for more than US \$ 3,000.00 – the purchase price, not including translocations from the saleyards to their new home. If the current trend continues (And it will continue !) the prices for rhino darting safaris will also increase !

9. USA

Sen. Mike Waddoups will be moving The Bill SB164 to the full Senate. This Bill , when passed, will prohibit any form of killing penned game from home computers.

Hunters should use bullets, not bytes if they want to bag game, Mike Waddoups said. One such “hunting” outfit, where home based on-line “hunters” were able to shoot-to-kill using their joystick and mouse only was once opened in Texas, (Liveshot.com) but was immediately banned by State legislators. 33 other States followed suit. Although human's ingenuity combined with modern computers technology appears to have no limits these days, the sad fact is that there is no shortage of some unscrupulous takers ready to take the advantage of such set ups !

AHI MEMBERS FORUM

If you want to swap a hunt, or sell your hunting/outdoor gear, or if you are looking for a hunting companion etc matters ,please post us the relevant information and we will put your “Ad” in the next issue of our “News” !

1. William Hoggan , a professional deer stalker from Scotland who has an unlimited access to Roe, Red and Sika deer stalking wants to swap a hunt with any Australian hunter in exchange



for shooting foxes and pigs in Australia. He can be contacted on yvonnebruce@fsmail.net

2. Mr.Dudley Nicol has SWB JEEP 4 WD for sale. Registered in ACT, 100 000 km, religiously serviced. Hard Top extractors, inlet manifold modifications, new Coopers tyres, A/C, no rust, Sony stereo, tinted windscreens, blue ray headlights, ARB bull bar, snorkel – asking price \$ 15,400.00.

If interested contact Dudley on 02 6161 1308 or on perfectionhunting@grapevine.com.au

Further questions/comments etc on the above topics – please contact Les Kosek of Terra Incognita Guides on lesterra@ozemail.com.au or on 0419 016 852

DADS & LADS HUNTING & FISHING

Andrew Hestelow is running Dads & Lads hunting/fishing outings program in order to introduce “young blood” to the outdoors and to familiarise those young fellows with all aspects of hunting and fishing while under the field supervision of adult hunters and fishers. If you want to join him, along with your kids on one of those expeditions, write to Andrew on andrewhestelow@optusnet.com.au Andrew will be lodging his Dads&Lads trip reports with us from time to time whenever those will become available.

GAME MANAGEMENT COUNCIL OF NEW SOUTH WALES (GAMECON NSW) INCORPORATED EDUCATION + CONSERVATION = MANAGEMENT MEDIA STATEMENT

04 May 2008

“GameCon supports PA comments on feral animal control The Game Management Council of NSW (GameCon) congratulates the NSW National Parks Association on their comments on ABC Radio that feral animal control should be targeted in the State’s most important areas. The comments came from NSW National Parks Association Executive Officer Andrew Cox in discussing the removal of more than 11,000 feral animals from declared hunting areas in NSW over two years by Game Council NSW-licensed hunters.

“GameCon agrees with Mr Cox; that proper conservation gains provide the most benefit to threatened species if they target the State’s most important areas,”

“That is why GameCon urges the State Government to open up our National Parks to Conservation Hunters, because these are the most important areas for feral animal control in NSW,” Mr Mumford said.

Mr Mumford pointed out that National Parks in New Zealand have benefited greatly from more than 60 years of conservation hunting with huge environmental benefits for the economy and eco-system.

continued page 16.



“The New Zealanders have created a model that shows that hunting feral species and conservation are complementary; that hunters provide practical feral animal control that Governments simply do not have the finances or resources to carry out themselves,” Mr Mumford said.

The Game Council recently launched its conservation scorecard showing that 11,018 feral animals were removed from declared State forests in NSW in the first two years of conservation hunting. This included nearly 5000 rabbits; 2059 wild goats; 1761 feral pigs; and more than 1000 foxes.

“If we can get those results in 181 State forests; imagine what good we could do in the vast areas set aside for National Parks in NSW?” Mr Mumford said.

Mr Mumford called on the National Parks Association to drop their ideological opposition to conservation hunting.

“It’s time that they belatedly and in good faith acknowledged the fine work that volunteer conservation hunters are performing for the economy and environment of NSW,” Mr Mumford said.

Chairman John Mumford is available for interviews please phone 0418443683

John Mumford

Chairman, GameCon _NSW.

Phone: 0418443683

Nowhere to hide for illegal hunters. Game Council NSW

Game Council NSW has applauded landholders and police in the State’s Central West following the arrests of three men on charges relating to alleged illegal hunting on Australia Day.

The arrests followed a dramatic chase by landholders in a light plane across a number of properties between Tottenham and Condobolin in the State’s Central West over the Australia Day weekend.

“The Game Council welcomes the cooperation of landholders in the area and the commitment of the local police in this operation which has seen three men charged with 58 separate offences,” Game Council Chairman Robert Borsak said today. The Game Council is the State Government agency that licenses and regulates conservation hunting on private land and in more than 180 declared State forests in NSW.

“We at Game Council are strong supporters of responsible conservation hunting that removes feral and pest animals from declared land; we are strongly opposed to illegal hunting that damages landholder property and which can also lead to dangerous behaviour, injury to stock and property, and inhumane hunting practises,” Mr Borsak said.

Police involved in the operation against the three men charged also said that a written authorisation system introduced last April had led to significant declines in illegal hunting and theft from rural properties.

“This written authorisation system or hunting on private land mirrors the written permission system introduced by the Game Council for hunting on public land and shows that accountability in hunting leads to responsibility,” Mr Borsak said.



NSWDA Merchandise

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

The colours are at this time ;

Polo shirtswhite/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.

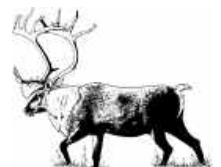
Thanks Darren

The three men were charged after their Toyota Hi-lux was tracked in a small plane by landholders following an alleged series of malicious damage on 11 properties between Tottenham and Condobolin. Police were contacted and stopped the vehicle at 10am Sunday, arresting three men from Wagga Wagga aged 20, 26 and 32 and charging them with 58 offences relating to alleged trespassing, illegal hunting, driving and malicious damage. Police will allege that the occupants had dogs with them intended to be used to chase wild pigs.

"A farmer offered to call in a neighbour with a plane and I was more than happy to have his help," Tottenham Police Constable, Paul Harvey said. "The number of farmers we had out there helping us sends a pretty clear message that illegal hunting will not be tolerated in this area by the community or by police," Constable Harvey said.

Mr Borsak said that since the Game Council's establishment in 2004, two representative "These initiatives indicate

continued over.



our commitment to combating illegal hunting throughout NSW. For illegal hunters in NSW, there is now nowhere to hide.” Mr Borsak said.



Terra Incognita Guides Australia Hunting World News # 14 – March 2008

1. Australia

Carrying private supply of booze inside the car along the Central Arnhem Road, NT. As The Maranboy Police Station officers had lately advised, anybody carrying such private supplies along that road is allowed to do so, unless his/her intentions are to overnight withinh “grog restricted areas” , like Beswick Aboriginal community. All other blocks, including Conway, Mountain Valley, Mainoru, Wongallara etc private properties located along this highway, are not designated “alcohol restricted areas”. As long as you do not intend to camp or overnight in “alcohol free” zones, you are all right ! You can stop at Beswick on the way through, do some shopping etc, but you are not supposed to camp there for a prolonged span of time. Which are “alcohol free “ zones/areas in NT is determined by NT Dep of Justice . Maranboy Police officers only know that Beswick is a restricted area and that the blocks like Conways up to Wongallara are not. If stopped on that road, say you are to stay in one of those destinations and you will be OK.

2. Azerbaijan

Eco Club of Azerbaijan, the local hunting outfitter offers hunt in Azerbaijan for Dagestan Tur, Caucasian Brown Bear, Roe Deer, Caucasian Chamois, Wolf and Russian Boar. As per today, their offer reads as follows:

Eastern Tur – May to November. Groups one to six hunters (Min 1, max 6)
Packages - one hunter US 7000, 2 hunters 6000 p/p, 3 hunters 5500 p/p, 4 hunters 5000 p/p, 5/6 hunters 4500 p/p. 7 days operation ex Baku in Azerbaijan, 5 days in the field. Bear US 5800 trophy fee, Roe deer 1500, Caucasian Chamois 2600. Did not get prices/offers for wolf neither for Russian Boar or for “Other” Local Deer as yet.

In October you can add falconry show within those days ! If someone is interested, I have some pics of those Tur trophies which were bagged in Azerbaijan last season.

3. Botswana

Beware of black mambas ! A man, aged 42, has been bitten on his finger by a 2 meters long black mamba. The man attacked the mamba throwing rocks at it until the serpent was cut in two.. The man lifted the rock where the business part of the snake was hiding and he was bitten on the finger. Minutes later he clenched his teeth and died before he was taken to the hospital. The nearby local Hospital Chief Medical Officer had remarked – “Victims of these kinds of snake bites need to receive treatment within 15-20 minutes to stand a chance of survival “ !!! Black mambas are the most dangerous snakes in Africa, they are fast, nervous, lethally venomous and highly aggressive. They reach 4.5 meters in length ,being among the fastest snakes in The World, slithering up to 20 km per hour !.

4. RSA

South Africa is to resume elephant culling. It has been found that there is some 10 000 – 20 000 eles to be culled if the RSA environment is to be kept in balance. Green and Animal Rightist groups of every description are of course against such notion, but RSA Environment Minister, Marthinus van



Schalwyk will be forwarding such ideas of jumbo culling there, since “elephant population density has risen so much in some southern African countries that there is a concern about impacts on the landscape, the violability of other species and the livelihood and safety of people living within elephant ranges”, he says. However, hold your breath here, the elephant culling in RSA is to be carried by professional hunters and not by sport hunters for the next year ! It appears that those jumbos are now threatening Africa environment much the same way like rabbits had in Australia some years ago !

5. Pakistan

The Punjab Wildlife Department has assigned a hunting concession at Khanewal Piro Lal Wildlife Park for registered hunters. They rather want registered hunters to bag/cull some wildlife species in order to have everything in control and to push aside illegal poachers from the area – sport hunters actions are usually curtailing such poaching activities in the areas where sport hunters are allowed to operate on a longer run. The animals which can be hunted there are listed as - Black Buck, Hog Deer, Mouflon Sheep (????) , Ring Neck Korean Pheasant and Blue Bull (Blue Bull is most probably a Nilgai Antelope in their parlance !). 96 people so far had registered to hunt the above species there !

6. USA

The US Fish and Wildlife Service will increase inspection, license, import & export fees in the nearest future. Fees will rise incrementally each year after they reach a desired levels ! By 2012 the increase will be reaching some 100% of what is being charged now ! When hunting in US, check with your outfitter about it, those fees may be risen at a faster pace than already announced ! What

got me most here is the statement - “ All importers and exporters using ports where Service inspectors are not stationed will also pay travel, transportation, and per diem costs associated with inspection of their shipments “ ! From what I can imagine now, that will open some Pandora Boxes where those underpaid officials will be free to charge individuals like a proverbial wounded Moby Dick !

7.USA

Nez Perce Indian tribe are now calling for a revival of The Treaty of 1855 which was to allow the tribe to hunt plains buffalo. So far 118 tribal member signed up for the chance to get a permit .The majority of the permits will be issued to tribal individuals with lesser numbers assigned to tribal elders. This permit system not only maintains the sovereignty of the nation, but it also controls the flow of hunters and allows the harvest to be tracked. This all sounds OK, but the message is clear – Native & Aboriginal people, Worldwide, will continue to claim (theirs ?) native hunting grounds and the rights to limitlessly hunt for some species, either native, introduced or exotics which are inhabiting these zones.

9. Australia

Indigenous group defends dugong hunting. Indigenous “sea managers officers “ are keen to find how many of the “endangered” dugongs they will be able to harvest in future. The new survey, carried by NT Gov wildlife & conservation officers, is to determine how many of those dugongs might be left to be harvested by Aboriginals, is under way. Despite the observations as those had been made by local commercial fishermen in NT, which say that the sustainability of dugongs harvesting might be in question, Aboriginal



people are still looking for more dugong numbers available for them !. Guess what the NT Gov findings on this matter will be like ! Refer back to point 8 if you are in doubt what it will be in score for all of us, non-indigenous hunters in the nearest future !

AHI MEMBERS FORUM

If you want to swap a hunt, or sell your hunting/outdoor gear, or if you are looking for a hunting companion etc matters ,please post us the relevant information and we will put your “Ad” in the next issue of our “News” !

1. An experienced and properly GC licensed deer hunter who knows Nundle State Forest who is interested in picking up the paid job of guiding a private party of 2 – 3 hunters there for 2-3 days with the aim of bagging there a deer or two with them (God & Weather permitting !), dates sometimes in the second part of April, is welcomed to contact Les Kosek on lesterra@ozemail.com.au or on 0419 016 852 to discuss the further details of such jaunt. Accommodation/meals/field transport secured, expenses and wages paid. Guide will need to have a GC Guiding licence, under the NSW law.

2. Mr.Dudley Nicol has SWB JEEP 4 WD for sale. Registered in ACT, 100 000 km, religiously serviced. Hard Top extractors, inlet manifold modifications, new Coopers tyres, A/C, no rust, Sony stereo, tinted windscreens, blue ray headlights, ARB bull bar, snorkel – asking price \$ 15,400.00. If interested contact Dudley on 02 6161 1308 or on perfectionhunting@grapevine.com.au

Further questions/comments etc on the above topics – please contact Les Kosek of Terra Incognita Guides on lesterra@ozemail.com.au or on 0419 016

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AUSTRALIAN HUNTERS INTERNATIONAL UPCOMING CLUB HUNTS

If you wish to learn more about those upcoming hunt opportunities, please contact our Club Hunt Master, Mr Robert Borsak on borsak1@tpg.com.au

“Some of you may have missed our monthly clay target shooting on Wed 23rd Jan 2008, at the NSW gun club Booralie Rd, Terrey Hills, which started at 1830 hrs, followed by the dinner at the Jap restaurant at 2030 hrs. Such venues are organised once a month, please contact me if interested in taking part in the next such get-together ! Those shoots count as a club attendance !”

DADS & LADS HUNTING & FISHING

Andrew Hestelow is running Dads & Lads hunting/fishing outings program in order to introduce “young blood” to the outdoors and to familiarise those young fellows with all aspects of hunting and fishing while under the field supervision of adult hunters and fishers. If you want to join him, along with your kids on one of those expeditions, write to Andrew on andrewhestelow@optusnet.com.au Andrew will be lodging his Dads&Lads trip reports with us from time to time whenever those will become available.

Andrew had lately conducted a remarkable fishing trip ! They have caught a huge blue marlin off the NSW Coast onjly few weeks ago ! If you want to see photos/reports and read the story about this trip, please contact Andrew on his e-mail address above !



AN ENVIROMENTAL PROBLEM

A Lady from the Blue Mountains ,NSW, Who is a tree hugger and an anti-hunter, purchased a piece of rural land. There was a large gum tree in the top paddock. She wanted a good view of the natural splendour around her so she started to climb the old tree.

As she neared the top, she encountered a Powerful Owl that flew at her. In her haste to escape, the lady slid down the tree and got many splinters in her privates. In considerable pain she hurried to the nearest doctor.

She told him she was an enviromentalist and an anti-hunter and how she came to get all the splinters.

The Doctor listened to her story with great patience and then told her to go into the examining room and he would see if he could help her.

She sat and waited for three hours before the doctor reappeared.

The angry lady demanded, "What took So Long?"

He smiled, and then said "Well ... I had to get permits from the Enviromental Protection Agency, Land-Care and the Conservation Department before I could remove old growth timber from a recreational area.

I'm sorry ma'am, But they turned me down".

News Release

The Outdoor Life Show goes national with streamed program

The presenters of the program, Tony Hyatt and Bill Davey, are very pleased to announce that as of next Wednesday, March 5th, starting at the usual time of 6.45 am, The Outdoor Life Show will be

streamed off the 3WBC website at www.3wbc.org.au.

This means the show can be listened to outside the current 3WBC broadcast area of Melbourne's eastern suburbs. Anyone in Darwin, Deniliquin, Drouin or anywhere else there is a computer with speakers and a modem can now tune in to 3WBC.

The program will continue to provide hunters, shooters and fishermen with the very latest in news that affects them and will maintain its past format of interesting interviews from all over Australia.

In addition, we are very pleased that current sponsors and advertisers, to whom we are very grateful for their support over the last 10 months, will benefit from the streaming.

Finally, we encourage you and your associates to be in contact when you have a subject that needs airing or promoting. The Outdoor Life Show is always ready to broadcast any material that is of interest to, or affects, the Australian hunting and fishing community.

Bill Davey

The Outdoor Life Show

on 3WBC 94.1fm Melbourne

Wednesday's 6.45am - 10 am

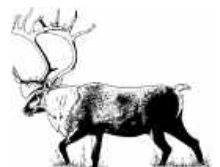
Listen live at www.3wbc.org.au

Phone : 0415 66 21 22.

319 High Street, Prahran. Victoria. Australia.

3181

email: outdoorlife@hotmail.com



Useful Tips for everyone

A corporate attorney sent the following out to the employees in his company:

1. Next time you order cheques, have only your initials (instead of your first name) and last name put on them. If someone takes your chequebook, they will not know if you sign your cheques with just your initials or your first name, but your bank will know how you sign your cheques.
2. Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put "PHOTO ID REQUIRED".
3. When you are writing cheques to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the "For" line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your cheque as it passes through all the cheque processing channels won't have access to it.
4. Put your work phone number on your cheques instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box, use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box, use your work address. Never have your Centrelink Number printed on your cheques. You can add it if it is necessary, but if you have it printed, anyone can get it.
5. Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine. Do both sides of each licence, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. I also carry a photocopy of my passport when travelling either here or abroad. We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on us in

stealing a name, address, Social Security number, credit cards.

But here's some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know:

1. We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately, but the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them
2. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc., were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).
3. But here's what is perhaps most important of all: Call the three national credit reporting organisations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, and they have to contact you by phone to authorise new credit. By the time I was advised to do this, almost two weeks after the theft, all the damage had been done. There are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves' purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert. Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw my wallet away. This weekend someone handed it in. It seems to have stopped them dead in their tracks. Now, here are some numbers which you might need to contact if your wallet etc has been stolen:



1. Visa Card Australia 1800 621 199
 2. Visa Card International 1800 450 346
 3. Lost Travellers' Cheques 1800 127 477
 4. MasterCard Australia (02) 9466 3700
 5. MasterCard International 1800 120 113
 6. Bankcard Australia (02) 9281 6633
 7. Medicare 132 011
 8. Centrelink Fraud 137 230
 9. Seniors Card 1300 364 758
 10. Passport 131 232
- ANZ FREECALL 1800 033 844
 BankWest 131 718
 Citibank 132 484
 Tamworth Coles/Myer Source 2340 1300 306
 397
 Commonwealth 132 221
 CUSCAL- MyCard 1300 135 538
 GE Capital 1300 369 904
 Members Equity 1300 654 998
 National 132 265
 St George 1800 028 208
 SydneyVirgin 2000 1800 080 000
 Westpac 1800 230 144
 Woolworths Ezy Banking 137 288

species along with small Game options for the demanding hunters.

We hold a private Ranch with more than 50,000 acres which has a 2,500 section for bow hunting exclusive. In addition to the main Ranch we also hold a Hunting Preserve of 4,500 acres offering, in between both, the possibility to hunt more than 13 Big Game species.

For Small Game Hunters, we have 7 nearby Ranches specially selected and dedicated to Dove, Pigeon and Partridge Hunting.

For further details on our service level please contact us or check our new website.

Santiago Diaz Mathe
 Co Manager

www.poitahue-hunting.com.ar
sdiazmathe@poitahue-hunting.com.ar

Santiago Diaz Mathe (info@poitahue-hunting.com.ar)

**organisation: Poitahue Hunting Ranch
 country: Argentina**

phone: +54 (11) 4700-0291

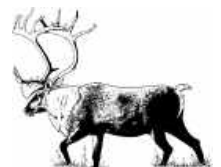
Have a look at the Swazi story on the following 60 minutes documentary.

It's great.

<http://www.swazi.co.nz/60mins/>

Dear Sirs

We are contacting you so as to present our Hunting Ranch located in the province of La Pampa, Argentina. Poitahue Hunting Ranch offers Big Game hunting packages for Red Deer, Puma, Buffalo and other Big Game

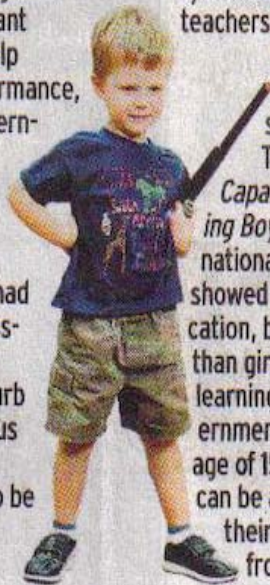


Teachers told not to be gun shy

ROBERT BOOTH
LONDON

BOYS should be encouraged to play with toy guns at infant school because it can help improve academic performance, according to British Government advice.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families said boys aged between three and five had fallen behind female classmates partly because teaching staff tried to curb their desire for boisterous play involving weapons. Boys were more likely to be interested in education and would do better if



encouraged to pursue their chosen play.

Teachers' unions say that toy guns "symbolise aggression" and teachers ought to stop them being used. They also criticised the Government for stereotyping boys.

The guidance, *Confident, Capable and Creative: Supporting Boys' Achievements*, said national data for 2004-06 showed that in pre-school education, boys performed worse than girls across all areas of learning. It is a pattern the Government says continues up to the age of 15 and 16. Better results can be achieved if teachers curb their "instincts" to stop boys from playing with toy guns

and instead make better use of their interests. "Sometimes practitioners find the chosen play of boys more difficult to understand and value than that of girls," the guidance states. "They may choose activities in which adults involve themselves least, or play that involves more action and a greater use of the available space, especially outdoors. Images and ideas gleaned from the media are common starting points in boys' play and may involve characters with special powers or weapons. Adults can find this type of play particularly challenging and have a natural instinct to stop it."

It said this was unnecessary as long as staff helped boys understand and respect the rights of other children.

GUARDIAN

Victoria's newest Deer Shooting Magazine is about to hit the shelves.

Designed for Victorian hunters and advertisers, the magazine will enable hunters to contribute editorial pieces that relate to their needs. **Victorian Deer Shooter** will also cover fringe towns along the Victorian and South Australian borders.

Our editorial and technical writers have been involved with deer shooting for many years. These include the likes of Reg Gordon, Doug Read, and John Gryphon who are well renowned in the Deer Hunting community. This will ensure that the content in the magazine will be valuable to all readers.

The magazine will also be a strong supporter of clubs & organisations, these include stalkers, hound hunters and bow hunters and inturn will help support them.

Victorian Deer Shooter asks that these organisations support our publication by having input on content and also making their members aware of the new magazine. The magazine's publisher is a strong believer in supporting the deer hunting community.

We will offer all organisations that support the magazine, free limited advertising for up and coming events within your club.

We also have the ability to cover feature stories on club events and with the use of a professional photographer, to ensure maximum exposure for events. This inturn will help assist your



organisation in bringing new members into your clubs, help promote the sport, and possibly change the public perception of deer shooters.

Victorian Deer Shooter will provide product reviews and educational pieces which will help the experienced deer shooter and those just starting out. It is hoped that these pieces will bring new members to the sport and help supporting clubs grow.

We will be working closely with organisations such as the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Australian Deer Association and other organisations alike to ensure that readers are kept up to date with the latest news and current regulations.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Gary Rodgers, Managing Director Victorian Deer Shooter Magazine, on 0413457831; grodgers@netspace.net.au 0413 457 831

The Proposed Pest Listing of Wild Deer in Queensland

The following document, a colation of points, suggestions, discrepancies and facts put together by members of the RIDGE, is regarding the imminent Pest listing of all wild deer in Queensland.

The object of this letter is to outline a base strategy from this point forward to achieve the best possible outcome for wild deer in this State as well as for all deer across Australia.

Some sections may appear to be based on emotion rather than hard fact but the reader should accept that much of the reason behind the desire to see wild deer remain in this State, lies in the cultural and historic significance of these animals to the local people within the areas as it does as well to the high level of “Deer Tourists” from interstate and abroad. There is also a large economic value surrounding this wild asset which has been largely ignored both by Government and by local people.

Current Position

During 2005, the Queensland Government commissioned a study into the “Wild deer” of Queensland. Titled “Deer In Queensland – Pest Status Review” and it was written by Peter Jesser and it attempted to compile all the various opinions available to manage deer within this State.

RIDGE forwarded copies of its “Wild Deer Discussion Paper” and “Deer Management Policy” and were widely quoted within this document. Further dialogue with the relevant Government agency has been limited as they have not shown a willingness to discuss the matter and it has only just recently been brought again for possible debate.

RIDGE sees a total reluctance by Government to accept any other possible listing of wild deer than “Pest – levels 1, 2, or 3. We feel that the attached letter and “Draft Qld Deer Management Policy” reflect this to a large degree.

We feel it is our role to put up as strong a counter argument for our suggested alternatives as

continued next page



possible. To do this we will need to formulate a sound strategy and deliver a sensible counter argument backed up by a solid public opposition to their suggestions.

To do this, RIDGE will require the support of as many interested parties across Australia as possible. This will need to be gathered together quickly and without division or argument within. The strategy outlined over the next few pages will suggest how this can be done using the people and groups within our organisation.

Base Strategy

1. Form a Research Committee within RIDGE. Moved and carried at the last general meeting of the group. This committee will be the RIDGE executive.
2. Compile the possible research areas which will be of the most benefit to our “Wild Deer Management Policy” as well as to our supporting members through tangible hunting related topics.
3. Invite specific people within RIDGE to be part of a wider research panel. These people preferably will have close affiliation with other groups which have shown continued support for RIDGE.
4. Have these selected people approach these supporting organisations to ratify their position as that groups representative within the RIDGE Research Panel.
5. Approach people within this panel to instigate a number of research studies which can be carried out over the next few years. Set possible timelines and budget requirements which are attainable.
6. Immediately draft letters which can be included with our RIDGE submission to Biosecurity Queensland before the deadline of May 16th 2008, outlining our existing research programs and the level of public support.
7. Approach the supporting groups to help fund this research through donations and fundraising.
8. Increase public support and knowledge of the situation in this State with the help of these supporting organisations.
9. Delay any pest listing of wild deer and obtain an alternative classification for wild deer in Qld through the above strategy.

Suggested Research Topics

* The Historic and Cultural Value of Wild Red Deer.

This would continue on from the study started by Stephanie Mann. It is seen as an achievable target which would concentrate initially on red deer but could be increased to cover wild fallow as well.

* Proving an Economic Value.

A compilation of RIDGE ballot data from the past 12 seasons.

* The Economic loss to landowners caused by a Pest listing of wild deer.

Show the potential loss to landowners who have existing hunting operations and suggest levels of compensation required from Government.

* The Impact of Genetics on the overall value of a wild herd.

This would look at the potential value of the wild red herd as it is now compared to its value with increased trophy quality. Comparisons between Australia, Germany, NZ etc.



* Radio Collaring of Red Deer.

This would compile the existing data obtained so far by RIDGE showing the distance travelled by collared deer etc. Further research could be started with the existing equipment without a large input of funds and could aim at showing the genetic quality of red stags by gaining data on their antler growth patterns over a number of years. This data would then help form the basis of future culling strategies involving hunters and landowners during the ballot.

* The Effects of Cross Breeding between Cervus Elaphus, Cervus Timorensis, Axis axis and Dama dama.

There are a number of cross bred animals available now to start DNA and blood sampling. There are deer pens and a deer crush on offer to hold and handle them and additional animals if required. This study could form the basis of a cooperate initiative between RIDGE and Government.

Points of relevance from the “Draft Qld Deer Management Policy” (DQDMP)

The following points have been identified as ones which we can use to either support our RIDGE policy or to delay the Government with their suggested Pest listing.

1. “Wild Deer”. This is quoted numerous times but it is totally ambiguous. It combines all deer outside high wire which allows for the true wild deer to get the blame for spreading into new areas.

The RIDGE policy defines deer into “Wild Stock” derived from the historic herd. Ownership and management left with the landowner on whichever holding the reside.

“Displaced Farm Deer”. This clearly divides the true historic herd from new releases, a very important point in our argument.

“Farmed Deer”. Clearly defines deer behind wire without restricting deerfarmers.

“Game Ranch Deer”. Clearly defines deer held behind wire for hunting. We must avoid the condensing of all deer into one entity as it negates our view that they have historic significance and allows the Government to state that deer are moving outside of traditional areas.

2. “Reducing the natural spread of wild deer outside their historical ranges” (Aims – 3.b DQDMP)

To accept this point is to accept that all deer are spreading from their areas. In the case of the red deer, we can use the Order In Council (attachments from the RIDGE Discussion Paper) to show that there has been no movement out of the area set back in the late ‘70’s. Deer outside this area are “Displaced Farmed deer” in ever case. It will be harder to argue this for chital but possible for fallow and rusa.

3. “Deer Proof Enclosures” (Aims – 2)

This is a very broad statement which will have huge effects on deer farmers and landowners. For instance, what level of “proofing” is required? If it is set at 100%, we are talking about prison compound standards. If it is set at simply 2m high fences, what security measures are they imposing to make sure no gates are left open, no trees can fall across fences, no floods can take out sections etc etc. We went through all of this in the early ‘80’s within the deer industry and it proved to be a nightmare. (RIDGE DP attachments)

continued next page



4. “NLRS listing of farmed deer. (Management actions – F).

What level of enforcement will be required to ensure all farmed deer are included? At what age will deer need to be tagged? Will this be enforced? What monitoring of conception and fawning levels will be done to ensure that no deer are sold prior to tagging and released? Unless draconian laws are applied, the system will not stop new releases of farmed deer.

5. “Wild deer are viewed as a Pest by some in the community but are highly valued by others”.
(Introduction – Para 1)

We need to question the data provided by Neal Finch which shows an almost equal level of support for and against a listing. A survey conducted by RIDGE which targeted landowners with deer on their holdings, showed almost 100% support for the RIDGE policy and very little support for a Pest listing.

6. The listed choices do not satisfy the recognised complexities of the issue.

7. What is the scientific basis of the choices?

8. Their strategy does not reflect their own understanding of the issue.

9. There is a high likelihood of increased tensions between stakeholders if conflicting options for deer usage (eg; Hunting vs pet meat shooting) are promoted adjacent to each other.

10. Comparison needs to be drawn between an existing historic herd on grazing country with limited impact on a farming operation and that same herd once a secondary farming operation is started in the area (eg; Lucerne farm established within a grazing area) What requirements should there be for the “new” business not to disrupt the “older, established” farming practice.

11. As the deer are recognised by many landowners as their own wild stock and long term management and herd improvement strategies employed which have increased their value, does this reinforce their ownership? What right then does the Government have to class this “owned resource” as a pest, thus reducing the overall value of the asset?

12. How do they come up with the “Suitable areas” depicted on the attached maps? Where and how was this data obtained?

Clark McGhie
RIDGE Secretary

Members wishing to support the RIDGE position can contact **The Secretary, PO Box 691, NANANGO 4615 Queensland Australia**
Email: secretary@ridgegroup.org Web: www.ridgegroup.org for details on how to help.

Membership Renewal.

A new renewal form is attached. It asks for more information than the previous form. Please fill out all details, especially for family members.

Even if you are paid up in advance please send this fully filled in form back to the Secretary at the address shown on the bottom of page 1, so that he can bring his records up to date.





Hunting

The declining Nimrod

SEATTLE

Bad news for elks and Republicans

ACROSS America, and especially in the West, a rite of autumn has long been to spend a weekend in the hills or along lakes, rifle or even bow in hand, searching for a deer, elk, duck or goose.

It is a fairly solitary pursuit, but even so, hunters are lonelier these days. A decade ago some 14m Americans hunted. Today about 12.5m do, a drop of 10%. Even in states where the tradition is strongest, the numbers are down. In Wyoming, which teems with antelope, 69,000 hunters prowled the hills and rangelands in 1996; only about 50,000 will do so this year.

Why the drop? Many reasons are offered: fewer places to hunt thanks to development; reduced game numbers in some areas as resurgent cougars, bears and wolves grab their share; and busy schedules. The young, in particular, seem to prefer to stay by their computers rather than waiting in the freezing cold, to get a shot at an elk. And ranchers who once allowed hunters on their land for nothing now need the money, and may charge hundreds of dollars.

Ironically, the decline in hunting may not benefit wildlife. Hunters buy licences that typically cost up to \$260 for

the season. In Wyoming, as in other states, licence fees comprise 90% of the Fish and Game Department's \$50m budget, which pays for scores of wildlife biologists and game wardens. Across most of the country animals such as deer and elk are far more common than they were a century ago.

Hunters, who are mostly male and often from rural areas, have also been a potent and conservative political force, and the core of the National Rifle Association (NRA). But their status as one of the Republican Party's most dependable battalions is under threat, and not just because of the decline in their numbers.

Tensions have flared recently between the rifle-wielders and the Republican top brass. In Wyoming and Colorado, hunters have opposed Bush administration efforts to expand oil- and gas-drilling. That has put them on the side of conspicuously leftist groups such as the Sierra Club. Astutely, too, the Democrats have fielded a few hunting candidates. Grover Norquist, a leading conservative and NRA board member, dismisses as "fantasy" the thought that hunters might defect in large numbers. The next election season will tell.

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 NO..... 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:...../...../.....

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 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 BIRTHGENDER..... 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 BIRTHGENDER..... Male / Female
DRIVERS LICENCE NO.....STATE.....
SHOOTERS LICENCE NO.....CLASS:.....
GAME LICENCE NO.....CATEGORY.....
MOBILE.....
EMAIL.....
OCCUPATION

Family Member No.3

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

Family Member No.4

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



The Hon. Robert Brown MLC

Parliament of New South Wales
Legislative Council
The Shooters' Party



FROM THE SHOOTERS PARTY MEMBERS ROBERT BROWN MLC and ROY SMITH MLC

14 February 2008

With the Parliament to resume again shortly, it's timely to bring you up to date with recent activities and future expectations.

Firstly however, if you are in the bush, I hope you have benefited from some of the extensive rainfall since December and if you are in the city, I hope you have coped with the deluges we have received.

WODONGA HUNTING AND GUIDING EXPO

Roy attended The Hunting and Guiding Expo at Wodonga last weekend, and agrees with the organisers who say they will need a bigger venue for next year because of the huge crowds. Almost 9,000 people turned up and it featured 250 exhibitors covering the biggest brands in fishing and hunting. Items included fishing tackle, specialised and wet weather clothing, camping gear gun safes, hunting dogs, safaris, hunting and fishing clubs and associations and government bodies.

Importantly, the local media recognised the importance of the two-day event, and indeed criticised a couple of "rent-a-crowd" protestors who tried to disrupt the proceedings.

Roy said he was delighted at the wonderful success of the Expo, and hopes to see more in the future, particularly in New South Wales because they can only benefit our common interests and legitimate recreational pursuits.

And a reminder to everyone about the SHOT Expo in Sydney in May – it is the 4th SHOT EXPO and promises to be the biggest and best yet.

MALABAR RANGE

We have an undertaking from the Premier that he will convene a meeting between State and Federal authorities and the Shooters Party, to discuss the future of the Malabar Range. Roy and I met with Mr Iemma last month and expressed our opposition to the closure of the complex and we stressed the enormous amount of money that will be needed should the Feds proceed with closure. We look forward to the first meeting, which should provide some firm indication of a time frame for any proposed relocation, which we don't see happening in the immediate future (3-5 years).

MACOSC SHOOTING GRANTS

We are still waiting for confirmation of this grant funding and are hopeful of a decision within a few weeks. The last grants, (\$300,000) were announced last March and the applications received for this round already exceed \$600,000.

EXTENSION OF AMNESTY ON ANTIQUE PISTOL REGISTRATION

As foreshadowed in the previous newsletter, negotiations by The Shooters Party have resulted in the Police Minister David Campbell agreeing to extend the amnesty for the registration of pre-1900 multi shot muzzle loading black powder lock pistols until December 2008.

HILLTOP REGIONAL SHOOTING COMPLEX

At last we have some major progress on this project. The latest advice from Sport and Recreation is that the Development Applications and Environmental Assessments have been completed and handed to the Department of Planning with a public exhibition period likely to run until the end of March 2008. However, because of the extensive work, which has been required for both documents, the revised opening date for the centre is now March 2009. Disappointing, but not a lot we can do about it. It has been important to ensure that all the work was done properly so as there will be no hiccups from here on. We do expect the small local group of "anti's" to maintain their campaign to prevent the complex, but because they have made it clear they will never accept its legitimacy and so there is not much we can do to placate them. Let's hope that this time next year we are preparing for the first shots on the complex. It's been a long time coming – over 20 years in fact!!

REMINDER ABOUT EMAIL ADDRESSES

We are still keen to get as many of our subscribers as possible onto electronic mailing, so would ask that if you have an email address, but are getting the newsletter via normal mail, let us know the address and we can amend our records at this end.



Robert Brown MLC

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email: roy.smith@parliament.nsw.gov.au



The Hon. Roy Smith MLC

Parliament of New South Wales
Legislative Council
The Shooters' Party



FROM THE SHOOTERS PARTY MEMBERS ROY SMITH MLC and ROBERT BROWN MLC

13 March 2008

WORK IN PARLIAMENT

Little legislation was placed before the Legislative Council during the first two sitting weeks of the year. The Government seems to have had other more public bushfires to deal with. However, the April sittings are likely to be busier, and more interesting with planning and privatisation issues likely to attract serious media attention. Robert and I have put a number of proposals before the Government aimed at improving the situation for law abiding firearm owners and hope to see some positive results in the months ahead.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE WORK

Both Rob and I are involved in Parliamentary Committees. Robert has been busy in the last month with work on two of his four Committees, being a member of both the Staysafe Committee, which held public hearings on Young Driver Safety, and also the Electoral and Political Party Funding Committee, which is examining political donations and election funding issues. I serve on three Parliamentary Committees – two Standing Committees and the Legislation Review Committee. Committee work is an integral part of the Parliamentary system for Upper House members and means we need to keep abreast of a broad range of issues.

HELPING THE FISHERMEN

Much of our behind the scenes work so far this year has been to help recreational fishers around the State. They have come to us for assistance on a number of issues, including access, concerns about the desalination plant outfall pipes, pollution problems on the Hawkesbury and a proposal to allow recreational fishing on Prospect Reservoir in western Sydney. We have been able to facilitate meetings and/or ask questions on these problems and hopefully will work them through to a satisfactory resolution. It is heartening to see the fishermen recognising the fact The Shooters Party is in Parliament, and therefore can be of assistance in getting their cases and issues before the appropriate Government minister.

CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FIREARMS REGISTRY

I continue to be in frequent contact with the Manager of the Firearms Registry, Phill Houlton. Many firearms license holders recently received "Summary Re-application" forms inviting them to apply to renew their licences for reduced periods and reduced rates. We have had some complaints from those who were offered a two year renewal, as the fee reduction for them is proportionally far less than for those offered one, three or four year licences. I did take this up with the Registry last year before the notices were issued and told them it would be a problem.

RECENT VISITS TO CLUBS/RANGES

Both Robert and myself have been hitting the roads to meet constituents and members of shooting clubs around the State and I was pleased to again be invited to attend the Greengrass Antique and Modern Arms Fair at Penrith on February 16th and 17th.

Malcolm Gault (President NSW Firearms Dealers Association) has been organising these shows for a number of years now and they are always a great success. The next Greengrass show at Penrith will be on the 17th and 18th of May so if you're in Sydney be sure to drop in.

In late February Rob and I both attended the Safari Club International conference at Port Stephens and as it was last year, the event was very successful and informative to all who took part.

I also had the pleasure of being at the Tuggerah Lakes Memorial Pistol club open day at Tumbi Umbi on the central coast. Open days are one of the best ways to promote the shooting sports and attract new members and this was their fourth Open Day since 2001. The Tuggerah Club did an excellent job in accommodating the great number of visitors who turned up (a record 184), and provided plenty of volunteers to help introduce them to target shooting. Indeed I am told the club gets about 20 new members from each Open day, with most continuing their membership in successive years.

Robert travelled to the Moree Clay Target Club for the official opening of their traps, provided under last year's MACOSC grants. Again it was a very successful two-day event and was a great example of just how important such clubs are to country towns.

Last weekend we both attended the New South Wales Gun Club's inaugural presentation night at the Epping Club.

CAPITAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANTS

*The Shooters Party welcomes the Government's allocation of \$67,000 in Capital Assistance Program grants to eight rifle, pistol and clay target clubs across the State. **This funding is in addition to the funds expected under the MACOSC program.***

We congratulate the Government on its obvious commitment to providing safer and better shooting facilities across New South Wales.

The clubs funded under the Capital Assistance Grants Program:

Springwood Smallbore and Air Rifle Club - \$2,727

Coffs Harbour Clay Target Club - \$11,000

Moss Vale Small Bore Rifle and Clay Target Club - \$9,483

Newcastle/Lake Macquarie Clay Target Club - \$10,145

Richmond River Gun Club - \$9,000

Orange Clay Target Club - \$15,572

Snowy River Pistol Club - \$3,698

Ulladulla Pistol Club - \$5,544

If your club is interested in applying for these grants this year, please contact our office and we can assist in preparing the paperwork.

The Government has also provided a total of \$60,000 under the Sports Development Program for the NSW Amateur Pistol Association, the NSW Rifle Association and the NSW Clay Target Association.

Applications for the **Far West Travel Scheme**, another Sport and Recreation Grant Program close at the end of this month. If you live in far western/remote NSW you may be eligible to apply for assistance with the costs of travel to shooting competitions and events. If you would like more information please contact our office.

MACOSC GRANTS STILL BEING FINALISED

We are still pursuing the government for a final figure on this year's MACOSC (Ministerial Advisory Council on Shooting Clubs) grants. Many clubs have applied for this latest round of funding (about \$600,000 in applications). Last year's grant was \$300,000 but we are hopeful the Government will provide sufficient funds this year to allow for all applicants to receive much of what they have asked for. We will let you know when a decision is known.

INVITATIONS TO VISIT CLUBS

One of the best ways for Robert and I to keep in touch with constituents and sporting shooters is to visit the various clubs and organisations around the State. To that end we welcome invitations to speak about Firearm Regulations and also to take on board any firearm related issues that may be affecting clubs or individuals. We may not be able to resolve all problems but we can certainly ask questions and/or point people in the right direction.



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