

THE DEERSTALKER

July 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.

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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:

White Tail buck BC Canada Fall 2007, just before the start of hunting season. Photo Dal Birrell.

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Representatives: Greg Haywood
Steve Isaacs

Licence Testing

Co-ordinator: Greg Haywood

Video Library: Terry Burgess

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

FROM THE EDITOR

This year we will publish 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

**** 24 July (Thursday) AGM & General Meeting**

16 th October

Trophy Exhibition & Christmas Party
15th November.

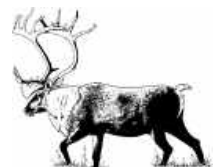
**** Please note the change of date. Time 7.30 pm, place German Austrian Club Cabramatta.**

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.

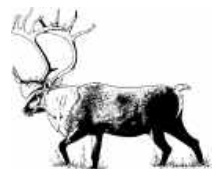
Trophy fees included are for one Thar and one Chamois. A rifle can be provided at no cost.

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.







Secretary's Report!

AGM – General Meeting

Please note that the date has been changed to Thursday 24th July 2008 at 7.30pm
German Austrian Club

Future meetings will now be held on Thursday evenings as the club is closed on Wednesdays.

On behalf of our members I wish to express our deepest sympathy to Glenn McGrath and family in the passing of Jane who was a true champion.

We can all support the McGrath Foundation in making a donation to support Breast Cancer with a focus on Country Regions.

Bank: National Australia
Bank Account Name: McGrath Foundation Ltd
Account Number: 58927 1582
BSB: 082-067

This is a short magazine as we have made a commitment to communicate to members at least five times a year.

We need your hunting stories and photo's to make your magazine member friendly and many a fine trophy has already been taken this year.
Please put pen to paper and share the moment with us.

The Shooters Party has been successful in having their Bill to amend the Firearms Act which has now passed through both houses of Parliament.

Waiting periods – currently 28 days apply to

the renewal of all licence's permits and permissions to acquire a firearm. The waiting period is now waived to renew a licence or a permit to acquire a firearm if you already have a firearm of that type registered.

Shooting under supervision as well as a number of other amendments covering antique firearms, access to category C shotguns for certain target shooters, Penalty notices, records for non-target shooters at ranges and theatrical armourers have all been amended.

Good Hunting

Greg Haywood

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

.....

Dear Members

This is my last report as President of the club. The last three years have seemed to have gone very quickly for me and because of the hectic life we all lead I have probably been a little remiss in not giving credit where credit is due for those hard workers behind the club that keep things ticking along in an unselfish way.

Our Secretary and Treasurer Greg Haywood and his wife Nalda are really the backbone behind the workings of the club, handling the paperwork and mail outs together with their family have made years of contribution. Your editor Dal Birrell has brought some professionalism to the magazine and has never once complained about deadlines or making up the content all be it with a significant lack of members input in the way of hunting articles. Darren Plumb and Terry Burgess handle the merchandising side as you are aware with Terry controlling the Video Library and Darren attending the three hunting shows throughout the country displaying our clothing and promotion of the club.

John Natoli our Armerer is on hand behind the scenes helping out ,members with transfers and keeping of firearms just goes about his business without any fuss or worry doing his job at no cost to the club or our members.

Apart from our listed Committee we also have half a dozen members that are out and about promoting and working on projects for the club members such as Greg Lee, Greg has spent an incredible number of weekends and hours traveling NSW investigating

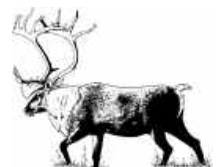
opportunities for Deer Management projects and promoting the club through local landowners and some of the agricultural shows in towns where deer herds exist, Greg has also taken on the roll as Game Con delegate in mine and Greg Haywood's absent. Ron Toning is another unsung hero that has single handedly delivered over \$20000 to this club in license fees, Ron is a staunch supporter of the Deerstalkers having been involved with the club and Club Hunting Schemes since the club began, his knowledge on Fallow deer is second to none and he promotes the Deerstalkers through his activity with both the Firearm Safety Awareness Council and his tireless dealings with active participants in our field.

Our Club Scheme committees spend hours in the field documenting information and running Game Management Schemes for the benefit of the scheme members, if you are a member of one of our schemes go up and shake there hand because it is because of them that you have access to some of the best hunting in this country.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the families and partners of the committees that allow us to partake in what for most is a way of life.

I am extremely proud to have served the club again and thanks everyone for their contribution.

Regards
Steve Isaacs.



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



**OTTO RUF - In Memory of a Great
Man, Husband, Hunter and Friend
to Many.**

**Date: Thursday, 26 June 2008 7:09
AM**

**The Game Management Council of Victoria
(Gamecon Vic) Inc.**

It is with deep regret that I inform you that our friend Otto Ruf suddenly passed away on 21 June 2008.

I received a phone call from Kath Ruf, Otto's loving wife last night to inform me that he had passed away in a car accident on his return from a hunting trip. Kath and Otto have been married for 52 wonderful years.

I met with Kath today and spent time talking about the man she married, the many years they had spent together and as my friend and his enormous contribution to hunting and game management not only in Australia but in his trips overseas.

Kath has asked me to relay her deepest thanks to the many cards and flowers that have been sent in his memory.

Otto's contribution, passion and commitment to Gamecon Vic, deer hunting and the future of hunting in Victoria leaves us with a legacy to continue in his name.

We have many great memory's that will be with us forever and our thoughts at this time go to his loving wife Kath.

Information will be circulated in regards to the funeral at the earliest possible time.

Yours sincerely,

John Caven
Hon. Secretary

Game Management Council of Victoria
(Gamecon Vic) Inc.

**EDUCATION + CONSERVATION =
MANAGEMENT**

Test your knowledge of British Deer.

Members with an internet connection and five minutes to spare might like to test their general deer knowledge against what British deer stalkers are supposed to know.

<http://www.basc.org.uk/layout/popquiz.htm>



Game Management Corner What the Science Says.

Introduction.

None of what will appear in these articles is personal opinion. There has been a good deal of scientific study of all aspects of deer biology and herd management, particularly in the USA and Europe where the need for scientific management of ecosystems (including game species) is almost universally accepted. Every scientific study, even on the same problem, is different in some way from every other, so it is not surprising that sometimes the outcomes or recommendations are a little different, even contrary. In particular, studies done on deer farms where the conditions can be closely controlled can produce results and recommendations different from studies done on wild populations where the level of control is much less. When reading these studies this has to be kept in mind. Most of the studies I have used will not necessarily be for Fallow or Red or Chital or Sambar or Rusa or Hog. However, the basic biology of all deer species is similar enough to be largely applicable to the deer in your herd.

The conclusions I have drawn in each article in this series are those most applicable to our situation in which a group of hunters are attempting to manage to some degree, a herd of wild deer, on private property, to produce the best possible outcomes for all concerned. A list of references is included at the end of each article. As many are from the World Wide Web (www), readers with an internet connection can read the original articles. I encourage you to do so.

Dal Birrell.

Genetics, Nutrition, Age effects on Antler

Quality.

This is the first in a series of short articles for the NSWDA members on game management as it applies to deer.

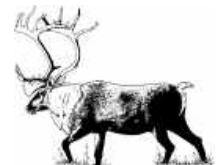
There is general agreement that three things contribute to antler development. These are genetics, nutrition and age. How important each of these factors is to the herd you might be involved with will differ somewhat from another herd of the same species located elsewhere. However the general consensus is that they are roughly equally important, in a wild herd.

Genetics.

Studies have clearly demonstrated that antler characteristics, (weight, length, spread, etc) are heritable. Studies have also shown that both males and females carry genes for antler development, in the same way that in dairy cattle both cows and bulls carry genes for milk production. Realizing this is very important when considering how to improve herd genetics, because the antler genes carried by females are invisible. Trying to improve the genetics of a herd by culling is made very difficult because you can't see and remove the "inferior antler genes" carried by the females, which often constitute many more than half of the herd. In the NSWDA's Black Fallow Scheme for example, females make up approximately 2/3 of the total number of deer. Obviously, the closer the sex ratio comes to 1:1 the more chance you have of culling out inferior genetics. I'll return to the topic of culling in a later article because it is a much more complex topic that it appears on the surface.

The rule of thumb which always applies to genetics is that the genes set the upper limit but the environment decides how closely that limit is approached. For example, a person

continued over.



may have genes to reach a height of 2 metres, but if s/he is not provided with a perfect diet, s/he won't grow to that 2 metre height. Dietary improvements account for much of the general increase in height of Australians over the past century (health factors also contribute).

It's worth a brief look at how a deer farm might go about improving the genetics of its animals. Dietary requirements of deer have been thoroughly researched. The amounts of various nutrients (proteins, minerals, total energy etc) a deer needs vary with age and season. A good manager will see to all of this as a matter of course. S/he will also see to other factors which affect breeding, such as stress. However, the problem of not being able to see the genetics of the females is the same as for a manager of wild deer. S/he tries to get over the problem by using females bred from quality males. By doing this over several generations s/he can minimise the proportion of poor antler genes in the herd. It can be more complicated than this, but you get the picture. In the wild, the manager has no control over which male breeds with which female and no idea of the ancestry of the females. Any culling program faces the problems of identifying the inferior deer in the field, then removing them in sufficient numbers to make a difference. Ken Gee (1997) says "These requirements make true genetic manipulations on free-ranging deer herds very difficult"

The effect of age and nutrition.

Deer antlers generally get larger with age, up to their maximum size at an average age for each herd. The age at which bucks develop a mature trophy head will be younger when the deer have better quality feed and older when they have poorer feed quality. Demarais (2002) reports a difference of over 20% in antler quality between groups of deer raised on poor and good feed. He (and other authors) also

reports a marked difference between antler development between early and late born fawns. This difference tends to gradually diminish to nil when fully mature, although the Texas Parks and Wildlife study done on farms under controlled conditions showed that poorer heads never caught up. This study confirmed the heritability of antler characteristics, showing that it is equal to or higher than heritability of weight gain in cattle.

The seasonal feed quality is most important, i.e. good feed in the antler growing and post rut seasons is most important. Rich well watered soils and rainfall patterns which encourage new pasture growth to coincide with peak nutritional demands of the deer result in early maturation of heads (high scoring heads at a relatively young age). This is the case for the NSWDA's BFS herd. Some members doubt the ages of the trophies taken from the scheme, believing them to be actually older than the ages read from their tooth eruption and wear characteristics. The ageing methodology is the same as that used elsewhere in Australia and has been validated against Tasmanian Fallow. It is not likely to be incorrect.

Just because a well fed herd produces early maturing bucks doesn't mean that these animals will not continue to improve with age. It's likely that simply harvesting trophies which are a couple of years older will lift the average Douglas scores far more than running a culling program. This is the experience of many overseas studies.

References.

Gee Ken (1997) Wildlife August 1997.
[www.noble.org/Ag/Wildlife/Antlers/
PrintLayout_1_86526_86526.html](http://www.noble.org/Ag/Wildlife/Antlers/PrintLayout_1_86526_86526.html)



Demarais Steve (2002) Research Advances Forest and Wildlife Research Centre. August 2002 Volume 7, No.1. Mississippi State University.

Deerfarmer.com (2003) A Key to Bigger Antlers. www.deer-library.com/artman/publish/article_129.shtml

Texas Parks and Wildlife (1994) White-tailed Deer, Role of Genetics in Antler Development. www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/game_management/deer/genetics

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— Original Message —

From: Dennis R Lea

To: Roy Smith

Cc: Robert Brown

Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 8:24 PM

Subject: firearms licence

Hi Fellas,

Just received my notice to REAPPLY for my firearms licence. Damn this gives me the red arse. Despite the fact that I have complied with all the stupid necessary attendances and had my safekeeping checked by the coppers I have to REAPPLY!!!! Don't have to reapply for my drivers licence, don't have to reapply for my heavy machinery tickets, don't have to reapply for my marriage licence, my dentist roots around in my gob based on a degree he got from Otago Uni some 30 yrs ago (it hangs on his surgery wall) and my bloody GP hasn't seen an exam paper for 40 years. But I have to reapply for my bloody firearms licence. That's my bitch for the day, thanks for caring.

Following up the Article in our Last Issue Regarding Animal Liberation.

An unpaid researcher has accumulated the following PETA quotes for your future reference.

“ Even if animal tests produced a cure for AIDS, we'd be against it.”

- PETA President Ingrid Newkirk

“ To give a child animal products is a form of child abuse.”

- Neal Barnard, PETA medical advisor and former president of the PETA Foundation

“ We're at war, and we'll do what we need to win.”

- PETA vice president Dan Matthews

“ I find it small wonder that the laboratories aren't all burning to the ground. If I had more guts, I'd light a match.”

- PETA president Ingrid Newkirk

“ When you see the loss of 9 billion [animal] lives each year, it's inappropriate to hold a sign or pass out a petition. It's appropriate to go out and burn down the ... farm.”

- Joshua Harper, convicted domestic terrorist and a recipient of \$5,000 from PETA in 2001

‘Young activists should “not be afraid to condone arsons.”

—PETA “humane education lecturer” Gary Yourofsky

“ Everything we do is based on adults.”



- PETA president Ingrid Newkirk denies targeting children on CNN, (March 21, 2002)

“We are after the kids who are looking and searching for something.”

- “PETA Kids” coordinator Marci Hansen, (June 22, 2003)

“Our campaigns are always geared towards children and they always will be.”

- PETA vice president Dan Matthews, Fox News Channel (December 19, 2003)

**READ THE ABOVE THREE QUOTES:
WHOSE LYING?**

In the words of its founding president Ingrid Newkirk, PETA’s goal is “total animal liberation.”



**FROM THE MINISTER FOR
ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE
CHANGE**

DATE: Wednesday, November 28, 2007

**NEW PLAN NEEDED TO MANAGE
IMPACT OF SAMBAR DEER**

Environment Minister Gavin Jennings has accepted the recommendation of the independent Scientific Advisory Committee to list the Sambar Deer as a threat to biodiversity under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988.

The Sambar Deer is the common name for large dark brown and maned Asian deer, which can grow up to 120 cm tall at the shoulder and weigh up to 240 kg.

Mr Jennings said the Sambar Deer was first introduced to Victoria in the 1860’s and was highly prized by hunters today but due to its feeding habits and behaviour was threatening native plants and wildlife.

“The Sambar Deer is widely recognised as a valuable game species but it is appropriate to review its management in light of the latest scientific information about the deer’s impact on native vegetation and biodiversity,” Mr Jennings said.

“The listing is necessary to address the negative impacts that Sambar Deer can have on our native plants and ecosystems.

“It does not change the status of Sambar Deer as a game species under the Wildlife Act 1975 and people will still be able to hunt it in line with existing regulations.”



Mr Jennings said Sambar Deer fed on particular kinds of plants, threatening some species, and caused physical damage through their territorial behaviour.

“By eating certain kinds of rare and threatened plants, and in particular the seedlings, fruit or seeds of these plants, the plants are becoming rarer and more endangered,” Mr Jennings said.

“Also, adult male Sambar Deer grow a new set of broad, heavy antlers each year. These are covered in ‘velvet’ which the Sambar removes by thrashing their antlers on shrubs and sapling trees. They also use their hardened antlers to ‘rub’ trees to leave marks to advertise their territory.

“This process can significantly damage the plants, removing most branches on some shrubs and sometimes ringbarking.

“Based on the expert advice from the Committee after their public consultation, I have accepted the independent recommendation to list the Sambar Deer as a threatening process, and instructed the DSE to develop a plan to manage the deer.”

Mr Jennings said the Department of Sustainability and the Environment (DSE), in consultation with hunters, botanical interest groups and other members of the community, will now develop a plan to manage the impact of Sambar Deer on its surrounding environment, particularly rare and threatened plants and ecosystems.

“This response could include targeted Sambar Deer control to minimise their impact in specific sensitive areas where the threat to

native vegetation is the greatest,” Mr Jennings said.

“Sambar Deer are now widespread in the Eastern Highlands, from the mid-Yarra Valley to the ACT.

“Hunters could play a valuable role in controlling Sambar Deer numbers and in monitoring the effectiveness of control activities.

Mr Jennings called on hunters to support the consultation process through their representation on the working group that will be established to prepare an Action Statement.

“Hunters already undertake important conservation work in our parks and forests,” he said.

“They have a vital role to play in the ongoing monitoring and management of Sambar Deer to ensure there is a future for both the deer and our threatened plant species and native ecosystems.”

Victoria’s Scientific Advisory Committee is an independent committee of scientists established to advise the Environment Minister on nominations made under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.

Is this step 1 in a process aimed at removing Sambar altogether? If you hunt Sambar, or simply value their presence and history in Australia, this should alarm you. Ed.



TSP Firearms Amendment Bill, Greens' contributions, obnoxious in the extreme.

As most members would already know, the Shooter's Party bill to amend the NSW Firearms Act has now passed through both houses of the parliament and will shortly become law. While it was successful in making just a few sensible reforms, the Greens speeches against it are worth the read. Details of the bill are appended to this newsletter. Ed.

Hansard excerpts supplied by..Robert Brown MLC..

Ms SYLVIA HALE:

“It would be inappropriate not to comment on the sudden appearance of this bill in this place. Perhaps it is best described as the child of a shotgun wedding between the Shooters Party and Labor.”

“Firearms offences, no matter how minor, are more serious than offences involving littering or failing to buy a train ticket.”

Ms LEE RHIANNON:

“It is interesting to examine the relationship between the Shooters Party and Labor. In New South Wales the gains of the Shooters Party have been won with enormous support from New South Wales Labor.”

“big wins that Labor has delivered to the Shooters Party include establishing the Game Council and with it new laws to allow

recreational hunters to shoot feral animals on private land and in State forests. Mr Robert Brown became a member of the New South Wales upper House in May 2006, when he took the place of Mr John Tingle. It is worth reflecting on some of the developments that occurred when Mr Tingle was a member in this place. In April 1997 Premier Carr worked with Mr John Tingle to establish the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Shooting Clubs. The purpose of the committee was to provide a whole-of-government approach to issues affecting shooting clubs, to help clubs obtain Crown land for ranges and finance to develop or redevelop them. It is understood that after the 1999 election Premier Carr regularly met with Mr John Tingle as part of Labor's strategy to win the support of the crossbench members of the upper House. In 1995 there were seven crossbench members in the upper House and, as we know, after the 1999 tablecloth-ballot election their number increased to 13.”

“From 1999 to 2003 Labor had to work hard in this place to gain the support of the crossbenchers. Shooting organisations made gains in this period on many issues. It appears that a close relationship developed between the Government and Mr John Tingle and, similar to what we see now, when the Government was in a tight spot and needed that one extra vote, so often Mr Tingle was there to help out. From 1998 to 2001 the Shooters Party secured over \$5 million in additional funding for shooters clubs. An average 20 clubs per year were given funding ranging from \$2,000 to \$45,000 for specific projects. Overall, shooting clubs received a huge increase in public funding and several new shooting ranges and regional shooting complexes were built.”

“The Shooters Party was instrumental in



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

weakening the threatened species legislation. Representatives from the Shooters Party have been appointed to a number of government boards where they have a vested interest, for example, the Pest Animal Management Council, the Animal Welfare Advisory Council and the Non-Indigenous Animals Council.

After viewing all the assistance that the Shooters Party has received from the Government it makes me smile when members of that party abuse the Greens because of our work with various environmental groups. Shooters Party members have this State well

and truly sewn up. They have a cash flow direct from the Government and their organisations benefit financially. As I said earlier, that funding assists them to become elected to this Parliament and to appoint key representatives to various boards.”

“The Shooters Party, through the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Shooting Clubs [MACOSC], lobbied for approval and funding of numerous regional shooting complexes. It gained 540 hectares for the

continued over.



Illawarra Shooting Association in the Dharawal Nature Reserve and played a key role in establishing or extending shooting complexes at Cessnock, Emmaville, Inverell-Glen Innes, Mudgee, Bodalla, Port Macquarie, Kempsey, Hill Top and Hornsby. Crown land was obtained for the Far South Coast Hunting Club at Bodalla..I would like to share with members something that occurred during the last Federal election. There are interesting links between Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and the gun lobby. Mr Rudd is a patron of the Queensland Amateur Pistol Shooting Association and he has met with the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia [SSAA]. Mr Rudd is also reported to have close links with the Belmont Shooting Range, which is located in his electorate. He is known as a keen clay target shooter and possibly a keen pistol shooter.”

“I understand that the New South Wales branch of the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia is now the major beneficiary of firearms licensing.”

“The Shooters Party accepted large donations from the Sporting Shooters Association (New South Wales) Inc. As I said earlier, Shooters Party member Mr Roy Smith gained more than \$400,000 for his own election campaign.”

Dr JOHN KAYE:

“I congratulate the Shooters Party on its political acumen in manipulating the system to get the Labor Party to support this odious legislation. The power of two in this Chamber is quite extraordinary. Shooters Party members have been able to manipulate the situation by weight of numbers to achieve an outcome that I am sure goes against the wishes of the

overwhelming majority of Labor members.”

“My colleague Ms Lee Rhiannon outlined the cash that flows from the Government’s coffers to the various shooting organisations. Again, I must congratulate the Shooters Party on its political acumen in securing that funding.”

Mr IAN COHEN:

“there seems to be an unholy alliance between the Government and the Shooters Party, which has an exquisite balance of power, aided and abetted by Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile.”

“There is an ongoing supine relationship between the Shooters Party and the Government. Obviously the Shooters Party has called in the debt owed by the Government, as this bill has been given urgent priority. Perhaps I am wrong. I enthusiastically argued against the bill being debated urgently, but obviously it is urgent.”

“Obviously, debating this bill fulfils a deal by which the Government has had the largesse of Shooters Party votes on many other issues. The Shooters Party, to its credit, is representing its constituency. It is single-mindedly pursuing legislation that John Tingle attempted but failed to get through with the Government at the time. However, the Shooters Party has been successful in continuing with this bill-so it is payback time. The bill is urgent because if it is not passed now it will disappear into the ether and the Shooters Party will have failed its primary objective in this House. Congratulations!.”

“The deal that has enabled this bill to be driven through the Parliament shows how the New South Wales political system works, aided and abetted by the Opposition. I am



interested to see whether members opposite are keen to support the Shooters Party on this bill and the arguments that will be used, not in this House, because they do not want to waste the time of the House, but outside the Parliament. When I say that they do not want to waste the time of the House I that mean they are keen to see this rather embarrassing situation resolved as quickly as possible so we can all forget about it and we can go on our way.”

“An effective campaign has been run, not necessarily a centralised campaign, over the past few months. There has been ongoing comment on North Coast radio about a young girl who is a very enthusiastic shooter. I think she is a champion shooter and she has gone to Italy, I think, to compete in a shooting contest. She talks about how she used to follow her father around when he was shooting. It quotes the father as saying how enthusiastic she was and how she loved to shoot and kill feral animals. That may be reasonable. I have to say that killing feral animals in itself is something I would support although I would not support people doing that who have not undertaken proper training.”

“That item appeared on the radio a number of times. I do not know how widespread that report was but it was certainly the friendly face of a young shooter giving credence to encouraging young people to get involved in shooting. I am not addressing this to the Shooters Party because I know they have a strong commitment to this lifestyle and to introducing it to young people and into schools. Nevertheless, it gave a very-dare I say-disarming picture of a young person who was an enthusiastic shooter and did a good job of shooting feral animals and has now become a champion shooter. That may be all very well in the narrow case of that particular successful

young person. I have to say that that is reflected to many young people listening to that type of discussion on radio.”

“It disturbed me because it very much put a friendly face to this issue. How many people would want to emulate that? Of course, Shooters Party representatives would be very keen to see as many as possible.”

“It has been a very successful deal between the Government and the Shooters Party, with the acquiescence of the Opposition.”

END HANSARD EXCERPT



The University of Queensland's Game Management Course. By Dal Birrell.

In the second half of 2007, the School of Animal Studies at the University of Queensland's Gatton Campus launched the first Game Management course in Australia. I took part in the second course which began in March 2008.

Who would want to do a game management course? I can only speak for myself. I have hunted deer for over thirty years and have been a part of the NSW Deer Stalkers Black Fallow Scheme since its inception. In my case familiarity bred an increasing interest and regard for the deer. In recent years I have taken on the role of ageing all deer taken from the Black Fallow Scheme, as well as collecting and computerising our records. I now try to keep track of population trends, the sex ratio, fawn drop etc. I have a natural interest and background in the science anyway, having taught Biology for almost forty years. However, I felt that I lacked the tools to properly monitor the deer population and my knowledge base was probably a bit out of date.

In the USA and in many other overseas countries, the need for management of wildlife is well understood. Habitat and other ecological changes made by an increasing human population have and continue to affect ecosystems the length and breadth of all countries. Science has shown that wildlife populations cannot simply be left to fend for themselves if we want them to remain secure and in some cases, not to become problems.

Overseas the role of hunting as a management

tool is well understood and widely utilised. Sadly, the same cannot be said of Australia yet, although progress is being made in New South Wales through the activities of the NSW Game Council.

Hopefully in time the same realisation, now made more urgent by climate change, will dawn on more and more Australians. After all, there are thousands of us who hunt deer, ducks and quail and millions of us who fish.

The demand for a game management course needed to be tested and the staff at the School of Animal Studies set out to do it. Their judgement was vindicated when the first course attracted many more people than it could handle. The second course was similarly swamped with applicants, as is the third which will begin next semester.

From now on the course will also be offered as an undergraduate course (as part of a degree) and as a post graduate certificate. In line with its new status, fees have been brought into line with comparable courses, rising from \$500 to \$900 (plus GST).

The course runs over about ten weeks. All materials are exchanged by email or by post. There is no residential component. Once you are accepted and have paid the fees, you are sent a booklet which contains the course material; ecology theory, politics of conservation, a little history, case studies and practical methods.

. There is plenty of time to read through the material if you have a normal job. There is an extensive list of references, few of which would be found in a suburban library. However the internet is an invaluable source of material which is right at hand if you are on-line or if you can use the local library.

There is a schedule of work to be submitted,



including four exercises and two exams. The major assignment was the preparation of a Property Based Game Management case study, worth half of the course marks. This can be either “real” as in my case, based on our deer management scheme, or fictional (theoretical). There is a template which you must use, and the first assignment is to prepare an outline of it, which is sent back to you with suggestions to improve your final case study.

Because I had a solid background in the ecology theory I could spend more time on researching and reading widely in the other areas of the course. Anyone who had taken a Biology course for their HSC (or equivalent) would have encountered most of the basic ecological concepts. A rank beginner would have more work to do, but there is enough time if you put your mind to it.

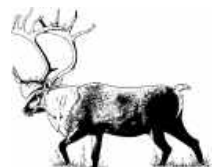
Everyone I dealt with was most cooperative and helpful. I have no personal involvement with the University or anyone running the course. I got a lot out of this course and would recommend it to anyone with a need to help manage a game population or a practical interest in the subject.

Enquiries should be directed to Loren Jarvis, Administrative Officer, School of Animal Studies, and University of Queensland Gatton Campus. Ph 07 5460 1215 or fax 07 54601444 www.animal.uq.edu.au

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.



NEW SOUTH WALES DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION INC.

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

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OCCUPATION.....

FEES (Please tick payment being made):

1 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION

3 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION

FAMILY: \$55.00

FAMILY: \$150.00 (SAVE \$15.00)

SINGLE: \$50.00

SINGLE: \$145.00 (save \$5.00)

JUNIOR: \$25.00 (Under 18)

JUNIOR: \$70.00 (Save \$5.00)

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

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

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FEE \$.....

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$.....

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

Signature:

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

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

PLEASE PAY PROMPTLY.

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

Issue 2
June 2008

Fox DNA News

The Fox DNA Project, freecall 1800 633 097

In this issue:

- Progress update on the Fox DNA Project.
- Finding your sample using Google Earth.
- Additional projects: Phillip Island.
- Wildlife Forensics: Where did the Tasmanian foxes come from?
- Future Projects: Wild Dog DNA Project.

An update on the Fox DNA Project

Welcome to the second newsletter for the Fox DNA Project. The end of the project is almost in sight, with only the analysis of results left before completion.

The final count for samples collected is close to 3,600 and we would like to thank you sincerely for helping with this huge endeavor.

From our preliminary results we are optimistic that our goal of assisting

with the development of more effective fox management strategies will be possible.

During this project additional related projects have been investigated, including determining the numbers of foxes on Phillip Island (Victoria), and the origins of foxes in Tasmania.

You can read more about these projects further in this newsletter.

Once again we'd like to thank you for your interest in this pest control project with a difference. Without your support and assistance from about 1000 other participants it would not have been possible.

Please continue to check our website for updated results.

Cheers,

Oliver Berry,
& the Fox DNA team



An adult male fox in good condition (despite the drought) near Pinaroo, South Australia (photo: Joe Tomkins)

Contact Us:

School of Animal Biology,
The University of Western
Australia. Crawley, WA,
6009
Freecall 1800 633 097
ofb@cyllene.uwa.edu.au

This project is supported by:



Invasive Animals CRC



Australian Government
Bureau of Rural Sciences
Natural Heritage Trust



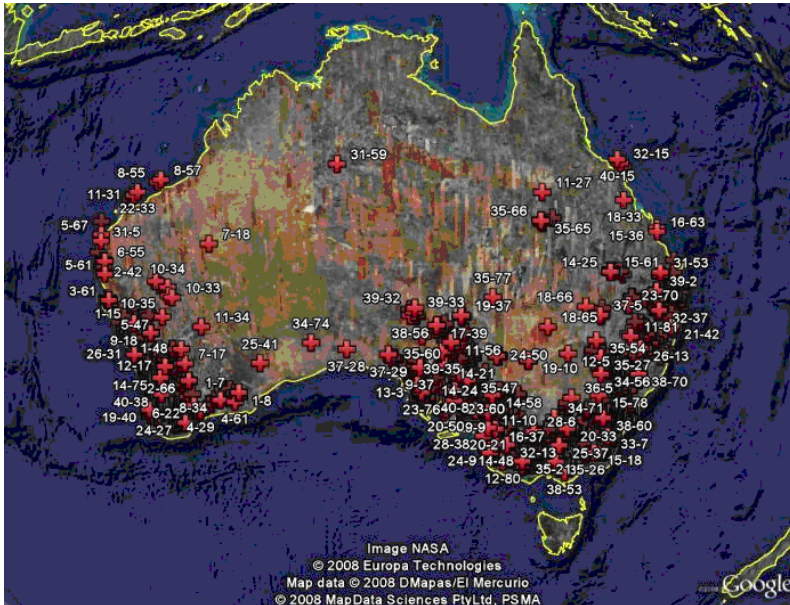


Figure 2: Google Earth image of all samples collected.

Find your sample on Google Earth!

All 3,600 samples have now been catalogued, had their DNA extracted, undergone the PCR process and genotyping and are now in analysis.

This unfortunately is a time consuming and complicated process, but while you await results, why not locate your sample using Google Earth (Figure 2).

By visiting the Fox DNA Project website www.foxDNA.animals.uwa.edu.au and selecting the "results" link, you can

download a small file that enables you to view the map seen in Figure 2. You can then use the Google Earth program to zoom in and around the landscape to locate your sample and see where fellow fox DNA collectors were working.

As you'll see, the coverage of samples has been excellent.

NB. Please let us know if you notice any location errors!

Additional Projects: Phillip Island

Thousands of people visit Phillip Island (south east of Melbourne) each day to view the famous Penguin Parade. In fact, it has been estimated that this tourist attraction has an annual revenue of approximately \$96 million!

Unfortunately foxes take a heavy toll on the fairy penguins. In the last century they reduced the number of penguin colonies from twelve to only one.

Fox control programs are currently under way on the island, but their success has been difficult to measure because foxes are so elusive – making it difficult to accurately estimate their numbers.

It also hasn't been clear whether the island fox population is isolated from the mainland or is

continually being "topped up" by immigrants.

Samples from culled foxes have been collected for the past fourteen years. These present a unique opportunity to look at genetic changes in the island's foxes through time.

Population genetic theory predicts that the smaller a population is, the more rapidly their genetic composition will change because they are more susceptible to chance fluctuations.

This phenomenon is known as genetic drift, and it provides us with an indirect way to estimate the number of foxes present on the island, and in doing so, to evaluate the effectiveness of control measures.



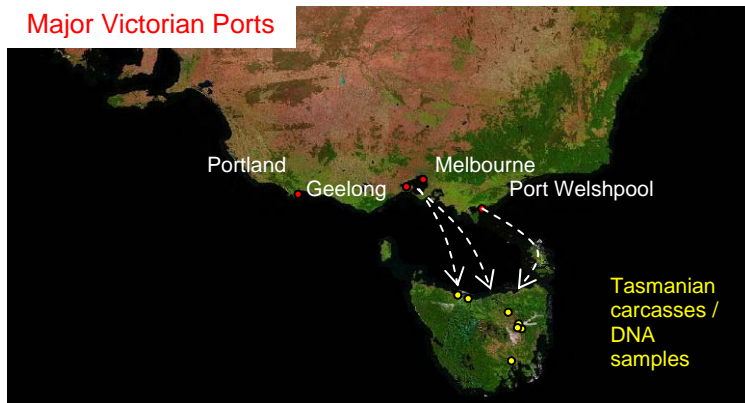
The dramatic coast of Phillip Island near "The Nobbies" (photo: Yvette Hitchen)

Printed on 100% recycled paper

Project supported by:



Major Victorian Ports



Wildlife Forensics: The origins of Tasmania's foxes

Tasmania has, until recently, been fox-free. This has brought enormous economic and biodiversity benefits to the island.

However, this may be about to come to an end because a

handful of fox carcasses and over 1000 sightings have been made since 2001, suggesting that foxes are now resident in the Apple Isle.

We are working on

whether these incursions results from a single introduction followed by breeding, or multiple independent entries.

Whichever of these scenarios is true should influence how management of the incursion is handled.

Our analysis requires reference data from the mainland and we are making use of over 600 Victorian samples collected as part of the Fox DNA project.

Preliminary results suggest that at least some of the foxes did not enter from the Melbourne docks (i.e. accidentally onboard

freighters), and that more than one entry is likely to have occurred.

Watch this space as we continue to investigate this important problem.

Project supported by:



DPIWE Tasmania

Future Projects: Wild Dog DNA Project

Each year wild dogs cost the Australian economy approximately 66 million dollars.

A broadscale study of wild dog population structure and movement patterns is currently under way in Western Australia.

Like the Fox DNA Project, the wild dog study aims to determine how far dogs move in different parts of the state and to identify independent "management units".

The study will also map the distribution of pure dingoes and their hybrids, so that wildlife managers are better able to preserve the unique heritage of the dingo.

It is hoped that 3000 samples from Western Australia can be collected. This will be the most comprehensive study of wild dog populations ever conducted.

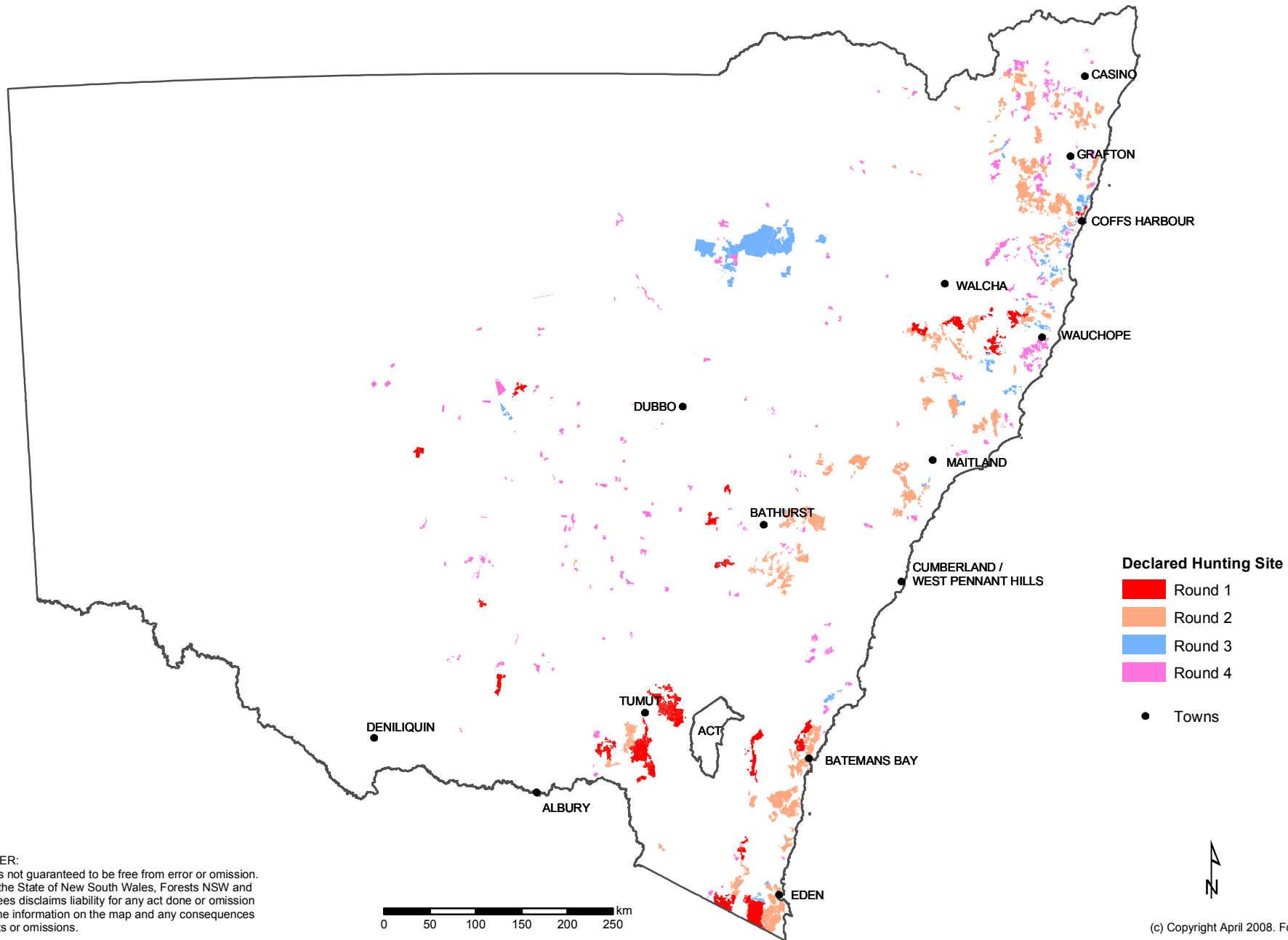
If you would like to assist in the Wild Dog DNA project a sampling kit can be requested from the website:

www.wilddogdna.animals.uwa.edu.au or contact the project coordinator, Danielle Stephens on carey01@student.uwa.edu.au or (08)6488 3425.



A wild dingo at home in the north-west Kimberley, WA. (photo: Rob Davis / Kimberley Land Council)

DECLARATION OF PUBLIC LANDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE GAME AND FERAL ANIMAL CONTROL ACT 2002





The Hon. Roy Smith MLC

Parliament of New South Wales
Legislative Council
The Shooters' Party



SHOOTERS PARTY BILL TO AMEND THE FIREARMS ACT PASSES BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

27 June 2008

After a battle, which started 12 years ago, The Shooters Party has now managed to have reasonable and sensible amendments made to the Firearms Act and Regulations.

Our bill, the first of what we hope will be a series to remove more red tape from the NSW firearms laws, has passed through the Legislative Assembly without amendments. The Independent Member for Tamworth, Mr Peter Draper, sponsored it in the Lower House and we thank him for his support.

Since 1996 The Shooters Party has stood alone in the push for sensible changes to the gun laws. It has been a long battle, but has been made easier by having two members in the Upper House. Your support in March 2007 is now bearing fruit, and we would like to thank all the clubs and individuals who helped with suggestions on what amendments we should include in our first real tilt at changing the laws.

Be assured, this is only the start, and we will be looking for further constructive suggestions for our next round of amendments.

We welcome the bi-partisan support from the Government, the Opposition, Rev Fred Nile of the Christian Democrats and those independents in the Lower House who supported what they all saw as sensible changes to the law.

With the change of Government in Canberra and the removal of the threats of reprisal against Governments who might amend the gun laws, The Shooters Party hopes this Bill spurs other States to take similar steps and conduct objective reviews of their legislation.

What we need are the most EFFECTIVE laws, rather than the so-called TOUGH laws. Having now passed both Houses, the new laws will be implemented over the next three months.

The Amendments remove a number of restrictions that unreasonably impact on legitimate firearm owners and unlicensed people wishing to try sport shooting, and while disappointed that not all of our proposed amendments were accepted, we believe that on the whole the passage of this bill is a significant win for shooters.

We suffered because of some uninformed comments about our proposal that junior shooters, who have held a target pistol permit for at least 12 months, could apply for permits enabling them to use larger calibres in Single Action and Handgun Metallic Silhouette matches. This amendment failed, mainly due to the misinformation pedalled by the Greens, who not surprisingly opposed every change we put forward.

The more significant changes that will flow from the passage of our amendments are:

Waiting periods:- Currently a 28-day waiting period applies for the issue and renewal of all licences, permits and permissions to acquire a firearm. Our bill makes it clear that a waiting period is not applicable when renewing an existing licence or permit, and where a permit to acquire a firearm is sought by a person who already has a firearm of that type registered to them.

Shooting under supervision:- Currently unlicensed persons can shoot under a once-only three month exemption for new club members, at club open days or during an approved firearms safety training course. Our Bill extends the exemptions so they can shoot under the supervision of a licence holder at approved ranges after making a written declaration to the effect that they are not ineligible for a licence or permit under the Act.

Exemptions for antique firearms:- Our bill originally provided for the exemption from licensing and registration of firearms manufactured before 1900 that are either pre-percussion or use obsolete cartridges. Unfortunately the Government was successful in amending it so that whilst pre-1900 firearms will be exempt from registration, some will require a licence. Pre 1900 firearms that are also exempt from licensing are prescribed in the regulations and include long arms that do not use metallic cartridges, including muzzle loaders, and those using obsolete metallic cartridges, as well as pre-percussion and single shot percussion pistols. Pre 1900 multi shot muzzle loading percussion pistols and those capable of firing obsolete metallic cartridges will be exempt from registration, but a licence will be required for their possession. Firearms held under this exemption will still be subject to the safekeeping requirements of the Act.

Access to Category C shotguns for certain target shooters:- The bill amends Section 17A of the Act to allow members of clubs affiliated with shooting bodies approved by the Commissioner of Police, and who have a special need, to apply for a special Category C licence authorising the person to use a self-loading or pump action shotgun in a recognised clay target shooting competition. Currently only members of the Australian Clay Target Association or clubs affiliated with it may have access to Category C shotguns for competition purposes in New South Wales. Western Australia, Victoria and Queensland have already extended this access to include people competing in shooting disciplines beyond those administered by the Australian Clay Target Association. There are no issues of public safety by introducing this amendment and no reason why this access should be restricted to the Australian Clay Target Association and its affiliates.

Provision for Penalty Notices:- The bill introduces the option for Police of dealing with some minor offences under the Act and Regulations by way of a penalty notice. Penalty notices will not be able to be issued for any indictable offences. The penalty notice will not disqualify a person from holding a firearms licence or permit unless they elect to contest the matter in court, and the court then finds them guilty of the offence.

Records required for non-target shooters shooting at ranges:- The bill removes the requirement for the type and calibre of firearm used at a range by a licensed non-target shooter to be recorded, the current requirement that the visitor's name and licence number be recorded remains.

Theatrical Armourers

The bill will change the authority under which a theatrical armourer operates, from that of a theatrical armourers permit, to a type of dealers licence.

Parliament adjourns tonight for the winter recess, and during the break we look forward to visiting as many clubs as possible. If you would like us to come and speak to your members about these legislative changes, please contact our office.



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