



Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia

Hunting & Conservation Branch (SA) Inc

PO Box 188 Kent Town SA 5071



# THE H&C NEWS

APRIL 2006

## Presidents Report *Kaz H*

**RECENT CULLS** Dutchman Stern 5 – 9/11/05 – was carried out by six members who put down 75 goats and 1 rabbit. Of interest was the sighting of 6 foxes, which was later explained by the cessation of regular baiting by DEH for comparison with other reserves which are being subjected to very intense baiting and regular monitoring. Goat age profile was strongly biased towards kids and two-tooth – i.e. up to two year old.

Dutchman Stern 16 – 20/01/06 – again, six shooters put down 40 goats and 5 rabbits, with 5 foxes sighted. The weather was on the warm side so early rising was adopted so as to beat the heat for the trek to the western springs. The number of goats shot was somewhat lower than it could have been, because goats from the southern springs area departed for safer pastures after the first three days, and the Friday team to western springs set out on plan “A”, advised rest of team of change to plan “B”, and actually carried out plan “C”.

Flinders Ranges NP – 4-10/02/06 – some 16 members in four teams covered four sections of the Park, and in rather pleasantly not-too-hot conditions put down 385 goats. All 16 concentrated on the Wilpena Pound and its surroundings on the one day of the year when the Resort operators can be persuaded to close the Pound to tourists, and with the support of two Rangers on “quads” accounted for 60 goats on that day. Two rifle stocks were sacrificed to the Gods of Hunting – one due to inadequate bedding arrangements, and the other can not be talked about due to an individual’s sensitivity about the circumstances (he would not allow photographing of the item, even without him in the picture!). The BBQ was again hosted by Rangers Peter and Matt and their families, with appreciation of H&C

efforts by them and appreciation of their support by H&C.

**WE ARE SLIPPING** Observations and comments from the above, and some other recent culls, indicate that some of our members are forgetting some of our standard practices when carrying out culling i.e.

- Ears are not being cut off (-to indicate that data has been recorded and that it is a H&C kill)
- Body cavity/stomach not thoroughly (sternum to pelvis) opened up (to ensure quick decomposition and that the animal is cold stone dead)
- Carcasses not removed from view along trails
- Carcasses not removed from watercourses
- Orange hats or equivalent high visibility clothing 300M identification not worn
- Moving outside of authorized area

Your Committee makes undertakings to our “clients” and to members, of standards of safe and effective operation and of compliance with agreed practices and procedures. Members must be familiar with and must comply with all “Codes of Practice”, “Guidelines” and “Policies”, etc, in addition to common sense and courtesies. Non-compliance is not acceptable to the Committee or the membership.

The H&C Branch membership has worked hard to achieve the high standards of trust, support and appreciation from our clients. The resulting relationships may be put at risk if every member does not act in the best interests of the whole group.

Please re familiarize yourself with the “GUIDELINES FOR FIELD ACTIVITIES” as specified overleaf.

## GUIDELINES FOR FIELD ACTIVITIES

- No wood fires unless specifically authorised.
- Collect all rubbish and clean all sites and facilities before leaving.
- Stay in allocated area – entry to other areas only by appropriate authorisation or by coordinator's direction.
- No alcohol to be consumed before or during shooting.
- When driving, stay on roads or tracks.
- Monitor UHF channel 14 (or other agreed channel) whenever possible & at all times when outside your allocated area.
- Team leader is responsible for each member and visitor/observer location, supervision and safety – recommend not less than two man teams in the field. Every individual must be in visual and /or radio contact with another team member at all times.
- Communicate within your team continuously or on a regular time basis and on hearing shot(s).
- Shoot hard to spot nannies (browns and greys) first, and then blacks, leaving the whites till last. Leave white billies to breed future markers.
- Follow up any wounded animal and put down ASAP.
- Locate and put down any juveniles ASAP.
- Do not leave carcasses in watercourses or visible near walking trails.
- Open up carcasses (sternum to pelvis) for quick decomposition.
- Record age, sex and any other data as required.
- Cut off ears to identify H&C kill - collect ear tips only if requested.
- Shoot foxes, cats, rabbits, dogs and other animals only as instructed for each operation.
- Unload and bag firearms on completion of shooting or on entering campsite.
- Observe and note location of anything unusual, eg. rare species of birds, animals or plants, geological features, structures, etc

## Cull participation *Gil H*

As founder and coordinator for the Flinders and Gammon NP culls it is of concern that with over 300 members we struggle to field enough people to participate in these culls.

It is true of the long term members and for those of us still in the workforce, (I fit this bill) that we have used much of our annual and long-service leave for past culls and can only get away once a year.

It is the committee's feeling that newer members don't push forward to get a berth or we have not explained the protocols and procedures to get into one of these events. If this is the case then we apologise for the oversight.

Firstly all participants need to have been a member for about six months. This has not been strictly enforced and so has remained rubbery for people "close to" that time.

Secondly during that six month waiting period it is mandatory to have attended and passed the theoretical accreditation course and to have passed the marksmanship qualification.

The theory course is held twice a year in March and August. All new members are invited to attend while those already accredited and wishing to update may do so at no cost, purely by registering, but subject to available space.

The marksmanship qualification can be done on our range days which are held on the Monaro State range complex. These days are advertised in the newsletter and can be found on the website.

Alternatively the qualification can be done on any SSAA range, the target witnessed and signed by a qualified range officer.

The target used is the 200 meter field rifle target. It is shot from the standing position over a distance of 100 metres/yards. Five shots are fired for a score of 37 or better out of the possible 50. The punctured target can be posted to our PO Box number. Remember to fill in your name and to have it signed by the witness.

Once you have jumped through all these hurdles you are ready to participate in the cull(s) of your choosing.

You need to fill-in a registration form and forward the appropriate fee.

The form is available off the web or contact the secretary and he can post one out.

You may not belong to a team for a given cull. If not in a team for a particular event you will be given the phone numbers of other people in the same situation and by contacting them new teams can be formed.

Yes a number of teams have existed since forever while others disintegrate, and others are in a state of flux.

Remember it is important to meet proposed team members in advance as the last thing we need is a personality clash, when you are away living in each other's pockets for a week. If there is a problem, say so BEFORE you go and other alternatives can be found.

So you're a new chum with little or no field experience. No problem. There are a number of old hand team leaders who will take you under their wing and guide you until such time as you are confident to go it alone.

Now you probably have more questions. The only way to get answers is to ASK. Please contact me (Gil) or any of the committee who will be only too willing to assist if they can.



#### **FIRST AID COURSE SUBSIDY *Brian W***

The Committee has approved \$5000 to fund a training program for 2006 and this will be topped up on an annual basis (the amount depending on the Club's finances.)

Senior First Aid is the area to be targeted initially. Members are requested to register their interest with Brian W [briancw@ozemail.com.au](mailto:briancw@ozemail.com.au) or 0408854124

Once the application has been approved the Member then books a course (at a time and place to suit) pays for the course and on satisfactory completion will then receive a reimbursement of \$100 (one hundred dollars). The Member has 6 months to complete the training or a new approval will be required.

There are a number of approved First Aid Training providers. Red Cross and Saint John provide such training. Peruse the Training and development section of the current Yellow pages 2005 to 2009.

#### **Gawler Ranges Cull February 06 The rainmakers strike again.**

The annual summer Gawler Ranges cull was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February. A total of fifteen members participated which meant they had a lot of country to cover. These members were split into three teams based at Paney Shearers' Quarters, Pondanna and Scrubby Peak. The park had 40mm of rain three weeks prior to the cull which meant larger rock holes within the park still had a lot of water in them.

(More than I had ever seen before). Although this was not the perfect scenario by Wednesday night at the BBQ the tally was 177 goats which I thought was an unexpectedly good start. Animals were not going to recognised watering spots apart from on the Wednesday following a warm to hot day on the Tuesday.

The obligatory BBQ was on the Wednesday with Craig Nixon's (Park Ranger) boss Ross Belcher attending along with Craig's wife Robyn and kids, Keith and his wife and all of our members. It was an excellent night which also gave us an opportunity to do some networking with Ross who knew of us but obviously got a better understanding following the evening. ***Here we go again***, I woke at 1.00am that night to hear fairly heavy and consistent rain which continued to after sunrise. By late afternoon the tracks had dried sufficiently to drive on but it was dodge the puddle stuff.

All teams reported the amazing re-growth from last year. OK they have had a reasonable splash in that period but there is so much and at a good height and has not been eaten. Rabbits are on the come back but the amount of birds, reptiles (lizards / snakes) and particularly bronze winged pigeons was amazing.

Once again the Green team at Pondanna won the "BEST CAMP OF THE CULL AWARD" as deemed by our esteemed panel of judges. Must be five years in a row.

The total cull numbers were: 245 Goats, 12 Rabbits, 2 Foxes and a cat. This number tends to suggest that we have now reached a "maintenance level" in the Gawler's which is what it is all about. Following the cull I have been advised we may be offered some other areas on the Eyre Peninsula which the committee will follow-up.

#### ***"URGENT NOTICE"***

**The Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park cull programmed for May 2006 has been cancelled. This is due to the restructure of the management of the park, the time frames involved with the closure of the park and various notifications required. All nominations will be returned to the senders. For further info please contact Kaz H.**

**Tanning and Taxidermy** Would you like a good tanning or would you rather get stuffed. H&C member Grant W can help your with all you tanning and taxidermy requirements. Grant also offers game butchery courses on a limited basis. Give Grant a call on 0438095868.

**FIREARMS SECURITY** H&C has received correspondence from the SAPOL Firearms section regarding the increase in firearms theft from clubs and individuals. They are also concerned with the number of firearms owners who have been detected not complying with the safe storage of firearms as defined in the Firearms Act and Regulations. They have asked clubs to inform members to ensure that they comply. If you are not sure if you do, give Firearms Branch a call on 82042495. Have a look on the back of your firearms licence. There is some information on firearms security. Remember, loaded ammunition powder and primers must be stored separately in a locked container. There is an article in the "Great Southern Land" (A S.S.A.A.- S.A. communications initiative) inclusion in the Australian Shooter Magazine on the safe storage of ammunition powder and primers. The message is simple "**LOCK IT UP OR LOSE IT**"

**Firearms Amnesty** There is a firearms amnesty declared at the moment. A flyer is attached. If you have any firearms that you may wish to surrender, before you do consider advertising them in these pages and on the H&C website. If you have any unregistered firearms, heaven forbid, contact your local gun dealer/smith, he/she may be able to help you make them legal, providing they are not prohibited of course.

**Membership Enquiries** All membership enquiries should be directed to the secretary ChrisG on 0407608858, 08 82816464 F, E-mail secretary@hunt-cons.asn.au

### COMING EVENTS

**April** Mon 24 - Fri 28 Bimbowrie Conservation Reserve *Phil J*

**May** Fri 26 - Mon 29 Flinders Feral Predator Program *Kaz H*

**June** Wed 14 Quarterly Meeting @ Gaza  
Mon 19 - Fri 23 Dutchman Stern  
Conservation Park *Kaz*

*Included is an updated 2006 program of events, please note the changes.*

**A.G.S. Discount Card.** Also included is a **discount card** that can be used at the Adelaide Gunshop. Present this card and receive discount on your purchases. Rob is and has been a big supporter of H&C as well as providing sponsorship to many S.S.A.A. branches and other shooting organisations and clubs. A.G.S. has been revamped, new counters and less clutter. There have also been a couple of new staff appointments that have come from within the firearms industry to enhance further the expert advice that is given. For all your firearms requirements i.e. new and second hand purchases, consignments, reloading equipment, reloading components, shooting equipment and accessories, give Rob and his team a call on 08 82313570 Monday to Friday 9.00 – 5.00 pm Saturday 9.00 – 12.00.

### FOR SALE / WANTED

SUZUKI soft top canopy \$250

Scopes: Leupold 6-18 \$600

Bushnell 3-9 \$100

Projectiles: 3000 .243 75g V Max Hornady \$25/100

5000 Winchester 40g \$10/100

Scope mounts for Winchester 30-30 lever action top ejet \$50

303 no. 4 Mk 1 #48664 New Zealand markings-stamped US property \$600

Graham M Phone 08 86263043

Baikal S.B.S. 12 g shotgun, S/N 9503678, as new, fired only 3 boxes cartridges, suede bag, 2 snap caps, 4 boxes cartridges, \$500 firm

BRNO B.A. .22 rifle S/N 473 888. good condition TASC0 40x40 scope, 2x5 shot mags, gun bag, \$500 firm

Scope Golden Eagle 8X56 \$200

Laser mount to suit 8X56 scope, as new \$100

Jungle Carbine, British .303 B/A S/N 3904, synthetic butt and stock, refurbished, looks new, 2X10 shot mags, dies and shell holder, scope rail, rear peep sight, 150+ loaded and fired cases. \$550 firm

Ken W 0429 393 119

## **Kill a goat if you want to save the planet**

MATTHEW PARRIS

Not every problem the world faces is intractable. Big questions may suggest simple answers. Here is one. It is time to exterminate the common goat. It is time to wipe *Capra aegagrus* from the face of the Earth. It is time to make goats extinct.

The common goat is more destructive of the ecological balance of our planet than any other single cause — and I do include global warming. I write this in an aeroplane high above Sudan on a flight returning from a fortnight in Ethiopia. My journeys this January in the Horn of Africa have reminded me of the incalculable damage the free-range goat is doing to natural environments right across the Third World, where *Capra aegagrus*, the domestic goat, has been appointed hunter-gatherer to the human race: mindless, ubiquitous and pitiless in its voracity.

If an American corporation with links to Dick Cheney were doing in one small corner of the developing world what goats are doing across tens of millions of square miles of it, our rage would be boundless. But because the goat is thought to be in some vague sense a part of 'nature' (it isn't: it's a genetically modified plant-Hoover, bred by humans, most of whose natural predators have been shot) we sigh and hope for better rains next year. Let me remind those readers who have never watched a herd in action just how this single-minded destroyer of anything green goes about its devastating work.

Goats will eat almost anything. No shoot is too small, no thorn too sparse and brown to escape their attention. Unlike cows, llamas and sheep they do not naturally bunch together in a herd which can be easily contained and

directed, but fan out in all directions, each goat on a solo mission to seek out and destroy. Fences mean nothing to them, hedges are food, stone walls are climbing frames. Every goat is possessed by a burning ambition to go where no other goat has gone before. Look into the eyes of a goat, and an intelligent being, determined to outsmart you, looks back. I have seen goats clambering up car-bonnets. I have been awoken by the clatter of goats on my roof.

Own a herd of these rank-smelling weapons of mass destruction and you can set aside your plough. Meanwhile your neighbour will be forced to set aside his. Why labour under the hot sun, hoeing, weeding, watering, cultivating fodder, growing vegetables and corn, and harvesting the crop, when the goat will do all your work for you? Weeds and foliage are all it needs and while you doze in the shade it will comb a radius of many miles to find them. Nor will it confine itself to land within your ownership. It is a stranger to land ownership. It asks for no shelter, finds its own water, and devotes its life, intelligence and energy to gathering whatever grows within a day's walk of your hut and delivering it to you, effortlessly converted into milk, hide, tender kids for your table, and finally its own body: a slap-up meal for friends and family, or a benefit in kind to be traded or sold in the market.

Unfortunately, therefore, the world's rural poor have become enormously dependent on goats, while for the kindest of motives we rich tend to look away. Millions of media hours are spent deploring the habits of the gas-guzzlers of Texas; few care, however, to question the lifestyles of the goat-herding communities of the Middle East, the Mediterranean or North Africa.

But the degradation of our planet owes as much to the poor as to the rich. Notions of folk-environmentalism peddled by urban romantics — the idea that peasants close to the land are inhabited by a natural wisdom and ecological foresight denied the rest of us — are fanciful. A million small-scale farming operations satisfying individually modest needs can wreck a landscape and extinguish every competing variety of bird, animal, insect and plant life. Hunger is no steward of river, land and forest, and the poor may ravage their environment more cruelly than those of us who enjoy the luxury of treating outdoors as a kind of garden. Thus have the poor and their goats teemed beneath the radar of our environmental surveillance systems, and daily destroy more land than rising sea-levels will ever do.

You or I can keep a goat (tethered) and my Derbyshire neighbours Simon and Carol can tend their attractive little herd of rare breed goats securely fenced, and do no harm to man or beast. But set that plant-killer loose in the desperately fragile environment of the Danakil desert in Ethiopia, whence I have just returned, and within a year ten square miles of land will be devastated; acacia, palm, aloe and salt-grass nibbled down to brown and dying stumps; and every new blade to venture above the dust ripped away.

Once goats have mown down the ground-cover of an area, natural reseedling, let alone reforestation, can never get started. The more they multiply and eat, the barer becomes the ground, and the hungrier they get. As their voracity increases, so does the thoroughness with which they find and take every new seedling. Insect, bird and animal life dependent on plants begins to collapse too. Then, when it rains, the soil erodes into gullies and begins to wash away. (I

wonder what calculations the global warming industry has made of the relative contributions to sea-level-rise of ice-melt versus soil-dump. I find it hard to believe they know.)

And there is worse. Goats break down effective systems of human land-ownership, or inhibit their growth. Goats being blind to land-tenure, their owners must be so too; all land becomes common land. Goat-tenure replaces land-tenure and you are judged by your herd, not your acreage. Any peasant minded to sow, tend and harvest a crop faces an uphill struggle to fence his patch against marauding goats. In the Danakil desert last week I saw poor and hungry Afar tribespeople living near what should have been oases — there was water beneath the surface, and wells — but which were uncultivated and bare even of palms.

Which brings me to an awkward point. There were too many Afar people in the Danakil depression, which is desert surrounded by semi-desert. It seemed vast and empty, but as soon as you stopped curious Afars would materialise, and their goats would not be far behind. These super-efficient machines were supporting a human population too high for this environment to bear sustainably. Here and on higher ground what trees there were looked 30 years old or more; there were few saplings.

Goats need eliminating, land needs enclosing, and there must be fewer people. Bold, yes, but the green lobby keeps telling us we must not be timid if the planet is to be saved. They have Texan gas-guzzlers in their sights. I have goats.

***Matthew Parris is a political columnist of the Times***



Operation Secure

# **FIREARMS AMNESTY**

Section 37 Firearms Act

**The Registrar of Firearms has declared a  
Firearms Amnesty from:**

**1<sup>st</sup> January 2006**

to midnight on

**31<sup>st</sup> March 2006**

**The purpose of the Amnesty is to remove unwanted and illegal firearms, firearms parts and ammunition from the community.**

**During the above period the Registrar of Firearms will not prosecute any person who approaches police to surrender firearms or obtains a current firearms licence.**

**People audited by police during this period or who are detected committing firearms offences will be prosecuted.**

## **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

**Enquire at any police station**

**or**

**Firearms Branch**

**Phone (08) 8204 2495**

**Fax (08) 8204 2314**

**or on the website at [www.sapolice.sa.gov.au](http://www.sapolice.sa.gov.au)**