



Branches in all  
States and Territories

## Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia

### Hunting & Conservation Branch (SA) Inc

PO Box 188 Kent Town SA 5071



# THE H&C NEWS

---

## SEPTEMBER 2006

---

### Calendar of Events

AGM

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 20  
**7.30 PM GAZA FOOTBALL CLUB NORTHEAST RD KLEMZIG**

**OCTOBER:** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> -Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Bimbowrie Conservation Reserve Cull. Phil. J.

**NOVEMBER:** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> –Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Dutchman Stern Conservation Park. Kaz.H.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> –Monday 20<sup>th</sup> Flinders Ranges Feral Predator Program Kaz. H.

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> Range Day Monarto

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> Vulkathuna-Gammon Ranges National Park Cull Briefing

**DECEMBER:** Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> –Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Vulkathuna-Gammon Ranges National Park Cull Gil. H.

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Vulkathuna-Gammon Ranges National Park Cull Debrief

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Meeting

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO AGM

It is “that” time of the year again, so I would like to thank all the Committee members for putting in their time and effort into making our Branch function.

I would like to make special mention of Gil H who looks after not just SA but also national H&C training and accreditation, Monarto Range matters, SSAA state representation, activity records and firearms licence renewal chits, FRNP and V-GRNP culls, and also of Chris G who handles the Secretary’s duties while often being on 24/7 call rosters.

Thanks to Brian W who has managed the new advertising initiatives during his home breaks in between work commitments.

Thanks to Bill G who has put in a lot of effort into a spectacular website which should be on the internet very shortly.

In addition to Committee meetings, Graham H represents SSAA-H&C at the Friends of Parks, Nature Foundation and has even bravely ventured into the Conservation Council.

Many thanks also to non-committee members such as George S (H&C NEWS), Brian H and all the Activity Coordinators, who have taken on tasks which assist the Committee.

### MEMBERSHIP

Our membership numbers are holding well and we seem to be attracting a number of

younger (to me) members, which is good for our future interests.

This does bring up the fact that we can not all be at the same level of knowledge and experience while having members ranging from professionals to beginners.

This must not only be accepted but every effort (and necessary sacrifices) must be made to encourage and help those developing their competence. The process of mentoring and mutual support is a longstanding hunting tradition.

When carried out with courtesy and good will, friendly advice results in mutual respect and friendship throughout the group. This aspect has been apparent from the sympathy and support shown to those losing friends or being unwell.

## ACTIVITIES

A full program has been undertaken with good participation and encouraging results. Goats have not been eradicated (as many had forecast) while pastoralists are “harvesting” rather than controlling them as prices are high.

The first 2006 cull in the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges NP had to be cancelled due to management structure changes, but ongoing goat control has again been adopted for the foreseeable future.

The advertising of our services in the Stock & Station Journal has produced results which will be the subject of a report by Brian W.

Rather than giving second-hand overviews, I will also ask the various Activity Coordinators to give brief reports of activities under their control at the AGM.

## TRAINING

Accreditation courses have been run by Gil H and Ray B as per our program – and please be reminded that you are all welcome to attend for “refresher” purposes at no cost.

The shooting test complying with the Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos for members’ Accreditation Card endorsement proved more of a challenge than was assumed by some.

Our own night “Range In Use” lights will be purchased to ensure the smooth running of future night shoots at the SSAA Monarto Range.

Range days have been attended well enough to cover costs, but there is always room for more to take part.

Checking the performance of your firearms and serious practice is most necessary if you do not do regular club or field shooting.

The Branch has set aside funding to subsidise First Aid Training costs with a \$100 refund on completion of a recognised course – to date only three members have taken this up. If your employer does not cover such training, consider taking our offer.

## AS OTHERS SEE US

As the President and as an Activity Coordinator I receive comments, which are usually praise and appreciation. In the last year these included the “Premier’s Certificate of Appreciation award to SSAA H&C Branch in recognition of outstanding volunteer services”.

However, occasionally and thankfully rarely, there is the comment that hurts. Sometimes it may even be because the SSAA H&C Branch has such a “professional” reputation that client/public expectations are very high.

It has taken us nearly fifteen years to achieve this reputation, which should be highly valued and protected by us all.

I can only plead with all members to act in accordance with H&C training, standards and practices at all times – even when on a private activity.

The reputation factor may be of special importance in the coming reviews of the Firearms Act and Regulations.

I thank you all for your company, good will and friendship during the past year and look forward to the next year.

Kaz H

## LETTER TO H&C MEMBERS

I will not be standing for election to the Committee for the coming year.

My job prevents me from attending many of the Committee Meetings and I believe someone else deserves the opportunity to become involved.

During my years on the Committee I have seen the Club grow in numbers and gain more respect in the rural community.

I will continue to be involved with the promotion of H&C to private property owners who require our services. The recent promotional campaign in the Stock Journal has raised our profile and gained access to properties which will enable more activities to be offered to Members.

With our current membership numbers we can no longer rely on one Client for the majority of our activities.

I have made some good friends in H&C & DEH, had some heated discussions, been to places which are not available to the average hunter, spent some unbelievable nights around the campfire and for that I am truly grateful.

We should all be proud of what we have achieved but we need to continue to promote H&C and give something back to the Club which has opened many doors in the pursuit of our sport.

I look forward to sharing a campfire with you all as we pursue our sport and love of the bush.

Brian W

### **BUCKARINGA CULL UPDATE**

The Buckaringa Wildlife Sanctuary is in the Arden Valley region of the Southern Flinders Ranges approximately 30 km north of Quorn. This relatively small (2,000 ha) property is owned and managed by Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC), an independent, non-profit company which aims to acquire properties to protect and conserve threatened species.

Buckaringa was purchased from Earth Sanctuaries by AWC in 2002, primarily for the protection of significant colonies of the Yellow Foot Rock Wallaby.

Feral pest control is a high priority for the Sanctuary and when approached, AWC

management were grateful for the contribution that our Club could make towards the environmental objectives of the property.

A monthly culling program began in January of this year to help eradicate goats, rabbits, hares, foxes and cats from the Sanctuary. Due to the size of the property and the requirement to liaise closely with resident volunteer rangers (& other sensitivities), culling activity has been limited to a single team undertaking a 2-3 day cull each month. So far, 402 goats, 73 rabbits, 5 foxes and 2 cats have been accounted for. AWC management are gradually installing ‘goat proof’ fencing. However it is envisaged that our Club will continue to be involved in controlling transient goat movement into the property and other pest control in the short term.

If you’d like to be involved, please contact Mark P on 83 80 53 36.

### **FLINDERS FERAL PREDATOR PROGRAM**

This three monthly spotlighting of cats and foxes in baited (FRNP), unbaited (adjacent) and unbaited (distant) areas in the Flinders Ranges has been going for ten years. A “birthday” celebration was held at Holowilena thanks to Christine Arnold, Kym McK and the Warwick Family.

During the 2005 year the results were as follows:

	<b>Foxes</b>		<b>Cats</b>	
	Seen	Shot	Seen	Shot
Baited	0	0	30	20
Unbaited (adjacent)	106	91	20	15
Unbaited (distant) *	133	75	5	1

\*only 3 shoots in 2005

Total                    239    166    55    36

The numbers seen increased slightly from last year - probably due to increased number of rabbits with usual seasonal small variations due to weather conditions (windy/wet nights are not good for spotlighting or spot lighters). Rabbits are also shot but mainly “for the pot” and for practice.

Over the past nine years 1354 foxes and 603 cats have been shot across the project area. Nicki De Preu the Regional Ecologist passes on her and the Department's thanks to all those involved.

I would like especially to thank the "hardy ones" who do it in the cold months and in the areas where predators are not in high numbers – NB: 0 foxes in FRNP in 2005 – although two or three were seen in 2006 just before the last (aerial) baiting.

**Kaz H**  
**DUTCHMAN STERN CP ACTIVITY REPORT**

This is a very "comfy" activity (not too far, shearers' quarters, reliable numbers of goats, etc) and therefore rather popular even though the hills can be demandingly steep.

Over the past year numbers shot have ranged between 55 and 110 for the three shoots.

Participant numbers have to be limited to six per shoot due to the relatively small area of the reserve. Only one shoot per participant per year is programmed to give an opportunity to as many as possible.

The reserve vegetation is thickening up on the main range and goats do "disappearing tricks" quite easily.

Thanks to those who put in the efforts in the past year.

Kaz H

**BIMBOWRIE CONSERVATION PARK ACTIVITY SUMMARY 2005/6**

***October 2005,***

12 members attended this activity with great results. 166 Goats, 35 Rabbits and 1 Cat were downed in the 5 days of this activity.

The regeneration of native plants and wildlife has significantly improved across the park since the programme started and was further improved with 28mm of rain falling on the Tuesday night with creek running the next morning.

Rabbit numbers were of a concern with sightings having increased from the last activity.

Young goat were found to be common with older 8 tooth & broken mouth goats down in

numbers. Most goats were thought to be coming in from the surrounding properties. Continued growth and regeneration of native plants throughout the area was noticeable. Rabbits were still in high numbers with one team encountering 30+ in a couple of hours spotlighting.

The heavens opened up with 29mm of rain falling on the Thursday night.

***April 2006,***

11 members attended this activity with goat numbers way down on previous activities. Goats 71, Rabbits, 54 and 1 Cat.

Young goats dominated the tally sheet again with older animals scarce.

Thanks to all members who attended for their efforts and good company.

Phil J

**WILMINGTON CORELLA CULL**

***August 25th/26<sup>th</sup>***

Contact was made with a local farmer in the Wilmington area with regards to excessive numbers of corellas on his property. They were causing damage to crops and gum trees.

Four members attended the property: Phil J, Shane F, Scott W, Allan Z

Spotlighting using shotguns had minimal effect as to the corellas were unsettled during the night.

The early morning proved to be more productive with good teamwork bringing in the results. 31 corellas and 4 rabbits were downed

The property owner was happy with the results and return visits were offered if required.

Phil J

**TELOWIE-NAPPERBY HILLS (NP&W)**

In the week, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> January 2006, six members undertook a culling operation in the Telowie Conservation Park and Napperby Block of Mt Remarkable National Park. (The Parks are no where near Mt Remarkable, Melrose, but do come under that particular Park's Management Plan). Weather conditions were generally quite warm. And as has been the case for all culls in this terrain, members had their fitness and endurance put to the test with steep gullies, rocky creeks, bumpy,

nerve tingling four wheel drive tracks and challenging vegetation the order of the day. The area of operation is not very large and goat numbers have varied quite a lot over the years. This particular trip saw 53 goats and 4 foxes accounted for. The area is home to a small colony of Yellow-footed Rock Wallabies (Telowie), Peregrine Falcons (Nelshaby Gorge) and echidnas. Great care is taken when venturing near these habitats.

### **CAROONA and TOURILIE PARKS**

In the week, 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> January 2006, 11 members carried out a H&C culling operation in the Caroona, Tourilie and the Redbank Conservation Reserves. As could be expected with activities held at this time of the year, the weather was warm. This was the third year for this particular cull. Already, vegetation re-growth is quite noticeable. A variety of native birds were flourishing in abundance. These including numerous flocks of budgerigars, Blue winged Parrots, Crimson Chats and Tawny Frogmouth Owls. At this point of time, no Yellow foots have been sighted. Redbanks did not realize any goats but, 13 rabbits were taken. Members noted the increase in numbers of black scrubbers at Redbanks. The Caroona – Tourilie area is not very large. However, local property owners had been late in their goat musters; this allowed members to account for 112 goats. 3 foxes were also stopped dead in their tracks.

Shane F

### **SSAA JUNIORS' COMPETITION**

Win two tickets to the Adelaide Oval One Day Australia v England Match.

Answer the following question: “*Name the team Australia will play against on January 26<sup>th</sup> at Adelaide Oval*”

Submit your answer with your postal and e-mail address and SSAA membership number. See more detail at:

<http://www.ssaasa.org.au/junior/>

Entry is by email via the above webpage, or by postal entry on a sheet of paper on which is included entrant's postal and e-mail address and SSAA number to: Junior Competition,

Box 704, Whyalla SA 5600.

Postal entry forms can be downloaded from  
[http://www.ssaasa.org.au/junior/pdf/odi\\_jnr\\_com.pdf](http://www.ssaasa.org.au/junior/pdf/odi_jnr_com.pdf)

### **SSAA at Royal Show**

The SSAA stand at Royal Show presented us in a good light. Surprising amount of positive feedback in the time I stood behind the counter.

Well done Dave B of H&C who filled in so many gaps in the roster.

George S

[www.ssaa.org.au/](http://www.ssaa.org.au/) is worth a browse.

On the other hand, how not to do it. Watch this short video:

[www.ebaumsworld.com/lionhunt.html](http://www.ebaumsworld.com/lionhunt.html)

### **SOUTH PARA BIODIVERSITY AREA REPORT**

Over the past twelve months a small group of shooters has undertaken culling activities in the Williamstown and Kersbrook area.

The activity is co-ordinated by Helen Bourne (Chairman of the South Para Biodiversity), who liaises with SA Water, Police and other interested parties.

Most of the last twelve months activities have taken place around South Para and Millbrook reservoirs.

A substantial number of kangaroos have been culled from the area and the data collected on each animal will be processed by the appropriate department. We have also shot a good number of fallow deer in the area, which are considered feral and a pest. We have also removed a good number of hares, foxes and a few rabbits – the latter only just starting to appear in any number.

Of concern is the refusal of SA Forestry to recognise our accreditation for the purpose of spotlighting. Despite our evening at Monarto, Forestry has refused to allow us onto the same areas that we were hunting until we produce TAFE accreditation. We have discussed this matter with Geoff Smith and Helen Bourne and understand that at the moment things are at a stalemate.

Large areas of forest were being culled by our team but at the moment all hunting activity has ceased on those plantings.

Our team will be attending a function in October to receive an award from SA Water.

Brendan A

## **FLINDERS AND GAMMON RANGES REPORT**

2006 saw the traditional visit to the Finders Ranges (Oraparinna National Park) February 4-10<sup>th</sup> while the Gammon Ranges was visited on two occasions, November 19-25<sup>th</sup> 05 and September 3-8<sup>th</sup> 06. A further visitation is anticipated in December 3-8<sup>th</sup> 06.

The cull scheduled for May was cancelled due to a change in Park management. This was quickly overcome and we are continuing on the same basis as before.

The Bounceback Program.

In all 56 shooters invested 2,452 hours into the environment for the removal of 661 goats. That's approx ½ a day per shooter per goat which may sound a lot but is in fact twice as good as last year where the figure was 8 hours (1 day) per goat.

### **Buy and Sell**

CODAN 8528 HF radio with 8532 remote head. Antenna CODAN 9350 whip.  
Trevor W 83 86 28 80 or 04 29 69 71 85

Leupold Scope VX2 4-12 x 40  
25mm tube, Duplex reticle, matt finish.  
\$550.00 contact Norm B 04 13 12 74 51

Wanted to buy: Rhino Sportz roof bars for GQ Nissan Patrol. George S 83 77 13 36

### **ENGEL 40 LITRE FRIDGE/FREEZER RAFFLE**

**Only 200 tickets @ \$10 each will be available for this raffle to be drawn on December 13<sup>th</sup> at H&C Quarterly Meeting.**  
**See Kaz H ,Gil H ,Chris G, Bill G, Kieran M, Graham H, Jim A, Rick F., Nick N, George S for tickets.**

While both areas have had the odd shower of rain there has not been enough of any real significance to break what are drought conditions. The environment needs all the help it can get so put your forms in and be a part of it. Apart from being a holiday with like minded people the social side is great and if you shoot any thing that is a bonus apart from the enjoyment of being in this unique landscape which is essential Australia.

A similar time table of events is anticipated for next year, see you there.

Gil H

### **FROM THE SECRETARY**

Membership renewals will not be available at AGM as in the past  
Renewal advices for 2006 /2007 will be sent by post after the AGM.  
Please review your membership advice, correct any errors and fill in the omissions on the form.  
Please return your renewals by the cut off date of the 31st October 2006  
Membership cards will be sent by post. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.  
Chris G



**Stainless Steel Latch**



**Digital Read Out**



**Simple Dial Control**



**Auto Switching Between  
12,24volt DC & 240volt AC**

2006 saw the traditional visit to the Finders Ranges (Oraparinna National Park) February 4-10<sup>th</sup> while the Gammon Ranges was visited on two occasions, November 19-25<sup>th</sup> 05 and September 3-8<sup>th</sup> 06. A further visitation is anticipated in December 3-8<sup>th</sup> 06.

The cull scheduled for May was cancelled due to a change in Park management. This was quickly overcome and we are continuing on the same basis as previously under The Bounceback Program.

In all 56 shooters invested 2,452 hours into the environment for the removal of 661 goats. That's approx ½ a man day per goat which may sound a lot but is in fact twice as good as last year where the figure was 8 hours (1 day) per goat.

While both areas have had the odd shower of rain there has not been enough of any real significants to break what are drought conditions. The environment needs all the help it can get so put you forms in and be a part of it. Apart from being a holiday with like minded people the social side is great and if you shoot any thing, that is a bonus

apart from the enjoyment of being in this unique landscape which is essential Australia.

A similar time table of events is anticipated for next year, see you there.

GilH