



THE ^{H&C} NEWS

DECEMBER 2001

FROM THE PRESIDENT

(Nearly) GOODBYE TO 2001. 2001 seems to have flashed by, and it is time to wish you all well for Christmas and the New Year – may you score only 10Xs, have all one shot kills, and have the foxes, cats and goats make all the wrong moves.

Special good wishes to those recovering from services of surgeons – David B (new knees), Mick S (another new hip).and carrol

REVIEW OF OPERATING GUIDELINES.

The Committee is reviewing guidelines for field operations and some draft proposals may appear in this News.

This has become necessary as some “regulars” at culls may have forgotten a few basic safety and other in the field requirements, while briefing of new members may passed them over too lightly. Also, equipment, experience and area familiarity levels, as well as Client factors and the environment itself have changed since we first started.

Safety must be paramount – not only yours, but that of everyone else as well!

The responsibility for that safety is with each individual.

One of the current questions is the minimum size of a team and it's deployment in the field.

The original “rule” was not less than 3 at all times, i.e. in case of accident, one stays with the injured and one goes for help.

In reviewing this, factors such as levels of fitness, competence and experience, area familiarity, remoteness, terrain, communication (radio) and location (GPS) capability, and weather, should be considered to allow for some flexibility for team leaders.

It would seem that a remote area team should still generally consist of not less than three.

The deployment of single individuals in the field would seem generally unreasonably risky.

Please give this some thought.

“OBSERVERS”

Members have brought friends and relatives as “observers” to some activities, which is of course welcome as it encourages greater involvement, understanding and support.

For safety, insurance cover, cost recovery, and convenience of other participants, some formalities will have to take place.

These are:

1. A registration sheet will have to be completed for each observer.
2. A registration fee will apply for each observer.
3. The presence and activities of the observer must be subject to the team leader's approval.
4. Observers may not shoot or handle firearms.
5. Each observer must be in the company and under the supervision of a team member whenever outside the camp area.

COMMERCIAL CULLING

We have received an enquiry for expressions of interest in the commercial culling of a substantial number of kangaroos interstate – if you have an interest, give me a call for further information.

GUN LAWS

There seems to be little progress in the review of gun laws, so I have asked our member Jeanine to give us a reality check at the December meeting on what the expenditure of \$500 Mil and current restrictions have achieved, and where to next?

ACTIVITY REPORTS

All Activity Coordinators will be asked to give regular reports to the Committee and members so that results and commitments can be monitored, and allowed for in future programming. Some are included in these pages and will be added to and updated on the H&C <http://www.hunt-cons.asn.au> website as soon as they become available

THE FUTURE

Future objectives are being considered by our Committee and on a National basis, so if you have ideas, please discuss with Committee members. Some that come to mind – property purchase, professional PR, gun laws action, hunting rights, etc – availability of funds always gives you options!

CONGRATULATIONS to Brendan A for winning the 2001 World Benchrest Championship!

FROM VICE PRESIDENT

On the weekend of December 1st and 2nd I attended the Inaugural Meeting of the SSAA National Conservation and Pest Management Division. (Hunting and Conservation)

All states and territories sent delegates, their travel, accommodation and meals were at National's expense. WA has a number of branches with a total membership of 120 having 30-40 accredited and active. NT has approx 40 members, 12 accredited and active. Qld is geared ready to launch its operations, has 25 accredited members.

NSW has the largest membership of 700-800-members but only about 40 accredited and active.

Vic has a coordinator and is set to launch its activities. ACT has a small group of 20, there is no hunting available in ACT, their activities are confined to assisting NSW. I was appointed the Chairman of the committee, we report to National through Col Mellon, a Board member of the SSAA National Executive.

The South Australian logo was adopted as the official logo. Only H&C members will be able to purchase merchandise with this logo.

Mr. Bob Lowe from SSAA Insurance has proposed a SSAA National Sick and accident policy which is the one we have currently in place, however it will now cost less than half for the same cover, if all states come on board. All state accreditation courses are being vetted to see that they comply with minimum acceptable requirements. This will allow participation in other states should the need arise.

Gil H

GAWLER RANGES NATIONAL PARK CULL

The 2002 Cull will be held from Sunset 10th Feb to Sunrise 16th Feb.

We have been assured there will be no mustering or trapping in the 4 weeks prior to our visit so things are looking good. There will be no briefing at the Park so it will be straight to your campsites ready to go at first light on 11th. With the knowledge gained from last year it should be a good trip. The pre Cull briefing will be on Wednesday 6th at a Kilburn 7.30 pm. Team captains will be advised and a cull application form is included.

CULL CO-ORDINATORS It is good to see some non-committee members coming forward as Cull coordinators. It certainly spreads the workload. If there are any more people interested please contact any member of the committee. Country members are more than welcome to be involved, we already have coordinators living in Port Lincoln and Pt Pirie but more will be needed as we expand our programs. Remember, if you're the coordinator you don't go in any ballot that may be required for that cull. Something to think about.

FOX DRIVES

Some fox drives have been sourced in the Harrogate/Rockleigh area but at present due to the high grass and the rising fire danger they will be put on hold until next winter. All ferals (including deer) will be fair game. There is a variety of different terrain ranging from steep gullies with heavy vegetation to open farmland. The total area is approx 1400 acres with several drives on offer. Foxes and hares are plentiful. Registrations of interest will be called in the New Year.

DUCK AND QUAIL

Are there any members who are interested in duck or quail shooting. If so please give me a ring. If there are enough interested members we may be able to organise some trips during the open seasons. I have a couple of properties available and hopefully some other members may have access to some good shooting places. Lets get together and go hunt.

Brian W 0408 854124

Hand Carved Duck Decoys

At the Dec meeting there will be a variety of hand carved and painted Duck decoys on display that have to be seen to be believed. They are so realistic you could almost eat them (if you were hungry enough that is). They are made as a hobby and are actually designed to be used in the field. They would also look great as an ornament around the home. They are made to order and can be ordered in many styles and colours. A couple are going into my office as I believe they are too good to be used in the field, but that's only my opinion. Brian W

CAPS We have more Caps available the same as previous stock but from a different supplier. The good news: The new price is \$15:00. They are \$5 cheaper than the last lot. Things don't go down very often so get yours at the December meeting while they last. We have limited stocks at that price.

See Brian W. 0408 854124

ACTIVITY REPORT FROM BRIAN W

Pestcam October 2001

Nine members attended and a great time was had by all. Feral numbers were down with the following turned to fertiliser.

Pigs	0
Goats	1
Cat	0
Rabbit	13
Hare	7
Fox	6

The program is going to be expanded in 2002 with Dengali coming back online. While dates have not been set July and October are the months planned. Registrations of interest will be called for in 2002 Brian W.

ACTIVITY REPORT FROM BRIAN F

On 22.10.01 to 26.10.01 8 H&C members culled 168 goats from the Dutchmans Stern Conservation Park. Some rain fell as usual! Bush on the park is getting high and lush making sighting of goats difficult.

Gammon Ranges Cull 10-18 November 2001
21 H&C members dispatched back to nature some 247 goats, 20 rabbits, 1 feral cat and one fox

The weather was mainly cool but dry with a lot of walking between shots as most mobs are in groups of less than 15. A great time was had by all especially at the BBQ hosted by Senior Ranger Cathy Zwick and co. Many thanks Cathy.

RFDS FUNDRAISING APPEAL

Did you know that every year Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) aircraft fly nearly 3.5 million kilometers in South Australia and the Northern Territory to provide health care and life-saving services to 40,000 people?

This includes 5,696 patients who were transported for primary evacuations or inter-hospital transfers.

Traditionally known as an 'outback icon', the RFDS was established by the Reverend John Flynn in the late 1920's to bring health care to the most remote parts of Australia.

Today, the service has developed with technology and the changing needs of our population, but our core purpose remains the same. The RFDS offers a precious gift – health and well being – to many areas of our country.

What people living in metropolitan areas often forget is that the service is there for them as well.

As soon as you are 150 km out of Adelaide you are in Flying Doctor territory.

Now the RFDS is facing its biggest challenge. A non-profit organisation, they rely heavily on donations to purchase things like aircraft and medical equipment.

For the first time in our history, the RFDS is borrowing money to buy three specially fitted Pilatus PC12 aircraft to replace ageing aircraft and to save money in maintenance.

Each new Pilatus PC12 aircraft will cost \$6 million. The RFDS has recently dropped an appeal letter across metropolitan Adelaide. You may or may not have seen one yet, so a spare copy has been included with your newsletter.

Every cent that you are able to spare will contribute to their cost and will be gratefully accepted by them.

DECEMBER QUARTERLY MEETING WEDNESDAY 12.12.01

Don't forget the December Quarterly meeting this Wednesday evening at the Kilburn Sports and Community Club, Lionel Ave, Blair Athol. 7.30 pm The guest speaker will be 4WD specialist Richard Warrin from Opposite Lock, South Rd, Mile End. On the night there will be over \$200.00 in prizes up for grabs and in addition a 4WD accessory from Opposite Lock will be given away.

Please note: as for the last Q meet there will be no meals available prior to this meeting.

NO MINING IN THE GAMMONS the last ditch attempt (appeal by the Manna Hill Mining Co) to mine the magnesite deposits in the Weetootla Gorge area of the Gammon Ranges National Park has been turned down by the courts. Sanity has prevailed and hopefully this will be the end of the matter. Three cheers.

FRIENDS OF THE GAMMONS On Friday November 30, The Friends of the Gammon Ranges National Park group was established at a meeting held at the Conservation Council headquarters in Adelaide. H&C was well represented at this meeting, is now a member organisation and holds a position on the management committee of this group. Membership is open to not only groups but individuals as well. Individual membership is \$10.00 per annum. If you would like to become a member or would like more information about the group and its activities please contact

Chris G on 82810662 H, 82184039 W all hours, 0407608858 M, 82816464 F or <mailto:ChrisG@bettanet.net.au>. The following paragraphs give a small summary of what friends of the Parks groups are about and what you can do to help.

The majestic national parks in South Australia provide habitat for flora, fauna, birds, and reptiles. National Parks are the lungs of the earth. We must have them.

There are 350 national parks and reserves totalling 20 million hectares, which is 20 percent of the State. There is a drastic need for community help and you can help.

The largest of these are in remote arid lands of the State, but we are also fortunate in still having a large number of smaller parks close to, and even being surrounded by, suburban dwellings. All these parks need looking after to preserve them as centres of biodiversity for the future. The remote ones need protection from the ravages of feral animals and the spread of weeds.

The Friends of Parks Scheme started in 1983. The Friends of Parks has a network of one hundred and eight groups with a combined membership of over six thousand people of all ages, gender, and interests. The South Australian network won the prestigious Banksia Award in 1997, as the nation's top conservation organisation.

In 1998 the Friends of Parks contributed 45,619 workdays, worth \$5.8m to our parks, equivalent to 194 full time staff. The existing Ranger staff welcome and value this extra help.

These groups have many benefits including:

- Bringing together different interest and talents
- Sharing knowledge
- Sharing responsibilities
- Strengthening the sense of purpose
- Creating a focus for community input
- Becoming part of a network of similar groups

All groups have a Committee to organise a programme: of activities for the year. There is a small subscription fee to cover the cost of postage, photocopying, and insurance for the members. The groups are all self-supporting.

The objectives are

- Voluntary work in the parks through public: participation
- Fund raising for projects
- Education/ cultural - for park visitors and the local community about the value of the park. Have guest speakers, open days, learn about the history of the park etc
- Social members need to enjoy social activity, and get to know each other in order to keep up a long term commitment

There are many activities in which volunteers can help and which are often better done by keen and committed individuals.

Here are some of them:

- Identify plants and animals, weeds Management, and feral trees removal
- Native animal monitoring, surveys and transects
- Fence removal
- Broad scale fox baiting, cat trapping, rabbit warren mapping

- Collect and propagate seeds
- Plant out seedlings and look after their progress
- Help maintain the tracks and creek systems
- Prepare and maintain nature trails
- Promote local interest in the parks
- Arrange guided walks in the reserve
- Encourage visitors to use a small number of tracks
- Produce brochures
- Interpretative information creation
- Restore and promote historic sites
- Hut maintenance
- Heritage and history i.e. Grindles
- Public speaking or chairing meetings

FOR SALE

Radios

All can be programmed to UHF CB channels	
Icom IC 40S, 60 channel programmable	\$300.00
Icom IC F4, PC programmable	\$300.00
Case to suit either	\$15.00
Drop in charger	\$55.00
Plug pack charger	\$20.00

Contact Dave 0415 946318

WANTED

22 rifle bolt action repeater, good con, keen price
Contact Norm B 0413 127451

308 cases prefer ADI or Rem.
308 projectiles any weight
Junior Member wanting to get started in reloading.
Contact Brian W 0408 854124

Rifle in 7mm/08 or 7x57 Condition not important as wanted for project.
Contact Brian W 0408 854124

LATE NEWS the 2002 Gammons and Flinders dates have been set, included also are the registration forms for these culls.
The 2002 program will be made available in the New Year as soon as it has been finalised.



Check these out:

<http://www.12volt.com.au>

<http://homepages.picknowl.com.au/greenh/pages/default.htm>

Many thanks to June and Ken Walkley for their invaluable help preparing envelopes, folding and mailing this newsletter during the year. Seasons greeting to all.