



Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia

Hunting & Conservation Branch (SA) Inc

PO Box 188 Kent Town SA 5071



THE H&C NEWS

JUNE 2007

General Meeting Wednesday June 27th

SSAA-H&C-ACTIVITY PROGRAM-2007

DATE	ACTIVITY	COORDINATOR
22/07/07	Range Day at Monarto – 10am – 4pm	Committee
24/07/07	COM	Committee
10 - 13/08/07	FFPP	Kaz H
11 - 17/08/07	Gawler RNP – cull	Rick F (See notice in Newsletter)
18/08/07	SSAA State Meeting 12noon at CWA	Committee
25/08/07	Accreditation Course (theory)	Gil H
28/08/07	COM	Committee
2 - 7/09/07	Vulkathunha-Gammon RNP – cull	Gil H
19/09/07	H&C AGM 7pm at Gaza Comm Club	Committee

NB: - All cull dates cover shooting from first sunrise to last sunset excepting FFPP and PESTCAM which are from first sunset to last sunrise.

Please Note: Addition to Program: 2 - 5/11/07 PESTCAM (Chowilla) - cull Kaz H

OFF PROGRAM (IRREGULAR) ACTIVITIES

Barossa/Hills – quick response/SA Water/Forestry SA	Graham H 83 37 53 88
Fleurieu – Forestry SA	Jim A 83 90 18 82
Telowie/Burra	Shane F 86 34 43 62
Everard/Thackaringa/Mantung	Rick F 84 47 69 05
Kangaroo Island	Jorge N 83 57 09 03
Buckaringa	Mark P 83 80 53 36
Midweek Range (Monarto)	Kaz H 83 39 35 07

Youth Initiative

H&C members are advised The Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (S A) will pay for junior membership of the National body for your children, grand children etc. This is a great opportunity to bring junior members into the S.S.A.A

For more information contact S.S.A.A. S.A. State Treasurer Steve Nicholas on 0419 805299.

Range Day 28th April

Although we were all pleased to see the drought had broken, the heavy downpour we drove through on the freeway made us think we 3 and Kaz would be to only ones in the long shed at Monarto.

Obviously, the 19 members and one visitor, freed of the responsibility of lawn mowing, or whatever else one does on a sunny Saturday were able to sight in, check loads and fine tune rifles in preparation for next cull.

It is to be hoped that the next **Range Day on July 22nd** will be equally wet.

HUNTING TIP

Hunting requires us to observe the old 'slip slop slap' motto and cover up as much skin as possible. The backs of the hands are also prone to damage from the sun, but a cheap, effective solution is 'at hand' (get it?) in the form of fingerless gloves. You can buy very flash pairs from the Anti Cancer Foundation, but these tend to come in hunter-unfriendly bright colours like white and blue – and they're expensive! A visit to an industrial safety shop like Evans Safety on Sir Don Bradman drive will reveal a cheaper alternative in virtually disposable 'leatherette' gloves at under \$2 a pair and all you need do is cut off the fingertips at the big knuckle length and you're in business! Besides protecting the backs of the hands from sun, they provide a little extra protection for the palms from falls and Spinifex bushes and being a natural brown colour, they help camouflage the hands as you wave them madly about trying to beat back the hordes of flies! Not bad value for under \$2, I reckon!

Amazing story

I don't normally pass these feel good stories around but this one is special.

In 1986, Mkele Mbembe was on holiday in Kenya after graduating from University.

On a hike through the bush, he came across a young bull elephant standing with one leg raised in the air.

The elephant seemed distressed, so Mbembe approached it very carefully.

He got down on one knee and inspected the elephant's foot and found a large piece of wood deeply embedded in it. As carefully and as gently as he could, Mbembe worked the wood out with his hunting knife, after which the elephant gingerly put down its foot.

The elephant turned to face the man, and with a rather curious look on its face, stared at him for several tense moments. Mbembe stood frozen, thinking of nothing else but being trampled.

Eventually the elephant trumpeted loudly, turned, and walked away.

Mbembe never forgot that elephant or the events of that day.

Twenty years later, Mbembe was walking through the Chicago Zoo with his teenaged son. As they approached the elephant enclosure, one of the creatures turned and walked over to near where Mbembe and his son Tapu were standing.

The large bull elephant stared at Mbembe, lifted its front foot off the ground, then put it down.

The elephant did that several times then trumpeted loudly, all the while staring at the man.

Mbembe summoned up his courage, climbed over the railing and made his way into the enclosure. He walked right up to the elephant and stared back in wonder.

The elephant trumpeted again, wrapped its trunk around one of Mbembe's legs and slammed him against the railing, killing him instantly.

Probably wasn't the same elephant

WEBSITES

British Association for Shooting and Conservation

WWW.BASC.ORG.UK is the web address of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation. A well presented site with excellent material of interest to shooters and those of us concerned for the environment.

Adelaide Gun Shop

<http://www.adelaidegunshop.com.au/>

Web site is great for browsing and prices are often better than what one can find on E-Bay. Flash your H&C Member card and get discount on purchases.

National Library of Australia

WWW.PictureAustralia.Org, a section Of National Library of Australia is of interest, particularly if Firearms or Hunting are typed into search box. The picture of the Adelaide Women's Rifle Club c.1919; the bush camps where whole families lived off hunting, some firearms activities which would have one expelled from H&C today are all part of this historical record.

Recoil Calculators

<http://www.zknives.com/bali/brecoil.shtml> will give you some useful recoil energy and velocity calculators.

Our very own H&C Website

<http://www.hunt-cons.asn.au/> is also worth a visit. Check out the calendar of events, the buy and sell section, contact details of committee or download forms or policy statements.

Hunting and bush craft tips solicited.

If you've worked out the lightest, tastiest food to take on a day's hunt, what essentials should always be in a first aid kit, how to mount a steep slope with the least effort (there is an art to this), what tyres give best service on some of the terrain we traverse, how not to be woken by rising water in your swag, then send your thoughts to the *virtual campfire chat* section that will appear in newsletter when you share what you know with those who'd be pleased to learn it from you.

Send your ideas to: georges@hunt-cons.asn.au

Hunt in Namibia

Several H&C members are planning a second hunting trip to Namibia in autumn 2008 (around April/May).

Projected cost would be about \$US 170 per day if 3 or more go.

This is very reasonable pricing as it covers full board/meals/drinks/laundry/vehicle/services of about 5 full time staff/airport pickup/field preparation of trophies and delivery to taxidermist etc.

The hunt is totally free range on 20,000 hectares- no fences.

Hunting is by spot and stalk method in daytime, staking out waterholes or sitting up over baits for leopard by moonlight.

The country is eerily similar to the Flinders.

Imagine hunting kudu, Oryx and leopard on the Bunkers...

There is a wide spectrum of plains game available: greater kudu, red hartebeest. oryx, warthog, blesbok, mountain zebra, springbok as well as leopard or cheetah plus unlimited numbers of black-backed jackal, fox, baboon etc. These are free, as they are considered pests. (Also free are spitting cobra, zebra snakes and 10 foot black mambas..haha) Other game species are available nearby eg blackface impala, waterbuck, eland etc. Naturally trophy fees apply to the main game. However, last trip 3 warthogs were collected but only 1 paid for as the other 2 were used as baits. Minimum calibre permitted in Namibia is 7 mill (which includes 270).

For further information contact Chris G at: secretary@hunt-cons.asn.au

(If you want an idea of the kinds of trophies you can bring back from Namibia, when next in Yorketown, drop into R.A.Bishop's Guns and Ammo on the Warooka Road and admire the display there)

It's nice to see what others are saying about us. Here is an article from The Eastern Hills and Murray Plains Catchment Group (EHMPCG) newsletter sent to landholders in the area from Murray Bridge to Swan Reach to Angaston by Natural Resources Management.

The Great Escape

In September 2006, a car veered off of the road near Tungkillo leaving a hole in a paddock fence. The paddock contained twenty farmed red deer, many of them pregnant, which found their way out of the paddock by the time the property owner discovered the damage.

The owner of the stock tried to recover the animals, which had moved some distance by this time, including using an ultra light aircraft to

muster them. The deer were located and moved several kilometres back toward the property before they found cover and disappeared again. Owners of a native vegetation block found red deer on their property in early 2007 and reported the find to the SA Murray Darling Basin NRM Board.

Steve Dayman, Senior Authorised Officer with the NRM Board worked with the owner to recapture the deer without success, before contacting the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA), Hunting and Conservation Branch (H&C) to assist. H&C has extensive experience in the eradication of pest animal species including deer, goats, foxes, cats and rabbits for a varied range of clients including private landholders, National Parks, SA Water and Forestry.

H&C members are committed to helping farmers and organisations in achieving conservation related outcomes. Their greatest contribution is as an efficient, reliable, species specific and cost neutral tool in removing feral predators and pests. The H&C has a few fundamental policies, which include:

- All activities must have a conservation related outcome.
- All landowner/client/manager instructions are complied with.
- All culling is undertaken to legal standards and guidelines.
- Teams are self-sufficient and cover their own costs.

Success has resulted from safely and effectively achieving objectives that are shared with clients through sound training and accreditation of members, and careful organization and monitoring of activities in the field. The success of the accreditation process and safe operations in the field have made it possible to have \$10M Public Liability Insurance cover for accredited members undertaking H&C Branch approved activities.

The H&C asked member and Rockleigh local Grant Lomman to coordinate the destruction of the feral deer. (Grant was previously the project officer and committee member of the EHMPCG). He liaises with the NRM Board, landholders to locate the deer and to gain approval to access properties in the area. A team of experienced H&C members was recruited for the task.

While sightings have been common on the 3 outings to date, only 4 deer have been destroyed by H&C, along with a number of rabbits. The team has stalked at dawn and dusk, and spotlighted after dark with some success. The difficulty of the terrain, vegetation and wide area over which the deer forage make the exercise a challenging one.

(The article then goes on to say :)

To learn more about the activities of the H&C, view their website at <http://www.hunt-cons.asn.au/index.html> or contact the secretary on: email: secretary@hunt-cons.asn.au Phone: 0407 608 858 Fax: 08 82816464 Mail: The Secretary P.O. Box 188 Kent Town SA 5071

ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT OF PHYTOPHTHORA

Extract from March 2007 edition of Phytophthora newsletter

The original can be found on:

http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/biodiversity/pdfs/pc_news.pdf

***Phytophthora* distribution map for Mount**

Lofty Ranges

A map with the known distribution of *Phytophthora* infestation in the Mount Lofty Ranges has been published on the SA-Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) website.

***Phytophthora* and drought**

Drought conditions lower plant vigour and weaken the roots of plants making them more susceptible to infection by *Phytophthora*.

Plants resistant to *Phytophthora* under ordinary circumstances can become susceptible as a result of drought. When heavy rainfalls break drought creating ideal conditions for *Phytophthora* infection, severe epidemics of disease may occur. The single most important cause in the spread of *Phytophthora* appears to be through the transport of infested soil, gravel, water and plant material by people. Machinery used in grading a road or trail, logging, fire fighting, road construction and maintenance may all spread *Phytophthora* within the existing infestation or to a new location. Hygiene measures should be conducted to prevent the spread of *Phytophthora*.

New *Phytophthora* infestations The following infestations have been reported since September 2006:

Mount Lofty Ranges:

Horsnell Gully, Rockdale Hill track. **Suspected:** Scott Creek CP, helipad track Charleston CP, fire access track

Secure Storage of firearms checks

There is word that checks on secure storage arrangements of firearms are now being carried out by local police.

They may call at any time convenient to them. A member had his storage arrangements and firearms checked at 1 (one) am.

Gawler Ranges National Park Cull

The Gawler Ranges NP cull to run from August 11-17 covers a lot of territory and has room for more shooters. Contact Rick F. 84 47 69 05 for further details.

News from Committee Meetings

Range Days will be free for members from next Range Day on July Sunday 22nd. On signing in, you will receive two standard targets, gratis, and for free and without cost.

5 Watt Radios

The committee has decided not to replace the currently held 5W radios as storage, charging etc are an unnecessary imposition on whichever committee member is tasked with the job of servicing them and there has been minimal demand for those currently held.

Licence Renewals

In order to have Purpose of Use 1 Club Use on your licence you must supply Firearms Branch with a club chit.

Boning Knives

For good deal/advice to H&C members on butchering/skinning equipment, such as knives, steels, etc, contact Rex Phillips (former H&C) at Master Butchers Cooperative Ltd, 8262 8637 or call in at 432 Churchill Road, Kilburn

Recent Activity (1)

FFPP and Bunkers CR baiting 16-19/2/07

Rain interrupted some of the spotlighting, but still unbaited areas resulted in the shooting of 36 (from 54 seen) foxes and 3 cats (from 3 seen). It should be noted that "risky" shots are avoided. In the baited area (FRNP) no foxes were seen and 6 cats (from 14 seen) were put down. The results follow the established pattern of the last few years and it will be interesting to see if there is any change resulting from the increasing number of rabbits.

Recent Activity (2) – Range Days

These are being well attended and it is very encouraging to see the number of new members qualifying in their shooting tests.

The results point to the desirability of practice of offhand shooting with the lowly .22 rim fire. The Branch always has the "pull-up" plinking targets set up for your use.

It should be noted that for the next twelve months, there will be no range fees charged to encourage members to sight-in, develop loads and just practice, if the \$5 had been holding you back.

Advice and encouragement have always been freely given.

There should be no excuse for any future misses.

Recent Activity (3) – A Hills Orchard

Graham H our "quick response" activity coordinator called out a number of shotgun shooters to carry out some control at a specialist orchard which was suffering huge losses. Those who took part had not seen such numbers of birds nor the extent of damage inflicted – trees with nothing but apple cores hanging from branches had to be seen to be believed. The owner provided cartridges and was appreciative of the respite from damage while his pickers harvested what was left.

Recent Activity (4) – PESTCAM (Chowilla) 23-26/3/07

This was one of those rare times when I had to actually do a ring-around to find enough participants – so, many thanks to John and Paul D, Leo, Tony J, and George S for coming at relatively short notice and even camping out. Happily, all turned out well, to the point that they all want to go again.

After a quiet start (while we found where they lived), 48 goats were put down, together with 5 rabbits, 4 foxes, 5 pigs and 8 hares – all this after 120 day man hours and 18 hours of spotlighting. The restriction of .224" max calibre centre fire was not a great impediment and shotguns were used to great effect in "close quarters" conditions. The standard H&C blaze orange hats proved their effectiveness, especially in the reeds.

One of the pigs shot had no ears or tail and if not due to genetic defect, would imply unacceptable ethics by some.

Kaz H

Some Statistics

Wilpena cull Feb. 07.

Three teams put in 700 man/hours (m/h) for a total of 187 goats and 23 rabbits, for a strike rate of 3 ¾ hrs per goat. Weather as usual, was hot and dry. **Wilcolo**: 80 goats for 230m/h and 22 rabbits from 6 members thus a hit rate of 2.8m/h for each goat. Next **Aroona Valley** tallied 54 goats for 199m/h so ratio of 3 ½ m/h per goat.

Wilkawillina with a 5 man team in 271m/h got 53 goats giving a rate of 5m/h per goat, not forgetting a lone, luckless rabbit.

Gammon ranges cull 13 to the 18 of May 07.

Seven teams attended with a total of 33 members. 246 goats 8 rabbits and a dog were shot. This took 1,179m/h of effort. **Four Mile**:

A team of 4 found 68 goats in 132m/h.

Approximately one goat per two hours in the field.

Snake Gully: Again four members put in some 170m/h for 66 goats. A hit rate of 2 1/2m/h per goat.

Nudlamutana Hut: Six in the field for 230m/h. Their score was 56 goats @4m/h each.

Arcoona Creek. Only a three man team. Still, for 108m/h they tallied 24 goats. A rate of 4 1/2 m/h

for each. **Grindell's Hut**: Six men put in 263m/h for 27 goats. This means 9-3/4 m/h per goat. That's over a day per man per goat. Still it can get worse. **Italowie Well**: A six man team spent 110m/h for only 2 goats with a bonus of a dog. That's only 55m/h for each goat!!!
NOT TO BE OUTDONE? Camel Yards. Four men took 3 goats in 166m/h. That's a measly 55 1/3m/h per goat. Perhaps the last two teams could swap areas?
Brian.F.

New Missing Persons Report Form

Those of you who have had to fill-in the rather detailed forms based on the SES standard, will be relieved to know that if you go on the next "remote" cull, Gil H has compiled a much simpler form for our use.

As before, these will have to be filled out, and put in sealed envelope for use in case SES, or similar outside group has to be called in to find or retrieve you.

All of us hope that this will never have to be used, but we have to be prepared.

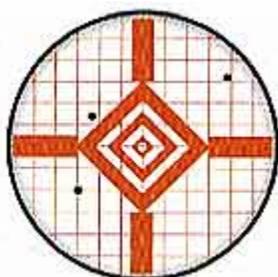
Kaz H

Hunting Tip: Put some cheap surgical gloves in your kit. Surgical Gloves keep your hands clean when field dressing game, but more important, they grip your knife more securely than bloody fingers, so you are less likely to cut yourself. Also, if you've neglected to make an appointment for your annual prostate check, the gloves allow you to monitor your well being when in the field.

Group Therapy Let your targets tell you about your rifle's problems. by David E. Petzal (Field & Stream- US)

Were this the best of all possible worlds, we would fire three rifle shots at a target, peer downrange, and see three holes clustered within the area of a ten cent piece at precisely the right place. But this is not the best of all possible worlds. And in this vale of sorrow, we often look at our targets and see horror, chaos, and disorder. In any event, we know that something is wrong, but what? Rather than burst into tears, you should regard this as a heart-to-heart talk with your rifle, which, if you can understand its language, will tell you what ails it.

Complete Breakdown. Problem: Your shots are all over the place and you can't get a group to save your life. There are several causes. First is a ruptured scope. The way to test this is to put a different scope on your gun and see if it groups better. Second is loose bedding screws on the rifle. Check to see if they're tight. Third is loose ring or base screws. Sometimes, one particular bullet weight will give results this bad. If this is the case, it's usually because the barrel's rifling twist is wrong for that bullet weight.



Consistent Flyer. Problem: Your ammo is almost, but not quite, right for your gun. Usually this shows up as two holes close together and the third one off to the side by an inch or two. At 100 yards, this is not a problem, but at farther distances you'll have trouble. It's caused by bullets traveling just above or below the optimum speed for that barrel, causing it to vibrate inconsistently. Hand loaders can cure it by raising or lowering the powder charge. Non-hand loaders will have to try different ammunition.



Inconsistent Flyer. Problem: Most of the time you get good groups, but sometimes one shot goes astray, and sometimes all three go where they're not supposed to. Most likely you're flinching, and if you don't think you can flinch from a bench rest, think again. You can buy a Lead Sled Shooting Rest which virtually eliminates felt recoil, or put a soft gun case or sandbag between your shoulder and the butt. If it were me, I'd get a less punishing rifle.



Rising Group. Problem: your groups are okay, but they keep moving up on the target, sometimes straight up, sometimes up and left or right. This is caused by an overheated barrel. When a tube gets too hot, it warps slightly, sending bullets errantly, and the heat waves rising from it give you a distorted view of the target, sort of like shooting through a swimming pool. The cure is easy: Let your barrel cool down. I start each group with a cold barrel and never let it get beyond lukewarm



Stringing. Problem: groups string vertically or horizontally. First, check the barrel bedding. Most barrels today are free-floating—there should be no contact from 1 1/2 inches (28.75 cm) forward of the receiver right out to the end. If there is, take the gun in for a rebedding job. Horizontal grouping can be caused by wind at the target that you don't feel at the bench. Vertical groups can be caused by the fore-end jumping on too hard a surface.



PLANT IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS

**Wednesday 12 September 2007 at
Para Wirra Recreation Park
OR**

**Tuesday 18 September 2007 at Belair
National Park**

These workshops will cover basic plant botany, the use of plant identification books and practical plant identification

They will be held in the Volunteer Centres at both venues from 9 am to 3.30pm. The maximum number of participants is 15 for each workshop. Tea and coffee will be provided but please bring your own lunch.

GRASS IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS

**Saturday 6 October 2007 at Para Wirra
Recreation Park
OR**

**Saturday 10 November 2007 at Belair
NP**

These workshops will cover basic grass botany, the use of grass identification books, and practical grass identification. The maximum number of participants for each workshop is 15. They will be held from 9 am to 3.30pm in the Volunteer Centres of the Parks. Please bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided.

For all courses please bring with you:

- ❖ **A pen and notebook;**
- ❖ **Your lunch;**
- ❖ **Suitable clothing for the day such as wet weather gear or a hat and sunscreen and**
- ❖ **Sturdy shoes or boots.**

If you wish to attend any of these workshops, please contact Pam Smith **FRIENDS OF PARKS INC.** Ground Floor 1 Richmond Road Keswick SA 5035 Postal Address G.P.O. Box 1047 Adelaide SA 5001 Phone: 8124 4784 Fax: 8124 4850 Remember, there are limited places for each workshop, so first come, first served.

FOR SALE:

Icom Ic-40GX 5 watt UHF radio, with spare battery pack and charger \$300 ono
Chris B 85682770 ah 0407954818 work

1998 Jayco Eagle Outback Campervan

\$15,000 neg .PH:8258 7884

EMAIL: telcab@esc.net.au 1998 Jayco Eagle Outback Campervan. Rollout Awning, Bed End Flies Pole Carrier, Stove & Grill, 3 Way Fridge. Jerry Can Holders, Electric Brakes 12 Months Rego. Very Good Condition Terry B

Miroku Model 10 Sport 12 Gauge

Shotgun. \$2200 ono PH: 0417 801 457

EMAIL: ckapralos@hotmail.com 30 inch barrels, Invector Plus, Hi-Viz Sights, with 4 Briley extended Chokes, (Spectrum IC, Spectrum Mod, Titanium LMOD X2) Snap Caps, Wrights T wrench in deluxe fitted compact Case. Woodwork has been oiled (Tru Oil) - in as new condition, only fired at best 100 rounds. Serial#: 60180MW Lic 204280F: Con K

10ft/3M Tinny: \$1500 PH: (08) 8339 3507

EMAIL: kazoom@esc.net.au 10ft/3M

Tinny in good condition complete with oars, anchor and 7.5HP Suzuki outboard in exc condition. (Less than 20hrs use), Registered till 12/2007. Kaz H

5 Dunlop Grandtrek AT20 265/65 R 17

112S Tyres : \$1100 ono PH: 0417 749 375

EMAIL: hoady@chariot.net.au Suit Current Model Toyota Prado GXL, VX And Grande (Toyota Factory Fitted Tyres). 1 Brand New Tyre And The Other 4 Are Near New, Less Than 5000kms Travelled. Sell set Only, Will Not Separate. Mark H

Marlin 925 22 LR Bolt Action Rifle: \$450 ono PH: 0417 801 457 **EMAIL:**

ckapralos@hotmail.com Marlin Model 925 22 LR Bolt Action (Current Model), Seven Shot Magazine, With Bushnell 4 X Scope, New Gun, Hasn't Been Used At All By Owner. Selling Due To Upgrade. Serial: 94683059 Lic 204280F: Con K

WANTED:

Sako L461 in 7.62x39 must be very good or better Chris B 85682770 ah 0407954818

