



Branches in all  
States and Territories

Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia

Hunting & Conservation Branch (SA) Inc

PO Box 188 Kent Town SA 5071



PRESERVING AUSTRALIA'S HERITAGE

# THE H&C NEWS

MARCH 2004

## THE RECENT MAJOR FERAL PEST CONTROL PROGRAMS Kaz H

It has been VERY hot, both in the Flinders Ranges NP and the Gawler Ranges NP, but both parks had quite rewarding results (Flinders Ranges NP: 140 goats / 9 shooters, Gawler Ranges NP: 644 goats/38 shooters).

Well attended and catered BBQs were provided for participants at both Parks and appreciation of our efforts was generously expressed by NPW-SA Senior Rangers.

As the figures indicate, there were too many shooters at the Gawler Ranges, and too few for the Flinders and Gammons. Late registrations and reluctance to refuse anyone also complicated the work of the Activity Coordinators.

Perhaps the registration process will have to be reviewed, allowing for earlier commitment and closure to fit in with members' holiday planning. Many thanks to Rick F, Brian W and the others who "stepped into the breach", when Brian F had to face the surgeon again.

Gawler Ranges NP is planning a Yellow Footed Rock Wallaby DNA / genetics study, requiring trapping preceded by a 6 week free feeding period. If you would like to feed YFRW's and "be away from it all" for a significant period, please let me know. Kaz H

## HAVE YOUR SAY

At the March quarterly meeting members will be invited to make suggestions as to how the feral animal control program (cull fee) fee, value could be improved. Reducing the fee has been discussed and may be an option however it is generally felt that given the overall cost of participating, the fee is only a small component. Some suggestions so far have included, providing first aid kits to teams, purchasing more and issuing magnetic signs to teams, providing of

more information to teams etc. If you have any constructive ideas or comments about any aspect of the feral animal control programs and their organisation please come along and have your say or if you can not attend contact or write to the committee.

## WILPENA POUND, FEBRUARY 2004. Brian F

It had just about everything. First, we had plus 40 degree temperature, then a severe thunderstorm with heavy rain and lightning strikes. One of which caused a bush fire in the centre of the pound. Small intense wind shears knocked down branches and even a few trees. As for the hunting conditions, all the small springs and / or seeps had been dried up for some months. Despite this we managed to tally 140 goats. The only unusual events was having two bats crash land in camp and an invasion of honey bees, of course someone (who shall remain nameless) just had to play, and got stung, Lucky it wasn't his trigger finger!!

## GAWLER RANGERS MARCH 2004. Brian F

38 members made the trek. Weather was a tad kinder to them. All teams reported they had a good time. 644 goats, 2 cats and 18 bunnies were tagged. Everyone commented on how dry it was, with all the small springs and seeps having dried up. The Scrubby Peak dispatched 113 goats and the 2 cats, Mattera / Deep Well 114, Old Paney 149, Chillune 164, Nukey 36 and Mt. Double 68. Once again the Mattera team won the annual award for the best camp setup, four years in a row now, how do they do it. If you have Internet access and wish to see, Mattera team member, Charlie O has some pics on his personal web site as well as some other interesting shooting, four wheel drive and drag racing pages. Use this link <http://members.bettanet.net.au/~conody>

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS Kaz H

At the recent Committee meeting, the three persons responsible for our membership records for 2003/2004 estimated that the process of renewals, monitoring, updating and some upgrading of the system had cost them in excess of 300 man hours, and that a lot of this time would be better spent on other aspects of the branch.!

***The committee would like to thank those members who reviewed their forms made the appropriate changes / additions and returned the completed forms and fees by the due date.***

The problems arose from the fact that 70% of renewals were not completed in respect to data requested, i.e.: - SSAA membership number (shown on your SSAA membership card), the SSAA Branch (SO9 if it is H&C – also shown on your SSAA membership card), current addresses for all contact methods, and the indemnity statement signature. Many members simply returned the uncompleted form with the membership fees. It must be pointed out that to keep costs to a minimum, it is a condition of our insurance that the waiver be signed before members can take part in club activities. Signing of the waiver does not mean you can not claim against the insurance, it points out that there are inherent dangers associated with H&C activities and that by signing, you as members, are aware of this. You are not asked for anything without a reason, if you would like an explanation please ask.

Some 30% of members required a reminder notice!

There is more than reasonable advice given to the membership prior to, during and after the A.G.M. with regard to membership fees and renewals. The Committee has had to agree that the level of input, and associated hassles and responsibilities were not reasonable for volunteers, and that at the next (2004/2005) renewal will be a "zero tolerance" policy will apply, with possible loss of membership for those who do not reasonably do "their bit".

The Branch will quite happily make allowances for members' financial, health, work and other life problems, but these must be resolved and recorded at renewal and not retrospectively.

The Committee does a lot, and does its best - please help to make it easier! Kaz H

**Wednesday March 24<sup>th</sup>** is the first **QUARTERLY MEETING for 2004**. The venue is the Gaza Sports and Community Club, 232 North East Rd, Klemzig commencing at 7:00 pm. S.S.A.A. S.A. State President Jeanine Baker will address the meeting. Patrick Hill has generously donated a knife, which will be raffled on the night. So come along and buy a ticket or three. Once again come and join the growing band of members who have a meal at

the O.G. hotel prior to the meeting. Dining room opens at 5:45 pm. If you wish to join us please contact ChrisG, 0407 608858, [hcnews@hunt-cons.asn.au](mailto:hcnews@hunt-cons.asn.au) so that a firm booking can be made.

H&C member Colin C has a venue for persons who wish to hunt in New Zealand and can also help with the contacts and other stuff. If you are interested or would just like to talk about his adventure over there he can be contacted on (08)8384-5442 or by

E-mail [longjohn@internode.on.net](mailto:longjohn@internode.on.net)

**Firearms Security.** S.S.A.A. constantly reminds members to ensure that their firearms security is adequate and fulfils state firearms legislative requirements. At the last S.S.A.A. S.A. state council meeting branches were advised that the S.A.P.D. Firearms Branch have bolstered their numbers by four. Their exclusive task is to check on firearms owners, security arrangements. The message being "Lock it up or lose it"

**Firearms Licence Classifications.** Do you have the appropriate purposes for use on your firearms licence?

Purpose for use "1 Club" for example, requires that you be an active and financial member of a recognised firearms club on an annual basis, even though your licence may be over a five year period. In H&C terms participation in feral animal control programs, including attendance at briefings and debriefings, fox drives, quarterly meetings, attending the A.G.M. etc and participating in other H&C organised activities count toward an active status. (One day one activity) H&C are bound by law to record member participation in such activities. Event organisers and participants should ensure that records of such activities are forwarded on to H&C. If you have purpose for use "3 Hunting" on your licence then it stands to reason that you should have a current hunting licence. Please familiarise your self with the current Firearms act and regulations. Quote from Firearms Branch "ignorance of the law is no excuse"

H&C has both electronic and hard copies of the Firearms Act and Regulations. Contact the Secretary ChrisG 0407 608858, [secretary@hunt-cons.asn.au](mailto:secretary@hunt-cons.asn.au)

**Program Additions.** Please add to your 2004 Calendar of events

- **Pestcam (tentative) 7-10 May**  
**Contact: Kaz H**
- **21-25 June Transects (Wildlife Surveys) in the Flinders Ranges NP-**  
**Contact: Kaz H**

**Want to try something different**, go to the **Alice Springs Masters Games 16 – 23 October 2004**. There are many shooting disciplines contested for mature age competitors. The games started in 1986 and are held every 2 years. The A.S.M.G. won the prestigious Northern Territory Brolga award in 2003 for Significant Festivals and Events. This year it is the A.S.M.G. 10<sup>th</sup> birthday and over 4000 entrants are expected to participate in 30 sports. Registrations close Friday 13 August 2004  
[www.alicespringmasters.nt.gov.au](http://www.alicespringmasters.nt.gov.au) free call number 1800 658951

#### FOR SALE

Aprox. 600 Aust, US and other firearms and hunting magazines. \$250.00 smaller lots negotiable Glen M Ph 0410546564

Ruger Single Six 22 cal revolver, ser # 6824164 Includes 22 mag cylinder, good con, \$450.00, can be viewed at the Adelaide Gunshop, 82313570, tag # CS6403

Winchester 20g S/S ser # 088512, \$60.00, can be viewed at the Adelaide Gunshop, 82313570, tag # CS6404.

*Note: transfer of possession of the firearm on sale must take place in the presence of, and be witnessed by, a licensed dealer in firearms, an authorised officer of a recognised firearms club or a member of the police force*

At the December Quarterly meeting H&C members were asked to donate to The Royal Flying Doctor Service. Given the nature of H&C activities especially in remote areas, we may well need the services of the R.F.D.S. one day. Copies of the Air Doctor Newsletter and donation forms are available from the following links [www.hunt-cons.asn.au/AirDoctor.pdf](http://www.hunt-cons.asn.au/AirDoctor.pdf) and [www.hunt-cons.asn.au/RFDSdonation.pdf](http://www.hunt-cons.asn.au/RFDSdonation.pdf)

Dear Chris

On behalf of the Royal Flying Doctor Service (Central Operations) I would like to thank your organisation for your kind donation. In this our 75<sup>th</sup> year the RFDS has expanded its role significantly to incorporate a broader range of services in rural and remote areas of Australia whilst increasingly providing critical assistance to people based in metropolitan areas. The RFDS is a not for profit organisation and relies heavily on fundraising initiatives. These funds are invested in aircraft and medical equipment to ensure a relevant, constantly improving service for every person who lives, works or travels within Australia. Your contribution highlights your awareness and support toward a vital and unique Australian aero medical service.

Kind regards  
**John Tobin** Public Affairs & Marketing Manager

**BANNING OF COMPOUND BOWS** from Jeanine B S.S.A.A. S.A. State President via E-mail alerts  
 An update on the proposed banning of compound bows.

I have just received a letter from Sen Christopher Ellison, Minister for Justice and Customs. The letter comes via the Attorney Generals Dept. in Canberra.

He informs me that at the last Australasian Police Ministers Council [APMC] meeting the members asked the Firearms Policy Working Group [FPWG] to examine the merits of making compound hunting bows a prohibited weapon. Target shooters don't be misled into thinking this doesn't affect you. There is no difference between a compound hunting bow and a compound target bow.] The FPWG is to report back to the APMC at their first meeting in 2004. I believe this meeting will be in May/June.

So it is fact. I implore all branches to make contact with their local members and their state police ministers. Explain to these people that there is no logical reason to ban compounds. Tell them there is no statistical evidence to suggest that compounds are a risk to the public. Explain the merits of our Ass. Tell them we are a family orientated organisation. Explain we cater to all ages and sexes. Whatever you do we must be seen to be pro-active on a national level.

I want all the Police Ministers at their next meeting to go in loaded with the same information. I want them to ask each other. Why are we wasting time on compound bows? The only way that will happen is if each Branch, in each State, makes the effort to contact the above ministers.

This is our best chance to jump on it before any decisions are made.

Our ability to continue to do what we enjoy, without major complications, rests with you.

"Police and custom officers are searching a home in Mansfield Park for firearms and explosives. It is believed the property is also used as a child care centre. They will be interviewing a 56yo man."

The Australians Customs Department screens 100% of mail and found over 100 slingshots which they followed through to the Adelaide recipient before initiating the raid.

As the Australian Customs spokesperson pointed ignorance of the law is no excuse and SSAA Inc would not like to see any of our members who believe they may be doing from Jeanine B. S.S.A.A. S.A. State President cont something perfectly legal and reasonable fall foul of the new laws because they had not taken time to check procedures with Customs and get the paperwork in order before a firearm part is imported.

We urge anyone who wants to legally import a firearms part to visit [http://www.customs.gov.au/site/textonly.cfm?area\\_id=5&nav\\_id=942](http://www.customs.gov.au/site/textonly.cfm?area_id=5&nav_id=942) and refresh yourselves about the requirements under the legislation. If there are still questions please take time to ring the Australian Customs Department and make sure the 't's' are crossed and the 'i's' dotted.

I met with S.I. Flaherty, the new Deputy Registrar, Senior Sergeant Phil Kilford and some of the Firearms Section staff this morning. The main reasons for this meeting were to tidy up some of the issues that could still cause concern with the handgun buy-back as it draws to a close. Some of the following will seem unnecessarily pedantic, but I am trying to cover every angle there may be a question on, so plug away at the email, please!

The first area that some members still appear concerned about is whether they will still legally be able to keep their handgun if it falls into the 'restricted' categories if they have elected to retain such handguns because they believe they have a legal and legitimate reason to do so. For example: a person who competes in predominantly IPSC with a 38 semi auto, but who may also have a calibre greater than 38 who also shoots Single Action or Metallic Silhouette as a second discipline. Firearms Section has attempted to identify as many of these cases as possible based on information in their database or from the firearms owner actually contacting the police directly. In many cases this has been relatively simple, because the Club the person belongs can be identified as Single Action or Metallic Silhouette. However, there will be cases where the primary club is not identified as Single Action or Metallic Silhouette, therefore the police will have no way of knowing if the owner of them registered, but now restricted, handgun is in a position to retain ownership. Our Branches have been trying to identify people in this situation, but it is sometimes difficult to cover every situation.

So, to avoid any confusion, if you, or any of your friends, have think you will be retaining a calibre restricted under the new legislation and possibly have not yet been recognised by the Firearms Section as a member of a Single Action, Metallic Silhouette or Collectors Club (with handgun registered under a collectors licence and a student of arms in the case of post-1946 handguns) please make an effort to contact Firearms Section, via phone or in writing, and them know you are retaining the handgun because you compete in a discipline that is exempt from the calibre/barrel length restrictions. More importantly, if you have questions or don't understand my convoluted email, get in touch with the Firearm Section before 31<sup>st</sup> March and get everything sorted out. After March 31st you may find the handgun you thought was legally registered will be deregistered and you be asked to prove why you should retain ownership of it and, probably, of all your other firearms as well. Do something now, do not wait until it is 'later' and then complain that it is just not fair.

The other point raised in this mornings meeting related to people who may have let their firearm licence lapse and have handguns on consignment with dealers. Firearms Section has been issuing interim licences that allow people to collect these firearms and take them to the buy-back centre so they can collect compensation. The end of the month is getting close and no more interim licences will be issued. There are still a few people who have been issued interim licences so they can hand in handguns, but, as yet, they have failed to do so. If this applies to you, then take your handguns to the buy-back centre. The alternative is that the dealer you have left them with will find them listed as 'dealers stock' and the wholesale price will apply.

To date, in South Australia: it seems that 7,300 handguns and around 40,000 major parts or accessories have been handed in. This equates to approx. \$10.7 million dollars of compensation. Based on the handguns handed in 35% of the people have left the sport. This means we will have to work hard to build numbers in the handgun disciplines if we are to continue to enjoy strong, vibrant and highly competitive handgun sports. Please make every effort to adapt to the new conditions and encourage the sport to develop. It is bad enough that people ignorant of our sport have introduced laws that have decimated it without reason without we, ourselves, assisting the decimation by failing to be proactive in promoting our sport.

**Check this web site out. [www.cabelas.com](http://www.cabelas.com) Hunting and Outdoor Outfitters.**

**Friends of Parks** subsidised Chainsaw course,  
interested contact the secretary ChrisG  
0407608858 [secretary@hunt-cons.asn.au](mailto:secretary@hunt-cons.asn.au)

**QUARTERLY MEETING THIS  
WEDNESDAY MARCH 24<sup>th</sup> at  
GAZA 7:00 p.m. start.**