



Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia

Hunting & Conservation Branch (SA) Inc

PO Box 188 Kent Town SA 5071

www.hunt-cons.asn.au



THE H&C NEWS

General Meeting Wednesday 7th December 2011

7.00 pm At GAZA Sports & Community Club, Corner of Main North East Rd and Wellington St Klemzig.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES (DRAFT VERSION – 17/11/11)

DATE	ACTIVITY	COORDINATOR
09 - 13/01/12	Dutchman Stern CP - cull	Kaz H
15/01/12	Range Day at Monarto - 10am – 3pm	Council
17/01/12	H&C Council (meeting 7.00pm CWA)	Council
21/01/12	Accreditation Course (theory)	Gil H
30/1 - 3/2/12	Flinders RNP – cull	Gil H
04 -10/02/12	Gawler RNP - cull	Rick F
11/02/12	SSAA State Meeting 12noon at CWA	Council
14/02/12	H&C Council (meeting 7.00pm CWA)	Council
24 -27/02/12	Flinders Feral Predator Program (FFPP)	Kaz H
04/03/12	Range Day at NESSCI	George S.
13/03/12	H&C Council (meeting 7.00pm CWA)	Council
19-21/3/12	Brookfield	Ali W
21/03/12	H&C General Meeting 7pm at Gaza Comm Club	Council
14/04/12	Onkaparinga River NP - cull	Kaz H
17/04/12	Range Day at Monarto – 10am – 3 pm	Council
17/04/12	H&C Council (meeting 7.00pm CWA)	Council
07 -12/05/12	Bimbowrie CR & Boolcoomatta - cull	Phil J
12/05/12	SSAA State Meeting 12noon at CWA	Council
18 -21/05/12	FFPP	Kaz H
20 -25/05/12	Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges RNP - cull	Gil H
27/05/12	Range Day at NESSCI	George S
29/05/12	H&C Council (meeting 7.00pm CWA)	Council
02/06/12	Accreditation Course (theory)	Gil H
18 -20/06/12	Brookfield	Ali W
18 -22/06/12	Dutchman Stern CP – cull	Kaz H
25 -29/06/12	Flinders & V-G RNP – Wildlife Surveys	George S /
DENR		
27/06/12	H&C General Meeting 7pm at Gaza Comm Club	Council
10/07/12	H&C Council (meeting 7.00pm CWA)	Council
22/07/12	Range Day at Monarto – 10am – 3pm	Council



Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia

Hunting & Conservation Branch (SA) Inc

PO Box 188 Kent Town SA 5071

www.hunt-cons.asn.au



04 -10/08/12	Gawler RNP – cull	Rick F
10 -13/08/12	FFPP	Kaz H
11/08/12	SSAA State Meeting 12noon at CWA	Council
12/08/12	Range Day at NESSCI	George S
14/08/12	H&C Council (meeting 7.00pm CWA)	Council
20-22/08/12	Brookfield	Ali W
11/09/12	H&C Council (meeting 7.00pm CWA)	Council
19/09/12	H&C AGM 7pm at Gaza Comm Club	Council
01 - 06/10/12	Bimbowrie CR & Boolcoommatta – cull	Phil J
13/10/12	Accreditation Course (theory)	Gil H
16/10/12	H&C Council (meeting 7.00pm CWA)	Council
21/10/12	Range Day at NESSCI Range	George S
05 - 09/11/12	Dutchman Stern CP – cull	Kaz H
09 - 12/11/12	FFPP – cull	Kaz H
10/11/12	Range Day at Monarto – 10am – 3pm	Council
13/11/12	H&C Council (meeting 7.00pm CWA)	Council
18 - 23/11/12	Vulkathunha-Gammon RNP – cull	Gil H
19 - 21/11/12	Brookfield	Ali W
05/12/12	H&C General Meeting 7pm at Gaza Comm Club	Council
08/12/12	SSAA State AGM 12noon at CWA	Council
11/12/12	H&C Council (meeting 7.00pm CWA)	Council

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

OFF PROGRAM (IRREGULAR) ACTIVITIES – please check with Activity Coordinator for details before registering.

Barossa/Hills – quick response/SA Water/Forestry SA	Graham H 8337 5388
Fleurieu – Forestry SA	Jim A 8390 1882
Telowie/Burra/Redbanks	Shane F 8634 4362
Everard/Thackaringa/Mantung	Rick F 0418 824 461
Kangaroo Island	Jorge N 8357 0903
Buckaringa (3/11, 7/11, 11/11) / Yookamurra	Mark P 8380 5336
Midweek Range (Monarto)	Graham H 8337 5388
SA North-East private reserves & Corella culls	Phil J 0408431750
Gluepot	Phil J 0408431750
Lameroo District	Evan R 8764 2169
Mt Brown CP	Rob & Sue S 8636 2691
Brookfield CP	Andrew D 0429362192 / Ali W 0412786281
Witchelina Project (work bee & hunt)	Graham H 83375388 & Kaz H 83393507
Gum Creek Stn cat, fox, rabbit control	Dennis D 0409 098 687

Every effort will be made not to make changes, but PLEASE CHECK ACTIVITY PROGRAM FOR UPDATES ON WEBSITE (www.hunt-cons.asn.au) and/or Activity Coordinator.



Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia

Hunting & Conservation Branch (SA) Inc

PO Box 188 Kent Town SA 5071

www.hunt-cons.asn.au



H&C Council 2011-12

President: George S

VP Gil H

Secretary Kym McK

Treasurer Ian C

Council of Management members

Kaz H

Scott J

Jim A

Alistair W

Graham H

Phil J

New Life Members:

Jim A

Graham H

A well deserved recognition

of the work both have carried out for our club, almost from its inception.

Thanks are also due to Chris.G and Grant .L for being past president and Secretary; Andy D for his contribution to Council. part of which was writing grants applications with Kaz H which allowed Bounce Back participants to claim fuel costs associated with travelling to culls.

Andy did not stand for Council as he will spend four months in Antarctic doing conservation volunteering there.

NESSCI (Upper Hermitage) Range Days

The next Range Day at NESSCI Range will be on Sunday March 4th. 2012

The range is on Range Road North, some 300 metres from the intersection of North East Road and Range Road North.(Formerly Tea Tree Gully, now, Upper Hermitage.)

There will be a red flag flying at entrance to site, NESSCI and AURRPC signs on cyclone fence next to gate

Follow track down hill. Take right fork where track divides.

George S.

The following article was sourced from:“Across the Outback” Number 57 October 2011

Need help with feral animal control?

The Hunting and Conservation Branch (SA) of the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA) has issued a reminder that its services are available to all landholders and not just conservation organisations.

The Hunting and Conservation Branch works on a variety of government, university and NGO conservation programs on private property and reserves.

Activities have involved the removal of feral animals including rabbits, goats, camels, cats and foxes with their efforts contributing to a reduction in grazing pressure and feral predation of native species.

The Hunting and Conservation Branch have made a substantial contribution to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Bounceback program where their expert skills in goat and fox control have been integral to its success.

In 2000, with Australian Government funding assistance, the group established the Yellow Footed Rock Wallaby Preservation Association Inc which purchased 140km2 of mountain range adjoining the Flinders Ranges National Park, creating the Bunkers Conservation Reserve for the protection of remnant colonies of this species. ■

Further information Kaz Herbst, 8339 3507 or www.hunt-cons.asn.au

(Another example of your Council working for you.) editor

I really couldn't believe my brother had been stealing from his job as lollipop man for the Department of Roads , but when I got home, all the signs were there.

Gum Creek Station Vertebrate Pest Reduction Program.

Gum Creek Station (south of Blinman) has a cat, fox, rabbit problem. Gum Creek Station adjoins the Flinders Ranges National Park and is within easy reach of many local attractions, including the magnificent Brachina and Bunyeroo gorges and sections of the Heysen Trail.

The activity will be classed as an FFPP cull.

Contact Coordinator, Dennis D. 0409098687

SA Veterinary Emergency Management Group (SAVEM)

SSAA H&C has been contacted by>Dr Rachel Westcott BVMS (Hons), BSc, DipAppSc, coordinator of the SA Veterinary EmergencyManagement Group with a view to having H&C members humanely destroy animals that have been severely burnt in bush fires or critically injured in truck roll overs and the like.

Graham H will be H&C contact person for this activity and Ali W. will be back up.



Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia

Hunting & Conservation Branch (SA) Inc

PO Box 188 Kent Town SA 5071

www.hunt-cons.asn.au



Renewal Chits



Persons to approach for renewal chits are Secretary Kym Mck. and Vice President Gil H. who will task their motivated and competent staff to respond to your request.

GET STUFFED!

For all your taxidermy needs. Skins, head mounts, deer, goats, pigs etc

Specialising in fibreglass fish replicas.

Shot a big one lately? Caught that huge snapper?

Let Grant take care of your special trophy to keep those memories going. Very reasonable rates.

ph Grant 0438095868

g_wells@hotmail.com

Kangaroo Accreditation Course.

A few words about the Kangaroo Accreditation Course. Gil runs these courses at Monarto Range, providing targets and also his Range Officer and judging skills honed over his forty five years SSAA Membership. Procedure is that we set up shop in the mid-afternoon, depending on when dusk/twilight occurs! The shooters take advantage of the afternoon light to tweak their most accurate hunting rifle, off a bench rest, so they can consistently place 5 rounds of centre fire ammo into a 75mm (3 inch) circle. The legal minimum calibre for Kangaroo destruction is the .222 loaded to factory specifications – a 50 grain projectile at 3200 fps. This 3-inch (75mm) circle is overlaid on the silhouette of a Kangaroo's head which is placed out at 100 metres on a timber frame. This is the same target (almost) as used by TAFE for Professional Roo Shooter Accreditation. When night falls, 4wd's, fitted out with spotlights and door type rifle rests, or "over cabin" type rests, draw up in a line with their sides parallel to the targets with spotlights illuminating the targets for realism. On command of the Range Officer, shooting commences. Don't worry too much if your odd "flyer" of a round falls outside of the 75mm circle as, time permitting, you can have a few tries until you succeed.

Although this qualification is not absolutely necessary to go on a Kangaroo Cull, it is highly desirable and the "Quick Response Officer" will always look more favourably on a shooter with this discipline under his belt. Apart from that, it is an interesting way to spend an evening, with a chance to meet up with other keen members and also to hone your shooting skills. You can download an application form from H&C's Web Site.. Please think about this training seriously and get your applications in to Gil.. A well-trained Organisation is an efficient one.

My form is in now and we only need half a dozen shooters to form a course. Tony B (Council Observer)

Websites of interest

<http://huntandshoot.com.au/> has much content about hunting, firearms and related subjects.

<http://www.sportingshooter.com.au/> presents issues from a shooter's point of view.



Gluepot Reserve – Judas Goats

Birds Australia Gluepot Reserve is 50,000 ha of virgin Mallee scrub, 1.5 hours north of Waikerie and contains no less than 6 nationally endangered bird species and a unique flora and fauna adapted to the harsh conditions.

SSAA Hunting & Conservation has conducted Feral Animal Control programs on a regular basis at the reserve since 2007, as a part of the Gluepot Reserve's Feral Animal Control Program.

While the program covers all feral animals, goats were on the high priority list.

Initially, numbers were high but over the years and with some dedicated efforts by the attending H&C members, numbers have been reduced considerably.

Anyone who has visited the Mallee knows there are virtually no hills and the terrain is very flat, with some minor undulating areas and very thick scrub.

This is different from hunting where you would normally glass areas/hillsides, in that you have to track your game with limited vision of what's up ahead and work areas that have fresh sign, or if lucky enough spot goats along the track before they see you.

Last year the Gluepot management board introduced judas goats to assist with monitoring the movements of goats within the reserve for more effective control on the remaining goats in the reserve.

The judas goats are fitted with a GPS/VHF tracking collar that allows their position to be marked twice a day by GPS: once in the morning and then around noon.

This provides H&C members with coordinates that can be entered into their own GPS and then move into the position of where the last position was received.

This has been very successful, and on many occasions when moving towards the GPS position, other goats have been encountered and disposed of.

With the VHF tracking radio and antennae, first attempts were not successful and recently, with the assistance of some students at Gluepot, the VHF equipment was used with great success.

The VHF tracker must be within 1km of the judas goat to receive a signal and as you get closer to the judas goat the signal becomes stronger and the direction more accurate.

We have managed on several occasions to be within 30m of the judas goat with other goats in the mob around it.

Due to the thick terrain and with the regrowth of the mallee in the area, this has become a vital tool in the control of goats on Gluepot Reserve.

Unfortunately, sometimes the judas goats move off the reserve but once retrieved and released back onto the reserve, then this will ensure effective control and utilize the man-hours for control on goats.

Phil J (Article and pic above.)



Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia

Hunting & Conservation Branch (SA) Inc

PO Box 188 Kent Town SA 5071

www.hunt-cons.asn.au



Membership renewals

Thank you to those that have already completed and returned their membership renewal form and payment.

Those that are yet to, please complete the renewal form and post with your cheque/money order to: Membership Officer S.S.A.A. Hunting and Conservation Branch (SA) Inc. PO Box 188 KENT TOWN SA 5071

Whilst the council and those assisting in the administration of H&C realise there are now many electronic and internet based methods for making payments; the specific banking arrangements available to H&C as a small incorporated association which requires 2 persons to sign a cheque, preclude us from a number of these, including internet banking.

The small extra effort and expense expended by members to obtain a cheque or money order and promptly post together with their neatly completed renewal form simplifies the job of tracking and matching the payments and processing the renewals.

Please note that all of the administration of the H&C is completed by volunteers. The work is done in their own time with no reward other than their own personal satisfaction. Paul V.

THE FIRST 20 YEARS

Congratulations to us all – especially the “oldies”.

The organisation has now operated for 20 years, successfully satisfying members' interests and providing a service to the community – all being done safely and effectively.

I thank all those who have helped it happen, and most sincerely hope that we continue on the basis of appreciating each other's company, generosity and mutual good will.

The future does hold some challenges, as growth, although an indicator of success, also increases pressure on those carrying the workload, which, has so far, been unstintingly carried by perhaps too few.

(There will be more on 20th anniversary in March 2012 “News”)

A HINT FOR RELOADERS

If you only neck size your cases, be aware that any found or donated case has been fired in another rifle and may (invariably will) not fit easily into your chamber if not full length resized.

Murphy's Law will ensure that a loading difficulty will happen when you have spotted that goat looking at you from 5 metres away.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Branch has received a DENR grant and Commonwealth subsidies to purchase and operate a pair of

Iridium “satphones” – these will be available for members' use – just be aware that usage is expensive and should be limited to emergencies and essential communications only. Any excess costs or loss will be to your account.

The introduction of the 80 channel UHF CB radio system will require members to consider an “upgrade” and the option of a bulk purchase indicates a saving of at least 10-15%. If you have an interest in an upgrade, please contact me.

If you are buying anything at the Electric Bug – please identify yourself as an SSAA-H&C member. – Ask for Anthony if there is no recognition. Kaz H

The author of this second part of his article responded to my request for material for “News” that would be of interest to new members who receive varying information on what rifles, rounds, equipment would serve them best during H&C field activities.

The first part of this article was published in September 2011 “News” under heading “A Few Thoughts about Rifles, Calibres, Bullets and Accessories and that edition of “News” can be found on our website. (See our logo) George S. Editor (Thanks to those members who expressed appreciation of first part of this article.) GS

ON THE SUBJECT OF RIFLES

Once a calibre is chosen, the next step is to purchase a rifle. For H&C goat culling work, perhaps the main feature of note to consider is weight. Varmint-type rifles have thick, heavy barrels that are not well suited to being carried all day up and down steep hills. Hunting rifles should be lighter and even though they are less pleasant to shoot off a bench where recoil can be harsh, in the field it is rare even to be aware of recoil at all. Remember too that the rifle is only one item in a long list of things you will be carrying throughout the day, so a heavy rifle should be avoided in favour of lighter alternatives.

Stocks these days, more and more, are made of synthetic materials and this is an excellent option in a goat hunting rifle. Wood stocks are a thing of beauty, but they are also prone to scratching and denting as part of the normal wear-and-tear encountered in the field. Synthetic stocks pretty much ignore all insults and aren't affected by wet or dry conditions. Of course, not all synthetics are created equal and the cheaper plastic stocks can be difficult to bed properly, with the result that long-range accuracy can at times be elusive, so consider this in your calculations. Good quality synthetic stocks cost a little more but as the saying goes, long after you've forgotten the price, the quality will remain. Magazine capacity is fairly standard across most sporting rifles, varying between three and five shots typically. Firepower capacity can be increased by adding an elastic ‘stock-sock’ that holds extra rounds instantly available, but remember that when fully loaded, this can add



Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia

Hunting & Conservation Branch (SA) Inc

PO Box 188 Kent Town SA 5071

www.hunt-cons.asn.au



considerable weight to the rifle which may not be justified. I prefer to carry five extra rounds in a pouch on my belt and nine more in a clamshell holder in my thigh pocket backs these up. Having a total of 18 rounds readily available is normally enough. Remember that you won't be the only one firing, so you'd expect to have at least 36 rounds directed at any mob of goats before you need to reach for further ammo supplies in your pack.

ON THE SUBJECT OF BULLETS

I mentioned earlier that I had discovered the perfect projectile for my .270 for use on goats and that is the polymer-tipped bullet. Previously, I had tried various types and weights of bullet, but all over-penetrated goats – sometimes massively so. The thing about goats is that they can carry fatal wounds for surprising distances and it is not only inhumane of a hunter to willingly inflict such wounds, but can also make locating goats difficult for either tallying numbers or meat harvesting. In the past, I've shot goats only to find they covered some distance before collapsing stone dead and it is very unsatisfying to fire at a goat only to see it run off – not good for the confidence, either. Since I switched to this style of bullet, that hasn't happened at all. These bullets expend their entire energy load in the target rather than blowing a hole in it and carrying on to hit the ground behind. No matter what calibre you choose, selecting the appropriate bullet type and construction is just as important. In the case of .224 calibres, explosive bullets can be fickle performers, because they are designed to explode on impact and have little penetration power on goats. In the larger calibres however, they are ideal in ensuring the bullet stays inside the animal and does its job – putting the animal down in its tracks. Factory loaded bullets are often made in the USA and tend to be designed for North American game, where penetration is of paramount importance. Goats, on the other hand, require a balance of some penetration and then immediate expansion. Larger calibre, polymer tip-style bullets are ideal for this and rarely produce exit wounds. Now available in factory ammunition, look for 'Combined Technology' or 'Supreme' loadings which use polymer-tipped bullets – often hidden under a proprietary coating. They cost more, but for good reason – they use good quality bullets and that produces better accuracy and terminal performance.

IN SUMMARY

If you are contemplating the purchase of a rifle for hunting goats, you should have a fair idea of what to look for by now. A suitable calibre, a light rifle, and perhaps in due course, some hand loading gear to enable the selection of a really effective bullet for these light-framed, but sometimes hard-to-kill animals. Of course, we haven't looked at scopes yet.

ON THE SUBJECT OF SCOPES

Although I have come to it last, scope selection should in no way be thought of as a last-minute consideration. The simplest advice is to buy the absolute best scope you can afford, because the optical device you choose is called upon to provide precision aiming, time after time, in sometimes adverse conditions. In short, it doesn't pay to buy cheap, because if a scope lets you down, the consequences are never happy. Missed shots, wounded game, lost confidence in yourself, the rifle, the ammo and just about everything, until you realise that the scope is not holding its zero! Clarity of the optics too is not always apparent when looking across the street from inside a gun shop. Compare the scope you're considering with the best one they have in the shop and you'll see the difference straight away. Cheaper scopes often have clear optics in daylight conditions, but show their weakness in low-light. That's when the more expensive lens coatings pay off big time!

If you have a scope brand in mind, it's now just a matter of deciding on the magnification power... At this point a decision has to be made between fixed power versus variable scopes and I will not recommend one over the other, because such a choice is largely subjective. The main argument in favour of fixed-power scopes is that they are more rugged, having less internals to go wrong. Another argument in their favour is that they tend to be brighter, with fewer lenses between the target and the shooter's eye, but with today's high quality variables, both arguments carry far less weight than they once did. Suffice it to say that I once used a fixed 6X scope on my goat rifle, but I currently have a 3-9X variable and I am happier with the latter because of the versatility it provides. I hunt with it on 3X in case something jumps up at close range when I need a large field of view to make target acquisition easy. In the case of a longer shot, time is usually not so critical and I can wind up the power to 9X and even at ranges of 300m-plus, I can quarter a goat with the crosshairs – and that means it's within range of my .270. I do not use 4,5,6,7 or 8 power with this scope, it's either 3X or 9X and I've never needed any more or less. There are others who will argue just as persuasively for a fixed power scope and all I can say is to listen, look, try and decide for yourself. Incidentally, whenever I go away on trips, I always take a spare scope with me in case disaster strikes. Set up in its own mounts, it takes only a few shots to zero and get the rifle back into action. That, by the way, is a good reason to make sure you have plenty of ammo along with you. If you fire ten rounds re-zeroing a rifle after a mishap, and you only had 40 to start with, you might find yourself running out with goats still in front of you. I

To a large extent, the perfect goat rifle is a subjective concept, with numerous factors to be considered. Things like weight, recoil and muzzle blast levels vary considerably between extremes of calibres, but when you get out into the hills after goats, many of those factors seem much less important there than they appear on paper. There are many tools that will do the job and while some will do it better



Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia

Hunting & Conservation Branch (SA) Inc

PO Box 188 Kent Town SA 5071

www.hunt-cons.asn.au



than others, the perfect one for you will always do the job well and leave you feeling satisfied with your choice for years to come.

Activity Reports

Activity: Eastern Suburbs

Date: 16 August

Coordinator: Kaz H

Attending Members: 2

Animals Taken: Fallow Deer 2

Comments: Ongoing (when required)

Activity: Hindmarsh Tiers

Date: 23 August

Coordinator: Kym K

Attending Members: 3

Animals Taken: Kangaroos 9

Comments: Ongoing

Activity: BrookField

Date: 21-24 August

Coordinator: Ali W, Andy D

Attending Members: 14

Animals Taken: Goats 45, Rabbit 2

Comments: Kangaroos & Wombats abundant throughout area.

Activity: FFPP

Date: 26-29 August

Coordinator: Kaz H

Attending Members: 6

Animals Taken: Foxes 8, Cats 17

Comments:

Activity: Witchelina CR

Date: 27 August – 2 September

Coordinator: Kaz H

Attending Members: 7

Animals Taken: Goats 29, cats 9, foxes 7

Comments: Ongoing works.

Activity: 2nd Valley Deer

Date: 26 – 29 September

Coordinator: Jim A, John C

Attending Members: 4

Animals Taken: Deer 7

Comments: Not many around.

Activity: Bimbowrie CR

Date: 9 – 14 October

Coordinator: Phil J

Attending Members: 11

Animals Taken: Goats 388,

Cat 1, Rabbits 61

Comments: Goats found along the boundary area daily, rabbits thinned out considerably

Activity: Boolcoomatta R

Date: 9 – 14 October

Coordinator: Phil J

Attending Members: 2

Animals Taken: Rabbits 123, Cats 3

Comments: No goats sighted, Rabbits taken early morning and late evening.

Activity: Witchelina CR

Date: 9 – 15 October

Coordinator: Kaz H

Attending Members: 5

Animals Taken: Goats 6

Comments: Ongoing works

Activity: Pompoota

Date: 23 October

Coordinator: Richard T

Attending Members: 2

Animals Taken: Rabbits 5

Comments: Ongoing.

Activity: Pompoota

Date: 29 October

Coordinator: Richard T

Attending Members: 2

Animals Taken: Rabbits 20, Foxes 4

Comments: Ongoing.

Activity: Dutchman Stern CP

Date: 7 – 11 November

Coordinator: Kaz H

Attending Members: 8

Animals Taken: Goats 97

Comments: Good result.

Activity: 2nd Valley Deer

Date: 16-17 November

Coordinator: Jim A, John C

Attending Members: 5

Animals Taken: Deer 7

Comments: Ongoing