Frankston Branch News

Official Newsletter of Frankston Field & Game August - September 2009

ITS ALL HAPPENING, HUNTING, SOCIAL AND SPORTING CLAYS!

Well its been a busy few months at Frankston FGA! Members have enjoyed a number of events including a fantastic weekend hunting quail and shooting clay targets with our friends at Minyip FGA, a well attended foxdrive in Cockatoo, hunters hangouts, sporting clays events and the 2009 AGM.

QUAIL HUNTING:

Please take some time to read Adam Carson's excellent article on the 2009 Minyip weekend. In it's twelfth year, the annual Minyip weekend was from all accounts a tremendous success with a great turnout from members, both old faces and new and feedback has been positive. We thank our hosts at Minyip and look forward to visiting them again.

FOX DRIVES:

Saturday 4th July also saw the branch visit a lovely property in Cockatoo to hunt foxes at the request of the owners Laurel and Jack. The substantial property featured lush rolling hills broken up by thick bushy gully's. Members turned out in numbers with approximately twenty madmen including myself braving simply terrible conditions to attend.

Four drives were done in total. Was it a successful day? Unfortunately no foxes were shot but not for lack of trying. The extremely cold and wet conditions seemed to be keeping our quarry underground. Nonetheless we had fun, ate a lovely BBQ lunch and the property owners were extremely grateful for our efforts. We are welcome back anytime!

Hindsight is a wonderful thing and around the lunchtime BBQ we speculated whether we had the right sort of dogs, enough dogs, whether there were enough shooters and even whether some people (no names) were quiet enough moving into position. Anyhow, nothing ventured nothing gained. It was the first time on the property and if nothing else we have learned more about it's terrain and features.

Thanks to all involved in organising the event, planning drives, liaising with local police and the property owners. Special thanks to the team of beaters led by Michael Kalidonis who busted their guts all day in the thick scrub.

Congratulations to Graham Eames for being the only person all day to actually fire his shotgun, albeit unsuccessfully at a rabbit on the last drive of the day. Unfortunately it seems his furry adversary was wearing a flack jacket.

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From the President . . .

With our 2009 AGM now behind us id like to use this report to bring you the members, up to speed with branch news as well as make introductions, thank retiring committee and outline the ideas and vision of the new committee.

The past few years have been an up and down period in the life of the branch. Our politicians and government continued to throw road-blocks up against outdoor-orientated and rural communities and some recent victories like the growth of the clay target sports and the "2009 duck season we didn't think we'd get", have come on the back of hard times, drought and reduced outdoor opportunities.

Consequentially, successive FFGA committees have had a hard time of it. They've worked hard and committed much time and effort and often been put under great personal stress. Opinions related to the committee have varied considerably with past leaders often feeling unappreciated and simultaneously members have at times communicated disappointment.

With the retirement of the majority of the 2009 committee it's time to thank those departing and welcome new faces to take the helm bringing a new and very positive perspective. If this committee were to have a single vision for its term, it would be that "the glass is half full". We firmly believe FFGA is among the greatest of branches with a large and enthusiastic membership, tremendous facilities and great potential. There is no reason why we can't maintain numbers and indeed grow while expanding member activities and opportunities. Regarding the clay target sports, we've already begun and have the core ingredients to make us one of Victoria's premier shooting venues.

Thank you to Chris Morris, Michael Kalidonis, Gordon Freeze, Adam Carson and Brendan Sullivan. These people have given much and I hope they'll continue to be active in branch life, albeit with a well earned rest from their previous duties. A special personal thank you to Adam for his friendship and support behind the scenes, and to Chris, we must have worked well together mate, because I'm proud of what we achieved in 2008/09.

In 2009/10 I'm pleased to serve you as Banch President with my good friends Michael Eddey (Vice President), Jessica Walker (Secretary), Larry Lambrou (Treasurer) Dave Jencke (Committee) and Graham Lewien (Committee). We are also considering co-opting others to assist committee. In particular we require keen hunters to assist in that area of club activities.

We have a lot to do in 2009/10. The organisation and funding of much needed repairs, improvements and equipment for our long-neglected clay-target facilities is one such issue. Competition scheduling, prize pools and administration also require overhaul. These monthly events provide a social and competitive activity patronised by more members than any other branch endeavour. We plan to build it up even more and hope to see many of you attend and have a great time!

Our hunting and social calendar are also under review. We have a vision that throughout all seasons, events will be available to members whether they be game bird hunts, vermin drives or other organised trips.

We also have significant administrative house-keeping issues to tackle including ATO registration, Consumer Affairs Victoria matters, banking arrangements, establishing electronic accounting systems and implementing annual applications to council and state government for funding grants.

Last but by no means least, managing the quality of sponsor relationships is a major focus. Sponsors are hard to come by and I'd hope the coming year will see us work more effectively to host sponsors, providing them greater recognition, appropriate signage and effective advertising.

These are but a few of the issues we intend to sink our teeth into. A "Register of Issues" has been established for ideas, suggestions or concerns for discussion. Any member can contribute.

So here's to a busy and exciting 2009/10 – let's hope it's the first of many good years to come!

Steve Harris - Branch President

FRANKSTON FIELD AND GAME PROUDLY PRESENT THE FAST AND FURIOUS
2009 ONE HUNDRED TARGET THREE MAN FLUSH SHOOT - AUGUST 8TH (11AM NOMS)

FOX HUNTERS - TWO DAY VERMIN DRIVE WITH BENDIGO AND SWAN HILL FGA
AUGUST 15TH TO 16TH - KERANG STATE GAME RESERVES - CALL STEVE HARRIS

Frankston Field & Game - Hunting

THANK YOU MINYIP FGA!

For the 12th year Minyip Branch invited us up on a guided hunt on their local Quail paddocks and to compete against them in the annual Minyip V Frankston Clay Target Challenge. This year we had the best response with a fully booked 20 Frankston members wanting to come. Unfortunately the Flu of the non Pig variety caused a few members to pull out at the last minute. Most members headed up on the Friday to enjoy a relaxing night at the Commercial Hotel. I was attending this event for the first time though with work I could not head up there until Saturday Morning. So my brother Troy, his young GSP pup called Trigger and I headed off at 4 AM on Saturday to ensure we arrived for the 8:30 AM meeting with the guys from Minyip.

After some brief introductions we were split into 2 groups. Troy, my Dad, Tony Lindsay, Adrian Conti, Robert Glenn, Charles Haddad and I were grouped up with Minyip hunting officer Bruce Crafter otherwise known as Bones. We were delayed somewhat when Charles ran into Car troubles for the 2nd time in 24 hours. He had left Melbourne on Friday night in his 4WD but broke down just out of Melton so had to head back home. He then drove up in his wife's Mercedes Benz which then ran out of fuel on the way out to the paddocks.

Once we arrived we were presented with a big L shaped paddock. Adrian and Robert headed off with their Labs on the smaller section while the rest of us took the larger section. This was Triggers first time in a Quail paddock so for a while he was more interested in what Tony's Springer Spaniel Boofa was doing. After a couple of Quail were put up Trigger started to work out what it was all about. This paddock was not all that productive and we only came away with about 6 quail between the 7 of us. Next Bones took us to a spot where we could get a few Rabbits though they were moving far out of shotgun range except for the one much to Tony's frustration he missed.

We then met up at a bush location with the other group for a BBQ lunch before heading out to another paddock for the afternoon.

The paddock Bones took my group to was a massive 200 acres. I was to walk with Tony and hunt over Boofa. We got about halfway up the 2km paddock and not seen a single sign of a Quail. Tony and I joked that we might as well turn back and head for the car as it was obvious nothing was in this paddock. We were to be proved wrong in about another 5 metres when Boofa flushed a Quail which Tony brought down. This turned out to be start of some great action as it seemed a bird was flushed every 50 metres or so. One highlight was a Quail that rose straight up in the air like a springing teal clay target that I shot when it got to about 15 metres up. By the time we had gone up and back on the paddock, the 7 of us had about 40 quail between us. We decided that was enough as we needed to get the birds cleaned and be back at the pub in time for the bus to take us out to the Gun Club for the evening festivities.

That night we were treated to a 3 course dinner for a $15 donation to Minyip Field & Game that comprised of a cream of chicken soup for starters followed by a range of meats including Rabbit cooked in camp ovens, roast pork and beef on the spit. For desert we had a lovely cake. All of us had a great night with a few VB's around the campfire.

The next morning after an awesome fry up breakfast at the pub we went for a walk on a paddock near the Gun Club that unfortunately only produced two Quail. Then we headed off to the gun club for the 50 target shoot.

There were about 90 shooters in attendance from several branches in the local region plus the Frankston contingent. The Minyip Sporting Range is located within a Quarry which provided for some very interesting and entertaining targets. While I personally did not shoot well I really enjoyed the course and most shooters shot scores that reflected their current handicaps. Troy after poor first round pulled a blinder in the 2nd round that got him up to third in C grade while Bruce Mullinder won C grade with a solid performance that should see him in B grade soon. Unfortunately this was not enough for team Frankston to win and we lost the challenge for the 12th year running.

After the shoot I had the honour of drawing the raffle and then thanked everyone from Minyip for their kind hospitality and putting us onto some Quail. Troy, Trigger and I headed home while many others decided to stay an extra night and enjoy a few beers back at the pub rather than drive home that night.

I would have to say this was my most enjoyable club weekend away for many years and I would like to thank Bones and the rest of the crew from Minyip for a wonderful weekend.

Adam Bluewing Carson

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Up Coming Events

AUGUST

6th	Hunters Hangout
8th	100 Target Three Man Flush Shoot
20th	Committee Meeting (see below)
22nd	75 Target Sporting Clays Competition

SEPTEMBER

12th	75 Target Sporting Clays Competition
17th	Committee Meeting
26th	75 Target Sporting Clays Competition

OCTOBER

1st	Hunters Hangout
10th	100 Target Sporting Clays Competition
15th	Committee Meeting
24th	75 Target Sporting Clays Competition

All members are welcome to attend committee meetings.

Changed: Committee meetings are to be held 6:30 PM Thursday evenings.

Please Note: Watch future issues of the newsletter and attend Hunters Hangouts for date changes.

Frankston Field & Game - Sporting Clays

With duck and quail seasons behind us your clay target organisers have been pleased to present some tremendous competitions, providing a greatly needed winter "shooting-fix".

Difficult to predict, our attendances continue to fluctuate with poor days defying the odds and attracting unexpected numbers while sunny afternoons sometimes see smaller crowds. Go figure… In any case, I'd like to report we've continued to see solid attendances overall and importantly the great efforts of our ground crew in developing the quality and variety of targets are becoming a talking point far and wide with positive feedback and word-of-mouth both locally and even in distant regional branches.

13th June 2009 - 75 target sporting clays sponsored by Agresta Constructions:

A tremendous day for the 60 competitors including first time sponsor Adolpho Agresta. I shot with Adolpho on the day and not only did he seem to be having a ball but he shot very well!

The day featured some great shoot-offs to finalise positions. Yours truly ended up in one competing for A grade with Frankston regular James Unsworth. While James showed great concentration and class, I choked! Matthew Bryan and Scott McDonald also entertained the crowd before Scott McDonald prevailed.

AA – Neil Peart, Paul Maltezos, Terry Mitrakis
A – James Unsworth, Steve Harris, Phil Evans
B – Toby Sears, Mark Borg, Rod Ferrigno
C – Scott McDonald, Matt Bryan, Greg Harney
Vets - Rob Carter, Len Box
Ladies – M McDonald, D. Bradley, Mel Hogan
Jun – D McIntyre, D Pannuzzo, M Pannuzzo

20th June 2009 – 50 target sporting clays Frankston FGA Vs Minyip FGA

More on the perpetual inter-club trophy in Adam Carson's article. I myself wasn't present having had a work function but heard a great many positive reports complimenting the good company, surrounds and targets put on by our hosts. A huge thank you to the Minyip crew!

27th June 2009 – 75 target sporting clays

An awesome layout as set by the boys in promising conditions. We were wary the shoot coincided with the closing weekend of quail season but were hopefull. The attendance was moderate at 47 but what we lacked in numbers was made up for in atmosphere.

Once again a tremendous shoot-off was held after the main competition. Three AA boys had all finished on 65/75 and B grade also had a two way spit for first place. Ed Treadwell, Rob Hall and Gerry Thomas had a lengthy trial for AA, ultimately decided by sudden-death when light began to fail. Mark Borg and Rod Martin also impressed the crowd.

In the club rooms afterwards congratulations were given to Ed Treadwell for not only winning the AA shoot-off for first place, but achieving a rare 25 straight breaks in his second round. Geremy Thomas was also congratulated for completing his second ever competition in Junior grade and we welcomed some old faces returning to the branch shoot as well as some first time newbies for coming down.

AA – Ed Treadwell, Rob Hall, Gerry Thomas
A – Steve Harris, Con Scalora, Max Caselli
B – Mark Borg, Rod Martin, Tony Lindsay
C – John Veloff, Scott McDonald, A.Blandthorne
Vets – John Robbins, V. Ruddick, Fred Webley
Ladies – Melody Hogan
Juniors – Geremy Thomas

11th July 2009 – 75 target Sporting clays

We started the day with fairly low expectations given the forecast weather was for cold, windy and wet conditions all day. How wrong we were as a crowd of approximately 72 shooters arrived to compete. Not bad for the middle of Winter!

A busy day, changes in the office required work and we were also a man down. A layout was set which drew compliments from shooters, a number of whom had travelled from far and wide to see what all the fuss was about. Apparently as far away as Bendigo people are saying Frankston throws great targets!

Well, it was VERY cold and VERY wet however conditions improved during the afternoon and we finished on time around 4:30. There was a single shoot-off and thanks to Graham Lewien for running it. I couldn't because it was me and my great mate Ian Shaw competing for A grade. I managed to pull it off by one target and thanks to Ian - Whether you win or loose it's a privilege to compete with someone you respect.

AA - Peter Onley, Ed Treadwell, Terry Mitrakis
A – Steve Harris, Ian Shaw, James Unsworth
B – Geoff Evans, Rod Martin, Brett Morrison
C – Scott McDonald, John Veloff, Matt Bryan
Vets – Len Box, W. Cumberland, Rob Carter
Ladies – C. Nielson, Mel Hogan, Lauren Shaw
Juniors – Jeremy Paglia, Doug McIntyre

25th July 2009 - 75 target Sporting clays

I've not shot in conditions colder! No rain but a bitterly cold wind cut through us all day!

Turnout was outstanding considering the wintery conditions with 69 shooters attending. The wind made targets difficult but the scoreboard told a story of competitors coping with the conditions and achieving a fair measure of success.

Once again some entertaining shoot-offs were conducted. Graham Eames and Gerry Thomas contested AA grade alongside Peter Lee and Herc Thomas competing for 3rd in A grade.

Eamesy did his best to sabotage his own efforts, not only shooting with an unfamiliar gun (daughter Jodi's) but he brought along his own team of hecklers and then had his mobile ring (quacking) during crunch time. Well done to Graham and all of the other men - they were awesome to watch and displayed a lot of class!

AA - Gerry Thomas, Graham Eames, G Morey
A - G. Attaliotis, Sean Bates, Peter Lee
B - Alex Xenidis, B Morrison, G Horrigan
C - Ron Turley, A Palmieri, Ben Drakeley
Vets - Len Box, Rob Carter, Phil Dalbrun
Ladies - Mel Hogan, Lauren Shaw
Jun - D. Pannuzzo, M. Pannuzzo, G Thomas

An extra special mention to the kids - All shot scores that would put most adults to shame!

Thank you to all who help run and organise our competitions - In particular Dave (the Korumburra Rabbit) Jencke, Graham Lewien, Johnny (the Bear) Humphries, Laurie (the Walrus) Howell, Margaret Howell, Koby, Jess Walker and Jane Vella!

A final note - Ground works are progressing as are our efforts to sort things out in the office. Best wishes to my very good friend Margaret Howell in her retirement - She's left some bloody big shoes to fill! We hope to see Marg continue her involvement with the branch but for now she's taking a well earned break, spending some time with L:aurie and her grand children.

2009 AUGUST/SEPTEMBER SPORTING CLAYS EVENTS

100 Target 3 Man Flush Shoot - Saturday August 8th 11am
75 Sporting Clays - Saturday August 22, 11am
75 Sporting Clays - Saturday September 12, 11am
75 Sporting Clays - Saturday September 26, 11am
Location: FRANKSTON FGA, Rossiters Road Carrum Downs
Contact Steve Harris or Dave Jencke and refer FGA shoot-book

Hunter's Hang Out

Thursday, August 5th start 8.00 pm

Frankston Australia CTC Club Rooms
Rossiters Road, Carrum Downs

Topics will be:

Fox Hunt run down - Cockatoo (July)
Fox Hunt planned for August 15/16th - Kerang
Trophy Preparation - Peninsula Taxidermy

So come along, enjoy a beer with a mate and catch up on all the goss!

Sponsor's Honour Roll

PULSE OFFICE SERVICES
WATTMASTER
WHITEHORSE ARMS
BRANCA SAND & SOIL
CARLSON CHOKE TUBES
SCERRI BROS BILLIARDS
G AGRESTA CONSTRUCTIONS
DKS OUTDOORS PROMOTIONS
AUSTRALASIAN SPORTS HUNTING ALLIANCE
BRIAN WALKER FAMILY
BARRY HOWE FAMILY & FRIENDS

Please support those who support your sport

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SOCIAL EVENTS:

Hunters hangouts have continued regularly. Much work goes into these events but I'm sorry to report we've had fairly poor attendances at these nights in recent times. The committee are seeking comment from members as to the format and ways that we might improve these nights to better meet your needs and in doing so boost numbers. The next scheduled hunters handout is at 8pm August 6th with topics to include a run down on our trip to Cockatoo, presentation by John Whitfort of Peninsula Taxidermy on trophy preparation (and what not to do!) and information on an upcoming vermin drive with Bendigo FGA (see below).

UP AND COMING EVENT:

We've been in contact with Bendigo FGA who have put out a call to arms, seeking 150+ FGA shooters to attend a two day vermin drive for DSE at several state game reserve locations at Kerang. This will be a BIG shoot and I'm told by the Bendigo crew it will feature a media presence (PR exercise) and has been in the planning since mid-2008.

The weekend is August 15 and 16. Camping facilities will be provided as will firewood and a port-a-loo for the ladies. You'll need to bring camping gear, food, ammo (Max of BB's), a hi-viz vest and UHF radio. The branch has a few of the latter if you're quick. This will be discussed at our August 6th hunters hangout and you will need to register your interest either at that night or with committee.

Best of all the Bendigo branch tell us the places to be hunted are crawling with foxes and rabbits! A spotlight inspection late July saw 10 foxes, 151 rabbits, and one cat along the fence line of just one of the several locations to be hunted. Time will tell but given their huge plans it should in itself be a spectacle well worth seeing.

SPORTING CLAYS

More on this in the sporting clays report. Summarised you'd have to say our shoots are continuing to build momentum with increased attendances, great feedback from competitors and positive compliments from visitors far and wide

2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2009 AGM has now been held. Outgoing President Chris Morris read his Presidents report, Treasurer Michael Kalidonis presented the financial statements for 2008/09 (available on request) and nominations for committee were read. With no contested nominations a vote was not required.

Your new committee:

Branch President: Steve Harris
Vice President: Michael Eddey
Treasurer: Larry Lambou
Secretary: Jessica Walker
General Committee: Dave Jencke
General Committee: Graham Lewien

The outgoing committee were thanked for their tireless efforts and the new committee welcomed.

RITCHIES
SUPERMARKETS AND LIQUOR STORES