



Frankston Branch News

Official Newsletter of Frankston Field & Game A.B.N. 97 827 331 728

February 2010 - March 2010

VICTORIAN DUCK HUNTING SEASON CONFIRMED - 20TH MARCH TO 30TH MAY

As the masthead reads - the 2010 Victorian duck season was confirmed by Ministerial announcement in late December 2009. It's huge news and no doubt a relief for the many keen hunters that read this newsletter. We have endeavoured to explore that topic in greater detail in our page three hunting report but right now though we seek to inform members on important branch news.

Notably we would like to brief you on outcomes to come from our attendance at the recent FGA National Annual General Meeting held on the fourth weekend of October 2009 at Seymour.

FGA Chairman Mr Russell Bate reported to the branch executives in attendance that the National organisation has had a challenging year but one that has seen many achievements.

Financially the organisation has had an extremely successful year with increases in members equity overall and the provision of funds to reserves intended to provide for future battles that are expected to be fought by the organisation in coming years.

Specifically \$50,000 has been quarantined from other funds for defence of shooting grounds and \$27,272 raised from the raffle of the FGA 50th Anniversary Miroku shotgun has been put aside for defence of firearms users rights.

What battles? An organisation like ours has many and they are varied. Two specific emerging issues discussed at great length were the trend towards closure of some shooting grounds and the need to put aside funds to ramp up political lobbying in the 2010 year which will see both state and federal elections.

On the issue of ground closures, unfortunately both Port Phillip and Greenvale branches have recently had first hand experience in the costly and difficult exercise of trying to keep grounds open despite pressure from a small and well funded group keen to litigate to achieve their desired ends.

A report was also presented on the activities of the Combined Firearms Council of Victoria (CFCV) and the Victorian Firearms Consultative Committee. FGA has delegates on both and they have been busy to say the least.

One issue discussed was the unworkable proposition that a ZERO blood alcohol level be required when in "possession" of a firearm.

Continued page 4...

From the President . . .

What a wonderful time of year it is! With Christmas and New Years behind us, hunters, clay target shooters and outdoorsmen alike have a lot of options and much to look forward to. Add to that the weather is nice, the days long and we've had good rains into the bargain and it's easy to see why people seem to be in a good mood.

For hunters we've written a fair bit in this newsletter about the Victorian duck season arrangements for 2010. We have been promised a better season length and more appropriate bag limit to look forward to. With a measure of luck we'll also see some decent rain over coming months and ducks far and wide will take leave of New South Welsh and Queensland floods to visit the "garden state". I suppose though that even if they don't hunters will get out there and have a great time nonetheless.

A work colleague asked me recently what duck opening is all about. I told him that I personally aim to do my serious hunting after opening because that particular weekend is a different kettle of fish. Duck opening to me is all about spending time with mates and family. It's about BBQ's and starry nights clearer than any Melbourne sky, cold drinks, tall tales and bad jokes set around a crackling campfire. If I manage to harvest a few birds for the esky then that's great too!

My work colleague responded that it sounds a bit like his fishing trips and he's right. Just like a fishing trip, golf weekend or annual trip to the snow, duck opening is an event that brings people together to enjoy some of life's simple pleasures. Many urban based people unfortunately regard hunting as my mate did, with a degree of apprehension steeped in media-based stereotype. However when put in terms they can relate to, people can go away with a whole different and more positive perspective.

Unfortunately duck season brings with it another less welcome tradition, the convening of the annual animal rights circus. Expect the same tired and inaccurate statements to be made to the media by the same small group of tired and irrelevant faces. Expect freezer burnt birds and empty shells fresh from a clay target club rubbish bin to be laid at the steps of parliament house too. In the midst of all this be proud of your sport and try as I have to win around colleagues, friends and acquaintances. Our apathy and our hesitance to speak up in media and every day life are our opponents greatest ally.

Anyhow, it's not just duck hunters that are feeling pretty good right now, our clay target shooters are having a ball too. This time of year offers a lot of options to the travelling competitor and with the wonderful summer weather it's pretty tempting to get out and let a few rounds off.

At Frankston branch we're planning a number of events to provide opportunities to clay target shooters. We are also putting a lot of time and effort into redesigning and otherwise getting our grounds up to spec. It's a long project but with a number of sub-projects now complete and others underway, the grounds already look tidier. Most importantly they're going to be capable of servicing an increased number of shooters at our competition days. It's no good building on attendances if you can't facilitate them on the day!

As duck season approaches there will be a number of special events designed to compliment the time of year for clay shooters and hunters alike. A duck fever night will run immediately prior to the season, WIT testing will be offered for beginner hunters and clay target shoots will run with a duck season theme for hunters and regular target shooters to test field guns and get their eyes-in.

At this stage, consistent with previous years the branch is not planning an "official" duck opening trip as most people seem to prefer to do their own thing on opening weekend. We will however be discussing options at the February hunters hangout and again at the Duck Fever Night. Anyone looking for branch members to shoot with will be accommodated. Whether the branch runs an official opening trip or not, committee and members are already talking of hooking up at common locations and it's a case of the more the merrier.

I hope to see many of you at the branch or in the field.- Enjoy!

Steve Harris

WANTED - PHOTOS, STORIES & HUNTING REPORTS

WE WANT YOUR REPORTS, STORIES AND PHOTOS WHEN DUCK HUNTING STARTS IN MARCH
CONTRIBUTE TO THE FFGA WEBSITE AND BRANCH NEWSLETTER BY EMAILING:

frankstonfga@gmail.com

Frankston Field & Game - Hunting

DUCK HUNTING SEASON - 2010

Victorian Duck Season Confirmation

Readers will no doubt have welcomed news in late December that a Victorian duck season is confirmed to be proceeding in 2010!

There will again be a modified bag limit and reduced duration, however the degree of modification is favourable compared to 2009.

The decision is to be applauded as a victory for common sense, recognising environmental conditions are improved and fully support sustainable hunting in Victoria. The official release is available on FFGA's website.

The season runs 20th March till 30th May. The bag limit is five birds per hunter per day with up to one Shoveller. Three extra wood ducks can be added to the bag.

You'll recall 2009 saw Shovellers, Hardhead and Pinkies removed from the bag. Widely questioned, it's no matter now with positive changes made to the list in 2010. Well done to FGA and others who worked to achieve this!

Short term bans to hunting any species are regrettable but extended bans are worse. Reversing temporary bans is achievable, long term bans are harder. Also, the more species are "protected" the greater the likelihood of wetland closures where they reside. Despite high levels of compliance, education and testing surpassing other comparable countries, we're clearly not trusted to hunt selectively.

Perception is a funny thing...

The Government and Minister Jennings may have made a decision we appreciate but we shouldn't forget we had a season already...

The branch is advised state legislation provides an annual ten bird per day, three month long duck season by default, opening on the third Saturday in March. Cancellation or modification of this requires Ministerial intervention thus all the State Government recently did is confirm the law will operate in 2010 as intended. Still thinking we've been done a favour?

In this election year we must keep our eyes and minds open and use our votes well. Common sense may have prevailed this time but we shouldn't accept anything less than a long term pledge for support and promises for tangible action from the major political parties.

Victorian Quail Season

Running 3rd April till 30 June the bag limit is to be twenty stubble quail per hunter per day.

Tasmanian Duck and Quail Season

Duck season runs 6th March till 6th June with a bag limit of ten birds per hunter per day with no more than four Mountain Ducks. Quail season runs 1 May till 13th June with a bag limit of twenty brown quail per hunter per day.

South Australia - Sorry to say it, no news yet!

Revamped HAC - Inaugural meeting Nov 2009

We're hopeful game management will improve with the formation of a new Hunting Advisory Committee (HAC) under Chairman Mr Ross McPherson. We particularly look forward to development of the adaptive harvest management project high on the HAC's agenda.

WIT Tests

We have organised for coaching and testing with Graham Eames with the coaching on 25th Feb and test 2nd March. Contact Julie Eames 9775-6744 or drduck@bigpond.com.au to book.

Duck Fever Night

Keep your schedule open 6pm Sat 13th March. Expect a fun night with great speakers, BBQ and exhibitor stands. Cost of entry: \$10 branch donation (Juniors free). Whats more, it's a Saturday night so why not organise a lift and enjoy a cold beer at the bar with your mates!

Hunting reports

We want YOUR hunting reports and photo's for our new website and the newsletter. You don't have to email us your secret spots, just general locations and descriptions of the days events. *e.g. Party of 5 hunted Dowds Morass on Easter Weekend for mixed bags of blackies and teal. Hunted over decoys. Conditions mild...* Lots of contributions will make for great reading! Email reports to frankstonfga@gmail.com

Committee Contact Details

President: Steve Harris

0412 708 371 - sharris@bkmoney.com.au

Vice President: Michael Eddey

0409 148 548 - meddey@vatergroup.com

Secretary: Jessica Walker

0415 557 130 - jessmw_85@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Larry Lambrou

llambrou@homewrap.com.au

Committee and clay targets: Dave Jencke

0417 545 661

Committee and clay targets: Graham Lewien

lewien@netspace.net.au

Committee: Guy Pilkington

0417 398 362 - guy@betterrentals.com.au

Branch mail: C/- 8 Westminster Ct, Somerville 3912

Up Coming Events

FEBRUARY

4th Hunters Hangout
13th 75 Target pre duck season shoot
Thanks to DKS Outdoor Promotions
18th Committee meeting
25th WIT coaching with Graham Eames
27th 75 Target sporting clays

MARCH

2nd WIT testing with Graham Eames
13th 75 Targets - thanks to Better Rentals
13th Duck Fever Night - 6pm
18th Committee meeting
27th 75 Target sporting clays

APRIL

1st Hunters Hangout
10th 75 Targets - thanks to Wattmaster
15th Committee meeting
24th 75 Target Sporting Clays

All members are welcome to attend committee meetings. Committee meetings are held 6:30 PM Thursdays Watch www.frankstonfga.com.au, future newsletters and attend Hunters Hangouts for date confirmation/changes.

Frankston Field & Game - Sporting Clays

Happy New Years!

Happy New Years to all our Frankston FGA clay target competitors and regular visitors!

Since the last newsletter was drafted we've convened two competitions, one at the end of November and the 2009 Christmas shoot. The club then closed for the Christmas break, reopening for practice Thursday 21st January and competition Saturday 23rd January.

We're bringing in the new year with the biggest competition of the FFGA calendar, the Carlson Classic! Rescheduled at sponsors request from it's usual October timeslot to January, we've promoted it widely and hopefully by the time you read this, we'll still be recovering having had a huge turnout and a wonderful day.

Thanks to Chris, Donna and Stacey of **DKS Outdoor Promotions**, distributors of Carlson Choke Tubes and an extensive line of outdoor gear and clothing. DKS provide us tremendous support and their sponsorship is generous and greatly appreciated. This year over \$3,500 worth of prizes will be competed for!

Ground works:

While the club has been closed over Christmas it's hardly been a rest. Heavy machinery has been used to shift approximately 100 cubic metres of soil, fences have erected and many hours have been put in by volunteers to give our grounds a general tidy-up ready for 2010.

Special thanks to the small bunch of Frankston committee and regulars who gave their Sunday on January 17th for an impromptu working bee.

This work has partly been motivated by necessity. Our grounds badly needed a redesign after Melbourne Water imposed a ban on northward shooting. It's reduced ground setting options substantially but high earth mounds and fences now installed allow us to safely set stands in a number of areas previously unsuitable.

The work is also motivated by a desire to make our grounds more aesthetically pleasing. The facility is functional not so pretty. If we want to build our profile this needs improvement.

Congratulations to the Walker family:

Congratulations to Jess and the whole family

on the safe arrival of a healthy baby girl in December. Mum and baby Hailey are doing well. All the best to them from their "FFGA family".

FFGA competitors invade and conquer:

With our home ground closed at Christmas many FFGA competitors took it as an excuse to travel far and wide to other FGA branches.

One notable day was the South Gippsland Branch Christmas shoot. A crew of 8 FFGA members attended, meeting for coffee at Leongatha 10am. All had a blast at this little gem of a club colloquially known as "the fun club in the scrub". No one won a cake but all had fun.

The weekend after new years a large group of members shot the GB Corsivia 100 target event at Pt Phillip and on the same day another contingent went to Morwell FGA for their annual two day tower and sporting clays shoot.

If that isn't enough, as I write this article I have sunburn from a day well spent shooting Melbourne FGA's first 2010 year competition in the company of over twenty FFGA members.

MFGA President Rob Carter mentioned the final tally on the day was 130+ which is tremendous, particularly given there a two day shoot running simultaneously at FGA Westernport.

On that note, congratulations to Rob and his committee for this great start to 2010 and also for their successes in 2009. As FFGA regulars would be aware, the MFGA crew and particularly Rob are familiar faces at Frankston. Quick to offer feedback and encouragement, we appreciate their support and FFGA committee and members make a point to reciprocate by being regular competitors at Melbourne.

Duck Season warm-up's

With the vast majority of clay shooters also being active hunters, we expect the approaching duck season will see the club a busy place as people hone their skills before venturing onto wetlands, farm dams and other waterways in March.

A number of events will cater, including the traditional Pre-Duck Season shoot Feb 13th courtesy of **DKS Outdoors** and their range of quality hunting gear and garments designed and manufactured by Australians for Australian conditions.

On the 13th March we'll also be running a competition designed to warm you up for feathered quarry. This competition however doesn't have a sponsor, rather it will be funded by the branch but contested in honour of **Better Rentals** who've kindly donated the use of thousands of dollars worth of equipment on our grounds over recent months.

COMPETITION RESULTS:

28th Nov 2009 - 75 Target Sporting clays:

Running on the same day as FGA National's AGM, I was in Seymour. The comp was in good hands though with Guy Pilkington at the helm ably assisted by Jess and Brittany Walker in the office. Running like a well wound clock, 55 competitors took to the field and had a ball.

AA – A. Panetta, M Holmes, E. Treadwell
A – S. Smith, D. McLeod, A. Opie
B – A. Hjonty, H. Thomas, Lee S
C – L.Lambrou, R. Muscat, Dennis S
Vets - R. Evans, C. Barker, V. Ruddick
Ladies – L Shaw, B. Farmer
Jun – J. Paglia

12th Dec 2009 - Pulse Office Services Christmas Shoot

Thanks to Lyn Freeze and Pulse Office Services, some 80 shooters competed for a range of delicious Christmas hams and large plum puddings. Some festive drinks and good cheer followed in our club rooms afterwards.

AA – J. McWilliam, A.Thomas, P.Onley
A – T. Mitrakis, G. Thomas, S. Smith
B – R.Martin, A. Xenidis, J. Veloff
C – L.Lambrou, M. Piccoco, Rudi P
Vets - R. Carter, K. Morgan, L. Box
Ladies – Di Brown
Jun – J. Thomas, M. McWilliam, C. McWilliam

Door Prize - P. Onley, L. Lambrou

Thanks to the our volunteers in the office and on the grounds - great work!

In between newsletters see up-to-date results, photos and more at www.frankstonfga.com.au

STOP THE PRESS!

2010 Carlson Classic was huge with 117 Competitors! Committee are still knackered!

UP AND COMING COMPETITIONS

75 tgt Pre-Duck Season Shoot - Sat Feb 13th, 11am - DKS Outdoor Promotions

75 Sporting Clays - Sat Feb 27th, 11am

75 Sporting Clays - Sat March 13th, 11am - Thank You Better Rentals

75 Sporting Clays - Sat March 27th, 11am

Location: FRANKSTON FGA, Rossiters Road Carrum Downs

Contact Dave Jencke and refer FGA shoot-book

HUNTERS HANGOUT

Thursday, February 4th - Start 8:00 pm

DUCK FEVER NIGHT

Saturday, March 13th - Start 6:00 pm

Make a day of it! 75 target comp from 11am

Club Rooms - Rossiters Road, Carrum Downs

Sponsor's Honour Roll

PULSE OFFICE SERVICES
WATTMASTER

WHITEHORSE ARMS

BRANCA SAND & SOIL

CARLSON CHOKE TUBES

SCERRI BROS BILLIARDS

DKS OUTDOORS PROMOTIONS

AUSTRALASIAN SPORTS HUNTING ALLIANCE

BRIAN WALKER FAMILY

BARRY HOWE FAMILY & FRIENDS

Please support those who support your sport

THANKS TOO FOR THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF
BETTER RENTALS

FRANKSTON FIELD AND GAME ARE ON THE WEB!

Having opened late December 2009, the committee proudly invite you to visit our all new website:

www.frankstonfga.com.au

Featuring:

Latest events and competition calendar
Downloadable newsletters
Competition results
Branch info, history and contacts
Photo archives - Social, hunting and competition
Useful links
Sponsor honour roll
All that and more...

Thanks to volunteer web-master Ben Drakeley and many contributing authors and photographers for providing content

Continued from Page 1

Please note "posession" includes situations where shooting has finished and a firearm is under lock and key in a car at camp or the range carpark! This was withdrawn after CFCV objection but is typical of the never ending issues these bodies deal with.

Another issue is the state government liquor licensing authorities' new direction against gun clubs applying for liquor licenses. Like any other sporting club due processes must satisfy before gun clubs can open a bar. These include submitting plans re the responsible serving of alcohol and risk management. In our context theres a focus on what club policies are on bar opening time and when members will be served i.e. after shooting is done and guns are secured. Unfortunately gun clubs seem to be singled out presently and new applications are not being looked on favourably.

It was discussed at great length that FGA's conservation activities were greatly successful in 2009. The Heart Morass project continues to progress in leaps and bounds. Providing us tremendous PR value, the Heart also gives us opportunity to educate school kids through the regular excursions happening on the site. It's also a great venue for hunting into the bargain.

The Fox-stop program has also been a tremendous success with massive numbers of members participating. Combined with an active nestbox program we can expect to reap rewards in March.

It's often commented by cynical people that shooting isn't a growing sport. An encouraging report on clay target shooting was provided to refute this, with increased numbers recorded across the board, a well subscribed nationals tournament and two new branch's added to the FGA family, Kingston SE in South Oz and South East Branch in Tassie. There was also talk the newly formed MCC (Cricket Club) Clay target club is seeking to affiliate with FGA.

Finally at the AGM the new FGA National Website was launched by Mr Peter Rice FGA's Executive Officer and a vote was held on the quantum of membership fees for the current year. It was decided in light of the general economic climate to leave membership fees unchanged.

Local news

A matter requiring comment due to the volume of recent member queries, are changes to the membership and attendance policies of our colleagues in Rossiters Road, the ACTA affiliated Frankston Australia Clay Target Club (FACTC).

Responding to increasing insurance costs the FACTC reviewed their position and non-members can no longer shoot trap, skeet or 5-stand unattended. Additionally social or non-competition members now require ACTA or FGA affiliation. **FFGA sporting clays activities are unaffected.**

For more information contact committee or the FACTC directly for help. We have a tremendous working relationship with the FACTC and both clubs are absolutely committed to keeping members informed and growing the facility. Whatever your clay target preference might be, between our two clubs we can find you a solution!

RITCHIES
SUPERMARKETS AND LIQUOR STORES