



Frankston Branch News

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

Oct 2010 - Nov 2010

VICTORIAN STATE ELECTION NEWS - SPEAK AND BE HEARD!

As noted in the August edition of the Frankston Branch News, Neil Jenkins of the Country Alliance Party has been providing the branch much information to pass to members with regards the elections at a state and federal level. The following is adapted from Country Alliance's Spring 2010 newsletter:

TIME FOR ACTION

The Altona by-elections last February showed the Greens will pick up seats at November's state election.

The recent Federal Election saw the Greens pick up the federal seat of Melbourne as well as one senator in every state.

That's in addition to the three Senators they already have - giving them a total of nine.

With the other half of the Senate going for re-election in 3 years time, a similar boost for the Greens will see them pick up three more - giving them a total of twelve federal senators.

What is really disappointing is that Labour gave all of its Senate preferences to the Greens. We can expect the ALP will be under similar pressure to preference the Greens yet again at November's state election.

The Liberals are no angels either. At the Federal Election they did the grubbiest of deals by preferencing the Greens in Melbourne which they ultimately won.

True to form, the Liberal / National coalition is likely to give the Greens a similar boost at November's state election by preferencing them in some inner-metro seats - namely Melbourne, Richmond, Brunswick and Northcote.

This is a timely reminder that the major parties have forgotten about us in their pursuit of Green preferences.

However it's not all doom and gloom either. Where there is threat, there is always opportunity.

Opportunity to stop the Greens - which we have done before

Opportunity to get our own elected to state parliament - which we came very close to achieving in 2006.

Opportunity to bring the major parties back to looking out for the average Joe and Mary.

From the President . . .

As I write this Presidents report I find myself anxious. The 2010 Victorian state election is nearly upon us and based on recent Federal election results we're in trouble! All credible predictions rate a substantial Green vote as likely and I don't need to tell you what that means for us.

Those who know me will tell you I'm loath to fill our newsletter with politics. It's a must we keep abreast of current issues but a club like ours (in my humble opinion) should limit that content and primarily aim to provide members great sport. Sorry but the current situation is so important for shooters and fishers, I've broken with that. **If you're not politically inclined, please make a brief exception and show an interest for the sakes of your kids and grandkids. If you don't, you are taking a step towards a future where you're reduced to reciting stories of your heydays while your gun-safe sits empty and your boat languishes high and dry on the lawn.**

Recently I was invited to attend a political briefing on the current state of affairs and what's planned to try and stem the growing Green movement. Attending I was surprised at the very full room of FGA and SSAA delegates as well as executives from the most substantial deer hunting, fishing and four wheel driving organisations in Victoria.

Briefed by political advisors of the highest calibre and credentials, the message conveyed; we're not dealing with a political foe, rather a movement of which the Greens party is but a political voice. The larger green movement is huge and well funded with in-excess of \$100 million dollars of funding and bequests going to various animal liberationist and green organisations annually.

Yes they have dangerously large financial resources but the greatest threat lies in their ideological beliefs. Because they "believe" in their cause they'll never be swayed or will they compromise. Nor will they rest as they regard themselves as righteous. They rationalise objections or opposition as being misguided or ill-informed and; incapable of accepting fault, they consider anyone with differing views as simply being in-wait for the enlightenment that's filled the void in their own lives.

The upside? We have numbers. We'd struggle to use commercial media as the Greens do (we probably couldn't afford it anyway) but between our respective organisations, the combined fishers, hunters and other outdoorsmen have three quarters of a million plus paid-up members! We also have our own far-reaching media in the form of our club newsletters, meetings and websites.

While we do have numbers, we need to learn to use them. We do not traditionally work well together, putting out different and mixed messages. Also, while we have talented well networked people from all walks of life, races, colours and backgrounds, we don't exploit this. We need to learn to engage our broader memberships. For us to survive we need passionate members willing to stand up and be heard. To achieve this individuals must put aside personal prejudices, embrace the new age and work to engage anyone sympathetic to our cause.

Long term we must also look at the way our youth are introduced to the great Australian outdoors. Today we are a highly urbanised society, where kids spend almost no time outdoors and form their views on rural Australia only in classrooms or on the net.

A final shot - In Australia we're very good at belly-aching about political decisions but incredibly poor at lobbying our views proactively. In my adult life time we only banded together effectively on one occasion, when 100,000 + marched on Parliament house in 1996. Important to note, we marched AFTER the legislation in question had been agreed on by government, not before!

Don't wait to carry placards after the fact. Ensure you make your vote count in November and tell your mates of the Green's plans for fishers and other outdoor enthusiasts. Be sure; as I have, to write to your local member, tell them you're a proud and passionate FGA member and you won't accept anything less than their full support of your current way of life!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

A working bee is being organised for Sunday 26th September at our Rossiters Road grounds and we need able bodies armed with tools and machinery, weed eaters, chainsaws, fencing gear, ute the lot! We'll be kicking off at 8am. A BBQ will be provided on the day. Contact Dave Jencke on 0417 545 661

Frankston Field & Game - Hunting

GAMEBIRDS 2011 - BEST SEASON FOR TWENTY YEARS PREDICTED!

Water Water Everywhere!

It may well be stating the bleeding obvious, but it's been bloody wet! Finally after our prolonged drought we're seeing steady rains filling our rivers, wetlands and water storages alike. The rain and floods have also seen mass numbers of game birds migrating to; and breeding in Victoria throughout late winter and early spring.

All of that has resulted in speculation we're staring down the barrel (pardon the pun) of possibly the best conditions in recent history! In 2011 we'll likely see hunting, freshwater fishing and other outdoor opportunities improve to levels unseen for twenty years. A lifetime for many of our younger members!

A number of reports have flooded into the branch in recent times. Some of the more notable ones include news Lake Bael Bael and the Kerang Marshes are filling, the bullock's head is drinking at Donald, the Bonnie Doon Bridge finally has water under it and; a tremendous indicator of positive conditions, masses of normally inland congregating Pink Eared Ducks are being spotted in central Victoria. I'm told many large flocks of Hardhead are likewise being seen in the Avoca system.

If that ain't enough for you, the ultimate indicator suggesting a brilliant 2011 season, Graham "Dr Duck" Eames informs me he's been busy cancelling his regular New Zealand engagements so that he can remain in Victoria for as much of the 2011 season as possible.

Rice hunting prospects

You don't have to wait until March 2011 to get our there and scratch your duck related itches. Another report received has been news the rice industry in southern NSW is getting back on its feet again with reasonable water allocations afforded to our long struggling rice farmers.

For those of you who; like me, hold many fond memories of swatting mosquitos and stepping around brown snakes on the banks of NSW rice paddys, gear-up now! Renew your NSW game licence and crop mitigation permits, call your old contacts and re-establish yourselves north of the Mighty Murray.

Many members have indicated they have made their own plans for cup weekend, either hunting or related to the FGA Nationals in SA. Accordingly we aren't planning a trip that weekend but are instead working on a trip to the rice in late November or early December. This will possibly include resurrection of our traditional rice challenge with Bendigo FGA.

Without a dedicated hunting officer this year (again), finding time for this is proving difficult. We're confident though something will be organised soon and encourage members to attend hunters hangouts to be a part of it.

Call to arms

As noted above we have been without a hunting officer for some time. We're also struggling

to obtain leads from members on suitable properties on which to convene branch hunts. It's understandable given recent lean years. Good properties have been as rare as hens teeth and relationships with farmers carefully guarded. Reduced attendances at hunting events have also seen a decline in branch camaraderie and trust among members. This compounds many individual's reluctance to share properties.

With the breaking drought we hope everyone will breath a sigh of relief and re-engage with the branch. Accordingly we put out a "call to arms" asking all keen hunters a) attend hunters hangouts; b) alert us to hunting opportunities suitable for branch events; and c) consider putting your hand up to be branch hunting officer. We promise you'll be fully supported and your commitment will only involve as many (or as few) hours as your circumstances allow.

Working bees

October will see working bees at the range. Part of this we want to refurbish/replace nest boxes in the western wetlands. To assist please contact committee .

Don't forget the geese!

Chris "Rockjaw" Rhodes recently emailed advising he's taking 2011 bookings for his legendary Cape Barren Goose hunting trips on Flinders Island. Contact committee if you're interested. If we can gather minimum numbers we'll consider booking it a FFGA party.

Committee Details

President: Steve Harris

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Vice President: Michael Eddey

0409 148 548 - meddey@vatergroup.com

Secretary: Jessica Walker

0415 557 130 - jessmw_85@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Larry Lambrou

0439 350 852 - llambrou@homewrap.com.au

Clay target Coordinator: Dave Jencke

0417 545 661

General Committee:

Graham Lewien

Guy Pilkington

Brett Murray

Daryle Eames

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

Up Coming Events

OCTOBER

9th 100 Target - Pre-Nationals Mega Shoot

21st Committee meeting

23rd 75 Target sporting clays

NOVEMBER

4th Hunters Hangout - Rice Season Theme

13th 75 Target Sporting Clays

18th Committee meeting

27th 75 Target sporting clays

DECEMBER

11th 75 Target Christmas Shoot

16th Committee meeting

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

Clay Target News

It's been a noticeably quiet couple of months on the clay shooting front. A combination of cold, wet weather and additionally some fierce competition in the form of a handful of larger events at regional clubs, and our attendances have dipped somewhat. Having said that it's par for the course at this time of year and our winter numbers aren't significantly greater or less than they were in 2009 and 2008. Basically, we persevere!

Important to note our regulars continue to patronise the branch both on competition and practice days. From all accounts they are enjoying themselves tremendously, having a laugh and ensuring neither they get rusty, nor is dust accumulating on their shotguns. After all, isn't that what it's all about?

A special thanks to the guys and girls who dig deep and work hard in the cold, wet and muddy conditions every week. Lean attendances can get you down at times but our crew continue to soldier on.

Sponsor news

There have been some notable developments with our sponsors which we'd like to keep you abreast of.

We would firstly like to bid fond farewells to long time sponsor Carlson Choke tubes. A division of DKS Outdoor Promotions, Carlson's have supported the branch for a number of years, providing competitors the 100 target Carlson Classic. This has involved a generous prize pool and attracted shooters far and wide.

I'm particularly proud that for the two most recent Carlson Classics in October 2009 and Jan 2010 we were able to promote the event sufficiently to build attendances to the 100 mark where such an event so rightly deserves to be.

Unfortunately Chris Morris of DKS informed us recently they are changing direction regarding their marketing efforts in 2011. The Carlson Classic was quite costly for them particularly given they also support a number of other branch events including the annual duck fever night and pre duck season shoot. With substantial rains upon us and prospects for the 2011 game-bird seasons building, they intend

to throw all they have at the hunting market in 2011. We wish them well in this!

Positively, you may be aware of recent news we have a new sponsor. Benjamin King Money Chartered Accountants have come on board and are throwing their support behind our October 100 Target Pre Nationals Mega shoot.

Specialising in accounting, taxation and advisory services to small and medium business, Benjamin King Money's capabilities also extend to corporate audit, estate planning, self managed superannuation funds and financial planning.

On offer will be a tremendous prize pool of engraved medals set in presentation cases and a full prize pool of quality Winchester ammunition. We hope to make a big day of it and particularly want to ensure our new sponsors come away from it feeling good about their new affiliation with our branch. If all goes well their support should be a permanent addition to our annual calendar

Please note Accountants and Financial Advisors from Benjamin King Money will be in attendance at the competition from 3pm onwards, offering members and visitors free no-obligation consultations and discussions on issues important to you and your businesses. Bring your business cards too for a chance to go into the draw for a Heinekin mini keg!

We still have sponsor vacancies - Contact committee to see how we can contribute to your business's marketing and promotions!

Competition results:

Saturday 14th August 2010 - 75 Target sporting clays for Scerri Bros Billiards

To put it frankly it was a tough day out in the paddock! Windy conditions made our targets do bizarre things and the rain and flooding hampered the grounds crew and organisers. It was a great day though and the 45 shooters gave a tremendous account of themselves.

AA: M. Wright 58, G. Eames 53, T. Mitrakis 45
A: M. Afendoulis 49, T. Tryp 49, E. Mills 48
B: G. Evans 59, G. Scerri 52, H. Omer 46
C: R. Tonkins 37, J. Ehain 32. G. Oakley 32
Vets: R. Carter 37
Jun: J. Paglia 51, D. McIntyre 32, C. Rutter 28

Saturday 28th Aug 2010 75 Target sporting clays

Another cold wet and muddy day greeted the crew arriving on the Saturday morning to setup. We're getting used to puddles, flooded paddocks and a mix of Chestnut teal, blackies and water chooks splashing about on every part of the range.

It was a disappointing turnout with only 40 shooters joining us. Still, everyone had a ball. A highlight of the day were the challenging right to left crossers shot in front of a large audience of black ducks on the visually appealing 5th stand by the flooded eastern dam. Another was the banter and discussion in the club rooms about water flows into Eildon and the Avoca system. Much talked about was fresh news the Kerang lakes are filling and the Bonnie-Doon bridge at Eildon finally has water under it!

AA: G. Eames 54, M. Bryan
A: B. Murray 56, S. Harris 54, T. Tryp 50
B: L. Lambrou 49, G. Scerri 47, J. Grech 44
C: I. Spiller 46, R. Tonkin 41, T. Mucha 35
Vets: R. Carter 46, J. Robbins 44

Saturday 11th September 2010 75 Sporting Clays

The shoot was regrettably cancelled due to flooding which meant a few of us spent the morning accumulating horrendous mobile phone bills calling and/or texting every FFGA phone number in our SIM cards with the news.

A number of shooters came anyhow, electing to play on the FACTC's trap and skeet grounds which were unaffected by the flooding. Others shot an informal "ironman" comp (ps. we'd love some details for the next newsletter). Meanwhile the next few hours saw pumps and hoses manouvered about our ground in an attempt to stop water from invading our sheds.

Regrettably we were in good company with news coming that not only had the previous week's Seymour shoot been a flood-out but Melbourne Gun club and Daylesford are apparently likewise! Like all hunters are thinking at the moment - Love the rain, hate the mud!

In between newsletters see up-to-date results, photos and more at www.frankstonfga.com.au and register for Claybuster the new full colour e-newsletter from Feathers and Fur Magazine.

UP AND COMING COMPETITIONS

100 target Pre-Nationals Mega Shoot for Benjamin King Money, Sat 9th Oct, 10am

75 Sporting Clays - Sat 23rd Oct, 11am

75 Sporting Clays - Sat 13th Nov, 11am

75 Sporting Clays - Sat 27th Nov, 11am

Location: FRANKSTON FGA, Rossiters Road Carrum Downs

Contact Dave Jencke and refer FGA shoot-book

HUNTERS HANGOUT

8pm Thursday, November 4th, the club rooms,
Rossiters Rd Carrum Downs

SPECIAL THEME - DUCKS ON THE RICE!

NOTE ON ATTENDANCES

In our October 2009 branch newsletter we put members on notice our hunters hangout attendances have dropped to a level where these nights are simply unsustainable. Substantial time, effort and costs are involved in running the hunters hangouts and members must get behind them if they are to be successful. Unfortunately through 2009/10 attendances continued to be underwhelming. We seek immediate feedback and member support for these nights and reiterate that the current format remains very much under review.

Sponsors Honour Roll

WATTMASTER

WHITEHORSE ARMS

SCERRI BROS BILLIARDS

DKS OUTDOORS PROMOTIONS

BRIAN WALKER FAMILY

BARRY HOWE FAMILY & FRIENDS

BENJAMIN KING MONEY PTY LTD CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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

WE WANT YOUR REPORTS, STORIES AND PHOTOS!

CONTRIBUTE BY EMAILING frankstonfga@gmail.com

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We need you to give serious consideration to putting your hand up as a candidate.

We need your help with our administrative tasks such as managing our burgeoning membership, legal matters and in particular, marketing.

If you can help on polling day, let us know on 9017 6119 or by email at admin@countryalliance.org

There's no doubt about it. The Greens are growing - but so are we.

FISHERS - YOU'RE NEXT!

The fishing community seems to largely believe it isn't under a 'green attack'.

You may have read in recent times about a proposal by the Victorian National Parks Association to establish 20 new marine parks across the Victorian coastline - ending recreational fishing in those areas.

While this was rejected by Premier Brumby (but not the opposition??), it is a reminder of what could happen if the Greens get the balance of power at the state election.

Federally the Greens have a policy to turn at least 30 per cent of Australian waters into reserves.

At state level we have Green groups already pushing for 'no fishing' zones.

What is clear is that this push is not going to go away in a hurry - particularly if those who support it are buoyed by the recent climb in the Green vote.

We urge the fishing community to hear what happened with the timber community, hunters and farmers - and realise they are next.

Thank you to Neil Jenkins and the Country Alliance Party for being a part of our newsletter. We would like to leave you with a few parting words quoted from Russell Bate, Chairman of Country Alliance and Field and Game Australia

...It is now more important than ever that we get behind our candidates in the forthcoming election and where Country Alliance is not fielding candidates, that we vote "below the line" to ensure that the Greens do not benefit from the preferences of either Labour or the Coalition, neither of whom can be trusted on this score.

To read more visit www.countryalliance.org

Else contact (03) 9017 6119

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RITCHIES
SUPERMARKETS AND LIQUOR STORES