



Frankston Branch News

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

Jan 2011 - Feb 2011

DUCK SEASON 2011 CONFIRMED

On the 12th of January the Victorian Government announced a full twelve week duck season will run from March 19th to June 13th. Hunters will enjoy a worthwhile bag limit of 10 birds per day.

While hunters were cautiously expecting a good news story given substantial recent rainfall and improved waterfowl breeding, we have been disappointed before. To have such a positive announcement from a brand new State Government was brilliant and significantly it reconfirms that post-election the Victorian State Government continues to support our sport.

The return to a 12 week season and 10 bird bag limit got me thinking. When was the last time we enjoyed a "normal" season? I located the following in the SSAA's Victorian Shooter (vol 12 no 1). It was sourced by them from the DSE and makes for interesting reading!

- 1982 Bag of 10 birds p/day
An extra 10 on opening day
67 day season 13/3 - 29/5
- 1983 No season
- 1984 Bag of 10 birds p/day
An extra 10 on opening day
60 day season 3/3 - 12/5
- 1985 Bag of 10 birds p/day
An extra 10 on opening day
78 day season 2/3 - 31/5
- 1986 Bag of 10 birds p/day
An extra 10 on opening day
99 day season 22/2 - 31/5
- 1987 Bag of 10 birds p/day
An extra 10 on opening day
79 day season 14/3 - 31/5
- 1988 Bag of 10 birds p/day
Sunday shooting ban overturned!
74 day season 19/3 - 31/5
- 1989 Bag of 10 birds p/day
75 day season 18/3 - 31/5
- 1990 Bag of 10 birds p/day
75 day season 17/3 - 31/5
- 1991 Bag of 10 birds p/day
76 day season 16/3 - 31/5

From the President . . .

Since I last wrote to our members we've had a busy December and a fantastic start to 2011. So what's been happening in branch life?

In mid December threatening weather and severe ground flooding saw committee scrambling to organise an alternative Christmas shoot as our ground was underwater yet again! Some said it was the worst flooding in memory at FFGA, all I know is the road was flooded, the ground flooded, the carpark flooded and the sheds; you guessed it, flooded. The few patches that weren't underwater were coated in stinking black silt. The ACTA club came to the rescue (thanks guys) and our shoot proceeded on their ranges which are built on higher ground. Our competitors shot a novelty event comprising of 25 rounds each of 5-stand sporting clays, skeet and tower with a substantial prize pool of Christmas hams and puddings as prizes. Afterwards we had an open barbecue for all members.

To all who came, I thank you for your company and good spirit! To those who helped organise the event, run it, cook at the barbecue and do everything that needed doing, I thank you even more!!

Later in December a number of reports filtered back of members heading to NSW to hunt ducks on the rice. Mixed results were communicated and properties were often difficult to access due to muddy silt covered tracks. Nonetheless some great times were had my many. Well done to the hunters!

Moving forward to January and we were given a late Christmas present with the announcement the 2011 duck season returns to a full twelve weeks and more substantial bag limit. It's all I've heard spoken about around the traps the last few weeks! Hunters are over the moon and busy discussing where to head on opening weekend. With all the water about we'll be spoilt for choice! Hopefully the phenomenal (and tragic) flooding in northern Australia doesn't see too many birds holiday in March. It seems the consensus though is Victorian conditions are so good even a mass exodus of nomadic birds in February will see more than enough resident game remaining to give us a brilliant opening.

In January our clay shooters continued on from December and in large numbers hit the road throughout Melbourne and in regional Victoria. The first notable day, a big group of FFGA members headed to Morwell FGA as we do every summer, for their annual 2 day tower based event. It was as good as ever and Morwell's tree-fern lined hills and gullies were a perfect setting to start off 2011. A week later and many headed to Pt. Phillip to shoot. I was working but many told me I missed a great day. Congratulations to past FFGA committee member Daryl Snowden on his fine work leading as President at Pt. Phillip. I gather they're really kicking some goals down at Cape Schanck.

Rounding off January, as I write I still feel the sting of sunburn from a tremendous day at Melbourne FGA's January shoot. The targets were terrific and on a personal note, well done to my great friend, our FFGA web master Ben Drakeley, for a sterling performance that sees his long-term goal of breaking into A-Grade finally achieved! Some FFGA members also decided to have a very sociable little carpark barbecue while on-tour at Melbourne, it's amazing how the smell of cooking onions and steak attract a crowd. Thanks to James and Ben, it was a great idea.

I've rambled a little here but did so to get a point across. Its fantastic that on any given weekend there are FFGA members travelling together, socialising, eating, drinking and generally having a great time. With opportunities in 2011 looking better than ever both at the ranges and in the field, its time to get excited! Someone recently said to me "you're a long time dead" and he's right - Get out there and have fun in 2011 - Happy New Year!

Steve Harris
President
Frankston Field and Game

APPEAL TO DUCK HUNTERS ON OPENING-WEEKEND

With conditions the most promising for a decade or more it's going to be a huge weekend! Hunter numbers are steadily increasing with old friends returning to the fold and newcomers learning the ropes. The Government's decision to return to an unmodified duck season has put our old foes on the back foot and Levy and Co. are reportedly recruiting Australia-wide to boost protester numbers to make a big show on opening weekend. **The protesters will do everything they can to create a circus on opening weekend, hoping the media will buy into their cause. DON'T LET THEM HAVE THEIR WAY! If protesters harass you on opening weekend, do not be provoked, exercise restraint and give any media present a positive impression of yourselves as ethical hunters.** If protesters misbehave, report them to Police or DSE noting distinguishing features, clothes, car-rego numbers etc. Better still photograph them in the act and make sure copies get to FGA. They hate being photographed in their true light! Every hunter should keep a small digital or disposable camera in their kit. Finally, please observe opening times, pick up empty shells, clean your camp and most of all be safe and be ethical

Frankston Field & Game - News

CLAY TARGET NEWS AND RESULTS - HUNTING NEWS - WIT TESTS - DUCK HUNTERS TRASH AND TREASURE

CLAY TARGET RESULTS

Saturday 11th December 2010 75 Target Christmas Shoot

Rising flood waters during the week had us expecting another flood-out so we organised a contingency plan to ensure the Christmas shoot would proceed. A novelty competition was run on higher ground consisting of 25 targets each of skeet, tower and 5 stand.

It was a lot of fun and we finished up by awarding hams and Christmas puddings to the winners of each grade. A branch BBQ then followed.

AA: B. Irons 70, T. Mitrakis 67, G. Eames 64
A: M. Holmes 68, A. Xenidis 65, P. Johnson 62
B: R. Pilkington 55, G. Evans 53, R. Turley 50
C: S. Martin 52, G. Harney 44, A. Palmeiri 44
Vets: L. Box 60, K. Morgan 56, R. Carter 56
Ladies: M. McDonald 54, J. Eames 35
J: M. Panuzzo 66, J. Paglia 62, D. McIntyre 59

Saturday 27th November 2010 75 Target Sporting Clays

Unfortunately one of the worst days in recent time. Poor weather and election day kept numbers low and heavy rain mid afternoon left conditions hot, humid, wet and muddy!

AA: A. Harper 62
A: B. Murray 65, J. Markham 59, L. Lambrou 59
B: B. Morrison 63, T. Tryp 57, G. Pilkington 53
C: G. Harney 36, P. Squires 36, S. Alexander 30
Vets: W. Robinson 49, F. Webley 48

Saturday 13th November

No report as the shoot was flooded out. We had medium flooding Friday night and Sat morning and by 9:30 flood pan was rising at a rate of several inches an hour so the ground crew moved that we call the shoot off.

A few hours later and five dozen text messages had been sent to known members advising of the cancellation (geez my phone bill's gunna hurt!). The ground was very much underwater! By Sunday Rossiters Rd looked like a river.

HUNTING NEWS

WIT tests - sign up now!

A number of members have expressed an interest in sitting waterfowl identification tests (WIT tests) to enable them to obtain a game license and hunt ducks for the first time in 2011.

For many years Graham Eames has assisted the branch by running coaching sessions and facilitating test. These sessions are run in the local area and past attendee's report the coaching was extremely helpful.

Email drduck@bigpond.net.au for details. Coaching sessions will run 17th and 18th Feb with the test 23rd Feb. Cost \$60 per person.

Duck Hunters Trash and Treasure

On Saturday the 26th of February our clay shoot will simultaneously see Graham "Dr Duck" Eames with the staff of Feathers and Fur Maga-

zine run a truly unique event, the first ever duck hunters trash and treasure.

Members can submit unwanted goods to Dr Duck and his staff at the commencement of the day along with a specified reserve price. They'll run the stall and do the haggling for you while you shoot. At the end you'll hopefully collect some cash (less a seller fee).

Unsold items will be returned but you'll also have the additional option to place them (unreserved) in the first ever Wetlands Environmental Trust (WET) auction to run at the Duck Fever Night on the 3rd March. All seller fees and WET auction proceeds will go to FGA's WET Trust to help preserve the wetlands you love. Email drduck@bigpond.net.au to register

Help wanted

2011 will see some fantastic hunting opportunities but FFGA remains without a hunting officer to coordinate trips and run the hunters hangouts. That and poor recent attendances has resulted in committee's decision to suspend hunters hangouts until further notice with our efforts redirected to organising trips.

If you want to help build FFGA's field activities then we want to hear from you! We welcome ideas and (constructive) feedback and we're on the look-out for members to represent our hunting fraternity at a committee level.

The branch is also planning a number of working bees - if you are interested in helping register with committee to be a part of the team.

Committee 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

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

FEBRUARY

12th 75 Target Sporting Clays
17th Committee meeting
26th 75 Target Sporting Clays

MARCH

3rd Duck Fever Night
12th 100 Target Sporting Clays
17th Committee meeting
26th 75 Target Sporting Clays

APRIL

9th 75 Target Christmas Shoot
21st Committee meeting
23rd 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, newsletters and register your email at www.frankstonfga@gmail.com date for updates, confirmation and details of changes.

Frankston FGA 2011 Sporting Calendar

JANUARY

- 01/01/11 - NSW Murray Crayfish season close
- 22/01/11 - (10am) 100 tgt sporting clays comp

FEBRUARY

- 12/02/11 - (11am) 75 tgt sporting clays comp
- 17/02/11 - Duck ID (WIT) coaching
- 18/02/11 - Duck ID (WIT) coaching
- 23/02/11 - Duck ID tests
- 26/02/11 - (11am) 75 tgt sporting clays comp
(For DKS Outdoors)
- 26/02/11 Duck Hunters Trash and Treasure

MARCH

- Date TBA - South Australia duck opening
- 03/03/11 - Duck fever night, WET auction
- 05/03/11 - Tasmanian Duck Season Opens*
- 12/03/11 - (10am) 100 tgt sporting clays comp
(For Better Rentals Cranbourne)
- 19/03/11 - Victorian Duck Season opens
- 26/03/11 - (11am) 75 tgt sporting clays comp

APRIL

- 01/04/11 - Victorian Hog Deer Season opens*
- 02/04/11 - Victorian Quail Season opens*
- 09/04/11 - (11am) 75 tgt sporting clays comp
(For Wattmaster)
- 16/04/11 - Victorian Hound hunting season
(Sambar deer) opens*
- 23/04/11 - (11am) 75 tgt sporting clays comp
- 30/04/11 - Victorian Hog Deer Season closes*
- 30/04/11 - Tasmanian Brown quail season open

MAY

- 01/05/11 - NSW Murray Crayfish season opens
- 01/05/11 - Vic Freshwater Cray Season Opens

- 14/05/11 - (11am) 75 tgt sporting clays comp
(Barry Howe, Brian Walker memorial)
- 28/05/11 - (11am) 75 tgt sporting clays comp
- 29/05/11 - Tasmanian Brown quail season close

JUNE

- Date TBA - Minyip quail and clay weekend
- Date TBA - South Australia Duck closing
- 01/06/11 - Victorian Red Deer Season opens*
- 05/06/11 - Tasmanian Duck Season closes*
- 11/06/11 - Annual two day Pheasant season
(King Island, Tasmania)
- 11/06/11 - (11am) 75 tgt sporting clays comp
- 13/06/11 - Victorian Duck Season closes
- 13/06/11 - Victorian Trout season closes*
- 25/06/11 - (11am) 75 tgt sporting clays comp
- 30/06/11 - Victorian Quail Season closes*

JULY

- Date TBA - Two day fox drive on Kerang Marshes with Bendigo FGA
- 09/07/11 - (11am) 75 tgt sporting clays comp
(For Whitehorse Arms)
- 23/07/11 - (11am) 75 tgt sporting clays comp
- 31/07/11 - Victorian Red Deer Season closes*

AUGUST

- Date TBA - FFGA Annual General Meeting
- 13/08/11 - (11am) 75 tgt sporting clays comp
(For Scerri Brothers Billiards)
- 27/08/11 - (11am) 75 tgt sporting clays comp
- 31/08/11 - Vic Freshwater Cray season closes

SEPTEMBER

- Date TBA - Northern Territory duck and magpie goose season opens
- 01/09/11 - NSW Murray Crayfish season close

- 03/09/11 - Victorian Trout season opens
- 01/09/11 - Victorian Murray Cod season close*
- 01/09/11 - NSW Murray Cod season close
- 10/09/11 - (11am) 75 tgt sporting clays comp
- 24/09/11 - (11am) 75 tgt sporting clays comp

OCTOBER

- 08/10/11 - (10am) 100 tgt sporting clays comp
(Pre-Nationals Mega Shoot for Benjamin King Money Accountants)
- 22/10/11 - (11am) 75 tgt sporting clays comp
- 28/10/11 - FGA Nationals day 1 - Location TBA
- 29/10/11 - FGA Nationals day 2 - Location TBA

NOVEMBER

- Date TBA - Branch trip to NSW, crop mitigation
(Branch duck hunt on the rice)
- 12/11/11 - (11am) 75 tgt sporting clays comp
- 26/11/11 - (11am) 75 tgt sporting clays comp
- 30/11/11 - Victorian Hound hunting season
(Sambar deer) closes*

DECEMBER

- 01/12/11 - Victorian Murray Cod Season open*
- 01/12/11 - NSW Murray Cod season open
- 10/12/11 - (11am) 75 tgt sporting clays comp
(Christmas shoot, branch BBQ 5pm)
- Date TBA - Northern Territory duck and magpie goose season close



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
www.frankstonfga.com.au

*Note - This calendar is to be used as a guide only. Some dates remain to be confirmed at the time of writing. All dates and details regarding hunting seasons and arrangements should be confirmed with relevant state authorities.



THE ANNUAL FRANKSTON FGA DUCK FEVER NIGHT

Thursday 03/03/11 - 7pm

MC: Graham "Dr Duck" Eames

Exhibitors, barbeque, raffles, prizes and much more!
Guest speakers to include FGA board representatives,
and DSE's game management unit. Also the first ever
duck hunter's trash and treasure WIT auction

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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Latest events and competition calendar
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Branch info, history and contacts
Photo archives - Social, hunting and competition
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All that and more...

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

Continued from Page 1

1992	Bag of 10 birds p/day 72 day season 21/3 - 31/5
1993	Bag of 10 birds p/day 73 day season 20/3 - 31/5
1994	Bag of 10 birds p/day 86 day season 19/3 - 13/6
1995	No season
1996	Bag of 10 birds p/day 87 day season 16/3 - 10/6
1997	Bag of 10 birds p/day 87 day season 15/3 - 9/6
1998	Bag of 5 birds p/day An extra 5 wood duck on opening day 58 day season 21/3 - 17/5
1999	Bag of 10 birds p/day 87 day season 20/3 - 14/6
2000	Bag of 5 birds p/day 87 day season 18/3 - 12/6
2001	Bag of 5 birds p/day 87 day season 17/3 - 11/6
2002	Bag of 5 birds p/day An extra 5 wood duck on opening day 87 day season 16/3 - 10/6
2003	No season
2004	Bag of 3 birds p/day An extra 3 wood duck 58 day season 20/3 - 16/5
2005	Bag of 5 birds p/day Extra 5 wood duck on opening weekend 87 day season 19/3 - 13/6
2006	Bag of 7 birds p/day 87 day season 18/3 - 12/6
2007	No season
2008	No season
2009	Bag of 2 birds p/day An extra 3 wood duck 49 day season 21/3 - 8/5
2010	Bag of 5 birds p/day An extra 3 wood duck 71 day season 20/3 - 30/5

As you can see, its been twelve long, lean years!

SOUTH AUST AND TASMANIA?

At print date South Australia has not made an
announcement. In Tasmania there will be a March
5th to June 5th season with a 10 bird daily bag limit

NEW SHOOTERS REGISTER FOR WIT TESTING

See page 2 and email drduck@bigpond.net.au
to register for coaching and testing

RITCHIES
SUPERMARKETS AND LIQUOR STORES