

# **Annual Report 2013-14**



**field &  
game**<sup>TM</sup>  
Australia Inc.

## Guide to Annual Report

This is the annual report of Field and Game Australia Inc. for the year ending June 30, 2014. The report provides information from the board, branches and stakeholders of Field and Game Australia Inc. about the organisation's operations and performance. Field and Game Australia Inc. cannot be held liable for any printing errors in this document.

### Acknowledgements

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#### Printed by:

Willprint, Shepparton.

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## At a Glance

### Our Mission

***To be the most effective organisation in the promotion of hunting, recreational shooting and habitat conservation.***

### Our Values

The purpose for which the Association is formed is to:

- ▶ Specifically sustain, enhance and nurture responsible activities of members.
- ▶ Encourage, promote and practice the active conservation of game and habitat, and to undertake education and training of members to achieve that goal.
- ▶ Cooperate with government agencies and landholders in the promotion of game hunting in an orderly and accepted manner, and to respect the privilege of gun ownership.
- ▶ Promote public understanding and acceptance of our activities and to cooperate with other bodies which may have similar objectives.
- ▶ Unite field sportsmen in the respect of game and habitat, to promote good sportsmanship through supervised shooting ranges, target shooting and, where appropriate, to conduct local, state and national events to encourage the sport and stimulate participants to excel in their chosen pastime.

### Who We Are

Field and Game Australia (FGA) was established in 1958 by hunters who were concerned at the loss of wetland habitat for the game birds they loved to observe and hunt. FGA is now the nation's most progressive firearm, hunting and conservation organisation, with over 50 years of service to hunters, target shooters and conservation projects. It represents over 16,000 members, with members of the Association still united by their interest in shooting and their desire to see Australia's wetlands preserved for future generations.



### Patrons

The Right Honourable Malcom Fraser, AC, CH, Prime Minister of Australia

Professor Grahame Webb, BSc (Hons), PhD

The Honourable David Hawker, AO

### Life Members

Dr Hugh Martin, MBE (Dec)

Ron Bryant (Dec)

Doug Hemingway, MBE (Dec)

Des Thomas, OAM (Dec)

Phil Brown, OAM

John Foster (Dec)

Rex Cambrey

Allan Graham

Ruby Cato (Dec)

Geoff Proudfoot

Gary Howard

Albert Chamberlain (Dec)

Graham Eames

Ian McLachlan

Ron Danby

Rick Foster

## Chairman's Report



by Bill Paterson, Chairman

It gives me great pleasure to be able to report another year of growth and achievement for FGA. Membership continues to grow: we have now reached 16,920 members and I would expect that

by the time you are reading this, we will have hit 17,000. What we offer to our members continues to improve and we are now looking to offer insurance for members' dogs, to avoid them having to insure through organisations whose stated aims are in conflict with our own. We are communicating with our members more and more through social media – the effectiveness of this was demonstrated to me on Duck Opening morning this year when our Communications Officer, Alison put a photo on our Facebook page of the “perennial protester” being arrested and within 20 minutes it had 7,000 views.

Our three principal areas of activity – conservation, hunting and clay target shooting – have all been very active again this year.

The Wetlands Environmental Taskforce (WET) Trust completed the purchase of the third section of the Heart Morass from the Guest family and now has a total area of 3,200 acres. The first payment to the WET Trust of the offset money from VicRoads has been received, and payments will continue for the next 10 years. These payments, in addition to the money from key sales to duck hunters, will more than cover the costs of maintaining and further improving the property.

There is no better way of ensuring the long-term survival of a project such as the Heart than having it pay its own way. At Geelong, the project for the WET Trust to purchase the 88-acre property adjacent to Hospital Swamp is progressing, with a very generous donation of \$30k from Winchester Australia and \$10k in donations from Sale and Port Phillip branches, along with substantial cash and voluntary support from Geelong FGA. Geelong have purchased a very fine ex-government building for the site and arranged its relocation. This building will provide a base for groups visiting the project as well as being a clubhouse for

Geelong FGA.

This year saw the establishment of the Victorian Game Management Authority (GMA) and the appointment to it of Rod Drew, our Director of Policy and External Relations. The establishment of the GMA is something FGA has been pushing to have established for 20 years and we believe that its work will be a turning point for hunting in Victoria.

Our hunters had an excellent duck season this year, but again had to work hard to find quail. Continued hunter education

is a priority for us and on this front it is disappointing to note the delayed roll-out of the government-sponsored Shotgun Education Program (SEP). This delay is not in any way the fault of our very dedicated group of FGA volunteers, who are fully trained, equipped and ready to go; but is due to the bureaucracy in the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI). We need to get this valuable program up and running, and available to our members.

FGA's National Carnival, at Kingston SE in South Australia, was hailed by those who attended as well worth the drive! Kingston SE's hospitality was again excellent and the targets presented across all three grounds were fun, challenging and shot to all grades. It was great to see several local clubs pulling together to set these grounds and local businesses offering their produce – I came home with a bag of oysters! Again, our sponsors were very generous in both their support and praise for our National Carnival.

By the time of this Annual General Meeting (AGM) we will have completed our National Carnival for 2014 held again at Seymour. I'm sure that this will be another great event.

The political front continues to absorb a great deal of our time and resources – the recent Senate Inquiry into “the ability of Australian law enforcement authorities to eliminate

***The establishment of the GMA is something FGA has been pushing to have established for 20 years and we believe that its work will be a turning point for hunting in Victoria.***

gun-related violence in the community” demonstrates why this is necessary. This was an initiative of the Greens and we were alerted to its true purpose (to impose punitive storage requirements) and the need for a strong response during one of our regular trips to Canberra.

**FGA continues to actively protect the ability of its members to pursue their hunting, conservation and target interests, both for the present, but most importantly, for the future.**

Shooting organisations combined with firearms dealers to have a coordinated response: over 300 submissions were made and followed up with hearings in Sydney, Melbourne, and Canberra. The Inquiry’s findings are yet to be delivered, but we are comfortable that we have done everything possible to assist in the delivery of a fair and balanced outcome.

Also this year, I was delighted, together with the National President of the Australian Deer Association (ADA) David Voss, to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

between FGA and ADA. This important achievement highlights the collaboration on key initiatives which are common across the two organisations, with a shared purpose of preserving our hunting heritage. Rod Drew, FGA’s Director of Policy and External Relations, was instrumental in achieving this milestone.

The MoU documents the collaboration which has been underway for some time on two initiatives: the Australian National Hunting Archive (ANHA), which preserves a record of game management and the important role of hunting in our society; and the *Conservation & Hunting* magazine, provided to every elected member in parliaments around Australia.

*Conservation & Hunting* is an important communication channel which ensures our elected members are provided with balance and are fully informed on matters relating to conservation and hunting in Australia.

FGA continues to actively protect the ability of its members to pursue their hunting, conservation and target interests, both for the present, but most importantly, for the future.

In recognition of the demands on our resources, we have restructured our National Office and created the new position of Director of Policy and External Relations and appointed Rod Drew to it. We have also created the position of General Manager and recruited David McNabb to it. David joined us in March (Duck Opening week) and has been flat out ever since! We have recently seconded Mark Daley to the Board – I’d like to welcome Mark and look forward to working with him. I would like to thank our hardworking office staff and my dedicated fellow Board members for their commitment and perseverance.




**Conservation & Hunting Magazine**

*Conservation & Hunting* is an important communication channel which ensures our elected members are provided with balance and are fully informed on matters relating to conservation and hunting in Australia.

## General Manager's Report



by David McNabb, General Manager

What a privilege to write this report. Thank you to the Board, the FGA team, branch executives and our members for the very warm welcome I've received since joining the team in March.

It's been fantastic getting to know people right across our network, in every state and territory, and accessing the enormous level of knowledge amassed across FGA. It's one of our greatest strengths. I must thank Rod Drew in particular for his generous introductions to networks and the transfer of his knowledge.

This year has seen changes across our FGA team, both planned and unplanned. My thanks to everyone in the team, past and present, and to our branch network for their support while we worked through these changes.

I'm enjoying working alongside Rod and the FGA team, and the support provided by Bill Paterson and the members of our Board as we implement the new organisational structure established to benefit our branches and members, and designed to achieve our objectives.

This is an exciting time with so many important initiatives delivered for hunting and game management. Many of these important initiatives have been delivered in Victoria, which presents the challenge of replicating even some of these successes in other states. Not all the changes have been ideal: the loss of the Game Council in New South Wales (NSW) is one example. We continue to closely monitor the delivery and performance of these initiatives.

Hunting seasons continue to be enjoyed in the Northern Territory (NT), South Australia (SA) and Tasmania; with changes to native game bird hunting in NSW; and the start of a move to introduce pest animal hunting on public land in Western Australia.

Membership continues to grow, as detailed on page 22. Growth is generated from Victoria, the NT, and Tasmania. Retention activities undertaken by the FGA team secured the renewal of almost 500 lapsed memberships.

This supports the great work by the branches who focus on their membership each month. This year we also addressed the issue from a small group of key holders to the Heart Morass who had not renewed their membership. This minority took up significant work effort by many people over several months to eventually achieve renewal of memberships.

Our financial position continues to deliver sustainable outcomes. We now have the opportunity to closely align our financial performance with achievement of our strategic objectives. We have a great set of inputs to guide us on this, from the strategic planning undertaken last year by the Board, branch survey feedback this year, and development by branch executives of local plans for submissions to the *Shooting Sports Facilities Program* in Victoria.

We've held our 2014 Council Meeting. Thanks to the branch executives who travelled significant distances to participate, and to branches who provided input for discussion. The format for this event was redesigned to create more opportunities to engage in discussion and to provide updates on areas of significance for FGA. Our thanks to the Hon. Roger Hallam for sharing his experiences of the recently-formed GMA in Victoria, and to Robert Low who provides fantastic support with insurance and advice to manage risk across our network.

Seymour branch are hosting another National Carnival in November. We've enjoyed fantastic support for the event from members, taking up the increased number of nominations in just five weeks. There's been enormous support again from our sponsors; without them we would not be able to hold this event. The branch has generated new local sponsors, and we have generated good interest from the local shires. Local media are very actively supporting the event, and we appreciate the support shown by the local business community. This event raises the awareness of the contribution we make to communities, over and above the economic and social benefits provided by hunting, which has been reported on before.

The 2014 National Retrieving Trial

Championship was held over three days in Waikerie, SA. FGA was again proud to support this event. That support resulted in front page newspaper coverage, featuring an FGA member competing with his dog and gun. A similar photo of another FGA member and her dog accompanied the full article inside.

I joined the members from Coleraine branch at their stand at the Hamilton Outdoor Adventure Fair. Visitor numbers were similar to last year.

Hunting and shooting organisations, and the firearms industry, have achieved new highs in the level of collaboration. This has in part been achieved through the need to mobilise and counter those who are misinformed and don't tolerate our way of life, or who don't understand the contribution we make to communities. Great results continue to come from working together on several initiatives and projects with our colleagues at the ADA.

With Victorian state elections in November 2014, and 2015 bringing state elections in both NSW and Queensland, we have several important opportunities to put our credentials forward. The lead-up to the 2014 Victorian state elections has been eye-opening. We have adapted to address the rapidly changing environment as political parties position their candidates and policy platforms.

Our communication strategy for this state election is to:

- ▶ inform members on evidence of demonstrated support for our objectives,
- ▶ identify the policy platforms which align with our interests,
- ▶ clearly define our place in the state political environment,
- ▶ understand preference allocations which may impact detrimentally on delivery of policy, and
- ▶ ensure that the best outcomes for our members are clearly understood by the political parties.

It means we are taking a different, and it can be argued a more sophisticated, approach to this year's state election. We will know soon if the Victorian election outcomes preserve and enhance our interests and activities.

Communication has been a key part of our activities over the past six months. Connecting with the great local achievements by branches, sharing practices across our

network and informing key stakeholders of our accomplishments will ensure that communication remains an important activity for the FGA team.

Our members are our ambassadors and for our members to talk in their local communities about our achievements, we must keep them informed.

An article by the British Association of Shooting and Conservation Chief Executive, Richard Ali, helped focus my thinking on the key areas to communicate as an ambassador of FGA. These are:

- ▶ **Conservation.** Supporting the efforts on local projects, identifying new projects, as well as the major projects within the WET Trust.
- ▶ **Participation.** Introducing more people through the safe use of firearms in clay target sports becomes critical as our population concentrates in cities. This requires greater utilisation of our shooting grounds and is not without some challenges.
- ▶ **Game Food.** This provides us with the "social license" to sustainably harvest game for the table. The current food trends are hugely favourable and proactively sharing game food with people who do not hunt generates a great conversation about the sustainable use of a wonderful natural resource.

We are in an exciting time for conservation, hunting, and clay target sports. The fact that there are so many opportunities to address is also our challenge. This requires resources as we support and continue to grow membership, the delivery of services to members, address the issues we are continually confronted with, and the achievement of our strategic objectives.

We have the opportunity to engage more people in the pursuit of our objectives. If every member encourages the people they hunt and shoot with to take up membership of FGA, we will build our most important asset and our most valuable resource: people.



## Director of Policy and External Relations



by Rod Drew

As I write this report I can't think of a 12-month period in FGA that has seen so much change, particularly as the organisation continues to grow and take on more issues that potentially impact

on the ability of our members to continue to enjoy their outdoor recreation. This, together with increasing complexity of legislation, compliance and politics, puts greater pressure on the Board, staff and resources of the Association.

The Board recognised this and appointed David McNabb into the new position of General Manager. This has changed my role where I can now concentrate on external relations, political relations and the WET Trust. We were saddened to see our Stakeholder Services Officer, Steve Hunt resign and leave FGA. Steve made an outstanding contribution in his time with us; we thank him for that and wish him all the best in the future. We also had two staff members take maternity leave and we welcomed Rachel Berry to fill the communications position.

### Target Shooting

The popularity of clay target shooting continues to grow with the success of the annual 'Come 'n' Try' program and the resurgence of interest in school shooting activities. The National Carnival attracted 389 competitors interstate to SA where the Kingston SE branch did an outstanding job hosting the event. They were helped by two nearby Federation clubs, South East and Lake Bonney, who set fantastic grounds. The Natimuk branch hosted the National Side-by-Side Championship and again this event was well supported with competitors from across Australia attending.

### Greenvale Range Planning

The long, drawn-out planning application for a change of conditions at the Greenvale range finally ended in March when the Mitchell Shire Council signed off on the last of 34 conditions that the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal had imposed on the branch. This planning application started in

2011, with many thousands of dollars and hours put into securing a satisfactory outcome for the branch. This case highlights just how important the security of ground tenure and planning approvals are to the long-term viability of shooting sports. I would especially like to thank the Weybury family and Rod Pratt for their support through this lengthy planning process that, at times, looked like it was never going to end.

### Research

The head and wing research program is now into its fourth year. This valuable research is overseen by Dr Graham Hall and is important in gaining an understanding of the adult-juvenile ratio in the harvest each year. As we continue to collect data we will get to a stage where we have enough information to further analyse and understand how varying seasonal conditions effect the harvest ratio.

### Victoria's New Game Management Authority

After years of lobbying, the Victorian Coalition Government announced the formation of a new statutory authority to manage game hunting. The Victorian Coalition Government has allocated \$8.2m in the 2013-14 Victorian State Budget over four years to establish and operate a new independent authority to improve the effectiveness of game management and promote responsible game hunting. Agriculture and Food Security Minister Peter Walsh said the establishment of the GMA fulfils a 2010 election commitment to better coordinate game management efforts and improve opportunities for game hunting across Victoria.

The new GMA will help to provide better services for hunters; facilitate the growth in hunting businesses in regional areas; and deliver better outcomes for public land and habitat management, and broader conservation.

Mr Walsh said the new authority would have transparent and accountable governance, with a skills-based board that reports annually to parliament.

The new nine-member board includes Rod Drew and Bendigo branch member Mark Little, under the leadership of the Hon. Roger

Hallam; and commenced operations in July.

### **Minister Walsh Announces Hunting Tourism Report**

The announcement in June by Minister Peter Walsh of the *Estimating the economic impact of hunting in Victoria in 2013* report was well received and created a lot of media interest. This was the first time a Victorian Government had undertaken such a comprehensive survey

to understand the level of expenditure by hunters. The estimates in the report were far greater than anyone expected. It came as quite a surprise to learn that hunting expenditure in Victoria, when compared to other major events, was second only to the Spring Racing Carnival.

The study estimates that the total economic impact of game hunting by game licence holders is \$295m, which equals 2,382 full-time equivalent jobs. When the hunting of pest animals by game licence holders is included, the total economic impact is \$439m, equal to 3,480 full-time equivalent jobs. The purpose of the study was to provide robust data to inform the Government's policy direction on hunting and game management. Previous surveys were deemed to have been lacking with respect to methodology and had consequently underestimated economic impact.

### **Memorandum of Understanding with the Australian Deer Association**

A significant step forward was taken during the year when the ADA and FGA signed an MoU to work together more closely on matters of mutual interest to both organisations. This MoU covers cooperation between FGA and ADA national and state executives in areas of mutual interest including, but not limited to, the management and access to the Australian National Hunting Archive

(ANHA), the publication and editorial content of *Conservation & Hunting* magazine. Both parties will cooperate as far as is practicable on responses to legislative and regulatory matters relating to, but not limited to game management, land access/status and firearm laws. The ANHA currently houses the Otto Ruf, Arthur Bentley and Max Downes collections.

### **Shotgunning Education Program**

Progress on the SEP project has stalled due to the inordinate amount of time for the department to complete agreed project actions. This has been in part due to the department's focus on establishing the new GMA. DEPI have produced a draft agreement for FGA and the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA). This agreement details the arrangements that both organisations must comply with to deliver the program and includes transfer of assets, risk-management procedures, legal liability, maintenance of equipment and program reporting to DEPI. Port Phillip members and Cooperative North American Shotgunning Education Program-accredited trainers Daryl Snowdon and Manny Giapitzakis ran two test training days at Port Phillip in January. These days were invaluable to understand the resources and time required to deliver the program. Daryl Snowdon and I have since worked through the learnings from the two trial events and worked out costings for discussion with SSAA. It is hoped the program will commence before the 2015 Victorian duck season.

There are so many people in FGA who make a fantastic contribution and I can't name them all, but I would like to especially thank Ian McLachlan for his vision and tireless contribution to the Connewarre project at Geelong and Gary Howard for his outstanding contribution to the management of the Heart Morass. Both these Association Life Members continue to make an outstanding contribution to our organisation.

And finally, I would like to thank the Board and the hard-working staff for their continuing support and assistance.



# Field and Game Australia Financial Report



Year Ending June 30, 2014

**Tom Chick, Vice Chairman**

It is with pleasure that I submit the 2014 Financial Report to the members of the Association.

## **Operating Results**

As per the published financial reports, FGA recorded a surplus of \$65.6k for the year. Overall income increased by \$15k while expenditure was reduced by \$49k. Total income was \$1.447m and expenditure was \$1.381m.

Membership has continued to increase; however, the rate of increase looks to be slowing. In past years, the average increase in membership numbers has been 3.5% and for 2014, this has reduced to 3.37%. Of this total increase, adult member numbers increased by 3.14%, pensioners by 5.17% and adult family members by 4.29%. Family juniors increased by 6.28%; however, juniors reduced by 4.95%.

There are a number of trends emerging that impact both FGA revenue and the rebates paid to branches based on their membership. Firstly, the increase in both adult family and junior family membership numbers is encouraging. The drop-off of junior members is a concern for the future. This may be a result of a number of factors, such as level of involvement with FGA activities and the costs of that involvement. It may also be a result of family juniors being incorrectly classified in the past.

The increase in pensioner members would reflect the general age demographic as baby boomers move into retirement. While some are new members, many would be adult members reclassifying as pensioners. Work needs to be done to determine the impact of this change into the future.

## **Income**

Membership income for the year was \$1.29m, an increase of 0.6% from 2013. Membership subscriptions were increased for the 2014 year; however, the membership income is allocated between the years that it applies to. Nine months (75%) of the income applies to the 2015 year and is recorded as membership funds in advance and only three months

(25%) of the subscription is recorded as 2014 membership income.

Merchandise income for the year was \$37k, up from \$18k recorded in 2013. It must be noted that last year the merchandise was transferred from the WET Trust to FGA, so overall income is similar. FGA held merchandise inventory valued at \$24k as at June 30, 2014. An overall merchandise profit contribution of \$16k was achieved, a margin of 43%.

Other income of \$116k was achieved, a decrease of \$12k on the prior year. This was mainly due to a \$6k decrease in interest income from significantly lower bank interest on funds on deposit. A further \$11k decrease was due to lower nomination numbers for the 2013 National Carnival. An \$8k profit on sale was recorded on the changeover of a motor vehicle during the year, due to an insurance claim.

## **Expenditure**

Expenditure for the year was \$1.381m down from \$1.430 in 2013, a reduction of \$49k.

This year no expenditure was incurred for ground tenure defence. In 2013, \$43k was spent on professional fees and consultants for acoustics, planning and environmental engineering.

Due to staff changes and utilisation of accrued leave, employee expenditure was down by \$45k.

Advertising and media was down by \$6k; audit fees down by \$3k; and motor vehicle costs down by \$4k.

A significant increase was branch rebates, with an increase of \$8k to \$171k. This is due to increased membership numbers. Rebates are paid by June 30 on all member subscriptions received by that date. However, membership income is allocated over the applicable years. Donations and sponsorships increased by \$8k. Events and seminars increased by \$6k. This includes:

- ▶ the AGM,
- ▶ council meetings,
- ▶ board meetings,

- ▶ expos, and
- ▶ the politicians' shoot.

A total of \$19k was spent for the year.

The magazine and mail house expense increased by \$16k to \$332k. This increase reflects increased membership numbers (more magazines printed), increased postage costs and CPI increases on the magazine contract.

Merchandise expenditure was up by \$13k to \$36k; however, \$24k of this remains in stock.

Other items to note are: membership expenses up \$2k to \$11k and insurance up \$4k to \$51k.

### Statement of Financial Position

It is with great pleasure that I report to members that FGA is in a sound financial

**Net assets have exceeded \$1m for the first time. This has been a hard battle and reflects on the members and branches who have supported the Association over this time.**

position. Net assets have exceeded \$1m for the first time. This has been a hard battle and reflects on the members and branches who have supported the Association over this time.

Cash deposits at June 30, 2014

were \$1.461m, up by \$141k. Of this amount, \$871k represents nine months of the member subscriptions received in the 2014 year that relate to 2015.

Other current assets include:

- ▶ merchandise inventories of \$24k,
- ▶ prepayments of insurance of \$30k, and
- ▶ receivables of \$13k.

Insurance is paid for a 12-month period and the expense is allocated over the applicable year. \$30k has been paid toward the 2015 year.

Included in the receivables is a Branch Development loan to Minyip Branch that was used to purchase the freehold to their ground. This loan is being repaid on a regular basis with just under \$9k remaining at June 30, 2014.

Non-current assets total \$520k. These include plant, vehicles, furniture, computers and software with a written-down value of \$101k. Plant and equipment were originally acquired

at a cost of \$119k, vehicles at a cost of \$87k and computer software at a cost of \$48k.

The main non-current asset is a loan of \$493k to the WET Trust to assist with the purchase of the Heart Morass properties, of which \$75k was treated as a provision for impairment of the loan.

Total assets at book value at June 30, 2014 were \$2.048m.

Liabilities at June 30, 2014 totalled \$1.001m. These include current liabilities of \$954k and non-current liabilities of \$47k.

Current liabilities were normal operating trade liabilities, with the main non-current liability being membership subscriptions in advance \$871k. This liability has increased by \$84k from 2014. This is as a result of a combination of increased membership subscriptions for the 2014–15 year and an increase in the number of members. This liability is nine months (75%) of the total member subscriptions collected for the 2014–15 year as at June 30, 2014.

Current employee leave liabilities at June 30, 2014 were \$31k. This is annual leave, long service leave and personal leave that is due in the next 12 months.

There is a further \$46k in long service leave provision that is accrued, but not yet due.

### Future Outlook

The forecast for 2015 is based on a slowing of membership growth and normal operating expenditure adjusted for inflation and specific project costs.

Staffing structure has been changed to allow more of a focus on membership advocacy. The role of Director of Policy and External Relations was created to free Rod Drew of the day-to-day administration of the Association and allow him to concentrate on the high-level work now needed to best represent our **Staffing structure has been changed to allow more of a focus on membership advocacy.**

members. This includes firearms legislation, hunting and game management, access, range development, and protection of tenure.

At this time the financial forecast is for a reduced surplus for 2015 with a possibility of dipping into deficit if range tenure issues arise. With the *Shooting Sports Facilities Program* for major projects, it is possible that if a branch

looks to acquire new or additional land for target ranges, there may be a need to assist with planning and objection issues.

The cash funds held allow FGA to do this and to consider larger projects and campaigns without having to rely on current year income only.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the office staff for all that they do, specifically Noreen

Sloan for her good work on the Association's financial records and reports throughout the year.

Thanks also to the members and branches for your continued support.



### **Wetlands Environmental Taskforce Financial Report**

The WET Trust has reported a continuing growth for the year. The third stage of the Heart Morass purchase was completed and the Connewarre

Wetland project commenced. Significant donations have been pledged for this project. A Trust for Nature (TFN) agreement has been signed for the Heart Morass that will provide an income stream for the WET Trust in future years.

#### **Income**

Total income of \$217k was received for the year. This included:

- ▶ the sale of keys for hunting – \$28k;
- ▶ donations – \$166k;
- ▶ fundraisers – \$20k; and
- ▶ interest – \$3k.

#### **Expenditure**

Total expenditure was \$36k for the year. Significant expenses included:

- ▶ rental and costs for the ANHA – \$14k;
- ▶ repairs and maintenance – \$7k;
- ▶ keys for the duck season – \$3k;
- ▶ depreciation – \$3k; and
- ▶ website – \$2k.

#### **Surplus**

An operating surplus of \$181k was achieved for the year.

### **Financial Position**

The WET Trust held \$2.276m in total assets. \$74k was held in cash at June 30, 2014.

A further \$40k has been paid as a deposit on the Connewarre property. The contract was subject to conditions at balance date and will be completed over a two-year period. This will allow fundraising to be achieved to finance the purchase. FGA has agreed to underwrite any shortfall if necessary.

\$2k has been paid for a building to be relocated to the Connewarre property.

Freehold and leasehold properties are held at cost to a value of \$2.147m. These include the three Heart Morass properties and the Lake Buloke leasehold.

Plant and equipment costing \$17k is held at a written-down value of \$10k.

The WET Trust had liabilities of \$427k at June 30, 2014.

Normal trade liabilities were \$9k.

Non-current liabilities were the loan from FGA, held at \$418k.

### **Subsequent Events: Trust for Nature Agreement**

It is pleasing to report that the TFN agreement has been signed after a prolonged period of negotiation. This agreement will provide \$504k over a 10-year period. Some of this income requires prescribed expenditure; however, the balance can be used by the WET Trust to continue its other activities.



## The Heart Morass Project



by the Hon. David Hawker, AO  
Chairman, Committee of Governors of Heart Morass

The Heart Morass story keeps getting better each year. The foresight and wisdom of those who took the bold step 13 years ago of starting the WET Trust continues to

provide a great reward for those committed to the future of preserving our great wetlands in Victoria. It provides direct evidence of how committed hunters, together with generous partners, can achieve tangible results from which future generations will continue to reap the benefits.

The Committee of Governors of the Heart Morass highlights the effectiveness of a good partnership between FGA, the Hugh Williamson Foundation, Bug Blitz Trust, the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) and Watermark Inc.

As anticipated in last year's report, the settlement for the purchase by the WET Trust of the third part of the Heart Morass has been finalised, which brings together more than 3,100 acres of spectacular wetland. The signing of the Native Vegetation Agreement with TFN in February this year will see the flow of significant funds from VicRoads for tree offsets. This amounts to approximately half a million dollars over 10 years, which will be of great assistance. It is significant to note that TFN has agreed to some important precedents to facilitate this and the particular use of the Heart by hunting members of FGA.

Along with the wonderful support of the Hugh Williamson Foundation, Winchester Australia are making a donation of \$5 from the sale of every half-case of steel shot cartridges to assist the WET Trust with their conservation work.

The Bug Blitz Trust, under the enthusiastic

leadership of Martin Carlson, continues to do some wonderful nature study activities involving primary and secondary school students, teachers, and parents; ably supported by local FGA identities. The positive feedback from students who undertake these activities at the Heart Morass is remarkable.

Matt Bowler from the WGCMA approaches his work at the Heart with undiminished enthusiasm, both in conservation work and with education of the community and the next generation. The official bird counts are remarkable, with over 25,000 seen earlier this year and up to 1,000 Freckled Duck observed just around Sale. The salinity of the water continues to be reduced. It is expected that the water level will be allowed to drop this summer to dry down parts of the Morass. Environmental water flows should be able to lift it again in the autumn. Flora, fauna and vegetation surveys are currently underway and a priority programme for environmental water flows is also being developed. Work continues to be done on tracks within the property and plans to upgrade the access road with help from the local Wellington Shire Council are underway.

The local Heart Morass Committee is working on a weed control program and tidying up the fencing on the latest property purchase. As well, it is planned for a visitors' shelter to be built with the aid of the Sale G-Tech TAFE College students.

Publicity for the Heart Morass is always important, with a brochure nearly ready and a coffee table book nearing completion. The WET Trust website developed by FGA is a welcome addition. The WGCMA also is upgrading its website to include reference to the Heart Morass.

Visits by politicians are planned when a suitable date can be found.

### WET Trust Partners

West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority  
Bug Blitz Trust  
Watermark Inc.  
Trust for Nature  
Hugh Williamson Foundation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Hawker', written in a cursive style.

## Organisation Structure



**Chairman of the FGA Board Mr Bill Paterson**  
First year of his second three-year term as Chairman.

**Vice Chairman Mr Tom Chick**  
Tom is up for nomination at the 2014 AGM.



### Board Members



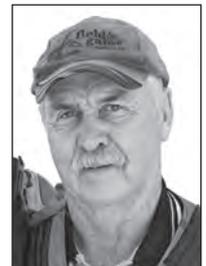
Mr Rob Treble  
Up for nomination at 2014 AGM.



Mr Manny Giapitzakis  
First year of a three-year term.



Mr Peter Hawker  
Second year of a three-year term.



Mr Rick Foster  
Second year of a three-year term.

### National Office Staff



Mr David McNabb  
General Manager



Mr Rod Drew  
Director of Policy and External Relations



Ms Noreen Sloan  
Operations and Finance Administrator



Ms Rachel Berry  
Communications Officer



Mrs Lauri Rowe  
Membership Officer (part-time)



Miss Kirsty Smith  
Membership Officer (part-time)



Ms Alison O'Connor  
Communications Officer (maternity leave)



Mrs Shelley Gough  
Membership Officer (maternity leave)

## Appointments

### Field and Game Australia

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Auditor:</b>  | Brian McCleary & Co.  |
| <b>Australian Environment Foundation:</b>  | Mr Rod Drew   |
| <b>Combined Firearms Council of Victoria:</b>                                    | Mr Bill Paterson (Chair)  |
| <b>Firearm Consultative Committee (Victoria):</b>                                | Mr Rick Foster  |
| <b>Kanyapella Basin Stakeholder Reference Group:</b>                             | Mr Tom Chick  |
| <b>Northern Territory Firearms Council:</b>                                      | Mr George Hennessy  |
| <b>Shepparton Irrigation Regional Wetlands Committee:</b>                        | Mr Tom Chick  |
| <b>Tasmanian Game Management Liaison Committee:</b>                              | Mr Adam Churchill   |
| <b>Victorian Firearm Safety Foundation:</b>                                      | Mr Russ Bate (Chair)<br>Mr Bill Paterson  |
| <b>Victorian Firearms Users Group:</b>   | Mr Peter Hawker   |
| <b>Victorian Hunting Advisory Committee:</b><br>(ceased operation June 30, 2014) | Mr Rod Drew<br>Mr David Hawker, AO  |
| <b>Target Sub-Committee:</b>   | Mr Rod Berger<br>Mr Andrew Fieke<br>Mr Danny Genovese<br>Mr Manny Giapitzakis<br>Mr Sox Pilipasidis<br>Mr Brent Waldron |
| <b>Victorian Game Management Authority:</b>                                      | Mr Rod Drew<br>Mr Mark Little   |

### WET Trust Committees

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Heart Morass Committee of Governors:</b>           | Mr David Hawker, AO<br>Mr Bill Paterson<br>Mr Rod Drew             |
| <b>Heart Morass Project Implementation Committee:</b> | Mr Gary Howard<br>Mr Rick Foster                                   |
| <b>Australian National Hunting Archive:</b>           | Mr Max Downes<br>Mr Bill Paterson<br>Mr David McNabb               |
| <b>Connewarre Wetland Centre Committee:</b>           | Mr Ian McLachlan<br>Mr Rod Drew<br>Mr Ray Agg<br>Mr Peter Anderson |

### Field and Game Australia Branches

|                   |                  |                        |                         |                   |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Ararat-Stawell    | Cobram           | Goulburn Workers (NSW) | Mornington              | Sale              |
| Bairnsdale        | Colac            | Grampians              | Morwell                 | Seymour           |
| Ballarat          | Coleraine        | Greenvale              | Mt Wycheproof           | Shepparton        |
| Balranald (NSW)   | Cranbourne       | Hillston (NSW)         | Natimuk                 | South East (TAS)  |
| Bar-Rook          | Darlington       | Huon (TAS)             | Northern Territory (NT) | South Gippsland   |
| Benalla           | Deniliquin (NSW) | Kingston SE (SA)       | Nugent (TAS)            | Sunraysia         |
| Bendigo           | Donald           | Kyabram                | Orbost                  | Swan Hill         |
| Broome (WA)       | Dorset (TAS)     | Mallacoota             | Pinegrove               | Timboon           |
| Burdekin (QLD)    | Dunolly          | Melbourne              | Port Phillip            | Traralgon         |
| Canberra (ACT)    | Echuca/Moama     | Metropolitan           | Portland/Heywood        | Wagga Wagga (NSW) |
| Casterton         | Frankston        | MCC Clay Target Club   | Queensland (QLD)        | Warrnambool       |
| Capricornia (QLD) | Furneaux (TAS)   | Minyip                 | Rushworth               | Westernport       |
| Clunes            | Geelong          | Moe                    | Rutherglen              | Wodonga/Albury    |

## Hunting and Game Management Reports



by Rob Treble

The past year has seen the most significant changes to game management in Victoria since the 1960s. The current Victorian Government has implemented or completed many of the

objectives FGA have lobbied for over the past 20 years, including the establishment of the GMA, the development of a new Waterfowl Identification Test (WIT), and the gazettal of a new State Game Reserve near Kerang East; as well as successful game bird seasons in Victoria, SA, Tasmania and the NT.

### RESPECT Campaign

The year also saw the launch of the RESPECT Campaign. This was a partnership between hunting groups, the firearms wholesalers and government.

RESPECT's key message is: when you are enjoying Victoria's great hunting opportunities, be mindful that the future of hunting depends on how you conduct yourself as a hunter. Every hunter should be an ambassador for the recreation.

As a responsible hunter you should always:

- ▶ Respect animals.
- ▶ Respect the environment.
- ▶ Respect other hunters.
- ▶ Respect the hunt.
- ▶ Respect non-hunters.
- ▶ Respect the laws.



### Game Management Authority

The GMA is a new, independent, statutory authority responsible for regulating game hunting in Victoria.

From 1 July 2014, the GMA will manage the regulatory functions of licensing, compliance, and enforcement of game hunting. The GMA will also work cooperatively with other agencies and hunting stakeholders to manage pest animals.

### Waterfowl Identification Test Revision: Duck WISE

Duck WISE (Waterfowl Identification, Safety, Effective and Efficient Hunting) is a new education video for duck hunters. The video will help all Victorian, NSW, SA and Tasmanian duck hunters to accurately identify game and non-game species, to help reduce the risk of the wrong birds being taken in the field. In addition, Duck WISE promotes responsible, lawful hunter behaviour and provides important information on effective, efficient hunting practices and firearm safety.

Duck WISE contains three major sections covering the following topics:

- ▶ waterfowl identification;
- ▶ firearms safety; and
- ▶ effective, efficient hunting (introduction to the SEP).

The waterfowl identification section provides detailed information on how to identify game and non-game water birds. This should be the minimum study material for anyone considering sitting the WIT, which you must pass in order to obtain a game licence. This section is also useful revision for hunters who already have their duck game licence and would like to refresh their knowledge prior to duck season.

The firearms safety section covers the 10 basic firearms safety rules (as detailed in the *Firearms Safety Code*), specifically tailored to duck hunting.

The final section introduces duck hunters to effective, efficient hunting practices as covered under the SEP.

Game laws and the information provided in

this video exist to ensure that hunting remains safe, sustainable and humane. At all times, hunt responsibly; and show respect for wildlife, the environment, other people, and your fellow hunters.

The skills you learn from Duck WISE will add to your enjoyment of duck hunting and put you on the path to becoming a better hunter.

Again, this is the realisation of another long-term FGA objective.

### Victorian Game Harvest Report

The 2013 season harvest data was released and demonstrated that Victoria's 45,000 licensed hunters had another successful season, providing many meals to their family and friends.

Hunter numbers have continued to grow in all states where game hunting is a recognised recreation. Numbers in the NT, in particular, have increased.

### Summary

The future of hunting looks very good in Victoria and the other states. With better education packages on identification and ethics being shared between states, hunting can only go from strength to strength.

### Estimates of the Duck Harvest in Victoria in 2013 by Holders of a Duck Game Licence

| Species               | Reported Harvest | Proportion of Harvest | SE    | Estimated Harvest | SE     | 95% CI  |         |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-------|-------------------|--------|---------|---------|
|                       |                  |                       |       |                   |        | Lower   | Upper   |
| Pacific Black Duck    | 757              | 0.220                 | 0.007 | 92,714            | 6,953  | 54,732  | 157,054 |
| Australian Wood Duck  | 870              | 0.252                 | 0.007 | 106,553           | 7,868  | 63,149  | 179,791 |
| Australian Shelduck   | 22               | 0.006                 | 0.001 | 2,694             | 601    | 1,118   | 6,493   |
| Grey Teal             | 1,110            | 0.322                 | 0.008 | 135,947           | 9,807  | 81,043  | 228,048 |
| Chestnut Teal         | 325              | 0.094                 | 0.005 | 39,804            | 3,419  | 22,676  | 69,871  |
| Pink-eared Duck       | 246              | 0.071                 | 0.004 | 30,129            | 2,756  | 16,871  | 53,805  |
| Australasian Shoveler | 58               | 0.017                 | 0.002 | 7,104             | 1,043  | 3,439   | 14,672  |
| Hardhead              | 60               | 0.017                 | 0.002 | 7,349             | 1,064  | 3,574   | 15,109  |
| Season Totals         |                  |                       |       | 422,294           | 28,620 | 369,822 | 482,212 |

### Estimates for the 2013/14 Sambar Deer Harvest

| Period                 | Reported | Total Harvest | SE    | 95% CI |        |
|------------------------|----------|---------------|-------|--------|--------|
|                        |          |               |       | Lower  | Upper  |
| July–August 2012       | 100      | 11,577        | 2,776 | 7,283  | 18,401 |
| September–October 2012 | 134      | 16,314        | 3,621 | 10,614 | 25,075 |
| November–December 2012 | 22       | 2,725         | 1,148 | 1,234  | 6,019  |
| January–February 2013  | 6        | 622           | 296   | 257    | 1,509  |
| March–April 2013       | 49       | 5,469         | 1,961 | 2,766  | 10,814 |
| May–June 2013          | 51       | 6,140         | 1,610 | 3,704  | 10,178 |
| Total Season           | 362      | 42,847        | 5,354 | 33,572 | 54,686 |

### Estimates of the 2013 Quail Harvest in Victoria by Licensed Quail Hunters

| Period       | Total Harvest | SE     | 95% CI  |         |
|--------------|---------------|--------|---------|---------|
|              |               |        | Lower   | Upper   |
| April        | 44,996        | 13,335 | 25,479  | 79,462  |
| May          | 75,650        | 15,044 | 51,425  | 111,287 |
| June         | 63,477        | 17,329 | 37,532  | 107,356 |
| Season Total | 184,123       | 26,541 | 139,007 | 243,882 |

## Waterfowl Monitoring

FGA continued its waterfowl monitoring during the period, with results as shown.

### November 2013 Waterfowl Count Region Summary

| Species              | Regions   |            |            |              |            | Total   |
|----------------------|-----------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|---------|
|                      | Gippsland | North East | North West | Port Phillip | South West |         |
| Australian Shelduck  | 569       | 99         | 279        | 0            | 5,432      | 6,289   |
| Broods               | 0         | 6          | 0          | 0            | 2          | 8       |
| Pacific Black Duck   | 1,864     | 500        | 1,823      | 347          | 5,181      | 9,715   |
| Broods               | 0         | 0          | 0          | 2            | 10         | 12      |
| Grey Teal            | 59,843    | 934        | 7543       | 22           | 35,993     | 104,335 |
| Broods               | 0         | 12         | 0          | 0            | 58         | 70      |
| Chestnut Teal        | 17,603    | 10         | 130        | 59           | 4,012      | 21814   |
| Broods               | 2         | 0          | 0          | 0            | 7          | 9       |
| Australian Shoveller | 532       | 38         | 0          | 0            | 997        | 1,567   |
| Broods               | 0         | 0          | 0          | 0            | 4          | 4       |
| Pink-eared Duck      | 4,611     | 380        | 1,340      | 0            | 7,729      | 14,060  |
| Broods               | 0         | 1          | 0          | 0            | 0          | 1       |
| Hardhead             | 3,204     | 390        | 545        | 52           | 4,618      | 8,809   |
| Broods               | 0         | 0          | 0          | 0            | 0          | 0       |
| Australian Wood Duck | 799       | 229        | 494        | 30           | 1,079      | 2,631   |
| Broods               | 0         | 0          | 0          | 0            | 10         | 10      |
| Total Game           | 89,027    | 2,599      | 12,154     | 512          | 65,032     | 169,324 |
| Freckled Duck        | 473       | 0          | 2          | 0            | 433        | 908     |
| Broods               | 0         | 0          | 0          | 0            | 0          | 0       |
| Total Protected      | 473       | 0          | 2          | 0            | 433        | 908     |

### February 2014 Waterfowl Count Region Summary

| Species              | Regions   |            |            |              |            | Total   |
|----------------------|-----------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|---------|
|                      | Gippsland | North East | North West | Port Phillip | South West |         |
| Australian Shelduck  | 1,476     | 681        | 1,286      | -            | 19,735     | 23,178  |
| Broods               | 0         | 0          | 0          | -            | 0          | 0       |
| Pacific Black Duck   | 2,435     | 3,341      | 1,025      | -            | 3,162      | 9,963   |
| Broods               | 0         | 0          | 0          | -            | 0          | 0       |
| Grey Teal            | 13,921    | 6,391      | 17,730     | -            | 46,885     | 84,927  |
| Broods               | 0         | 0          | 0          | -            | 0          | 0       |
| Chestnut Teal        | 5,465     | 47         | 424        | -            | 8,943      | 14,879  |
| Broods               | 0         | 0          | 0          | -            | 0          | 0       |
| Australian Shoveller | 264       | 56         | 500        | -            | 1,099      | 1,919   |
| Broods               | 0         | 12         | 0          | -            | 0          | 12      |
| Pink-eared Duck      | 3,564     | 852        | 9,497      | -            | 5,572      | 19,467  |
| Broods               | 0         | 0          | 0          | -            | 0          | 0       |
| Hardhead             | 2,199     | 460        | 1,701      | -            | 1,446      | 5,806   |
| Broods               | 0         | 0          | 0          | -            | 0          | 0       |
| Australian Wood Duck | 468       | 1,324      | 534        | -            | 774        | 3,100   |
| Broods               | 0         | 0          | 0          | -            | 0          | 0       |
| Total Game           | 29,792    | 13,164     | 32,679     | -            | 87,616     | 163,251 |
| Freckled Duck        | 180       | 78         | 261        | -            | 1,052      | 1,571   |
| Broods               | 0         | 0          | 0          | -            | 0          | 0       |
| Total Protected      | 180       | 78         | 261        | -            | 1052       | 1,571   |

## Pest and Vermin Report

Many FGA branches continue to make pest animal control a priority for their members. As detailed below, our members give their time freely as well as giving from the back pocket to contribute to the eradication of the many introduced and feral species in Australia.

### Pest Animal Eradication Activity for Financial Year 2013–2014

| Branch          | Species Taken |           |        |           |           |            |      |       | Travel Time (in Hours) | Hunting Time (in Hours) | Expenses | Total Man-hours (at \$15 per hour, plus expenses) |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------|--------|-----------|-----------|------------|------|-------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------|---|
|                 | Fox           | Feral Cat | Rabbit | Feral Dog | Feral Pig | Feral Goat | Hare | Other |                        |                         |          |   |
| Bairnsdale      | 64            | 1         | 42     | -         | -         | -          | 12   | -     | 330                    | 560                     | \$1,200  | \$14,550  |
| Benalla         | 463           | 1         | 308    | 3         | 35        | -          | 12   | 370   | 2,223                  | 2,373                   | \$1,600  | \$70,540  |
| Deniliquin      | 88            | 10        | -      | -         | -         | -          | -    | -     | -                      | 50                      | \$1,000  | \$1,750   |
| Echuca/Moama    | 204           | 11        | 36     | -         | -         | -          | 86   | -     | 160                    | 1,264                   | \$1,075  | \$22,435  |
| Grampians       | 29            | -         | -      | -         | -         | 36         | -    | -     | 410                    | 420                     | \$2,000  | \$14,450  |
| Huon            | -             | 10        | 34     | -         | -         | -          | -    | 672   | 50                     | 64                      | \$715    | \$2,425   |
| Mornington      | 103           | 1         | 256    | -         | -         | -          | -    | -     | 515                    | 1,159                   | \$4,000  | \$29,110  |
| Mt Wycheproof   | 500           | 100       | 2,000  | -         | -         | -          | -    | -     | 2,000                  | 1,000                   | \$5,000  | \$50,000  |
| Rushworth       | 145           | -         | 1      | -         | -         | -          | 26   | -     | 400                    | 2,400                   | -        | \$42,000  |
| Sale            | 6             | -         | -      | -         | -         | -          | -    | -     | 60                     | 1,080                   | \$750    | \$17,850  |
| Seymour         | 1,268         | 38        | 2,154  | -         | 102       | -          | 239  | 5     | 1,450                  | 7,080                   | \$14,370 | \$142,320   |
| Shepparton      | 13            | -         | -      | -         | -         | -          | 3    | -     | 30                     | 10                      | \$800    | \$1,400   |
| South Gippsland | 41            | -         | -      | -         | -         | -          | -    | -     | 138                    | 420                     | \$1,570  | \$9,940   |
| Warrnambool     | 395           | 27        | 234    | -         | 7         | 3          | 12   | 64    | 487                    | 2,444                   | \$17,382 | \$61,349  |
| Total           | 3,319         | 199       | 5,065  | 3         | 144       | 39         | 390  | 1,111 | 8,253                  | 20,324                  | \$51,462 | \$480,119   |



### Fox Bounty

The Victorian Coalition Government's fox bounty program has continued on from previous years, with over 300,000 fox scalps submitted as of July this year and \$3m being paid out to conscientious hunters across the state.

The program has been praised by hunters as a great incentive for local hunters to reduce the fox population and help promote the survival of native wildlife; however, the benefits to primary industry cannot be ignored, as foxes take a large financial and emotional toll on livestock producers.

There have been many good stories from the bounty program, with 16-year old Alicia Kutz in particular standing out. Alicia, from Broadford in Victoria, has been using the bounty to help save up for her first car. Alicia has been shooting with her father since she was 12 and had turned in 1,165 fox scalps, resulting in a very tidy \$11,650 deposit.

There are still calls for similar bounty programs to be introduced to other states and territories as the red fox continues to spread across both rural and urban landscapes. The NSW Government has recently started to introduce more fox control initiatives, with NSW Minister for Agriculture Katrina Hodgkinson working to implement a Pest Control Order on foxes in that state.

## 2013 Field and Game Australia Member Service Awards

### Ken Farmer – Geelong

Ken has been a member of Geelong FGA for over 20 years and has been heavily involved in the conservation and nest box program. Ken has monitored over 150 nest boxes and collated statistical data and water levels on local wetlands.

Ken has been the Conservation Officer for 10 years and has attended numerous meetings on behalf of the Geelong branch, as well as being involved in conservation working bees and the planting of trees. Ken's work is well known to the politicians in the Geelong region.

### Mark Howard – Sale

Mark joined the Sale branch in the early 1970s and has held a number of executive positions at the branch. Mark is the consummate branch member: he rarely misses a branch meeting and attends nearly every working bee, shoot, conservation day and branch activity without fail. He provided tuition and support to members as a shotgun instructor and is involved in the annual WIT sittings.

Mark also helps run the kitchen at the monthly shoots and is very handy when it comes to the heavy machinery required for range or conservation work.

Citation: *...For his leadership, commitment, dedication and outstanding contribution to the Sale Field and Game Association and to the aims and values of Field and Game Australia over a period of more than 40 years.*

### Peter Bedggood – Northern Territory

Peter Bedggood is one of the most active and vibrant members of the NT FGA branch. He joined us from our coaching program and was earmarked early to be on our hunter education list.

He was instrumental in the early development of our new clay target ground. He helped design the layout, met with authorities and prepared submissions to the NT Firearms Council and the NT Sport and Recreation Department. Peter continues to contribute both in planning and administration of the new ground, and attends every working bee we can muster. Not only this, he sets our clay target courses and participates in our Dialysis hunting and crop mitigation program, showing his commitment to community benefit.

He has successfully trained his new labrador pup at our retriever training evenings to be dux of the class. Peter is a worthy winner of our Member Service Award.

### Nelson Cox – Canberra

Nelson has provided inspirational support to Canberra FGA events for more than 10 years. His tireless, friendly, yet quiet demeanour has consistently been noted by many members as a major contributor to the success of the club, from range set-up to weekly maintenance of all traps (for all disciplines), Nelson's contribution is invaluable.

Nelson has instilled a focus on making it a family-friendly club, with particular attention paid to ensure that all skill levels are catered for in a safe environment.

### Simon Hore – Wodonga/Albury

Simon joined Wodonga/Albury Club in 1995. Over this time he has been on the committee as Range Coordinator, doubling up as Treasurer for the past 12 years. Simon has spent many hours setting up the club range on Saturdays for Sunday events and has a lot of input to make the shooting both challenging and interesting.

Simon was instrumental in setting up and running the first National Titles with a great success and enabling the club to run two more National Carnivals, leaving the club in a prosperous position today. Simon has worked tirelessly in getting traps together for the Nationals and he is a mentor for old and new members who wish to take up the sport of clay target shooting.

### 2013 Branch Awards

**Blue-Wing Trophy:** This award recognises the conservation work that is undertaken by our branches each year.

First Place: **Sale**

Second Place: **South Gippsland**

**Vermin Control Award:** This recognises the contribution by branches to the control of pest animal species.

Recipient: **Bairnsdale**

**Media Award:** This recognises the contribution on various media platforms.

Recipient: **Northern Territory**

## Dr Hugh Martin Medal 2013

### Stan Archard – Bar-Rook

Stan Archard has been involved in conservation projects for the past 30 years. Stan has been involved with the wetlands of north-west Victoria, from the Kanyapella Basin in the east to the Kerang Marshes in the west. Stan was involved with the project at Hird Swamp, where seven artificial islands were constructed, vegetation was planted and 130 nest boxes were installed in 2002. In 2006 the Bar-Rook FGA branch was successful in gaining a grant to enable them to construct a habitat corridor between Hird Swamp and Johnsons Swamp along Pyramid Creek. This project was a huge challenge due to the 100-year drought, which was then followed by the biggest flood ever recorded that washed away a lot of Stan's hard work.

John Forrest MP has known Stan for over 30 years and has been in regular contact with overlapping interest in the wellbeing of the Murray Darling Basin.

Stan is 82 years of age and was awarded this year an Australian Medal on the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Stan is tireless, displaying extensive knowledge on water, hydration and wetland management.

Stan has been a long-time member of the Bar-Rook FGA branch, as well as serving on the Board of FGA.

## Highlights

### The 2013 Politicians' Clay Target Shoot

In November of last year, FGA hosted its 11th Annual Victorian Politicians' Clay Target Shoot. Held at the well-tended Melbourne Gun Club range in Yering (near Lilydale), the day is intended to educate and inform politicians and guests about our members' passions and interests. With a competitive clay target shoot and a lunch showcasing great game food, all FGA's guests got a taste of just some of the things which are so important to our dedicated members.



Left: Nationals MP Bill Sykes (top) lines a target up and Minister Peter Walsh (lower) sets his sights.  
Right: The winning Liberal team with the coveted trophy.

### New Branch – Nugent Sporting Enterprise

In April this year, FGA welcomed a new branch into the fold: Nugent Sporting Enterprise, in Tasmania. Nugent is an hour north-east of Hobart and boasts excellent pheasant hunting and trout fishing.

While Nugent FGA do not have their own grounds, they have already increased their membership since affiliating with FGA.

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to the Nugent branch and members, and look forward to working together to enhance and promote shooting sports and hunting, across Australia.

## National Retrieving Trial Championship

FGA was proud to sponsor the 2013 National Retrieving Trial Championship, which was held on September 20–22, 2013. Retrieving trials provide an opportunity for hunters to work closely with their dogs in a fascinating range of competitive field events. The trials are run under rules established by the Australian National Kennel Council, with both Championship and minor titles available, based on performance. These events are a great way to see gundogs exhibiting their natural abilities in the field.

The 2013 Championship was held at the Heart Morass, showcasing the results of many years' hard work by the WET Trust, FGA members and other volunteers. Deputy Premier Peter Ryan officially opened the event on the Friday morning, and around 80 dogs and their handlers took part in the competition. Traralgon's



Greg Playdon claimed his maiden National Championship after a stellar performance from his 3-year old Labrador Retriever, Carbo with 376 points.



Dogs Victoria, the Retrieving and Field Trial Committee, and the Australian National Kennel Council were very appreciative of the Heart Morass venue and of FGA's sponsorship, commitment and support in making the Championship a great event.

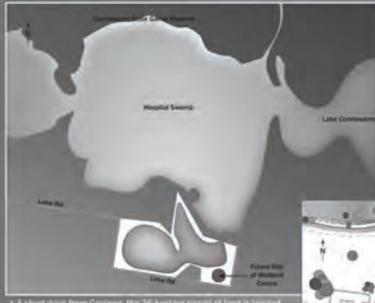
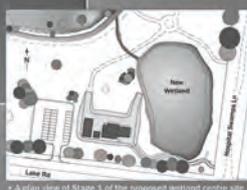
## Wetlands Environmental Taskforce

This past year has seen a number of significant achievements. Firstly, the purchase of the third property parcel (Guest's) at the Heart Morass. A \$75k donation by the Hugh Williamson Foundation on top of funds raised from the FGA membership made this possible. This acquisition now extends the total property under WET Trust management to over 3,100 acres. The conclusion of negotiations with TFN over covenants at the Heart Morass to protect environmental assets has allowed the WET Trust to secure a funding stream for the next 10 years via an environmental offset package with VicRoads.

The Geelong branch is continuing to make great progress on the exciting Connewarre Wetland Centre (CWC) project. Since the WET Trust signed the land purchase contracts in March, work has continued on surveying the site for the sub-division, to excise the house block from the wetland site. This work is now completed. The WET Trust was also successful with a tender to purchase a building from Parks Victoria. The architect-designed building was previously the Marine Discovery Centre at Queenscliff and will be relocated to the Connewarre site. This building will be perfect for the Wetland Centre, which will showcase the outstanding conservation and habitat restoration works undertaken by FGA over the last 50 years. The CWC committee have prepared a local government planning application to allow the relocation of the building to the site. The WET Trust will soon be launching a major fundraising and voluntary works project so that FGA and the wider community can get involved.

# CONNEWARRE WETLAND CENTRE

A Joint Wetlands Environmental Taskforce–Geelong Field and Game Initiative

A new collaboration between Geelong Field and Game and WET will establish a multipurpose wetland centre and classrooms at the site, which will be suitable for a variety of activities including:

- wetland conservation
- community outdoor education
- youth and school group visits
- tourist and visitor centre
- hunter education
- firearms safety training

• A short drive from Geelong, the 36-hectare parcel of land is located next to the Connewarre State Game Reserve and Hospital Swamp.

• A plan view of Stage 1 of the proposed wetland centre site.



Geelong Field and Game are celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year and have a history of conservation in the Connewarre wetlands system. Geelong Field and Game have already made significant voluntary donations and contributions of labour and materials to this project, which will become their home.

**WET relies solely on donations and your support.**

If you would like to support WET and bring this vital project to life, you can make a donation (all amounts over \$2 are tax deductible)

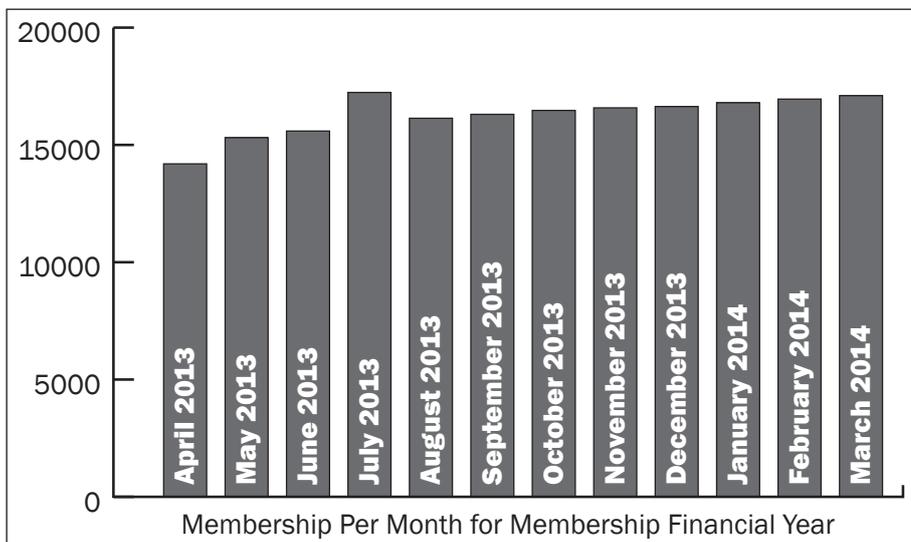
**visit [www.wet.org.au](http://www.wet.org.au)**  
**call (03) 5799 0960**

**Please donate and make this great community initiative become a reality.**



## Membership Statistics

Membership statistics are based on the Membership Financial Year, being the 12-month period from April 1 to March 31 the following year. Members listed as 'Other' are Honorary Association or Life Members.

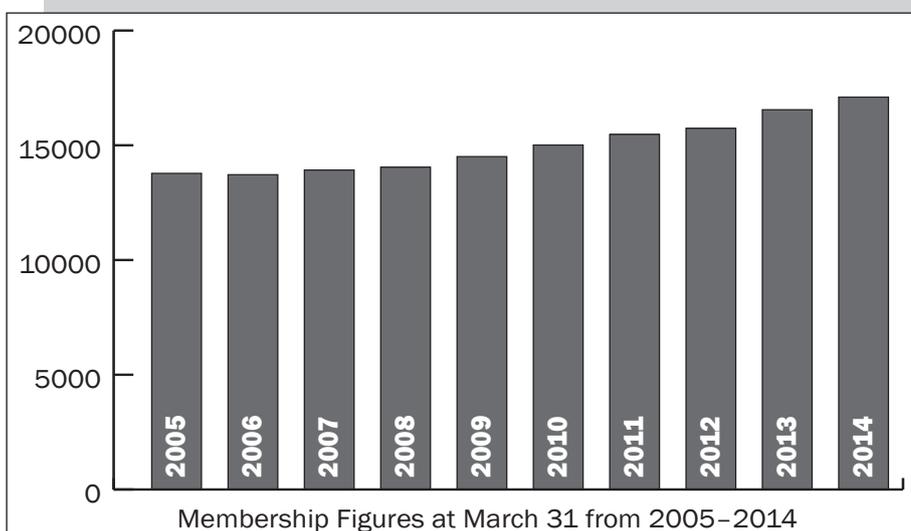
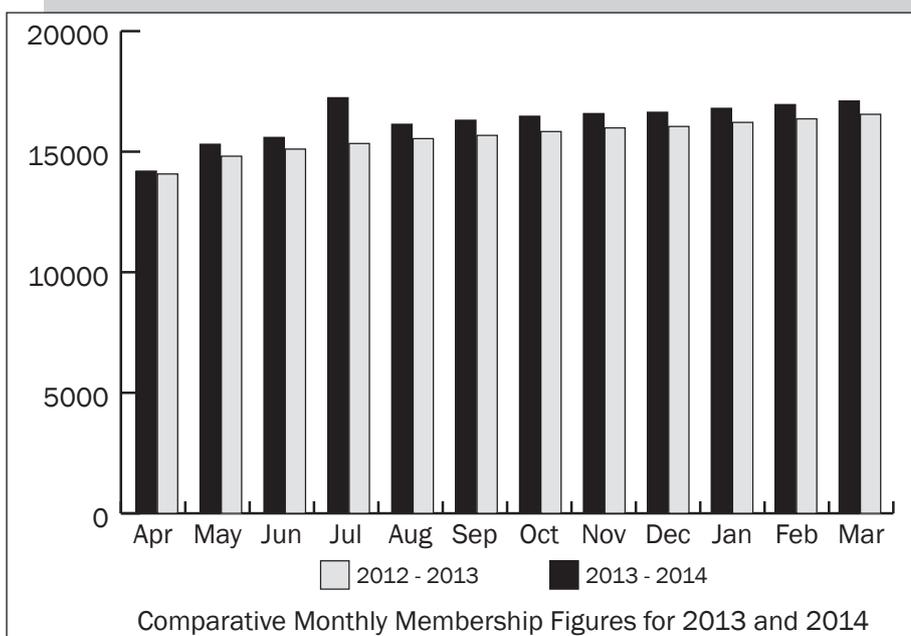


| Member Type  | Amount        |
|--------------|---------------|
| Adult        | 13,203        |
| Family       | 1,535         |
| Pensioner    | 1,609         |
| Student      | 29            |
| Junior       | 251           |
| Super-Junior | 255           |
| Other        | 217           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>17,099</b> |

### Member Benefits

FGA's 16,000 members across Australia receive benefits such as:

- ▶ unrivalled insurance coverage,
- ▶ quarterly issues of *Feathers & Fur*,
- ▶ firearm indemnity program,
- ▶ priority hunting and camping access at the Heart Morass,
- ▶ access to over 50 simulated field ranges,
- ▶ respected political representation,
- ▶ National Office support, and
- ▶ the latest industry news and information.



| Year | Members |
|------|---------|
| 2005 | 13,777  |
| 2006 | 13,719  |
| 2007 | 13,922  |
| 2008 | 14,045  |
| 2009 | 14,507  |
| 2010 | 15,011  |
| 2011 | 15,472  |
| 2012 | 15,738  |
| 2013 | 16,550  |
| 2014 | 17,099  |

## Clay Target Shooting

### The 2013 National Carnival

The FGA National Carnival was held at the Kingston SE branch grounds in SA in 2013. Kingston SE had 389 shooters from all over Australia come to try for a place on the podium and a share in \$55,000 in prizes.

The Kingston SE branch was lucky to have the help of Federation branches South-East (Mt Gambier) and Lake Bonney.

It was a great weekend with an enthusiastic field of competitors and FGA would like to thank their sponsors: Winchester Australia, Beretta Australia, Outdoor Sporting Agencies (Miroku), GB Corsivia, Raytrade and Into Shooting.

A delighted Anthony Panetta was crowned FGA National Champion for 2013, scoring an impressive off-the-gun (OTG) score of 141. Having shot 72 out of 75 targets on Saturday, Mr Panetta's 69 out of 75 on Sunday was enough to win by a single shot.

Mr Panetta's incredible score was one shot off the National Championships record-holder Adam Du Rose's 2012 OTG score of 142.

Echuca's Kelly Norris continued her red-hot form to claim victory in the Ladies event. Ms Norris shot an impressive score of 132 to demolish her opposition. Ms Norris was also the winner of Saturday's Beretta Classic, where she missed only three targets to claim the prize.

It came down to the wire in the Junior competition, with Jayden Roe and Cameron Humphries tied at the end of the competition. A shoot-off ensued, with Mr Roe taking the title by a single shot.

Bryce Paglia was crowned the Sub-junior Champion (12 to under-15 years) with an impressive shooting display to achieve a score of 106, nine shots clear of his closest competitor.



Left: FGA Chairman Bill Paterson, 2013 National Champion Anthony Panetta and Winchester's Clive Pugh.  
Centre: Beretta's Greg Chan with Kelly Norris, winner of the 2013 Beretta Classic.  
Right: FGA Chairman Bill Paterson, Sub-Junior Champion Bryce Paglia and Winchester's Clive Pugh.

## Winchester National Championship

### Graded OTG – 150 Targets

#### High Gun Winner

Anthony Panetta (141)

#### AA-Grade

1st: Frank Vella (140)  
2nd: Brenton Irons (139)  
3rd: James Saliba (139)

#### A-Grade

1st: James Wood (131)  
2nd: Ben Carter (130)  
3rd: Justin Little (129)

### B-Grade

1st: Tim Steer (126)  
2nd: Neville Dowd (120)  
3rd: Michael Reynolds (117)

### C-Grade

1st: Steve Spelman (112)  
2nd: Stuart Fleming (103)  
3rd: John McIntyre (101)

### Juniors

1st: Jayden Roe (127)  
2nd: Cameron Humphries (127)  
3rd: Kailan Markham (124)

### Ladies

1st: Kelly Norris (132)  
2nd: Angela Marris (125)  
3rd: Renae Birgan (124)

### Sub-Juniors

1st: Bryce Paglia (106)  
2nd: Bryce Farrugia (97)  
3rd: James Trelu-Coker (89)

### Veterans

1st: Malcolm Whitehead (136)  
2nd: Ed Treadwell (129)  
3rd: Alec Ceccato (128)

## Target Participation

| Branch           | Categories    |              |              |            |              | Participants  | Targets       | Total Targets    |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
|                  | Open          | Ladies       | Junior       | Sub-Junior | Veteran      |               |               |                  |
| Ararat/Stawell   | 260           | 11           | 4            | 25         | 50           | 350           | 428           | 25,061           |
| Bairnsdale       | 720           | 57           | 30           | 45         | 95           | 947           | 1,025         | 102,350          |
| Ballarat         | 1,193         | 43           | 40           | 31         | 126          | 1,433         | 900           | 108,950          |
| Balranald        | 147           | 3            | 17           | 6          | 19           | 192           | 375           | 27,825           |
| Bar-rook         | 573           | 43           | 57           | 35         | 107          | 815           | 860           | 58,695           |
| Benalla          | 809           | 52           | 30           | 42         | 43           | 976           | 1,155         | 104,615          |
| Bendigo          | 846           | 33           | 67           | -          | 132          | 1,078         | 850           | 84,225           |
| Broome           | 169           | 20           | 16           | -          | -            | 205           | 775           | 13,700           |
| Canberra         | 391           | 15           | 6            | 1          | 21           | 434           | 1,000         | 43,400           |
| Capricornia      | 106           | 23           | 29           | -          | -            | 158           | 700           | 12,250           |
| Casterton        | 317           | 9            | 31           | -          | 40           | 397           | 650           | 28,475           |
| Clunes           | 766           | 26           | 26           | 32         | 117          | 967           | 900           | 73,250           |
| Cobram           | -             | -            | -            | -          | -            | -             | -             | -                |
| Colac            | 595           | 41           | 36           | 40         | 96           | 808           | 550           | 64,300           |
| Coleraine        | 512           | 27           | 80           | -          | 57           | 676           | 875           | 65,625           |
| Cranbourne       | 894           | 19           | 31           | -          | 64           | 1,008         | 1,025         | 93,375           |
| Deniliquin       | 725           | 46           | 29           | 53         | 93           | 946           | 1,075         | 116,800          |
| Donald           | 447           | 32           | 53           | 8          | 83           | 623           | 775           | 45,125           |
| Dorset           | 196           | 36           | 4            | -          | -            | 236           | 905           | 19,350           |
| Dunolly          | 111           | 8            | 10           | 2          | 86           | 217           | 375           | 11,675           |
| Echuca/Moama     | 838           | 49           | 48           | 40         | 97           | 1,072         | 900           | 81,000           |
| Frankston        | 671           | 21           | 35           | -          | 138          | 865           | 675           | 59,000           |
| Furneaux         | 317           | 13           | 42           | 36         | 12           | 420           | 950           | 47,475           |
| Goulburn         | 63            | 2            | 2            | -          | 7            | 74            | 200           | 7,400            |
| Grampians        | 317           | 25           | 12           | -          | 52           | 406           | 755           | 27,810           |
| Greenvale        | 910           | 22           | 42           | 18         | 11           | 1,003         | 677           | 71,442           |
| Huon             | 165           | 1            | 3            | 4          | 24           | 197           | 960           | 15,735           |
| Kingston SE      | 322           | 28           | 29           | 10         | 32           | 421           | 525           | 27,900           |
| Mallacoota       | 121           | 18           | 19           | -          | -            | 158           | 675           | 11,850           |
| Melbourne        | 86            | 4            | 3            | 5          | 9            | 107           | 75            | 8,025            |
| Metropolitan     | 513           | 10           | 8            | 9          | 63           | 603           | 775           | 71,250           |
| Minyip           | 509           | 32           | 63           | 30         | 95           | 729           | 675           | 47,375           |
| Moe              | 350           | 35           | 29           | 12         | 51           | 477           | 625           | 36,925           |
| Mornington       | 525           | 34           | 40           | -          | -            | 599           | 750           | 44,925           |
| Morwell          | 491           | 50           | 31           | 11         | 85           | 668           | 675           | 60,900           |
| Mt Wycheproof    | 445           | 33           | 32           | -          | 55           | 565           | 750           | 56,925           |
| Natimuk          | 736           | 67           | 50           | 50         | 107          | 1,010         | 827           | 78,383           |
| Orbost           | -             | -            | -            | -          | -            | -             | -             | -                |
| Pinegrove        | 752           | 41           | 43           | 36         | 105          | 977           | 927           | 77,828           |
| Port Phillip     | 1,091         | 39           | 44           | 49         | 138          | 1,361         | 1,125         | 143,050          |
| Portland/Heywood | 360           | 23           | 57           | -          | 98           | 538           | 765           | 41,055           |
| Rutherglen       | 60            | 6            | 12           | -          | 4            | 82            | 60            | 4,920            |
| Sale             | 985           | 110          | 74           | 74         | 141          | 1,384         | 500           | 76,450           |
| Seymour          | 921           | 38           | 91           | 59         | 52           | 1,161         | 780           | 93,460           |
| Shepparton       | 502           | 32           | 176          | 27         | 39           | 776           | 850           | 68,795           |
| South East       | -             | -            | -            | -          | -            | -             | -             | -                |
| South Gippsland  | 536           | 75           | 64           | 1          | 94           | 770           | 780           | 50,330           |
| Sunraysia        | 921           | 24           | 91           | -          | 52           | 1,088         | 1,200         | 122,275          |
| Swan Hill        | -             | -            | -            | -          | -            | -             | -             | -                |
| Timboon          | -             | -            | -            | -          | -            | -             | -             | -                |
| Traralgon        | 469           | 40           | 21           | 9          | 52           | 591           | 825           | 49,475           |
| Wagga Wagga      | 465           | 20           | 32           | 2          | -            | 519           | 900           | 38,925           |
| Warrnambool      | 780           | 43           | 111          | 1          | 65           | 1,000         | 970           | 92,470           |
| Westernport      | 848           | 76           | 57           | -          | 113          | 1,094         | 1,050         | 108,450          |
| Wodonga/Albury   | 452           | 42           | 31           | 20         | 67           | 612           | 825           | 45,600           |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>26,298</b> | <b>1,597</b> | <b>1,988</b> | <b>823</b> | <b>3,087</b> | <b>33,793</b> | <b>38,224</b> | <b>2,866,449</b> |

