

guide to annual report

This is the annual report of Field and Game Australia Inc., for the year ending June 30, 2013. The report provides information for the board, branches and stakeholders of Field and Game Australia Inc. about the organisation's operations and performance. Field and Game Australia Inc. can not be held liable for any printing errors in this document.

acknowledgements

Front cover images: Daryl Snowden, John Elliot, Peter Merritt, FGA staff and members.

Contributors: Alison O'Connor, Shelley Gough, Tom Chick, Bill Paterson, Noreen Sloan, Rod Drew, Rob Treble, David Hawker.

Printed by: Willprint, Shepparton.

feedback

We would welcome your comments regarding this report. To provide feedback:

Email: alison.oconnor@fga.net.au

Phone: 03 5799 0960

Post: Field and Game Australia Inc., PO Box 464, Seymour VIC 3660

contact field & game australia

Address: 65 Anzac Avenue, Seymour (PO Box 464, Seymour VIC 3660)

Email: fga@fga.net.au

Fax: 03 5799 0961

Phone: 03 5799 0960

Website: www.fga.net.au



www.facebook.com/fieldandgame

www.twitter.com/fieldandgame



contents

Chairman's Address	.....	4
CEO's Address	.....	6
About FGA	.....	8
Membership	.....	11
Partnerships	.....	12
Highlights	.....	12
FGA Awards	.....	14
Financial Report	.....	15
Clay Target Shooting	.....	18
WET Trust	.....	20
Game Management	.....	22
Conservation Hunting	.....	26

chairman's address



Bill Paterson

I'm pleased to be able to report that Field and Game Australia has had another successful and busy year.

Membership figures continue to grow and we have now reached 16,500 members. Our year-on-year growth has been constant and reflects our ability to retain members and attract new ones.

FGA continues to have a high proportion of

older members, as has been the case for some years now, but we are not seeing the drop in memberships which one might expect from this.

We have just completed another membership survey and the results indicate that our members are very loyal and stay with us for the length of their shooting life. There is also a high level of trust in the FGA leadership by the members, which is very encouraging for us.

Our three principal areas of activity - conservation, hunting and clay target shooting - have all had some significant outcomes this year.

The WET Trust has contracted to buy the third section of the Heart Morass from the Guest family and will complete this purchase by the end of the year. This will add a critical 550 acres to the Heart Project and bring the total area owned to 3,200 acres.

As well as being a wonderful addition to the wetland, this additional land will allow much better management of water across its entirety. On the other side of Melbourne, the Geelong FGA Branch put a very good case to the Board for the WET Trust to purchase the 88 acre property adjacent to Hospital Swamp. This has been approved and will give the WET Trust another excellent wetland conservation project.

This year has also seen the launching of the Australian National Hunting Archive - a magnificent collection of books, documents and research material on the history of hunting in Australia. This is a truly unique collection, assembled over many years by Max Downes, who was the first Supervisor in what was then the Fisheries and Game Unit of the Victorian Government. Many of these invaluable documents would have been lost if it were not for Max's dedication. The archive is now catalogued and stored in a manner which will preserve it and allow it to be accessed by researchers. Also stored with the collection is the Otto Ruf collection of deer heads.

Our hunters had an excellent duck season this year, but had to work hard to find quail. The new regulations regarding protestors were applied and we did not see the dangerous protestor activity which had been occurring in recent years.

The poor behaviour of a few shooters on a private wetland near Boort was a great disappointment. These people shot in a way which is totally contrary to the values promoted by Field and Game Australia and we are developing education programs to ensure that our messages on ethical, sustainable hunting are well publicised and understood by all FGA members and the broader hunting community. This is what will ensure the future of hunting.

FGA's National Carnival at Seymour last year was another great success, with the Seymour Branch hosting the event and Greenvale Branch working one of the three grounds. There were two days of competition and great targets, with both sponsors and competitors enthusiastic in their praise of the event and the work done to deliver it.

In 2013, we will again travel to Kingston SE Branch in South Australia and, based on their previous Nationals in 2010, we are looking forward to another very enjoyable carnival.

FGA has, for several years now, held a cash reserve specifically to help Branches who are fighting to hold their shooting ground, or require assistance in buying one. In total to date, this fund has paid out or leant clubs over \$109,000, and this year we were

"We have just completed another membership survey and the results indicate that our members are very loyal and stay with us for the length of their shooting life"
– *Bill Paterson, FGA Chairman*

pleased to see Minyip purchase their ground and Greenvale successful in achieving (in court) a reduction in the restrictions on theirs.

We continue to maintain the profile of FGA to politicians, both State and Federal, particularly in making them aware of FGA's long and successful history in conservation. To this end, we have just published our first issue of *Conservation & Hunting*, a small magazine for distribution to politicians, which contains stories on our conservation work and the political issues which concern us in relation to hunting and gun ownership. *Conservation & Hunting* will be published twice a year.

So, as you can see, a lot is being done and much has been achieved.

“We continue to maintain the profile of FGA to politicians, both State and Federal, particularly in making them aware of FGA's long and successful history in conservation”
– Bill Paterson, FGA Chairman

Finally, I would like to thank our hardworking office staff and my dedicated fellow Board members for their commitment and their perseverance.

Russ Bate will be leaving the Board at this AGM and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his 13 years as a Board member, 10 of which were as Chairman. Russ has given an extraordinary commitment to FGA and

typically for him, has indicated that he would be willing to continue “helping out where he can”. I'm sure you'll all join me in saying “thank you Russ”.



Bill Paterson
- FGA Chairman



» fga's gains respect from government

FGA is a respected voice in political circles at both Federal and State level, and continues to be at the forefront of lobbying. FGA's annual Politicians Clay Target Shoot attracts over 100 politicians and staff each year. As well as the sumptuous game food lunch and some friendly clay target competition amongst their peers, the day is an ideal way for the politicians to be brought up to date on some of FGA's activities, including our habitat restoration projects. Pictured is Nationals Senator Bridget McKenzie, who is an avid supporter of FGA's activities.



» heart morass purchase

FGA's environmental trust – the Wetlands Environmental Taskforce (WET) – secured the third and final stage at Victoria's iconic Heart Morass. The first two parcels are already under WET's banner, but this acquisition gives it control of the flood plain from the Sale Common to Lake Wellington, enabling West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority to manage an environmental water regime without impacting on adjacent land owners. This project is believed to be the largest wetland habitat restoration project in Australia, and has been completed without any support from Government.

ceo's address



Rod Drew

The last 12 months has seen FGA go through a period of significant change as new incorporations laws come into effect for the non-profit sector.

This, coupled with increased reporting, compliance and ongoing governance requirements present challenges for small not-for-profits with very limited resources.

Next year we will see a greater focus on

Workplace Health and Safety with the introduction of Harmonisation Legislation. This will impact on all volunteer organisations.

The FGA board has now undertaken a new 5-year strategic planning project to identify the challenges facing the organisation in a changing world and to ensure FGA grows and stays relevant in the future.

Recently, a membership survey was conducted to measure changes in cultural, social and environmental behavior, and to understand how the membership base is evolving and how FGA needs to adapt in the future. Key learning's from this research will inform the Board to shape the future direction of FGA.

Each year a comprehensive review of the association's insurance package is undertaken to ensure that the association has appropriate cover across all areas of activity. A new requirement with changes to the Associations' Incorporation Act, requires all incorporated branches to have Directors and Officers' liability insurance. As agreed at the 2012 AGM at Sale, the association has now taken out cover for executive of all affiliated branches.

In June, former Board Member and FGA stalwart Stan Archard was awarded an AM in the Queens Birthday honours for his service to irrigated

agriculture, and to conservation. Stan is the Founding Director of Archard's Irrigation, and over the years has introduced many new technologies in the industry. Stan was also a supporter in the restoration of Hird Swamp (1990) and Richardson's Lagoon (2004).

News of the tragic accident that claimed the life of well-known Colac member, Phil Gaylard was a severe blow to the association. Phil, like his late father Bruce, was a Field and Game stalwart, who lived and breathed all things hunting, shooting and FGA. Just prior to his death, Phil completed the Victorian Shotgun Education Program (SEP) training to become one of the select group of FGA members tasked with delivery of the new one-day SEP "shotgunning" course.

During July, Steve Hunt commenced with FGA in the role of Stakeholders Services Officer. Steve, through direct contact with branches , fills a major

communication gap identified by the board that is becoming increasingly important, particularly now and in the future where branches are required to undertake greater levels of compliance, governance and risk management than required in the past.

FGA welcomed the Victorian Coalition Government's decision to bring world-class game management practise to Victoria through the establishment of a statutory game management

authority. In the 2013-14 budget, the Victorian Government allocated \$8.2 million over four years (commencing July 1, 2014) to establish and operate a new independent authority to improve the effectiveness of game management and promote responsible game hunting.

The Minister also announced the appointment of former parliamentarian Roger Hallam to chair the new Victorian Hunting Advisory Committee. The committee has met twice and has a very tight timeline to deliver the new authority by July 1, 2014.

Three consultants have been retained to assist the committee through the development of the statutory model, a game management action plan

"The FGA board has now undertaken a new 5-year strategic planning project to identify the challenges facing the organisation in a changing world and to ensure FGA grows and stays relevant in the future"
– Rod Drew, FGA CEO

for Victoria and a comprehensive economic research project to quantify the value of the hunting industry in Victoria. The development of the state game management action plan will include comprehensive consultation with Victorian hunting groups, including FGA, later this year.

The Greenvale target range application was finally heard by VCAT in Melbourne over four days in February. The appellants had 2 barristers, noise and horse experts, plus a number of local residents who gave evidence.

FGA had a barrister, planning consultant, noise, soil and horse experts. I also gave expert evidence on the operation of FGA's target shooting program. Rod Pratt (Greenvale president) and Brian & Elwyne Weybury also attended each day.

A VCAT member also visited the range to observe the shooting and inspect the facilities. She was accompanied by FGA's planning consultant, Rod Pratt, Brian Weybury (Greenvale) and Rod Drew (FGA), and three of the objectors and their two barristers. VCAT handed down a favourable decision in May which increased the hours of operation from noon - 5pm, to 10am - 5pm and increased the limit on the number of shooters from 100 to 200.

The Greenvale application took three years and consumed considerable resources. The decision by



» greenvale planning application

After a long, drawn-out process, VCAT finally gave Greenvale FGA something to smile about. Although there was some hoops to jump through first, Greenvale had its hours of operation increased, while the limit on the number of shooters was doubled from 100 to 200.

the board three years ago to establish a 'ground tenure' fund and put aside money to assist branches with new range applications and defence of existing ranges has proved to be fundamental to securing ranges for the future.

FGA's WET Trust has had an exceptional year with the purchase of the final land parcel at the Heart Morass. This purchase will complete the

conservation picture for this important floodplain project. Not only are there the obvious environmental benefits that will come with securing the third parcel, but all FGA members stand to benefit greatly. It provides an excellent all-year-round camping and fishing spot, and of course, hunting during the open season.

As we go to print we have learnt that following a review by the NSW Government, the Game Council of NSW will be abolished. Whilst the report details various reasons including poor

governance, the real reason was the toxic nature of domestic politics in NSW and the intense campaign run by a coalition of anti-hunting groups and unions against the government. Whilst the future of public land hunting is unknown at this time, we do know that the pest mitigation program on rice properties will continue under the administration of National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

FGA, along with others in the not-for-profit sector, are currently going through a time of considerable change, particularly as the volunteer base, which is largely 'baby-boomers' are now retiring. This will impact on revenue and volunteerism unless we re-invent the membership model to attract and hold younger people. This will require significant ongoing investment in strategy development, service delivery, communications and new technologies.

And finally, a big thanks to the FGA Board and Staff for their hard work and support throughout the year.

 Rod Drew
- FGA CEO

at a glance

our mission

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

our values

The purposes for which the Association is formed, is to specifically sustain, enhance and nurture responsible activities of members and to:

- Encourage, promote and practice the active conservation of game and habitat and to undertake education and training of members to achieve that goal;
- Co-operate 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 co-operate with other bodies which may have similar objectives and;
- 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

FGA is the nation's premier firearm organisation, representing over 16,000 members. Members are united by their interest in shooting and their desire to see Australia's wetlands preserved for future generations. The Association has a small team of staff at its National Office in Seymour, and more than 60 branches spread across Australia. FGA is working for all firearm owners to preserve a range of skills and opportunities, and to expand upon the prospects to allow all Australian's to enjoy their chosen pursuit.

“The wildlife of today is not
ours to dispose of as we
please. We have it in trust.
We must account for it to
those who come after”
– King George VI

patrons

The Right Honourable Malcolm Fraser, AC., CH., Prime Minister of Australia

Professor Grahame Webb, BSc (Hons.), PhD

The Honourable David Hawker, MHR, AO

life members

Phil Brown OAM – Geelong Branch

Rex Cambrey – Shepparton Branch

Ron Danby – Swan Hill Branch

Graham Eames – Port Phillip Branch

John Foster – Geelong Branch

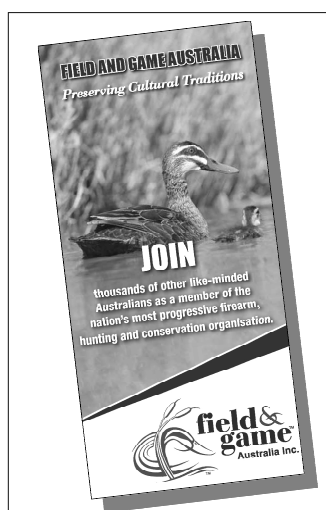
Rick Foster – Morwell Branch

Allan Graham – Geelong Branch

Gary Howard – Sale Branch

Ian McLachlan – Geelong Branch

Geoff Proudfoot – Traralgon Branch



» new look for fga

FGA commissioned a new-look membership brochure to be produced which promotes FGA's profile, highlighting its commitment to ethical hunting, clay target sports and wetland conservation. The brochure has already been distributed at expos and to new and potential members, and will continue to be distributed far and wide to drive our FGA's membership.

management structure



Chairman of the FGA Board

Mr Bill Paterson

Bill's three-year term will end at the 2013 AGM

**Deputy Chairman of
the FGA Board**

Mr Tom Chick

Second year of a
three-year term



Mr Russ Bate OAM

Russ' three-year term
will end at the 2013 AGM



Mr Rick Foster

First year of a three-year
term



Mr Peter Hawker

First year of a three-year
term



Mr Rob Treble

Second year of a
three-year term



Mr Rod Berger
Co-opted to the board
for a 12-month term



Mr Manolis Giapitzakis
Co-opted to the board
for a 12-month term



Board Members

Executive



Chief Executive Officer

Mr Rod Drew

Communications Officer

Ms Alison O'Connor



**Stakeholder Services
Officer**

Mr Steve Hunt



Finance Administrator

Ms Noreen Sloan



**Membership Officer
(part-time)**

Mrs Shelley Gough



**Membership Officer
(part-time)**

Mrs Lauri Rowe



Staff Members

appointments

Auditor:	Brian McCleary & Co.
Australian Environment Foundation:	Mr Rod Drew
Combined Firearms Council of Victoria:	Mr Bill Paterson (Chair)
Commonwealth Firearms Advisory Council:	Mr Russ Bate OAM
Firearm Consultative Committee (Vic):	Mr Rick Foster
Kanyapella Basin Stakeholder Reference Group:	Mr Tom Chick
Northern Territory Firearms Council:	Mr George Hennessy
Secretary:	Mr Rod Drew
Shepparton Irrigation Regional Wetlands Committee:	Mr Tom Chick
Tasmanian Game Management Liaison Committee:	Mr Paul Littlejohn
Victorian Firearm Safety Foundation:	Mr Russ Bate (Chair) Mr Bill Paterson
Victorian Firearms Users Group:	Mr Peter Hawker
Victorian Hunting Advisory Committee:	Mr Rod Drew Mr David Hawker MHR, AO
Victorian Strategy for Healthy Rivers, Estuaries & Wetlands:	Mr Tom Chick

sub-committees

Heart Morass Committee of Governors:	Mr David Hawker MHR, AO Mr Bill Paterson Mr Rod Drew
Heart Morass Project Implementation Committee:	Mr Gary Howard Mr Rick Foster
Target Sub-committee:	Mr Russ Bate OAM Mr Rod Berger Mr Danny Ryan Mr Danny Genovese



» shot show successful

FGA signed up a number of new members at the 2013 SHOT Expo, held at the Melbourne Showgrounds in May. It was also a successful event for the organisers, with over 12,000 visitors strolling through the gates over the course of the weekend, making it one of the biggest expo's in the event's history. FGA was among over 350 exhibitors showcasing to all shooting, hunting and outdoor enthusiasts. The 2014 event will be in Sydney, and is expected to pull another bumper crowd.

fga branches

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

snapshot of membership

Membership statistics are based on 'Field and Game Australia's Membership Financial Year', being the 12-month period from April 1 to March 31 each year. 'Other' members refers to Honorary Association and Life Members.

figure 1 shows membership figures per month for Field and Game Australia's membership financial year

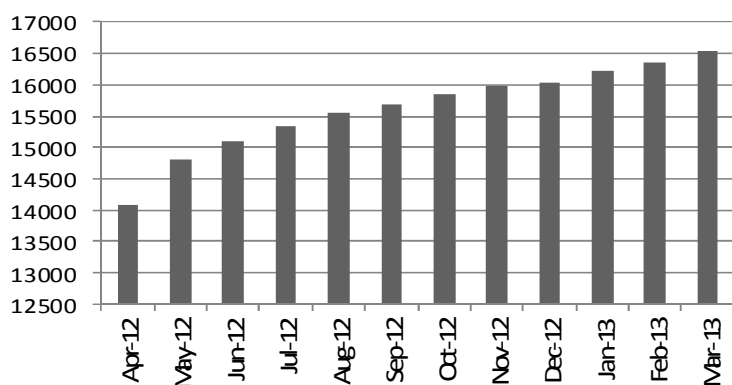


Figure 1

figure 2 shows comparative membership figures per month (April 1 – March 31) for 2012 and 2013

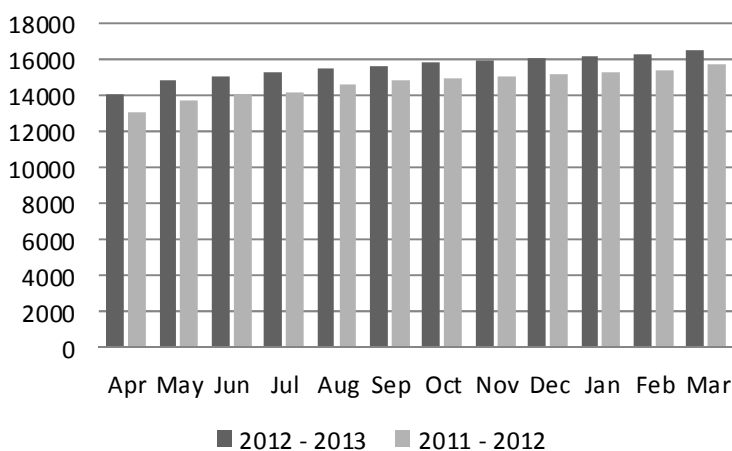


Figure 2

figure 3 shows membership figures at June 30 from 2006–2013

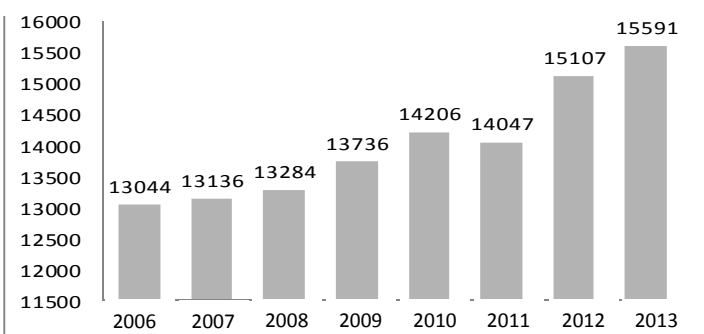


Figure 3

FGA membership figures by category as at March 31, 2013

Adult	12,842
Family	1428
Pensioner	1536
Student	44
Junior	279
Super Junior	210
Other	211
TOTAL:	16,550

- Membership numbers continued to skyrocket in 2012-13. Every month, the membership figures **were higher than at the same time in 2012.**
- Numbers reached **an all-time high** of 16,550 at the end of the membership financial year (March 31), up 812 members from the same time in 2012 (the rise the previous year was 266).
- The Super Junior category grew **an extra 61 per cent** over the past 12 months, sparking interest among the younger generation
- In percentage terms, Adult membership **makes up 77%** (12,842) of our total membership figure, which is exactly the same percentile as last year. Adult, Pensioner and Family memberships acquaint to 95% of the membership total, which is also the same percentage-wise as last year.
- It took until October 2012 to **regain the same membership figure** as was recorded at March 31 that year (15,738).
- March 2013 was when **membership was at its peak**, with 15,738 members, while the lowest month was April 2011, with 13,046 members.

partnerships & highlights

partnerships & participation

Field and Game Australia had co-operative working relationships with the following organisations in 2012-13, and will continue to do so in the future:

Arthur Rylah Institute	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
Australian Environment Foundation	Goulburn Murray Water
BugBlitz Trust	Hugh Williamson Foundation
Combined Firearms Council of Victoria	Lake Mokoan Stakeholder Committee
Combined Hunters and Sporting Shooters Association	North Central Catchment Management Authority
Commonwealth Firearms Advisory Council (ACT)	Parks Victoria
Co-operative North American Shotgunning Education Program	Tasmanian Game Management Liaison Committee
Corangamite Catchment Management Authority	University of Queensland
Department of Environment and Primary Industries (Vic)	Victorian Hunting Advisory Committee
Firearm Users Group (Victoria Police)	Watermark Inc.
Firearms Consultative Committee (Vic.)	West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
Game Council of New South Wales	Wildlife Management International P/L
	Wimmera Catchment Management Authority

highlights

» **Queens Birthday Honours:** Former Board Member and FGA stalwart Stan Archard was awarded an AM in the 2013 Queens Birthday honours for his service to irrigated agriculture, and to conservation. Stan is the Founding Director of Archard's Irrigation, and over the years has introduced Full Farm Planning (1972), Fast Flow Irrigation (1973), Laser Technology to Irrigation (1977), Polyethylene Pipe, Flood Irrigation (1990), Pipe and Re-user Systems (1994), Satellite Survey Technology for Farm Surveys (mid-1990's) and drainage re-use, resulting in the Barr Creek Scheme. Stan was also a supporter in the restoration of Hird Swamp (1990) and Richardson's Lagoon (2004).

» **FGA signs up its 16,000th Member:** FGA continues to go from strength to strength, and membership numbers - which are highly important for prolonged success - continue to grow. In December, FGA signed up its 16,000 member, which was a huge achievement. As we go to print, FGA has grown even further, with over 16,500 members.

» **Hunting Returns, then Banishes, from NSW:** Almost as quickly as it was announced that duck and quail hunting would be returned to some degree in NSW, it was taken away. Conservation hunters were told they would soon be allowed into National Parks, managed duck and quail hunting was to be returned in NSW after an 18 years absence, the Game Council was to administer all aspects of game bird hunting in the state, and decoys and duck callers were declared legal to hunt duck in NSW. Then, with no warning, NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell backpedalled, announcing that the Game Council would be abolished and there would be very limited hunting opportunities, if any, in National Parks and NSW forests.



» new hunting regs in victoria

When new hunting regulations were announced in October, there was some good news for hunters, with a number of welcome changes made to the regulations. Among them was the periods in which people other than appropriately licensed duck hunters can enter or remain in hunting areas. This was extended to every day of the season, not just opening weekend. In addition, the exclusion boundary was increased from 5 metres from the shoreline to 25 metres.

highlights

» **Good News for Greenvale Branch:** After a long, drawn-out process, the Greenvale target range application was finally heard by VCAT in Melbourne. Before the decision was handed down, the VCAT member visited the range to observe the shooting activities and inspect the facilities, accompanied by FGA's planning consultant, Rod Pratt, Brian Weybury (Greenvale) and Rod Drew (FGA), along with three of the objectors and their two barristers. VCAT handed down a favourable decision in May which increased the hours of operation by two hours, and also increased the limit on the number of shooters, rising from 100 to 200.



» **australian national hunting archive**

Victoria's first Game Manager Max Downes' collection consists of more than 4500 books, 20,000 documents and a database record of 20 years cataloguing and referencing materials in libraries and archives across the nation. In 2011, Max made his collection available to FGA's Wetlands Environmental Taskforce (WET) for the purposes of establishing an Australian National Hunting Archive. Whilst the archive is not yet open to the public, it is now Australia's most comprehensive and valuable collection of works on the social history of hunting in any one place throughout the nation. The Australian National Hunting Archive has been established in suburban Boronia, where Max is working tirelessly to build and expand upon the collection.

» **New Game Management Structure for Victoria:** FGA welcomed the news that the Victorian Coalition Government's was to establish a statutory game management authority - a decision that will bring world-class game management practise to Victoria. \$8.2 million has been allocated over four years (commencing July 1, 2014) to establish and operate a new independent authority to improve the effectiveness of game management and promote responsible game hunting.

» **Protester Convictions:** FGA applauded the Melbourne Magistrate who handed down significant convictions and fines against two anti-duck hunting activists in January. Mr David Mould and Ms Kelly Lachman were convicted and fined on charges from the opening weekend of the 2010 Victorian Duck Season, which included hindering and obstructing legitimate and licensed hunters, indecent language, and theft. Considerable fines and court costs were awarded against the pair. This sent a strong warning to others that regardless of their opinion on duck hunting, any law breaking or illegal protest activities that hinder and obstruct licensed hunters will not be tolerated.

» **Final Heart Morass Purchase:** As mentioned on page 5 of this publication, the WET acquired the third stage at the Heart Morass. Through fundraising and the generous donations from FGA members and branches, the WET was finally able to secure the property, giving it control of the flood plain from the Sale Common to Lake Wellington. The WET secured the first parcel of land at the Heart in 2006, and took ownership of the second in 2009. The Heart Morass Restoration Project is believed to be the largest wetland habitat restoration project in Australia.

» **Head and Wing Research:** FGA continued its Head and Wing Research Project, which began in 2009. Hunters collected hundreds of duck and quail samples for the annual project, which provides important data to better inform the annual game season decision making process. Dr. Graham Hall from the University of New England, analysed samples from shot birds after the close of the season. From these samples, we are able to determine the age and gender of the birds taken and compare these with previous year's results.



» **super juniors bolster membership numbers**

Since the Super-Junior category was introduced in 2011, the Association has welcomed well over 200 new 'Super-Junior' members to the FGA family. Super-juniors are aged between 0 and 12, and pay a once-off \$25 fee when they join, no matter what age they sign up, and remain financial members until their 12th birthday. Each Super-Junior receives a colourful certificate and gift when they sign up, as well as a birthday card and present each year from FGA. Before the Super-Junior initiative was introduced, FGA only had a handful of members in that age group.

2012 fga awards

dr hugh martin medal

The Award is named in honor of Dr Hugh Martin, and recognises outstanding contributions in the leadership, planning and administration of affairs made by members at a branch or regional level. This may include exceptional contributions to the conservation, hunting or clay target strands of FGA, or to the broader scope of information, community liaison or membership services and attraction.

Three medals were awarded in 2012. These went to:



Gary Howard
Sale FGA



John Leen
Geelong FGA



Eddie Walker
Geelong FGA

Gary Howard, an FGA Life Member, is a passionate duck hunter who has donated many hours to FGA since he joined the Sale branch back in 1969, where he is now also a Life Member. He was secretary of the Sale branch for 10 years and was on the State Executive through the 80's, including as President in 1982 and 1984-87. Gary has been the Nest Box co-ordinator for over 30 years, co-ordinator of WIT tests since 1990, co-ordinator of the Sale Shoots for 30 years and coordinator of Gippsland's School Shoots. As well as this, Gary is a dedicated environmentalist in critical wetland and waterfowl habitat projects.

John Leen has been a committed member of the Geelong branch for many decades, including as an active conservationist. When works were underway to upgrade the control of the water flow to Hospital Swamp and later to Reedy Lake, John was involved in excavating channels and clearing vegetation, and has continued to clear these channels whenever they become over grown by cumbungi and other growth. John is also involved with the "Grey Army" - a group who plant trees around the SGR wetlands and provided storage for the branch equipment at this home.

Eddie Walker is a Geelong Branch life member and an active conservationist. He has spent over two decades of his life dedicated to waterfowl nest-box research. His Lake Borrie project is well known throughout Australia and his work is respected by Bird groups that do not always support hunting. He has recorded nest box breeding at Lake Borrie for over twenty years and his research is the only "long term" data set of waterfowl breeding in the country.

blue-wing trophy

The Blue-Wing Trophy recognises the valuable conservation work that is undertaken by our Branches each year.

» 1st: Bairnsdale Branch

Bairnsdale members were busy undertaking a number of tasks which made them a deserving winner of the 2012 Blue Wing Trophy, including:

- The service and repair of 400 nest boxes, with another 10 nest boxes created as a trial for Black Duck
- Negotiations on water control gates and the completion of a second structure
- Achieved support from Parks Victoria and Game Victoria for Cumbungi removal trial
- Wrote to Ramsar for support on the Cumbungi Project
- Macleods Morass Reference Group meetings
- Invested \$5000 to trial Cumbungi control techniques
- 8988 kms travelled and 1162 hunter hours logged in vermin eradication missions

» 2nd: Geelong Branch

Many hours were donated by Geelong members to nest box erection, maintenance and research, as well as waterfowl counts, revegetation and habitat restoration and water level monitoring. Other works included:

- Installed 14 nest boxes at Barwon River and Murtagurt Swamp
- Cleaned around trees planted 2 years earlier at Reedy Lake and carried out repair works on tree guards
- Replaced 15 trees at Hospital Swamp, whipper-snipped areas and dug out old trees
- Meetings with Parks Victoria, CCMA and DSE to discuss previous watering arrangements for Reedy Lake

» 3rd: Sale Branch

Sale continued its active participation in the nest box program, as well as their terrific work at the Heart Morass. Works included:

- Spraying Boxthorn, Blackberry and Pattersons Curse.
- Repair and upgrade of access track
- Installation of pipes in drain to control inflows and outflows

financial reports

fga financial report: year ending June 30, 2013



Tom Chick

The Association has again achieved a positive result in a period of increased costs and financial demands. There has been a steady growth in membership over recent years, which has maintained sufficient income levels to meet costs and avoided the need to eat into past surpluses. These must be held to meet future challenges to your hunting and shooting activities.

The surplus for the year was \$2,113. While this was significantly lower than the 2012 surplus of \$130,641 it was in accordance with budget. The Association is very conscious of the cost of membership and traditionally only sought CPI increases every second year. By the very nature of this method increasing costs will ultimately catch up with income.

The board also made decisions to use operating funds to increase member and branch services. The association took on the branch liability for Directors and Officers Insurance. This was far more cost effective to purchase a single policy than for each branch to acquire their own. The Association also employed a Stakeholder Services Officer to deal directly with branches and to help with administration, grant applications, and to deal with the many local and state government issues that are now impacting on our branches.

Membership income for the year was \$1.285 million, up from \$1.173 million last financial year. This included amounts collected on behalf of branches and

returned by way of branch rebates. \$163,410 for 2013 and \$162,295 for 2012.

Bank interest received for the year was significantly down due to lower rates on offer. \$33,632 against \$44,745. The board considers that while the current return on investment is not great for bank term deposits the risk is far less than for other investments.

Income from the 2012 National Carnival was \$64,752, up from \$55,414 in 2011. This reflects the nomination increase and a slightly larger attendance. Costs however were \$60,387 against \$52,890. This does not include any administration time or the staff time involved in the running of the event.

Significant expenses for the year were:

- Ground tenure and defence: \$43,622. This involves payments to the specialists in acoustics and environmental engineering required to defend planning actions against your shooting ranges. The Association's policy is to defend your grounds with vigour. On completion the branch involved will be required to repay some or all of the funds spent.
- Insurance: \$46,363, up from \$42,069 due to the mandatory Directors and Officers Insurance which protects branch executive and representatives against legal claim for published comments or other actions including defamation or libel. The association has reversed \$30,467 from branches from Range levies to cover the cost of public liability insurance on the branch ranges.
- Magazine and Mail house: \$316,874 has increased from \$292,507. This reflects increased membership numbers and CPI increase in the magazine price. Members are reminder that they now have free access to the Clay Buster monthly electronic publication that is a part of the magazine agreement.

“The board made decisions to use operating funds to increase member and branch services. The association took on the branch liability for Directors and Officers Insurance... and also employed a Stakeholder Services Officer to deal directly with branches”

– Tom Chick, Deputy Chairman

- Payroll and superannuation and labour hire: \$466,423 up from \$332,948. This increase is due to several factors. The payout of a staff member whose employment was terminated during the year. The employment of the Stakeholder Services Officer, and a general alignment of staff salaries in accordance with regulatory and market requirements.

The Financial Position of the Association remains stable and on a sound footing.

Net assets of the association are \$982,111. Significant items are:

- Cash at bank: \$1,319,247. (\$1,319,511 last year). This is after collecting the 2013-14 Members Subs which then have to fund the Association until the next membership renewal a April 1, 2014.
- Loan to the WET Trust: \$418,727. This is the balance of the original amount lent to the WET Trust for purchase of property at Heart Morass. The Association will continue to hold this debt over the WET Trust with the intent of receiving future repayment if conditions allow.
- Loan to Branch: \$10,930. This is the balance of a loan advanced to Minyip branch to assist with the successful purchase of its shooting ground.
- Property, Plant and Equipment and Software: \$104,990. This is the written down value of vehicles, furniture, office equipment and computer hardware and software held for use by the association.

Total assets held by the association total \$1,907,333.

Liabilities total \$925,222. Significant liabilities are:

- Members subscriptions paid in advance: \$787,984. Membership is paid as at April 1. At June 30, there is nine months remaining which

must be accounted for as a liability to the association.

- Provisions for employee entitlements: \$77,836. This represents employee Annual and Long Service Leave accrued at June 30 but yet to be taken.

The balance of liabilities is normal trade supplies and employee costs incurred before June 30, 2013 and to be paid under normal business terms after July 1.

Subsequent Events: The Wet Trust is in the process of purchasing two important properties. The Association has agreed to underwrite the new Heart Morass purchase if required. At this time, WET is holding funds and is receiving donations and negotiations are continuing with several other funding sources. A strategically significant property at Geelong is also being purchased by WET with a long term arrangement from the Geelong FGA branch.

The budgets for the coming year look very tight. The Association is conscious of and very grateful for the continuing and growing support of members. The board is aware that economic pressures are increasing on members, branches and the Association. Your Association will endeavour to contain membership costs while being effective advocates for members' rights. To do this and to meet future challenges to hunting, shooting and outdoor recreational activities it is essential to maintain the cash reserves that have taken thirteen years to build. While other organisations may be just focussing on day to day activities your board does not consider this to be in your best long term interest. Your association intends to remain as the advocate for all recreational hunters and shooters and will maintain its sound financial base to do so.

**“Your Association will
endeavour to contain
membership costs while
being effective advocates
for members’ rights”
– Tom Chick, Deputy Chair**



» national carnival bigger than ever

Seymour hosted a very successful 2012 FGA National Carnival. Given the club's central location, attendance was at an all-time high, with noms filling up over two months out from the event. Owing to the greater attendance and a nomination fee increase, income from the Carnival was up \$9,338 from last year to \$64,752, however costs were \$60,387 against \$52,890.

wetland environmental taskforce (wet) public fund financial report: year ending June 30, 2013

WET had a solid year for 2013. Donations received reflected the proposed purchase of an additional and strategically important part of the Heart Morass. While this increase in donations was welcome, it highlights the need for WET to have a regular income stream in order to best take advantage of wetland and other conservation opportunities.

Total revenue was \$116,244 which included donations (\$44,562), sales of merchandise (\$30,068), fundraising from AGM auction (\$16,175) and hunting access keys (\$16,740).

Expenditure for the year was \$42,099 leaving a surplus of \$51,840.

WET holds \$254,953 in cash assets.

It holds land to the value of \$1,692,917 and has paid a deposit of \$112,294 toward the next purchase of the Heart Morass property.

During the year equipment of \$14,490 was purchased to maintain access and camping areas at the Heart Morass. Total written down value of plant and equipment was \$14,646.

Liabilities at June 30, 2013 were the loan from the Association of \$417,615 and accrued creditors of \$1,452.

Net assets were \$1,670,582.

The new property will settle in November. There will be \$336,881 plus settlement costs to be paid on settlement. At present, pledges are being called in and negotiations are in process for other funding.

Field and Game Australia have agreed to loan funds to WET to underwrite any shortfall.

WET has also agreed to purchase a significant wetland at Geelong. This property will provide a very visible and accessible location to enhance WET and FGA conservation credentials. This is seen as vital to the future, and places hunters and recreational shooters in a position to access and influence governments and their decision makers. The work at the Heart is already being recognised and praised by

people who have the ears of Government.

WET now also holds the Max Downes collection (Australian National Hunting Archive) and has recently received some of the late Des Thomas' documents. This history is essential as a resource for students, journalists and governments. At a time when so much history is being rewritten and 'sanitised', it is of immense value to have

documents relating to the history of wildlife management and wetland conservation that recognise the important contributions made by recreational hunters.

“WET has also agreed to purchase a significant wetland at Geelong. This property will provide a very visible and accessible location to enhance WET and FGA conservation credentials”

– Tom Chick, FGA Board



**Thomas Chick CPA
- FGA Deputy Chairman**



» wet acquires geelong property

With the third parcel at the Heart Morass coming under the its banner in 2013, the WET set its sights on another wetland - this time near Geelong. The property is a strategically significant one for the Association, and is being purchased with a long term arrangement with the Geelong FGA branch. This purchase is seen as vital to the future, and will help to showcase hunters and recreational shooters as conservationists.

clay target shooting

2012 national carnival

Close to 500 shooters from all over Australia competed at the 2012 FGA National Carnival, hosted by our Seymour branch, making it one of the biggest in the event's history. Such was its popularity, nominations hit capacity over two months out from the event, and a lengthy waiting list ensued.

Over the two-day competition, each entrant addressed 150 simulated field targets on three grounds in open and handicap events. Congratulations to Seymour on the wonderfully-run event, and we also acknowledge and commend the Greenvale branch, who managed one of the grounds at the carnival.

FGA recognizes the sponsors who supported the 2012 National Carnival – Winchester Australia, Beretta Australia, Outdoor Sporting Agencies, GB Corsivia, Raytrade and IntoShooting. FGA also thanks Steve Threlfall, from Trellis's Fishing and Hunting in Shepparton, as well as Brian Heffer, who serviced the traps all weekend.

FGA Winchester National Carnival

National Champion - High Gun

Adam Durose (142/150)

AA-grade

1st: John Younger (140)
2nd: Brenton Irons (139)
3rd: Jack Gibbs (139)

A-grade

1st: Stephen Sambell (131)
2nd: Ross Matthews (130)
3rd: Darren Quinn (128)

B-grade

1st: Mark Carlson (117)
2nd: Matthew Wheeler (113)
3rd: Alfonso Scriva (112)

C-grade

1st: Gary Jones (104)
2nd: John Herouvim (100)
3rd: Graham Coker (99)

Ladies

1st: Renae Birgan (131)
2nd: Kelly Norris (126)
3rd: Brooke Tangey (117)

Veterans

1st: Ed Treadwell (129)
2nd: Lionel Bradley (123)
3rd: Leonard Box (121)

Juniors

1st: Adam Shale (134)
2nd: Jeremy Paglia (133)
3rd: Jayden Roe (131)

Sub-Juniors

1st: Alex Kalogerakis (109)
2nd: Michael Challis (108)
3rd: Matthew Baker (104)



» 2012 national champion

Adam DuRose was crowned FGA's National Champion in 2012, scoring a record-breaking OTG score of 142. The previous record score was 140, shot in 2008. Adam, who had only moved to the country from England 8 months prior, missed just eight targets over the two-day competition, shooting 70 out of 75 targets on day one, before his 72/75 on day two propelled him to victory.



» 2012 ladies champion

Renae Birgan continued her domination of the Ladies event, claiming the 2012 title with a score of 131, five shots clear of runner-up Kelly Norris.

» 2012 junior & sub-junior champions

Rutherglen's Adam Shale (left) took out the 2012 Junior event with a score of 134, while Shepparton's Alex Kalogerakis (right) was crowned the Sub-junior Champion with 109. Another promising junior, Jeremy Paglia, was the winner of the Beretta Classic, incredibly missing only one target on his way to victory.



target participation

Clay target shooting continues to remain well represented throughout Australia with participation levels remaining relative to other years. Come and Try Days proved successful for those branches who hosted them, with a number of new members signing up as a result.

The following table shows participation numbers, broken down in to categories and branches. Members of Field and Game Australia can participate in clay target events at any of our affiliated branches.

Branch	Categories					Participants	TGTS	Total Targets
	Open	Ladies	Junior	Sub Jun	Veteran			
Ararat/Stawell	458	34	16	10	61	579	550	28,975
Bairnsdale	496	36	12	27	61	632	628	58,294
Ballarat	968	30	39	53	129	1,219	750	84,275
Balranald	150	14	17	12	28	221	375	30,575
Bar-rook	699	57	110	42	102	1,010	790	78,945
Benalla	751	67	53	73	48	992	1,020	91,995
Bendigo	874	35	91	-	145	1,145	900	84,325
Broome	154	11	5	6	-	176	2,575	50,300
Canberra	465	21	15	-	28	529	1,100	56,700
Capricornia	84	16	21	-	-	121	800	10,275
Casterton	280	3	27	-	35	345	525	25,875
Clunes	703	14	30	27	135	909	855	65,295
Cobram	465	23	21	19	21	549	680	47,650
Coleraine	460	34	73	2	53	622	900	62,200
Deniliquin	598	40	32	38	87	795	1,178	79,440
Donald	411	34	54	4	70	573	725	39,275
Dorset	427	-	10	-	-	437	894	32,635
Echuca/Moama	802	53	31	48	120	990	893	79,501
Frankston	659	6	49	-	94	808	825	66,650
Furneaux	216	7	62	16	5	306	975	27,625
Goulburn	329	10	25	-	49	413	1,208	48,724
Greenvale	852	15	44	32	12	955	702	70,082
Huon	204	2	8	25	22	261	890	19,270
Kingston S.E	477	33	36	21	52	619	835	46,340
Mallacoota	117	22	13	4	-	156	825	14,025
Melbourne	1,029	35	28	24	131	1,247	800	90,405
Metropolitan	1,040	13	23	17	107	1,200	1,050	125,550
Minyip	616	55	53	39	100	863	650	50,075
Moe	461	48	27	18	63	617	700	48,475
Mornington	485	15	35	-	-	535	-	-
Morwell	502	43	19	9	62	635	650	53,500
Mt Wycheproof	308	30	21	-	38	397	600	26,850
Natimuk	806	71	51	60	75	1,063	828	82,606
Pinegrove	761	63	51	33	100	1,008	954	109,005
Port Phillip	907	53	27	34	116	1,137	1,125	133,825
Portland/Heywood	378	22	68	14	94	576	865	59,070
Rutherglen	336	23	33	38	25	455	587	32,734
Sale	1,038	133	108	96	129	1,504	424	70,396
Seymour	918	46	87	83	72	1,206	705	98,195
Shepparton	681	55	202	199	52	1,189	1,323	147,340
South Gippsland	444	68	68	10	66	656	730	42,720
Sunraysia	958	13	101	-	55	1,127	1,531	167,118
Swan Hill	48	3	3	-	-	54	100	2,700
Timboon	204	20	25	-	17	266	450	19,950
Traralgon	406	35	32	12	55	540	750	44,475
Wagga Wagga	393	16	7	1	1	418	750	29,175
Warrnambool	840	31	151	14	43	1,079	1,035	103,615
Westernport	849	68	69	2	118	1,106	1,075	110,475
Wodonga/Albury	400	47	29	37	55	568	950	47,525
Total:	26,907	1,623	2,212	1,199	2,931	34,808	41,080	2,995,070

wet trust



David Hawker

The Wetland Environmental Task Force (WET) was established in 2001 as a natural extension of the conservation activities undertaken by members of Field and Game Australia since 1958. FGA has long prided itself on its wetland conservation efforts throughout Australia.

Just over a decade ago, FGA members recognised the desperate need to take a pro-active approach to ensure Australia's wetlands continued to be preserved and maintained well in to the future.

In 2001, FGA members formed the Wetlands Environmental Taskforce Public Fund, which provided a vehicle for funding the acquisition, rehabilitation and maintenance of Australian wetlands.

The formation of WET acknowledged the need to preserve Australia's remaining wetlands, given the essential habitat that they provide for a wide variety of unique native flora and fauna, and offers conservationists an opportunity to take positive actions to protect and enhance Australia's remaining wetlands.



the heart morass project

The foresight and wisdom shown by members of Field and Game Australia in purchasing the first part of the Heart Morass continues to be more apparent.

Current negotiations to purchase the third parcel, expected to be finalised by November this year, will complete the ownership by the WET Trust of what is believed to be the largest wetland project of its type in Australia, covering over 3,100 acres. The executive of Field and Game Australia are working closely with Trust for Nature to finalise the Native Vegetation Agreement between both parties to facilitate the VicRoads Offset funding and Covenant.

The continuing, very generous, support of the Hugh Williamson Foundation is greatly appreciated. Through its Bug Blitz program, primary school students continue to have a marvellous opportunity to develop first hand interest in nature studies and the value of the wetland. More than 3000 students have been to the Heart and enthusiastic visits continue with strong support of schools in the region.

Currently the Heart is in flood and this augurs well for the coming year. Matt Bowler from the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) continues to do a marvellous job supervising the enhancement of the Heart. Currently he is doing an environmental water options study to prepare a plan to manage environmental flows in drier years.

Now into its seventh year by any measure the achievements to date with the Heart Morass are quite remarkable. The Committee of Governors congratulates the many volunteers who have and continue to willingly give their time and money to create such a significant conservation project.

One very important ongoing challenge is to continue to communicate this amazing story to the wider community and government.

Again many thanks to everyone involved for their work building this wonderful asset for future generations.

David Hawker AO
- Heart Morass Committee
of Governors Chairman

GOVERNORS	
Chair	Mr David Hawker
FGA	Mr Bill Paterson & Mr Rod Drew
WGCMA	Mr Martin Fuller & Ms Kylie Debono
Watermark Inc.	Mr Des Sinnott & Mr Wally Evans
Bug Blitz Trust	Mr Martin Carlson
VALUED PARTNERS	
Hugh Williamson Foundation	Mr Denis Tricks
WGCMA	Mr Matt Bowler
Gippsland Conservation Officer - TFN	Mr Geordie Kuzniarski
BugBlitz Co-ordinator	Mr John Caldwell
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	
FGA	Mr Rick Foster & Mr Gary Howard

australian national hunting archive

In 2011, Max Downes - Victoria's first Game Manager - made his collection available to the WET Trust for the purposes of establishing an Australian National Hunting Archive.

To this day, Max's passion for hunting has continued and his collection now consists of more than 4500 books, 20,000 documents and a database record of 20 years cataloguing and referencing materials in libraries and archives across the nation.

The archive is now Australia's most comprehensive and valuable collection of works on the social history of hunting in any one place throughout the nation.

“A study of the history of the social interaction of mankind with wildlife is important for understanding the ecology of both man and wildlife. The objective of the Australian Hunting Archive is to collect the hunting literature from Australia's past. This will allow the public to better understand the ecological and social role that hunting wildlife had in the history of this country” – Max Downes

The Australian National Hunting Archive has been established in suburban Boronia, not far from where Max lives, and he continues to work tirelessly to build and expand upon the collection. It is a Research Archive that records and tells the story of how Australian society has relied upon and managed hunting over more than two centuries. In addition, the archive has received Otto Ruf's collection of deer heads and hunting records. Otto's wife Kath requested that the archive hold and preserve the collection her husband built over decades of hunting in Australia and overseas.

Otto was one of Australia's finest taxidermists. His collection, numbering more than 30 heads, is magnificent. The archive will continue to grow as documents and records from as yet untapped sources become available. This includes the contribution made by FGA members and branches over more than 54 years.

Historians, academics and researchers will be invited to make use of the archive and appreciate the enormous contribution hunting and hunters have made to Australian society over the past 225 years.



» deer heads on the move

The Otto Ruf Collection of deer heads has been moved from their home in Greensborough to the Australian National Hunting Archive in Boronia. The heads were transported in a 29-seat bus across town to their new home. The WET Trust acquired office space in Boronia for the Max Downes Collection and the Otto Ruff Collection, which has become the home of the Australian National Hunting Archive. Over 1000 boxes of books and documents have been moved from Max's house to the archive office as well as Otto's deer collection.

hunting and game management



Rob Treble

victorian game management authority

The announcement of the creation of a Game Management Authority in Victoria is a culmination of twenty years of lobbying and advocating various Government's by FGA. The announcement in May by the Victorian Coalition Government was welcomed by FGA and saw the fulfilment of an election promise made by the Nationals in 2010. The Victorian Government has budgeted 17.6 million over the next four years to support an industry that generates around 100 million a year, mostly in regional Victoria.

the 2013 game bird season

2013 saw another successful year for hunting, with Government announcements for game bird seasons in Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory. Waterfowl hunters were given full bag limits and season lengths in response to continued good habitat conditions across Australia.

Victorian licensed waterfowl hunters increased by 2.3% in 2013 to 25,216 - an increase of 580 licenses. Additionally, there was a further 2,068 quail licenses

issued - equating to a total of 27,284 game bird hunting licenses in 2013. More significantly, 2200 Waterfowl Identification Tests (WIT) were issued in the 2012-13 financial year by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI). The age demographic continues to change with aged hunter's dropping out and increased recruitment in Tasmania, South Australia.

The 2013 Victorian game bird season was very good, with the hunting in Gippsland being exceptional. Hunting improved all over the state as the season progressed. In 2013, approximately 37,000 game bird hunters participated in season's throughout Australia, and many new hunters were introduced to game bird hunting for the first time.

waterfowl monitoring

Habitat conditions across South Eastern Australia remain good, with above average rains expected this winter.

In November and February each year, voluntary Field and Game Australia (FGA) members visit wetlands right across Victoria to assist with the waterfowl count survey. The data is collated and studied to determine trends in waterfowl numbers and breeding patterns.

The November data is particularly important, as it is used as part of negotiations surrounding the declaration or otherwise of a game bird season in the following year. The February data is added to a long running survey that provides further insight in to general waterfowl abundance. As the Adaptive Harvest Model evolves, waterfowl monitoring may become more structured to develop indicator wetlands to be monitored more intensely. FGA acknowledge and thank all members who volunteer their time to contribute to this very valuable project.

FIGURE 1: contains the regional summary data from the November 2012 Waterfowl Survey (conducted between October 28 and November 4).

Note: * indicates the number of accompanied broods seen.

Regions	Totals		Game Species																Protected	
	Game	Prot.	SHEL	*	PAD	*	GYTL	*	CHTL	*	SHOV	*	PEAD	*	HARD	*	MAND	*	FRED	*
Gippsland	109,073	29	1322	1	2932	36	77,217	0	13,921	42	109	25	1373	0	10,864	10	1221	43	29	0
North East	12,035	0	207	2	1955	2	4554	1	2627	0	48	0	305	0	1660	0	674	0	0	0
North West	71,488	0	2297	0	5630	0	56,391	2	773	0	30	0	648	0	3749	0	1968	6	0	0
Port Phillip	21,445	0	402	0	876	0	11,527	0	4371	20	22	0	3300	0	803	0	124	0	0	0
South West	32,555	35	2578	1	2604	0	22,832	0	1570	0	501	0	930	0	1101	0	438	0	35	0
TOTAL	246,596	64	6806	4	13,997	38	172,521	3	23,262	62	710	25	6556	0	18,177	10	4425	49	64	0

FIGURE 2: indicates how many wetlands were counted in each region over the counting period.

Regions	Gippsland	North East	North West	Port Phillip	South West	TOTAL
Wetlands	68	18	56	19	69	230

FIGURE 3: contains the regional summary data from the February 2013 Waterfowl Survey (conducted from February 16-24). Note: * indicates the number of accompanied broods seen.

Regions	Totals		Game Species																Protected	
	Game	Prot.	SHEL	*	PAD	*	GYTL	*	CHTL	*	SHOV	*	PEAD	*	HARD	*	MAND	*	FRED	*
Gippsland	47,908	1	3591	77	4203	23	16,575	0	9418	0	295	0	7145	0	4559	212	1810	0	1	0
North East	5240	78	430	0	391	0	3217	0	62	0	27	0	281	0	257	0	575	0	78	0
North West	81,616	172	6286	0	4749	2	44,679	0	2405	0	1086	0	17,090	0	1877	0	3442	0	172	0
Port Phillip	784	1	0	0	439	5	47	0	71	0	0	0	0	0	64	1	157	0	1	0
South West	128,789	250	14,233	0	4238	0	85,072	0	13,148	0	1643	0	4622	0	2698	0	3135	0	250	0
TOTAL	264,337	502	24,540	77	14,020	30	149,590	0	25,104	0	3051	0	29,138	0	9455	213	9119	0	502	0

FIGURE 4: indicates how many wetlands were counted in each region over the counting period.

Regions	Gippsland	North East	North West	Port Phillip	South West	TOTAL
Wetlands	34	16	60	8	79	197

game harvest reports (2012)

For the past six game bird seasons, FGA and the Victorian DPI have been collecting data from hunters on their hunting practices and harvest. This data is analysed and forms the basis of the annual Game Harvest Report. The survey is conducted on a random sample of game license holders by an independent telemarketing company every two weeks during the various duck, quail and deer seasons.

It remains absolutely vital that all hunters actively cooperate and participate in this survey. The data is collected and entered in to the scientifically validated model which is used to calculate the total harvest with a high (95% CI) degree of certainty.

On average each licence holder hunted on approximately 4.6 days during the 2012 duck hunting season. When multiplied by the total number of licence holders, this corresponds to a total of 109,718 hunter days (95% CI = 96,213 - 125,120).



» grey teal flourish

Grey Teal continues to be the most prolific game species counted in Victoria. According to data collected in the February Waterfowl Counts, Grey Teal makes up around 69% of game species in Victoria.

FIGURE 5: shows the 2012 Victorian harvest data for waterfowl (reported numbers of harvest from hunters, proportion of the total harvest, and estimated total 2012 harvest for each species. The 2013 date is due for release later in the year.

Species	Reported	Proportion of Harvest	SE	Estimated Harvest	SE	95% CI	
						Lower	Upper
Pacific Black Duck	1340	0.316	0.007	160,704	20,853	81,040	318,678
Australian Wood Duck	1252	0.295	0.007	150,150	19,514	75,680	297,899
Australian Shelduck	77	0.018	0.002	9234	1,574	4243	20,099
Grey Teal	922	0.218	0.006	110,574	14,492	55,582	219,975
Chestnut Teal	196	0.046	0.003	23,506	3422	11,412	48,416
Pink-ear Duck	180	0.042	0.003	21,587	3176	10,443	44,623
Australian Shoveller	11	0.003	0.001	1319	432	465	3742
Hardhead	252	0.059	0.004	30,222	4280	14,809	61,677

the 2012 quail season

Quail hunting is a popular activity within the Field and Game Australia membership.

Detailed below is the harvest data for the 2012 season. The total average season harvest was 4.8 quail per game licence holder (95% CI = 2.19 - 10.54). Note that for each survey period, the average quail harvest per game licence holder is lower than the average quail harvest per hunter, as the former averages across those respondents who did not hunt during the survey period, whereas the latter is conditional on those that hunted.

FIGURE 6: contains estimates of the 2012 quail harvest in Victoria by licensed quail hunters. Total harvest = Harvest per hunter x Total hunters.

Period	Harvest	SE	95% CI	
			Lower	Upper
April	42,407	5681	32,653	55,075
May	48,355	7941	35,122	66,574
June	39,016	5507	29,627	51,381
TOTAL SEASON	129,711	11,210	109,535	153,604

the 2012 deer hunting season

Some 32% of Field and Game Australia members are deer hunters. The following statistics were generated from the 2011-12 Game Harvest survey. This was based on 22,216 licensed deer hunters at the end of the 12-month period. The total average season harvest was 1.93 deer per licence holder (95% CI = 1.57 - 2.36).

FIGURE 7: shows estimates of the total deer harvest in Victoria from July 2011 until June 2012, by 22,216 licensed deer hunters.

Survey	Total Harvest	SE	95% CI	
			Lower	Upper
Jul-Aug 2011	7076	1548	4632	10,809
Sep-Oct 2011	6973	1545	4540	10,711
Nov-Dec 2011	3591	1274	1829	7051
Jan-Feb 2012	4350	1205	2553	7413
Mar-Apr 2012	6947	1779	4239	11,386
May-Jun 2012	12,663	2879	8155	19,644
TOTAL SEASON	41,601	4395	33839	51,142



» stubble quail numbers down

Stubble Quail were hard to come by in 2012, as proved by the Victorian DPI's Game Harvest Report. In 2012, the average season harvest was just 4.8 quail per game licence holder, where as in 2011, the average was 26.17 quail. Stubble Quail prefer areas of tall, dense ground vegetation, particularly grasslands and areas of other low cover, including cereal crops, stubble and leafy crop, and is the only native quail species that can be legally hunted in Victoria.

hunting in nsw, northern territory & south australia

As we go to print, it has been announced that the NSW Game Council will be abolished. Hunting has been immediately suspended in all State Forests and Crown Land areas. Licensing, education and law enforcement functions - currently the chief role of the Game Council - has been handed to the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), along with policy and legislation functions.

The waterfowl season in South Australia was good, with hunting opportunities steady through out the season. Licence numbers continued to improve. The quail season was excellent with many hunters finding success.

The NT season over all was good. After a bit of a delayed start due to habitat conditions, many hunters had very good opportunities. Licence numbers continue to grow in the Northern Territory, similar to other states.

victorian game management unit

From Victorian Government Press Release 3-11-12:

The Victorian Coalition Government announced in November that it was allocating \$8.2 million 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 Game Management Authority fulfilled a 2010 election commitment to better co-ordinate game management efforts and improve opportunities for game hunting across Victoria. It will commence on July 1, 2014.

The new Game Management Authority will help to provide better services for hunters, facilitate the growth in hunting businesses in regional areas and deliver better public land, habitat management, and broader conservation outcomes. There are 43,000 game licence holders in Victoria and this level of financial support to game management reflects its popularity and importance to rural and regional economies.

The Game Management Authority will be accountable for the regulation and enforcement of game hunting activities, and will improve access to hunting areas and facilities that support game hunting. The Authority will also make recommendations on the control of pest animals.

It will also promote responsible and orderly hunting of game species through improved education and training of hunters, leading to better quality hunting opportunities and animal welfare outcomes.

Game hunting currently generates around \$100 million of economic activity to Victoria annually and the new authority will help to create new regional development opportunities from interstate and overseas hunters.



» laurie levy arrested... again

Notorious duck hunting activist Laurie Levy was up to his usual tricks on the opening morning of the 2013 Victorian Duck Season. New laws to improve human safety on Victoria's wetlands were blatantly disregarded by Levy and his merry team of protesters. Levy instructed his naïve followers to enter the water at Lake Bael Bael, in the state's north-west, around 6.30am, and some were issued with infringement notices upon exiting the wetland. New laws state that they must not enter the water and they must stay at least 25 metres away from the shoreline until 10am. This law was introduced to separate hunters from protesters. FGA will continue to push for tougher action to be taken against the extremists, many of whom are repeat offenders and are well known to authorities.

illegal hunting

The FGA Board was bitterly disappointed with reports of an alleged incident where over a thousand game and protected species were shot and left on private property during the opening weekend of the 2013 Victorian duck season.

The incident that occurred near Boort, in the state's North-West, was totally unacceptable in the eyes of FGA, and the organisation assisted authorities in their investigations. While no charges have yet been laid, it is alleged some FGA members were involved in the incident. If this is found to be true, they will be expelled from the association.

It's very disappointing that a very small minority may have tarnished the good name of Victoria's licenced, ethical and law-abiding duck hunters.

FGA advocates strongly for ethical hunting and this behaviour will not be tolerated. Compliance by hunters across Victoria on the opening weekend of the 2013 duck season was generally excellent across the state.

FGA commends the efforts of DPI Compliance Officers in detecting these offences and the organisation will continue to offer every assistance to bring these rogue hunters to account.

conservation hunting

pest and vermin report

A number of Field and Game Australia branches continue to make significant contributions to pest animal eradication all over the country, on both private and public land. Hunters devote thousands of hours and dollars every year to this exercise, all on a voluntary basis.

FIGURE 1: highlights pest animal eradication activities from participating branches between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013

Branch	Species Taken								Travel Time (hrs)	Hunting Time (hrs)	Expenses	Total Man Hours @ \$15/hour + Expenses
	Fox	Feral Cat	Rabbit	Feral Dog	Feral Pig	Feral Goat	Hare	Other				
Bairnsdale	219	6	795	7	143	2	38	80	465	1662	\$2940	\$34,845
Furneaux	0	0	154	0	0	0	0	0	53	130	\$360	\$3105
Geelong	11	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	6	8	\$150	\$360
Grampians	62	1	6	0	0	0	2	0	132	707	\$3830	\$16,415
Huon	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	357	30	40	\$730	\$1780
Mornington	33	0	103	0	0	0	0	0	295	534	\$1620	\$14,055
Mt Wycheproof	230	40	100	0	0	0	0	0	1000	600	\$3000	\$27,000
Rushworth	136	3	1	0	0	0	36	0	428	855	-	\$19,237
Seymour	4	1	1	0	33	0	0	0	48	260	\$500	\$5120
South Gippsland	43	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	249	696	\$1950	\$16,125
Warrnambool	277	4	86	0	3	0	29	26	480	2750	\$15,600	\$64,042
TOTAL	1015	56	1248	7	179	2	111	463	3186	8242	\$30,680	\$202,084

fox hunting

Fox numbers continue to thrive, and fox hunting continues to be a popular activity among FGA members.

Branches are frequently doing their part for pest and vermin control across the nation, with foxes, feral cats, dogs and pigs, rabbits and hares among the species taken.

In addition, some FGA Branches hosted organised fox drives over the past year in a co-ordinated effort to rid Australia's most persistent mainland pest. As evidenced from the table above, over 1000 foxes were removed by branches in Victoria alone.

As well as the obvious environmental benefits, hunters in Victoria are able to claim a \$10 bounty for their efforts as part of the Victorian Government's 4 year, \$4 million bounty. There is a continued push for a bounty to be implemented in other states including NSW and SA, where fox numbers in some parts have reached plague proportions.

The Victorian Bounty was an immediate success after it was implemented on October 1, 2011. DPI Collection Centres have been overrun with hunters claiming the bounty. Bendigo leads the way with 29,500 dead foxes handed in since the bounty started, ahead of Ballarat with 27,300 scalps. More than 200,000 foxes have been collected state-wide, with the government paying more than \$2 million in incentives to hunters.



» rabbits gone wild

Rabbits were the most frequently taken species by FGA's volunteer conservation hunters, with 1248 rabbits removed in the past year alone. The majority of the rabbits were taken by members of Bairnsdale branch, who accounted for 795 of those.



Field and Game Australia Inc. National Office

Address: 65 Anzac Avenue Seymour VIC

Postal: PO Box 464 Seymour VIC 3660

Phone: 03 5799 0960 Fax: 03 5799 0961

Website: www.fga.net.au Email: fga@fga.net.au

