

SAFGA "STATE BOARD"

# *NewsBulletin*

16<sup>th</sup> July 2025



## **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FIELD AND GAME**

*"The wild life 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*

PO Box 1438  
Mt Gambier SA 5290  
[www.safga.org.au](http://www.safga.org.au)

## **2025 Conservation and Hunting Matters - Update**

- *2025 Duck Season – "Now CLOSED"*
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- *Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre is filling with water - ABC Report*
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- *CLP Government spending Millions for Hunters - NT*
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- *Katter's Australian Party proposal of Crocodile Culling - QLD*
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- *Hunter Education Engagement By Phillip Papaioannou*

# *The Closing Ceremony*

## *A tribute to our traditions*



Front Page as promised JT

**Grant Baum & Co** in the Riverland for the closing with his favourite “Parea” (*Great company - Parea is a Greek term used to describe a group of people who come together regularly to socialize, share meals, and engage in friendly discussions, often in a relaxed and informal setting*). This as the very best part of hunting – the fire, the *COLD*, the experience, the stories that are shared, It’s all about the camp!.

*A Celebration of the Closing in keeping our traditions alive.*

As an observation, to some it may seem more like a Rocky Gully drink session than anything else. But who cares? *Enjoy fellas!*

As always special thanks to camp photographer Micheal Vasileff.





# The 'enduring' mystery of how birds know when Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre is filling with water

Topic: Birds By Bethanie Alderson Saturday 28th June 2025



Massive floodwaters flowing into Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre is expected to attract hundreds of thousands of waterbirds. *(Supplied: Reece Pedler)*

**Share article**

The most arid corner of Australia is about to burst with life, as Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre braces to reach capacity for just the fourth time in the past 160 years.

While the usually-barren salt flats rapidly fill with floodwater from south western Queensland, migratory waterbirds like seagulls, swans, ducks and pelicans will begin descending to the inland oasis in the hundreds of thousands.

So — with the lake expected to become entirely full in the coming months — how do birds know that this once-in-a-generation event is happening?

## Ready, set, fly

The question is one University of New South Wales Professor Richard Kingsford has been striving to answer for the majority of his career.



Researching the Lake Eyre Basin has been Professor Richard Kingsford's life work. *(Supplied)*

He's spent the past four decades monitoring water birds through aerial surveys.

"Birds can go incredible distances," Professor Kingsford said.

"Unlike water birds in other parts of the world, that sort of regularly migrate between spring and winter — we don't see any of that.

"These birds just know that it's on in the Lake Eyre Basin and they're ready to go."

Worlds away from home

Professor Kingsford said while the majority of the waterbirds found at Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre are native to Australia, some species will travel from as far as China, Russia and Antarctica.

At Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre, an 'inland tsunami' is making a sea

Australia's biggest lake is believed to have reached capacity on only three occasions in the past **160 years**, but the mass of floodwater now flowing into Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre is raising more than river levels.

He said the birds will capitalise on the opportunities to breed at varying times based on the availability of vegetation, invertebrates and fish.

"There's that huge smorgasbord of food," Professor Kingsford said.

"It sort of triggers that cascade of different types of species coming in at different points.

"You get these wonderful sort of pulses of productivity depending on which waterbird you're talking about."



The floodwaters from south-west Queensland have already transformed the landscape. *(ABC News: Tom Hartley)*

Professor Kingsford said — while still complex — tracking waterbirds had become somewhat easier in recent years with the arrival of satellite tracking technology.

**"These are like little backpacks that you can put on birds and they allow you to track them over a number of years,"**  
**he said.**

"And it is one of the great mysteries for Australia is how do these birds know where the water is and head off? "We are starting to get some ideas of how they probably do it though."



Pelicans resting on the banks of Kati-Thanda-Lake Eyre after flooding in 2019. (*ABC News: Brendan Esposito*)

### **An 'enduring' mystery**

Ecologist Reece Pedler became fascinated by the movements of waterbirds while living in the remote South Australian town of Roxby Downs for a decade.

"I now live up in the Strzelecki Desert ... so I see this stuff first-hand in my life in the outback that birds are flying around and doing these amazing things," Mr Pedler said.

"Birds can arrive really rapidly and their ecology is geared to these unpredictable events.

"But we don't know exactly how they know."



Reece Pedler studied the breeding patterns of the banded stilt using solar-powered trackers. (*ABC News: Elise Fantin*)

Mr Pedler, who is the coordinator of the Wild Deserts Project in Sturt National Park, previously studied the breeding behaviour of the banded stilt using solar-powered trackers as part of his PhD.

The threatened bird species is most commonly found in Australia's saline coastal wetlands, such as the Coroong or at St Kilda Beach, north of Adelaide.

"Those banded stilts might be there for months and months on end or live there year round, " Mr Pedler said.

"Then suddenly they disappear when places like Lake Eyre or other lakes in the Western Australian desert fill.

**"They fly hundreds or sometimes thousands of kilometres in one fly and they somehow know that there's water there."**



A family of banded stilts at Lake Torrens in South Australia's remote far north. *(Supplied: Tom Putt)*

### **Once-in-a-decade opportunity**

Mr Pedler said the abundance of brine shrimp at Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre creates a rare breeding-ground for the threatened species.

"They don't breed anywhere else around the coast ... so they have to wait years or decades for those opportunities," he said.

"And when they breed, they breed in real style, they have thousands of pairs.

**"But the question of how they know — we didn't quite manage to crack — it still remains one of these enduring mysteries of animal behaviour."**



Mr Pedler says some banded stilts have to wait decades for breeding opportunities at inland lakes. *(Supplied: Reece Pedler)*

Mr Pedler said while it was once thought the birds only flew after significant wet events, minimal rainfall was enough to trigger the stilts to leave the coast and head inland.

"There's some really complex triggers too because this water that's flowing into Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre now fell in western Queensland in the last week of March," he said.

"So the stilts and other water birds that would be turning up at Lake Eyre now are not responding to rainfall or atmospheric queues that have happened in the days prior.

"There's potentially lots of different mechanisms occurring and it may be that some different groups of birds have different ways of sensing these things."



## “Ducks Galore”



Thousands of whistling ducks taking off from the Diamantina River in northern South Australia. (Gary Ticehurst: ABC News)

### Theories still up in the Eyre

Several theories of how birds know when Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre is filling exist, including them having the ability to detect infrasound, barometric pressure or smell the flooded salt flats on the breeze.

"There's been theories like scouts ... if pelicans send up observers to go and recce inland sites and come back and tell their mates that there's food on offer," Mr Pedler said.

"I guess there's some rationale for that because pelicans can fairly easily fly long distances, they get up to high altitude on thermals and then they can cruise and go for a look.

"It's still an open case and there's a lot more work to understand this really fascinating behaviour."

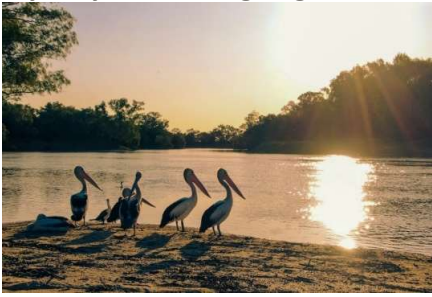
Flooding transforms arid landscapes into rivers teeming with birdlife like pelicans.

Professor Kingsford said as more technology emerges and becomes cheaper, the more scientists like himself will be able to shed light on how birds are able to do what they do.

"What's most important about that is working out when are the critical times that we need to protect particular habitats in their life cycle," he said.

"I'd love to try and work out what's going on and others are too.

"Although it is rather nice not to know everything or think we know everything because this is a big mystery that's intriguing."



There's a theory that coastal colonies of pelicans send out scouts to inland desert lakes. (*ABC News: Michael Slezak*)

## South Australian Biodiversity Act.

We're pleased to provide you with an update on the progress of the South Australian Biodiversity Act.

### Current Status

On 18 June 2025, the Biodiversity Bill was successfully **"Passed"** by the South Australian Parliament. This historic legislation consolidates and strengthens biodiversity protections across the state, ensuring better outcomes for native species, ecosystems, and future generations.

### Next steps

While the new legislation has been finalised, it will not come into effect immediately – it will be implemented in a staged manner over the next **two years**. In the meantime, the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* and the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* will continue to work the same way they currently do. For example, current requirements to seek approval to clear native vegetation or to apply for wildlife permits remain unchanged.

The department is now working on developing the subordinate legislation – the regulations and required policies and guidelines – and the establishment of new governance bodies. Consultation will continue throughout those developments.

We will continue to keep you informed as the implementation progresses and key milestones are achieved. Your ongoing engagement and support remain vital to the success of this initiative.

Kind regards,

Biodiversity Legislation Project Team



# DUCK HUNTING

- 2025 South Australian Duck Season – Now **“CLOSED”**
- 2025 South Australian Quail Season - Sunday 27 July 2025

In **South Australia**, duck hunting permit holders are required to complete and submit a hunting survey within 30 days of the end of the open season. This survey provides crucial data on species populations and distribution, which is used to inform future hunting season decisions. If you held both duck and quail permits, separate surveys must be submitted for each.

Reminder: It is now mandatory for duck and quail permit holders to complete and lodge a Hunting Survey (a separate survey for duck and for quail) to the Department for Environment and Water) within 30 days of permit expiry or revocation.

Ignorance of the conditions is no excuse, and penalties of up to **\$1250** may apply for non-lodgement of a Hunting Survey, or for making a false or misleading statement.

National Parks and Wildlife Service - Fauna Permits Unit  
GPO Box 1047 ADELAIDE SA 5001  
Phone: (08) 8124 4972  
Email: [hunterreturns@sa.gov.au](mailto:hunterreturns@sa.gov.au)  
Website: [environment.sa.gov.au/licences-and-permits/wildlife-permits](http://environment.sa.gov.au/licences-and-permits/wildlife-permits)



## Duck Hunting Survey

In accordance with Regulation 9 of the National Parks and Wildlife (Hunting) Regulations 2011, holders of a duck hunting permit are required to complete and lodge this Hunting Survey form within 30 days of permit expiry or revocation. If you held both a duck and a quail open season hunting permit, you must submit separate Hunting Surveys for each permit. Penalties may apply for non-lodgement of a Hunting Survey, or for making a false or misleading statement.

To complete the Hunting Survey:

1. Fill your personal details at the top of the survey, ensuring your permit number is correct.
2. Complete one row for each day spent hunting. If you hunted in multiple locations on one day, complete a separate row for each location.
3. You must specify which region you hunted in for each day hunting and where in the region you hunted. Either specify which Game Reserve you hunted on using the code outlined on the second page of this form, or use 'UCL' for unalienated Crown Land, or tick the Private Land box if you hunted on private property.
4. For each row completed, all fields must be completed. If no duck were taken on a day of hunting, include that on the survey by recording the date and hunting location and writing zero in each of the number of birds fields.
5. If you did not hunt at all in 2025, indicate that by ticking the appropriate box below.
6. Sign and date survey, then return via post or email to the National Parks and Wildlife Service office at the above addresses.

Name:			Permit number:			<input type="checkbox"/> I did not hunt during the 2025 duck open season			
Address:			City:		State:		Postcode:		
Date	Hunting location <small>Fill as specified in step 3 of the instructions above.</small>			Number of species taken per day***					Comments
	Region*	Game Reserve or UCL**	Private Land	Pacific Black Duck	Grey Teal	Chestnut Teal	Wood Duck	Mountain Duck	
			<input type="checkbox"/>						
			<input type="checkbox"/>						
			<input type="checkbox"/>						
			<input type="checkbox"/>						

Date	Hunting location Fill as specified in step 3 of the instructions above.			Number of species taken per day***					Comments
	Region*	Game Reserve or UCL**	Private Land	Pacific Black Duck	Grey Teal	Chestnut Teal	Wood Duck	Mountain Duck	
			<input type="checkbox"/>						
			<input type="checkbox"/>						
			<input type="checkbox"/>						
			<input type="checkbox"/>						
			<input type="checkbox"/>						
			<input type="checkbox"/>						
			<input type="checkbox"/>						
			<input type="checkbox"/>						
			<input type="checkbox"/>						
			<input type="checkbox"/>						
If you hunt for more than 13 days, please complete an additional survey sheet.			TOTAL						

\*Regions; RL = Riverland, ML = Murraylands, C = Coorong, SE = South East, AH = Adelaide Hills, KI = Kangaroo Island, EP = Eyre Peninsula, YP = Yorke Peninsula, MN = Mid North  
 \*\*Game reserves: BL = Bucks Lake, C = Chowilla, CC = Currency Creek, LR = Lake Robe, LL = Loch Luna, M = Moorook, MI = Mud Islands, PS = Poocher Swamp,  
 UCL = Unalienated Crown land  
 \*\*\*If you did not take a bird on a day hunting please record zero as the number taken for the day.

I certify that this is a true and correct record, and understand that there are penalties for making a false or misleading statement.	
Signature:	Date:

## Government spending Millions on Hunting - NT

**Silkwood Station** — a 30,000-hectare property featuring waterfalls, gorges, hot springs and 4WD tracks — will become part of the **NT's** popular **Litchfield National Park**.



The Northern Territory's Litchfield National Park is set to grow by 20 per cent, in the largest addition to the popular tourist attraction in more than two decades.

The NT government has purchased Silkwood, a 30,000-hectare parcel of land that borders Litchfield's south-east boundary, which it says will give Territorians and visitors more places to camp, four-wheel drive, swim and **hunt**.

The \$7.5 million property is located 120 kilometres from Darwin near the regional town of Adelaide River, and includes the popular Robin Falls.

The government says the acquisition — the national park's biggest expansion in 25 years — will also make untouched waterfalls, gorges, hot springs and 4WD tracks accessible to the public.

#### In short:

The Northern Territory government has bought a 30,000-hectare parcel of land to expand the southern end of Litchfield National Park.

The **\$7.5 million** purchase will see Robin Falls and other gorges, hot springs and 4WD tracks join the popular tourist park.

#### What's next?

The government has already secured the current use of the property and says work will now start on making improvements, including "**a new dedicated hunting reserve**".

## Media Release

**Steve Dimopoulos MP**  
Minister for Environment  
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events  
Minister for Outdoor Recreation



Friday, 4 July 2025

## MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEER HUNTING IN VICTORIA

The Allan Labor Government is expanding recreational hunting in East Gippsland – boosting tourism, supporting local jobs and helping control wild deer.

Minister for Outdoor Recreation Steve Dimopoulos today announced that the National Parks Act will be amended to allow seasonal deer hunting in Errinundra and Snowy River National Park.

This will allow seasonal deer stalking in some **130,000 hectares** of the two parks and means most public land in eastern Victoria will be available for recreational deer hunting.

This expanded access to seasonal deer stalking on public land adds to existing opportunities for accredited hunters – supporting outdoor recreation while helping control wild deer in parks across Victoria.

Anyone wishing to recreationally hunt deer in Victoria must hold a current Victorian Game Licence issued by the Game Management Authority.

Deer hunting is a popular activity in Victoria, with more than 45,000 licensed deer hunters in the state. The activity supports local industry and generates economic activity in regional areas.

Between 2013 and 2019, recreation hunting supported more than 3,100 jobs and contributed \$356 million to the



Victorian economy, \$201 million of which was attributed to recreational deer hunting.

In 2023, recreational hunters harvested 137,000 deer and hunted for a total of 332,000 days, with 52 per cent of hunting occurring exclusively on public land.

Allowing recreational hunters greater access to help manage wild deer will also contribute to better biodiversity outcomes, making our bush healthier for our native wildlife.

This announcement compliments the Victorian Deer Control Strategy – a state-wide plan for government and authorities to manage deer populations across the state and coordinate control action in priority areas to minimise impacts on native habitat, biodiversity and agriculture.

For more information about game deer hunting please visit: [gma.vic.gov.au/hunting/deer](http://gma.vic.gov.au/hunting/deer).

#### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Outdoor Recreation Steve Dimopoulos**

"This is a win for regional communities – expanding deer hunting means more visitors, more jobs, and stronger local economies."

"By providing access to deer hunting in Errinundra and Snowy River national parks we will reduce the impact of deer on our national parks and on native ecosystems, preserving our environment for future generations to enjoy."

#### **Quotes attributable to Australian Deer Association Advocacy Lead Sean Kilkenny**

**Media Contact:** Lloyd Skinner 0457 138 806 | [lloyd.skinner@minstaff.vic.gov.au](mailto:lloyd.skinner@minstaff.vic.gov.au)

"This is a fantastic decision by the Allan Labor Government and is welcomed by over 45,000 licensed recreational deer hunters."

"Public land access is cherished, and we thank the Premier and Minister for their ongoing efforts and engagement regarding public land access."

## **New South Wales**

Introduced by the Hon Robert Borsak, MLC *First print*

Game and Feral Animal Legislation  
Amendment (Conservation Hunting) Bill 2025

#### **Explanatory note**

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

#### **Overview of Bill**

The objects of this Bill are as follows—

- (a) to amend the Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002 to—
  - (i) abolish the Game and Pest Management Advisory Board and replace it with the Conservation Hunting Authority, and
  - (ii) recognise and make provision for a right to hunt, and
  - (iii) abolish restricted game hunting licences and replace those licences with conservation hunting licences, and
  - (iv) provide that national park estate land must not be declared as land on which hunting is permitted,
- (b) to amend the Crown Land Management Act 2016 to establish the Crown land that is available for hunting and the mechanisms by which Crown land may be made available for hunting.

#### **Outline of provisions**

**Clause 1** sets out the name, also called the short title, of the proposed Act.

**Clause 2** provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on 1 July 2025.

Game and Feral Animal Legislation Amendment (Conservation Hunting) Bill 2025 [NSW]

Explanatory note

### **Schedule 1 Amendment of Game and Feral Animal Control**

Act 2002 No 64

Schedule 1[1] amends the objects of the Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002 (the Act).

Schedule 1[2] amends the definitions section of the Act, including to make provision for a Minister for Hunting and Fishing. Schedule 1[9], [17], [18], [20] and [23] make consequential amendments.

Schedule 1[4] and [11]–[13] rename restricted game hunting licences as conservation hunting licences and make consequential amendments.

Schedule 1[7] makes an amendment of a statute law revision nature.

Schedule 1[8] inserts proposed sections 4A–4C concerning the right of individuals to hunt and the obligation of public sector land managers to consider the right to hunt when making land management decisions.

Schedule 1[10] substitutes the Act, Part 2, abolishing the Game and Pest Management Advisory Board and providing for the establishment and functions of the Conservation Hunting Authority (the Authority). Schedule 1[3], [21] and [22] make consequential amendments.

Schedule 1[14] provides that national park estate land may not be declared under the Act as land on which hunting is permitted. Schedule 1[5], [6] and [26] make consequential amendments.

Schedule 1[15] and [16] make amendments concerning inspectors, including to provide that inspectors are not subject to the direction of the Authority.

Schedule 1[19] makes an amendment concerning the expenditure of money from the Game and Pest Management Trust Fund.

Schedule 1[24] makes an amendment concerning the appointment of the Chairperson of the Authority.

Schedule 1[25] makes an amendment to include camels on the list of non-indigenous game animals the hunting of which on public land requires a licence.

Schedule 1[27] makes transitional arrangements concerning the abolition of the Game and Pest Management Advisory Board and the conversion of restricted game hunting licences to conservation hunting licences.

### **Schedule 2 Amendment of Game and Feral Animal Control**

#### **Regulation 2022**

Schedule 2[1] and [2] make amendments consequent on Schedule 1[4].

### **Schedule 3 Amendment of Crown Land Management Act**

2016 No 58

Schedule 3[1] inserts proposed Part 9A into the Crown Land Management Act 2016 to establish the mechanisms by which Crown land may be made available for hunting, and the process to be followed by a licensed hunter who wishes to hunt on Crown land that is available for hunting. Proposed section 9A.4 is a Henry VIII provision.

Schedule 3[2] inserts proposed Schedule 5A into the Crown Land Management Act 2016 to specify Crown land that will be available for hunting.

Game and Feral Animal Legislation Amendment (Conservation Hunting) Bill 2025 [NSW]

Explanatory note

### **Schedule 4 Amendment of other Acts**

Schedule 4.1[1] and [2] make amendments to the objectives of land managers under the Forestry Act 2012 and require the land manager of a forestry area to consult with the Authority when reviewing a management plan or working plan for the area.

Schedule 4.2 amends the Weapons Prohibition Act 1998 to provide that conservation hunting may be considered a genuine reason for the Commissioner of Police to issue a permit for the possession and use of a prohibited weapon.

## Queensland crocodile cull plan – Katter's Australian Party

supported by some councils, slammed by conservationists

By Lottie Twyford & Sophie McManus



By Brendan Mounter

Wednesday 11th June 2025



Mareeba cane farmer George Adil is fearful when he has to enter the river on his property due to crocodiles. *(ABC News: Brendan Mounter)*

### In short:

Katter's Australian Party is proposing new legislation that would allow crocodile culls and safari style hunting trips in Queensland.

An inquiry into the bill has heard from local councils who say they are dealing with growing crocodile populations, as well as conservationists such as Bob Irwin who oppose the bill.

### What's next?

The committee will deliver its final report in August.

### Share article

On George Adil's cane farm in Far North Queensland, the day-to-day of life and work keeps him busy.

It means he doesn't always have time to be vigilant of crocodiles on his Mareeba property, inland of Cairns, especially when he has to get into the river to service his irrigation equipment and pump by hand.

**"It is definitely worrying when you have to get into the river," he says.**

"I'm focused on farming, and I'm focused on the next problem."



Mr Adil wants crocodiles removed from a larger area in the region. *(ABC News: Sophie McManus)*

He believes saltwater crocodiles have been an increasing problem since a major flood in 2000, now leading a petition to expand an existing crocodile removal zone.



He says, aside from the impact on his farming, he and his family have also had to stop swimming in the Barron River.

**"We lived in the Barron, we swam in it, we fished it," he said.**

Mr Adil is supportive of [a proposed bill, which would allow crocodile culls and removals in populated areas.](#)



Mr Adil recently started a petition calling for crocodiles to be removed from more areas in Far North Queensland. *(ABC News)*

But says decisions about the management of the species should be made by those who live in crocodile country.

The proposed legislation from Katter's Australian Party, which would also allow Indigenous groups to run safari-style hunting trips, is currently being examined by a Queensland parliamentary inquiry.

At a public hearing held in Brisbane today, it received support from some local councils, who say more needs to be done.



A proposed bill would allow crocodile culling and removal. *(ABC Far North: Christopher Testa)*

Speaking at a public hearing into the bill on Wednesday, Mareeba Shire deputy mayor Lenore Wyatt said Mr Adil was far from alone in his frustration with crocodiles.

She says it was taking too long to remove crocodiles or obtain the permits needed to move them — including within an existing special zone "F" where saltwater crocodiles are already removed upon sighting.

Councillor Wyatt says in one case a farmer had contacted the state environment department in January about a large crocodile in his dam, but had yet to have it removed in June.

She says this slow response time highlighted an "urgent need for reform".



Farmers from the Mareeba district west of Cairns say they've seen crocodiles in the Barron River. (ABC News: Brendan Mounter)

### **'Unique' situation in Mareeba**

Councillor Wyatt told the committee it's believed crocodiles had not been native to the area, and instead had ended up in the area's waterways in the 1990s after escaping a crocodile farm.

She said this made it a "unique" situation, and was urgently calling for more to be done regarding crocodile management.

"We're not asking for crocodile eradication, but we are asking for a more responsive and place-based approach to crocodile management," she said.

## **2025 South East Duck Season Report by SAFGA Delegate - Mark Fabris**

Yes, the top end of South Australia is currently experiencing a rare and significant flooding event, particularly affecting Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre. Floodwaters from Queensland's record-breaking autumn rain are flowing into the usually dry lake, transforming it into a spectacular outback oasis. This is a rare event, only occurring a few times in the last 160 years.



**2025 South East Duck Season Report.**

The 2025 duck season has come to an end and it's been another successful year. In the Southeast dry conditions were a contributing factor to hunting permits being down this year with water valley not holding any shoots and Victoria having a 9 bird bag and more opportunities to hunt in that state. That being said, there was still opportunities to be had for those who chose to put in the effort.

Lake George held huntable numbers of birds all year, but low water levels made getting a feed a challenge but still achievable with patience and commitment. For the third year in a row the annual activist group was present for the opening weekend, filming hunters to my knowledge no offenses were committed or filmed.

Lake Bonney was similar to Lake George with birds present but difficult to get near. The last fortnight of the season saw a break in the dry spell with some reasonable rain, putting a bit of water in various private wetlands and drains that hunted well. Chestnut teal were in large numbers all along the coast with many birds holding on various beaches in the area. Let's hope we get some good rainfall going forward to get the right conditions for a season to be declared once again next year.

A positive for water fowl numbers Australia wide is the amount of water that is present in inland SA. And Queensland. The channel country from Mt. Isa to Birdsville is completely full as is the Coopers Creek system, Lake Hope is full of and water and for the first time since 1974 Lake Eyre will completely fill up. There will be a breeding event take place like no one has seen for a generation. It will take a few years but as this water dries back the bird population will head this way making the outlook for future seasons look very positive.

Hunters that renewed their permits this year will be aware of the price rise in the fees with this increase expected to continue. This is inevitable in the current economic climate, **SAFGA** and **CHASA** will do everything possible to keep these rises at a realistic level with that being said the future of hunting is in duck hunters hands. **WE survived** a parliamentary review into bird hunting in South Australia with an exhausting effort from all involved to get the result we did. If hunters choose not to buy a permit because of the cost and permit sales decline hunting in SA will be at risk. Given the overall value of your hunting equipment, guns, ammo, clothing, vehicles, boats, etc. the actual permit cost is reasonable. In comparison a recreational lobster pot license in SA is \$253 for 2 pots. A Lake George net license is \$186.

It may appear that the Government is deliberately raising the permit fees to ban hunting by stealth I do not believe this to be a case, but no doubt if hunters choose not to renew their permits it will make those opposed to us very handy so I say the choice is ours.

Every hunter in SA should be aware of the increasing scrutiny on hunting via the Animal Welfare Act and make sure you do your best to dispatch wounded game as quickly and humanely as possible. Be aware of your legal requirements large fines and even jail time is the result of not following the Act.

A present case in Western Australia where someone was filmed hitting a feral pigeon with a golf club and leaving it wounded resulting in the 3 people being fined \$140,000 between them. The best way for hunters to reduce their chances of wounding an animal is to practice their shooting in the off season by participating in club clay target event to refine their skills.

SAFGA Conservation Hunting Delegate - *Mark Fabris*



## Hunter Education Engagement Update by CHASA Training Manager – Phillip Papaioannou

**CHASA** is actively engaging with various organisations to deliver practical hunter education and training opportunities. The aim is to enhance skills and promote responsible hunting practices by working closely with different community groups, while preserving cultural traditions for generations to come.

Currently, in our first phase we are collaborating with Indigenous groups to provide hunter training in bird wing hunting. This training includes a hands-on, practical component incorporating clay target shooting, allowing participants to develop the necessary field skills in a supportive environment.

This initiative will create opportunities for more clubs to open their doors, welcoming participants to enjoy outdoor activities while building practical skills in hunting and firearms safety. We have commenced discussions with Firearms Clubs, who are willing to assist in this program, and we will continue engaging with other clubs by starting first within the Adelaide, Riverland & Southeast regions.

This program will give clubs an opportunity to contribute to skill development in bird wing hunting while fostering community relationships.

### **The full program does include:**

- Meet and greet sessions with partnering organisations.
- Firearms training, including licensing pathways.
- WIT (Waterfowl Identification Test) accreditation to obtain a Hunting Permit.
- Club clay target shooting and live fire practical experience training.
- Field hunting and game dressing.
- Campfire cook-up and social activities.

This initiative aligns with SAFGA's 2022-2025 Strategic Plan and both SAFGA's & CHASA's objectives of promoting responsible hunting, practical skills development, and community connection within the hunting community.

Phillip Papaioannou

**Training Manager**

Ph: 0419 858205

Email : [Adelaideexcavation@gmail.com](mailto:Adelaideexcavation@gmail.com)

Website: [www.chasa.org.au](http://www.chasa.org.au)

**CHASA Conservation and Hunting Alliance of South Australia**



# SAVE THE DATE

## **SAFGA State AGM**

8<sup>th</sup> November 2025

25 Memorial Drive, Keith, SA

## **CHASA Wild Food & Wine Dinner**

26<sup>th</sup> September 2025

National Wine Centre,

Cnr North Tce & Hackney Rd, Adelaide

Keeping  informed

*This News Bulletin* brought to you by the **State Board**.

Mark Fabris: 0428 849387

Phillip Papaioannou: 0419 858205

SAFGA Delegates Conservation & Hunting