



# Winter 2009

Support  
your  
sport!



## The fight for our next duck season has started

### Inside this issue:

The fight for a 2010 duck season starts	1
The RSPCA runs a poll that backfires	2
Protesters at duck opening	2
Bernie Finn exposes bullying by the LSD	3
Gun Control Australia's comical rants	3
The Governor General turns her back on shooters	3
We're at the Shot Expo	4

### Special points of interest:

- Our ability to apply political pressure is why we had a duck season this year.
- The protesters were there at dawn—but didn't bring a single duck out of the water.
- They also vandalized locks and hunters equipment.
- We have a DVD of the duck opening we'll show you at the Shot Expo on 23/24 May.
- A Liberal MP told parliament about how the management of the LSD forced staff who moved a no-confidence motion, to have it withdrawn.



It was great to have a duck season this year, but it came with strings attached:

- A bag limit of 5 ducks, of which three must be woodies;
- On the spot fines replaced by court proceedings;
- Season limited to 49 days.

Our political enemies are pushing hard to have it banned. Even the Minister's department (DSE) advised him against having a season.

Here is what Laurie Levy posted on his website last year:

*"And with the Greens now in parliament, we are within reach of seeing the recreational shooting of native waterbirds banned, forever."*

Fortunately the Minister went against his department's advice and Mr Levy's prophetic vision but only because of the work that the CFCV and its members put into fighting for one.

Protecting duck shooting is vital to protecting other hunting sports.

It is up to us all to make sure we don't lose the fight.

There are several ways you can do this. The easiest way is to avoid voting for the major parties if you don't know where their preferences go.

You see, the Greens MPs who are in state parliament, got elected because of preference flows from the ALP and coalition.

So, if you voted for Ted Baillieu or former premier Steve Bracks, part of your vote in the upper house went to the Greens. It became a vote against duck hunting!

You can avoid this by following the voting recommendations posted by the CFCV and its member organisations at next year's state election.

So how do the political parties stack up on other matters affecting shooters?

Labor was 'shooter friendly' after the state election, but its enthusiasm seems to have waned.

For example, it is yet to provide a result out of a proposal to develop a multi-discipline shooting range which would have

had the potential to bring international events to Victoria.

It has however funded firearm safety initiatives and there are likely to be improvements to the way duck hunting issues are managed in future years.

The opposition got off to a good start and we thank the Member for Kew, Andrew McIntosh for his great contributions to the firearms debate, but there are some worrying signs.

His party has repeatedly refused to deny a suggestion it has cut a deal with the Greens to create more national parks if it is elected at the next election.

Don't get us wrong—both sides have significantly improved their focus on shooters in recent years, but there is more to do if we want to see lasting benefits for the shooting sports out of the political processes.

Until then, we suggest you follow our recommendations, which we will advertise widely in the lead up to the next election.



### Proof That Beer CAN Save Your Sport!

If you shop at Ritchies IGA you can help support your sport with a Ritchies IGA Community Benefits card.

Just fill out an Application Form at a Ritchies IGA Supermarket, and enter this beneficiary number - **91698**. Each time you shop there, just present your card when paying and 1% will automatically go the CFCV. It's that simple.

Ritchies IGA Supermarkets can be found at:

Aspendale Gardens, Balnarring, Berwick, Camperdown, Cobden, Cobram, Cranbourne, Dandenong, Diamond Creek, Dromana East, Bentleigh, Emerald, Frankston, Hastings, Maffra, Langwarrin, Mt Eliza, Mt Waverley, Narre Warren, Pakenham, Ringwood Nth, Rosebud, Sale, Seaford, Shepparton, Somerville, Timboon, Tower Hill, Wantirna, Wonthaggi, Yarrowonga

## The CFCV and protesters at duck opening

**The RSPCA has a long history of opposing duck hunting.**

**One of its board members got caught out when the CFCV complained to the Ombudsman that he had a conflict of interest because his day job involved advising government on whether duck shooting seasons should be allowed. He was later forced to relinquish his board position.**

**Imagine our surprise when the RSPCA failed to impress even its own members with another stunt.**

**It recently ran an anti-duck shooting poll on its own website to gain support to ban duck hunting—but the final tally was that 57% of respondents supported the sport. Less than one in three respondents opposed it.**

We were there before the crack of dawn at duck opening, as were the protesters.

Driving to Dowds Morass near Sale, we were caught in a line of at least 40 cars before dawn, most of them carrying protesters.

As the morning broke, it was also clear that many of the protesters were young impressionable kids who were clearly told to expect to see droves of ducks falling from the sky.

Laurie went off to find the cameras while the others were left to fend for themselves.

Many of them waded in the swamps, unaware of—and unprotected against—tiger snakes living in the area.

In the meantime, Laurie stayed out of the water. He did not get his feet wet, presumably as a result of his previous arrests.

Despite having a rescue tent at the swamp over the weekend, not one duck was taken from the water.

Yet Laurie managed to find eight birds to parade outside the Premier’s office the next day.

The highlight of the day was without doubt confrontations between the protesters and our own President, Bill Paterson.

Field & Game Australia has since called for tougher action to be taken by the government against the protesters, some of whom appear to be deliberately trying to provoke a dangerous incident.



*Laurie doesn’t waste any time prior to dawn finding the reporters, telling them how cruel and dangerous duck shooting is.*

However there was a darker side to the protesters when the cameras weren’t there.

Protesters had vandalised locks to gates and damaged equipment owned by hunters.

This is a situation the government has to address before someone is hurt because of their deliberately illegal behaviour. It’s time the police stepped in.



*Bill Paterson challenges a protester to back up his claims after he interrupted a media interview with a duck hunter. (Image taken from a DVD we produced on the opening of the 2009 season.)*

## Guns fall out of police vehicle

The Herald Sun reported that 15 firearms collected by the police as part of an amnesty, fell from the back of a marked police car when the lock on a rear door popped open.

The officers stopped the car and collected the guns.

The police officers did a stocktake when they returned to the station—and all guns were accounted for.

As we indicated on our website at the time, police officers have the same obligations under the Firearms Act as we do, to “secure” firearms.

The CFCV asked the Office of

Police Integrity if the accountability of the police had been properly investigated.

The response said the matter was still under investigation.

To date, we have not heard of any further action being taken, although that does not mean that it hasn't happened.

## Liberal MP exposes LSD ‘bullying’

Upper House MP, Bernie Finn, has told parliament about a culture of bullying within the Licensing Services Division of Victoria Police.

This is what he told parliament on April 1st this year:

*“I wish to raise a matter for the attention of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. It concerns a situation which is worrying in the licensing services division (LSD) of Victoria Police. LSD, as it is known within the police force, covers the firearms and securities industry.*

*A situation has come to my attention. It occurred on, during or around October 2008. It involves a petition which was signed by some 20 LSD staff.*

*This petition concerned a no-confidence view of the management of LSD. This petition was presented to senior management of Victoria Police, including the then Chief Commissioner of Police. That was where the problem started. At some stage around October last year the petition disappeared from the drawer where it was kept.*

*What followed can only be described as a campaign of intimidation directed at the signatories. That campaign continued until all signatures were withdrawn from the petition. I am sure the house can see the concerns and worries that would have been caused by those who signed the petition and who would have known about it in that particular division.*

*It is unhelpful for work practices of the licensing services division of Victoria Police. It is even stranger when one considers that up until midnight last night, the officer in charge of LSD was also the officer in charge of the ethical standards section of the police force -- that of course is Assistant Commissioner Luke Cornelius.*

*I ask the minister -- I am aware he knows of the incident -- to conduct an urgent ministerial inquiry into this incident.*

*I ask him to include in this inquiry the role of the former Chief Commissioner of Police, the current chief commissioner and an assistant commissioner, Luke Cornelius, in what can only be described as an act of bullying and intimidation within the senior section of Victoria Police.*

## Gun Control Australia’s comical rants

John Crook from Gun Control Australia continues his hatred for shooters.

On his website, he expressed the following beliefs:

- *That it is outrageous to think that the firearm trade advertises in shooting magazines;*

- *There is some sort of conspiracy involving shooters, police ministers and the Federal Minister for Home Affairs to “dupe” the public on shooter safety training;*
- *That shooting offers no physical fitness value.*

More recently, GCA said: “*hunting is really about:*

- *personal selfish satisfaction, ie, killing is simply a pastime for most hunters who are insufficiently educated in ethology and the respect of most other species*
- *an infantile form of gaining self-repute from others, ie, showing-off trophies*
- *an immature way to enjoy nature and the environment.”*

**The Governor-General, Quentin Bryce, has broken tradition by refusing to be the patron of the National Rifle Association of Australia.**

**The NRAA, which oversees representation in the Commonwealth Games fullbore event, said it was disappointed by being tarred as being “politically incorrect”.**

**Instead the GG has preferred to take on associations with stamp collectors, rose growers and Australian Ballet.**

**Her predecessor, Major-General Michael Jeffery, was an enthusiastic patron of the NRAA.**

**Join CFCV’s email list by going to it’s website at [www.cfcv.org.au](http://www.cfcv.org.au).**

**It’s free !**

**If you store more than 15 firearms, you are required to have an alarm.**

**The Licensing Services Division has provided advice on alarm standards that you may need to comply with.**

**It has stated to the CFCV that:**

**“all reputable alarm system installers not only adhere to the Standards, but offer a certificate of compliance on installation and arrange maintenance.**

**LSD is also aware that the SSAA has some useful information on its website relating to alarm standards which can be used as a reference guide”.**

PO Box 253  
Mitcham Vic 3132  
Phone: 0425 746 066  
E-mail: admin@cfcv.org.au

### Protecting your sport

**The Shot Expo is on again this year—on the 23rd and 24th of May at the Melbourne Showgrounds.**

**The CFCV will have a booth there so feel free to drop by and have a chat about what we do for the shooting sports, particularly if you want to talk politics.**

**On page 2 of this newsletter, you'll see a still from a DVD we made on the opening day of the 2009 Victorian Duck season featuring our own President challenging the protesters.**

**We'll be showing the DVD at the show, so make sure you drop by to see it.**

**More information on the Shot Expo can be found at: [www.shotexpo.com.au](http://www.shotexpo.com.au) or by calling the SSAA on (03) 8892 2777**

Member organisations of the CFCV are:

- Field & Game Australia
- Firearm Traders Association
- IPSC
- Sporting Shooters Association of Australia
- Target Rifle Victoria
- Victorian Amateur Pistol Association
- Victorian Clay Target Association
- Victorian Rifle Association
- Vintagers (Order of Edwardian Gunners) Inc

Check our website -  
[www.cfcv.org.au](http://www.cfcv.org.au)

Authorised by Bill Paterson, CFCV Melbourne.  
Printed by the CFCV, Melbourne

## A word from our President



Bill Paterson  
President, CFCV

When does fair protest descend into dogged refusal to accept that you are not going to achieve the result you want?

How do you handle the die-hards who, seeing that the established tactics are not working, decide to push the envelope?

I recently attended the protests at the opening of the Victorian Duck Season.

Again, I witnessed about 100 protesters (many wearing "I'm a Vegan" T-shirts) try to get a media worthy event happening.

Despite their claims that wounding rates were 30%, they were unable to bring in a single wounded duck for the entire morning.

The only photos of ducks the media achieved were from hunters who came in with their bag.

The next lines tried were "there are far fewer hunters, down from 93,000 in the '70's to 23,000 now" and "there are too few ducks due to global warming".

As I pointed out, we now have very strict licensing and retain the "cream" of the hunters and with the announcement of the season, have had 1,000 new hunters complete their WIT test (Waterfowl Identification Test).

On the second point, scientists have stated that hunting has no effect on duck numbers.

Reflect on this - when there were 93,000 hunters, the bag limit was 10 birds per day and no adverse effect on duck numbers was recorded.

Our bag limit this year was 2 ducks per day plus a further 3 of Wood ducks for 24,000 hunters and we are seeing a huge breeding event from the northern floods.

The truth is that duck hunting is now highly regulated and significant work is being done to ensure its sustainability.

The protesters believed that regulation would be the death of hunting and have now realised that this is not the case. The die-hards, who believe that keeping cows for milk involves unacceptable cruelty; will never accept hunting.

Duck opening is seen by them as a soft protest target and their lack of success is now causing some to promote confrontation, thankfully without response from the hunters.

Another group who tried the approach of tighter regulations with the intent of stopping shooters entirely was Gun Control Australia.

Recently they expressed outrage at the fact that gun licenses in Victoria have increased. This was not their intent when calling for tighter legislation.

Gun Control Australia have now shown their hand.

They advocate tighter gun licensing, not for public safety but because they believed it would result in a great reduction in gun ownership.

It hasn't, for the simple reason that people with a genuine reason for owning a gun are prepared to put the effort in to comply with the strict license requirements.

Gun Control Australia said that the police should fail more people undertaking the tests.

What a fine way to run a licensing system!

The pass rate is high because aspiring shooters know that they have to put the work in to pass.

They also have to satisfy various other checks to demonstrate they are suitable to hold a licence in the first place.

The impressive safety record of the shooting sports is probably the best indicator of all about the adequacy of the licence testing process that we have in place.

## COUNTRY ALLIANCE

RURAL - REGIONAL - RECREATIONAL

**The Country Alliance party stopped the Greens from getting control of parliament at the 2006 state election. If that didn't happen, we would not have had a duck season.**

**Make sure you support the Country Alliance. If you have internet access, go to [www.countryalliance.org](http://www.countryalliance.org) or call 0425 746 066 for more information.**