

# Monthly Update

## INSIDE THIS EDITION

Commercial hunting	2
Frequently asked Qs	2
R-Licence update	2
In the news	3
CEO's message	3
Game meat recipe	4
Staff Profile	4



### FACT FILE: Feral Pigs

- Feral pigs are currently inflicting \$107 million in control and production costs each year;
- The introduction of Foot and Mouth disease and potential for pigs to harbour the disease would result in far higher economic costs;
- Feral pigs are a serious environmental threat and affect the survival of native flora and fauna.

Source: Pest CRC report, "Counting the Cost", 2004.



## Hunting deer: what's changed?

WITH the introduction of the Game and Feral Animal Control Act, there has been a strong emphasis on implementing a game hunting licensing system by Game Council NSW.

The first stage of the licensing system commenced in September 2004 with the sale of NSW Game Hunting Licences (General), or G-Licences. To date, 3455 licences have been sold in NSW and interstate.

The G-Licence mainly affects deer hunting on private land and duck hunters participating in the NPWS Game Bird Management Program.

Hunters have been encouraged to familiarise themselves with the Game and Feral Animal Control Regulation 2004 to ensure they are fully aware of the new laws relating to their hunting activities.

Game Council staff have given presentations to more than 83 hunting clubs/organisations, while advertisements have been published in major hunting magazines to educate hunters about the changes. Game Council's website, media coverage, the Monthly Newsletter and promotion through stake-



holder newsletters has been very positive. This edition of the Monthly Newsletter will focus on the major changes to deer hunting as a result of the licensing system.

### Hunting Seasons

Four species of deer in NSW can now only be hunted at certain times of the year.

Advertisements are appearing in major hunting magazines, alerting hunters to the upcoming 'open seasons' for fallow, red, wapiti (March—October) and hog deer (April).

### Bag Limits & Tags

Given the small populations of hog deer, a tagging system to minimise the incidence of illegally taken animals, and to assist in valuable research, now applies to hog deer hunting.

The limits are one male, one female per hunter during the hunting season and tags can be obtained from the Game Council along with mandatory return forms.

### No hunting at night

Hunting deer at night is now prohibited. On application to the Game Council, the Regulation governing hunting deer at night can be suspended in certain cases for crop protection or mitigation purposes. Increasingly, farmers are incorporating the use of Game Hunting Licence holders into these activities.

### Hunting methods

Baits, lures and decoys can not be used to attract or hunt deer, while dogs can only be used to locate, point or flush deer while hunting.

**LICENSING****Hunting on private property in NSW:**

**Licence Class:** NSW Game Hunting Licence (General), or G-Licence

**Licence Types:** Standard (\$60), Visitors (\$100), Commercial (\$250), Hunting Guide (\$150)

**Licence terms:** 1, 3, 5 years

**Species:** Deer, California quail, pheasant, peafowl, turkey, partridge, ducks for mitigation

**Hunting methods:** Bows, firearms, dogs.

**Application forms:** Game Council NSW

**G-LICENCE METER:**

Number of G-Licence applications processed:

# 3,455

(Period September 1, 2004 to January 19, 2005)



[www.gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au)

## Commercial deer hunting in NSW

**FOLLOWING** the introduction of the Game and Feral Animal Control Act, people must hold a Commercial Game Hunting Licence (General) to hunt and sell deer on private property in NSW.

Deer hunting seasons and bag limits do not apply to licensed, commercial deer hunters however tags are required for all deer species hunted and sold.

Unlike recreational hunters,

commercial deer hunters are permitted to hunt at night.

Commercial Game Hunting Licences are available from Game Council NSW. Successful applicants will be supplied with an identification sticker to be placed on their vehicles. Return forms are to be submitted quarterly by the dates shown on each form. Tags are available in batches of 100, from the Game Council at a cost of \$1 each.

The fee for a Commercial Game Hunting Licence is \$250/year, however insurance is the responsibility of the licence holder.

Commercial licences provide landowners with an option for deer control that utilizes the animals for economic purposes.

But, as always, the ultimate decision on the utilization of deer on private land is always the landowner.

## R-Licences: When? Where? How?

ONE of the most common questions being asked by hunters across the State is "when will public land be available for hunting?"

Under the Game and Feral Animal Control Act, Game Council is working closely with public land managers to identify potential areas for conservation hunting. This means, areas where feral animal populations are causing significant environmental and agricultural damage. Once areas are identified, a comprehensive risk manage-

ment and consultative process must take place with stakeholders. This will include proper consideration of public safety, animal welfare and environmental issues.

While this process is taking place, Game Council is also developing its R-Licence program for the availability of NSW Game Hunting Licences (Restricted) which will be required for hunting on the 'declared' public land areas.

The R-Licence program will

include a system of approving hunting clubs/ organisations who meet strict criteria in order to conduct the R-Licence educational program for their members.

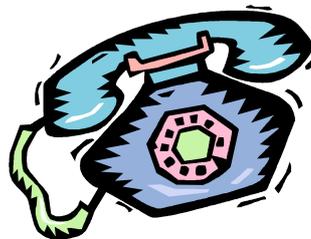
As you can see, there's a lot of work to be done, but we are progressing.

In the meantime, stay tuned as Game Council will be promoting this progress through our monthly newsletter, on our website and in the major hunting magazines.

## Frequently asked questions...

**"Why are farmers exempt from Regulations relating to deer hunting...?"**

Farmers need the option of controlling deer on their property, particularly if it affects their livelihood. Game Council NSW is about building stronger relationships between landholders and responsible, licensed hunters. Therefore we are promoting the use of licensed hunters in deer control programs on private property.



**"I have a G-Licence. Am I covered for public liability...?"**

Yes. All NSW Standard Game Hunting Licence (General) holders are in-

sured for \$10 million public liability coverage under the terms and conditions of their licence.

**"What is an R-Licence..?"**

Restricted Game Hunting Licences (R-Licence) are not yet available. They will be required to hunt game and feral animals on declared public land in NSW. This process is still being developed by the Game Council in conjunction with public land managers across the State.

## Are you an ambassador for hunting?

### A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO, Ross McKinney

Illegal hunting. The definitions vary, but a few words and phrases immediately come to mind: 'poaching', hunting without permission, trespass, and so on.

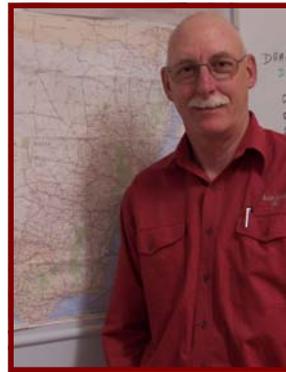
While we may have a range of opinions here at Game Council on many different subjects, we all agree on one thing: no permission, no licence, no access.

I attended a recent meeting of the Agricultural and Pastoral Rural Crime Working Party in Dubbo with representatives from NSW Police, Rural Lands Protection Board, NSW Farmers Association, Department of Primary Industries and the Rural Crime Squad. The meet-

ing was very productive and attendees seem extremely interested in Game Council's approach to illegal hunting activities.

Everyone loses when people do the wrong thing. The landowner loses property or perhaps stock and most importantly, loses trust in people who wish to enter upon their lands. And ultimately, the community loses because Game Council is a great opportunity to co-ordinate the use of legitimate hunters in game management and feral animal control programs.

The meeting agreed to a much closer working relationship between the Working Party and the Game Council. We discussed options for authorising appropriate Agency staff under the *Game*



*and Feral Animal Control Act* to assist legitimate, responsible and accountable hunters to continue hunting without the impediments and stigma that is inevitably attached thanks to poachers. Please help the Game Council change perceptions. All hunters have role to play in being an ambassador for the valuable activity of responsible, accountable hunting with conservation benefits.

*Safe hunting.*

*"Everyone loses when people do the wrong thing—the landowner, hunters and the next generation..."*

## In the news: ABC Port Macquarie

### Port Macquarie feral deer cull approved

Thursday, 6 January 2005

PORT Macquarie landholders, including Hastings council, will soon be able to rid their properties of wild deer.

The council's representative on the Mid-North Coast Wild Deer Working Group, Matt Rogers, says extensive research and consultation has paved the way for on-ground control programs. Site-specific control programs for private lands have been approved and will be carried out by local licenced shooters under the supervision of the NSW Game Council.

Members of the Hastings Valley Hunting Club have been assessing the feral deer distribution in the Port Macquarie area during the past few

months. Mr Rogers, who is also council's environmental services coordinator, says the legal framework is now in place to move forward.

"We're now looking at a situation where a lot of the bureaucracy is largely out the way and there's been legislative and administrative changes and processes that now allow us to actually carry out work.

Previously there were uncertainties, depending on the land tenure, as to what could be done.

"Prior to this legislation, any type of control programs would have relied on professional culling shooters which is quite expensive," Mr Rogers said.

"This new legislation allows us to use licensed, insured and recreational hunters."

**EVENT: Safari Club International: Down Under Expo & Convention**

**WHEN:** February 18-20

**WHERE:** Opal Cove Resort, Coffs Harbour

**CONTACT:** Mark Brazier, (02) 6779 2934

## Out and about: Shot Expo 2005



Game Council NSW will be exhibiting at the SSAA's Shot Expo 2005 at Sydney Showground on February 26-27. Our site is stands 25 and 26. Staff will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about the new hunting legislation in NSW, as well as have information packs and licence application forms available. We look forward to seeing you there!



[www.gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au)

**DID YOU KNOW???**

► More than 350 properties covering 1.2 million hectares in Tasmania are operating under property-based game management plans.

► The Australian Deer Association (ADA) maintains a listing of deer antlers taken in Australia. This listing currently contains almost 2000 entries and is the largest such register in Australasia.

**GAME COUNCIL  
NSW**

University of Sydney—Orange  
Campus  
347 Leeds Parade  
ORANGE NSW 2800

PO Box 2506

Phone: (02) 6360 5100  
Fax: (02) 6361 2093  
E-mail: [info@gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au)

We're on the web:

[www.gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au)



## Staff Profile: Craig Henderson

THROUGH the Mid Coast Deer Working Group, Game Manager Craig Henderson has been busy helping stakeholders put theory into practice by demonstrating how licensed hunters can positively contribute to animal management.

In the Port Macquarie region, wild deer is the focus of the working group—a 20-year-old problem for residents, farmers and public land managers.

Craig was born in Sydney, but he grew up in Dubbo, NSW. He then went on to complete a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Sydney.

Craig worked as Manager, Special Operations, at Taronga Zoo for 11 years. This involved being responsible for emergency response, the firearms team, movement of animals between zoos, and feral animal management.

While the Manager of Grabine Lakeside State Park, a focus was feral animal control. These positions have resulted in extensive experience in vertebrate pest management, particularly using hunting as a management tool.

In his spare time over the years, Craig has enjoyed recreational hunting of goats, pigs and foxes and has just recently taken up bow hunting again.



However, it hasn't all been work for Craig, as he also has a wife and four children. He is also a qualified scuba instructor and dive master!

Based at Port Macquarie, Craig Henderson is the Game Manager for North Eastern NSW. He can be contacted on 0419 222 303.

## GAME MEAT

### Casserole of Wild Duck

#### Ingredients

2 ducks  
1 cup sliced spring onions  
1/3 cup chopped bacon  
1 cup stock  
Flour to thicken  
2 tblspn seasoned flour  
1 cup sliced mushrooms  
1 cup red wine  
Salt and pepper

#### Method

Prepare ducks, place in a dish and pour the wine over them. Leave for 1 hour, turning them occasionally.

Pour off and reserve the claret. Dry the ducks, coat with seasoned flour and put in casserole with onions, bacon and mushrooms.

Season with salt & pepper, adding the stock and claret. Cover.

Pre-heat oven to 180 degrees Celsius, and cook the birds until tender (about 1.5 hrs). Remove the ducks from the casserole and keep hot. Make gravy by blending the flour with the casserole juices.

Recipe supplied by Mr Brian Livingstone.

## SEEKING GAME MEAT RECIPES

Game Council is promoting the benefits of consuming game meat such as venison. We want to feature featuring delicious reader recipes on our website and in future editions of this Newsletter. If you've got a game meat recipe you'd like to share, please send it to us!