

THE DEERSTALKER

January 2009



Scenes from the historic NZDA Douglas Scoring workshop held in January.
An account of this event, with more photos NEXT ISSUE.

THE DEERSTALKER

web address: www.newsouthdeerstalkers.org.au

NSW Deerstalkers Association

COMMITTEE FOR 2009

Formed: 7th June 1972

President: Darren Plumb
Ph: 02 48447071; 0412021741

Life Members: the late Gordon Alford
Bob Penfold
Wayne McPhee
Jack Boswell
Paul Wilkes

**Secretary &
Public Officer:** Greg Haywood
1 Struan Street
Tahmoor NSW 2573
Ph: 02 4681 8363

Affiliated To:

Australian Deerstalkers Federation
Game Management Council (Australia)
Inc.

Treasurer: Nalda Haywood
**Snr. Vice
President:** John Natoli
Ph: 04138514336

Contributions:

The editor and editorial committee reserve
the right to modify any contributions.

**Jnr. Vice
President:** Peter Birchall
26/39-41 Railway St., Engadine.
Club Armourer: John Natoli.

All contributions are to be mailed or
emailed to:

Dal Birrell - Editor
14 Blackall Street
Bulli NSW 2516
dbi93465@bigpond.net.au

**Game Management
Representatives:** Greg Haywood, Steve Isaacs
Mark Isaacs, Greg Lee, Peter Clark, Les King,
Darren Plumb.

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Cover.

**Group photo and a scene from the very
successful NZDA Douglas Scoring workshop
held in Blacktown in January.
Photos Dal Birrell.**

All Memberships & General Correspondence to
be posted to: PO Box 519 PICTON NSW 2571

FROM THE EDITOR

This year we will publish four issues of this newsletter. To ensure that we get each issue out on time, there will be deadlines for submission of materials to be included. If material reaches me after a deadline, it will be included in the next issue, if appropriate. Expect to receive each issue about three weeks after its deadline.

2008 submission deadlines;

April 23rd

July 2nd

October 23rd

Guidelines for submissions.

Material which is emailed saves me a lot of work. **Preferred font is Times New Roman. Preferred font size is 12 point.** Writing can be sent as a Word file, or a text file. For those without an expensive word processing program, you can use any writing program included with your operating system, or download "Open Office" free from the internet which is virtually identical to "Microsoft Office" & can exchange files with MS Office.

Photographs should NOT be included in the article itself, but sent as separate files (attachments to the email). You can indicate where each photo might be placed by typing its file name in brackets in the text.

Photographs should be . jpeg files, saved at about 15 cm X 10 cm size at quality 8 (80%) which gives the best quality for the smallest file size.

Printed on paper submissions need to have clear black typed text. Faintly printed text will not scan & cannot be included. **Very short pieces, such as personal adverts can be hand written.**

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Meeting dates for 2009.

The venue is the German Austrian Club Cabramatta – Thursdays at 7.30 pm

2009 Meeting Dates.

19th February

21st May

23rd July

15th October (day, Southern Highlands / Central Tablelands)

14th November (Saturday) Trophy Exhibition & Christmas Party.

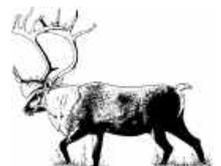
Other - SCI Expo February 2009, Douglas Scoring Accreditation Workshop February 2009.

Photos can be prints or negatives or slides.

These can be returned to you if you include a stamped self addressed envelope. If these photos are valuable, send copies rather than originals.

NSWDA Hunting Club AHO (for R licences) is 10111, & the Agent No. is 7185

Please Note: The N.S.W.D.A. Inc. takes no responsibility for views expressed in "The Deerstalker". All articles submitted are signed by the relevant author. The Editor & Committee do however, take responsibility for views expressed in articles & reports submitted by them!



Trophy Hunting Sustainability

Steve Isaacs.

It is without question that the modern hunter today is influenced by the graphical nature of the media and internet, be it video, photo or graphics, the sight of a magnificent wild animal with antler, horn, mane or tusk, sends the blood rushing. Availability and speed of collection is now second to none with air travel, helicopter, quad bikes and all sorts of contraptions that put hunters into a strategic position in most cases in less than a few days. It all just takes money; nothing wrong with that mind, except that perhaps it has upped the anti on hunt able numbers.

As trophy hunters we all want to display a world class trophy in our den and we all want to be able to fulfill dreams that we can pass on to our children and Grand children. I am here to tell you however that we are on a collision course with the opposite to natural selection, "Unnatural specific selection". Yes by tipping over the strongest and the best of the species we are putting the very animals we admire and value so much at serious long term risk.

In such a short time we have begun what could be, if not halted an unprecedented hunting period resulting in the destruction of what natural selection has taken millions of years to develop.

If you search the Web, you will read many well founded and professionally researched articles on this subject and they are not all written by anti hunters, Safari Club and CCI understand this issue is looming and have already started discussions. So what is the answer,? There are a number of ways we can continue with trophy hunting and be able to be proud of the trophy we take. It is just going to take a little common sense and education!

There are four factors that come to mind when we talk about top of the range trophies, survival, habitat, age and selective breeding. Lets look at these factors.

Habitat

You can selectively breed from the best trophy stock in the world, but if they don't get the right tucker they won't grow the trophies and they won't live to a ripe old age to deliver the genes to their offspring. Habitat, as in high protein feed, good water and shelter brings the best out of animals and allows natural selection to speed up. Animals that have naturally evolved in their native habitat, without trophy hunting pressure are more likely to grow the best trophies.

Habitat can also be modified, in the form of artificial feeding and cropping that will allow these animals to live in exotic locations. This however is subject to man's influence and ongoing husbandry.

Age

It is obvious that as animals mature they gain weight, grow in strength and some grow fighting tools such as horn and antler. They become sexually active, challenge for dominance in the group and the right to eventually mate; the ultimate reward some would say. So it is true that on average the most dominant, largest in weight, largest in antler and horn etc has the best opportunity to mate, it is also true that in large groups such as in humans, the weak and less dominant can also produce offspring. The key here however, is the old Darwinian factor of natural selection in which the best able to survive & multiply will leave more offspring, gradually increasing their "better" genetic traits in the population.

Selective breeding

Man, since the start of the domestication of



animals has had a profound effective on the selection of traits in certain animals to produce animals best suited to his needs. I don't have to spell out these benefits because they are all around us in the form of food, clothing and other natural materials.

Let's now consider specifically trophy hunting and the way in which we value and judge one trophy against another. Length of horn, number of points, balance, weight etc are all important.

What is it that draws us to these attributes? The very fact that the male of the species has been able to develop the fighting tools, or gained the strength and weight, or produced the finest fur is little different from what we admire in our own species. Whether it's because cave man slayed the largest Mammoth or wrestled the bear, it is these attributes that can display his dominance in the group and therefore get the prize. Yes its all about sex again and of course Testosterone or male ego. Bringing back the meat and the proof of the size of the animal be it horn or fur places that hunting male in a preeminent position in the tribe. Evidence of this is well documented in the literature.

So man knows by his very existence that selective breeding produces the best of the best and therefore admires the result.

So what has all this got to do with trophy hunting and its future? My question and concern is that by reducing habitat, by reducing the numbers of the best of the best individuals and by killing the young before they can demonstrate their potential, we will not only diminish our sport but possibly endanger the very trophies we admire.

Is there an solution? I think there is and it will come about in three ways;
one, changes to the trophy measuring system for free range trophies,
two, selective breeding and releasing of high numbers of quality stock and,

three, protection of habitat! This is game management for sustainable trophy hunting that will lead to acceptance by the critics because it benefits the species in many ways.

How can we influence the sustainability of animals through trophy measuring you might say; isn't biggest best? Biggest is best only when through your knowledge you have selected a trophy that is "on the downward curve" of his breeding life and has passed on his genes to several generations. Education of the beginning, up and coming trophy hunters today can be grossly influenced by the way in which we promote the taking of trophies and how the trophy is judged.

What if we gave the top score not just to the largest scored trophy but also balanced that score with age, in other words the older the trophy the more points rewarded. We know that most antlered animals reach antler maturity around six or seven years of age, and thereafter all being equal they succumb to the next most dominant male. What if we educate our sons and daughters to shoot only the oldest looking males not so much the largest antlers or horn? We can still cull for weaknesses and deformity. This we must do at all costs to influence selective breeding.

In an artificial environment in which a sacrificial crop or other supplementary feeding is provided, it is much easier to create an environment which enables better selection of animals with better breeding potential.

However for animals in their natural habitat, often in poorer countries such as Mongolia and Africa, such opportunities do not exist.

Trophy hunters by their nature are self indulgent single minded individuals that will only be influenced by getting a perceived best in class.

continued page 16.





Secretary's Report!

Hi, best wishes for a great 2009.

New Member Cards 2009 – included in this issue

Firearms Licence Renewals – to cover your membership requirements all you need to do is photocopy the front and back of this gold membership card (make sure that you have signed the back).

For new members without the gold card please contact me and I can either sign the licence renewal or send you a letter stating that you are a financial member of the club. **Note: our club approval number is No. 405656868.**

Christmas Party & Trophy Exhibition Day Saturday 15 November, 2008.

This was one of the best attended on record with good quality trophies on exhibition. Bantang (Peter Birchall), Boar (Peter Birchall), Moose (Mark Wills), Red Deer Mount (Daryl Giles), Fallow Mount (Lloyd Bishop), Fallow cull skull (Wayne McPhee), Fallow Skull (Ron Thomas), 12pt Red Skull (Wayne McPhee), Sambar Skull (Terry Burgess), Cape Buffalo (Adam Christo), Hyena (Adam Christo), Sika (Wayne McPhee), Ostrich (Terry Burgess), Rusa (John Natoli), Red Deer (John Natoli), Buffalo (John Desanti).

A special thanks to Meg and Ron Tinning for again letting us use their farm for the day. Meg and her sister prepared and organised the food on the day and none of us went hungry – well done.

Next Game Con Meeting – Sunday 22nd February, 2009.

The next meeting is being held on Sunday 22nd February at 11.00am at the German Austrian

Club. Greg Lee and myself are our representatives. Greg can give us an update on the last meeting.

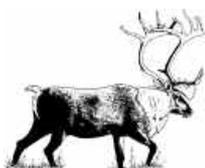
SCI 2009 Hunting Expo & Convention 28 February – 1 March, 2009

This year this annual event is being held in Brisbane at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre. Refer website scidownunder.org for details.

The NSW Game Council

The Game Council continues to release more state forests for conservation hunting. At the next meeting we will have a representative who will bring us up to date on new developments.

Happy hunting,
Greg Haywood
Secretary





President's Report

Hi Guys

I trust that everyone had a safe & happy Christmas & New Year period.

We have organised for the next club meeting on the 19th of February that representatives from the Game Council will be in attendance. They will be there giving us an update on their activities as well as to answer any questions from the members. Here is an opportunity to ask questions & /or voice concerns in relation to the council. I urge you all to come along & enjoy the night.

This leads me to my next point for members to ensure that their game licences are current. It would appear that the Game Council will again be active in enforcing the regulations so DON'T be caught out.

Once again the Down Under Chapter of SCI will be conducting their annual Convention & Expo on the weekend of the 28th of February & the 1st March. This will be held at the South Bank Convention Centre, Brisbane.

The club will not be having a separate booth this year but will be there in support by sharing with Taxidermist Tony Bianco. Tony is a long time supporter of our club & I know many members have used his services in the past.

As part of this we will be raffling off Taxidermy work to the value of \$750 by Tony at the show as well as at the next Club meeting.

As the start of the hunting season draws near I would like to remind members that **the club has a current AQIS import permit for salt dried skins from New Zealand/ New Caledonia**

available to members wanting to hunt there this year. Just get in contact with myself & I will forward copies on. My email address is plumbd@aussiebroadband.com.au.

Probably the highlight of this report is the Douglas Scoring Seminar that was held in January. In conjunction with Nepean Hunters Club & the New Zealand Deerstalker Association this seminar was organised to take place in Blacktown & we were extremely privileged to have from New Zealand, Bruce Banwell, Andrew Lang & Ray Webb come along & conduct the seminar.

Bruce Banwell is probably the leading Deer expert in the world & for him to attend this function was a real coup.

Congratulations to those members who attended & congratulations to the Five (5) yes believe it or not there were five different organisations that felt strongly enough to attend. These being the NSWDA, Nepean Hunters Club, ADA NSW, Trophy Takers & the NSW Game Council.

Special thanks goes to all those involved in the organisation of this event. Catering, videoing, accommodation for the visitors, all went off extremely well. I won't thank individuals (cos I'll undoubtedly forget someone), but on behalf of myself, well done guys.

One individual that I will make special mention of is Wayne McPhee who without his drive, belief in the Douglas Scoring System & sheer stubbornness this Seminar would not have happened. On behalf of the Club I would like to say thanks.

That's about it for this report so get out in the scrub & be safe & be lucky.



Video Library

Free hunting videos for members to borrow for one month if picking up video's at a meeting. Members must pay postage by registered mail back to the club in carton supplied. You can phone or write for videos to be posted to you, however the member must pay postage both ways. When returning videos to the club within one-month members must include cost of postage to them in stamps inside the box.

If members are to lend these video's to fellow members, remember that the original person who borrowed them from the club will be held responsible if they are not returned within due time. As these videos are the property of the club, you are expected to look after them. If you loose or damage a video you will have to pay the replacement cost. If you don't return them after 4 weeks you won't get anymore.

To borrow a Video contact:

Terry Burgess

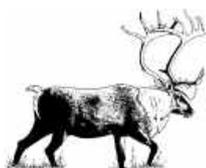
Ph: (02) 9909 1267

P.O. Box 80

Cremorne Junction NSW 2090

Library List

1. Black Death, Cape Buffalo, Lion
2. Capstick, Botswana Safari Buffalo, Lion
3. In the Blood, Capstick, Rhino
4. Zambia Safaris
5. Whitetail, Mule Deer, Pronghorn, Late Season Elk
6. Monster Elk, Horns of Plenty, Hunt Exotics 1 & 2
7. Hunting Bugling Elk, Big Muleys, Caribou
8. North American Big Horn Rams, Greatest Whitetail, Wild Hogs of Texas
9. Col Allison Hunters Home Video, Big Bears, Russian Boar, Whitetail
10. North American Mixed Bag, Big Horn Rams, Whitetail
11. Great Trophy Bucks Mixed Bag, Big Horn Rams, Whitetail
12. Wild Boar Pig Hunting Down Under Part 1
13. Hunting Sheep, Goat & Moose in B.C.
14. Big Rams Brooks Range, Big Horn Rams, Mouflon
15. The Bow Hunter, Whitetail Deer
16. Big Rams, North American Big Horn Sheep, Mouflon Sheep
17. North American Big Horn Sheep, Big Rams Mixed Bag
18. Mouflon, Bow Hunting Elk, Whitetail, Mule Deer etc.
19. Challenge of the Mountain Monarchs, Thars, Mouflon Sheep, Red Deer in Qld



20. Pig Hunting in Qld, Wild Goat in Qld, Mouflon
21. Pig Hunting in Qld, Red Deer in Qld
22. Hunting in Spain, Pig Hunt in Tunisia, Red Deer in Scotland
23. Hunting Fallow in Scotland, Red in Scotland, Kiwi Hunts North West Territories
24. The Wildlife Bow Hunter, Deer, Pigs, Foxes, Mountain Hunting NZ, O'Rourke's Deer, Chamois, Thar
25. Mountain Hunting N.Z., Deer, Thar, Chamois, Red, Sika, Bow Hunter
26. N.Z. Hunting, Sambar in Victoria, Red Deer in France
27. Hunting N.Z. Red Deer, O'Rourke's N.Z., Chamois in Europe
28. Bowhunting Red Deer in N.Z., Bugling Red Deer Rifle
29. Fox Shooting at its best-Volume 3 & 4
30. The Ultimate Whitetail Hunt
31. Sambar Hunting, Mountain Hunt N.Z., Thar in N.Z.
32. Caping Demo by NSWDA
33. Roar Red Stags, Shadows in Scrub, Great Trophy Bucks
34. Hunting the Elusive Wild Dog, Hunt to outsmart Wild Dogs
35. Dark Continent
36. Red in Qld, Dingo, Fox, Fallow, Hog etc., Sika N.Z., Cape for Trophy Mount
37. How to cape for a Trophy Mount, Shoot the Bull, Hunting QLD Red Deer, Deer Attack
38. Hunting African Lion, Hunting Cape Buffalo
39. Big Horn Rams, Nth American Mixed Bag
40. Shadows in Scrub, Red Deer - Clark McGhie
41. Sambar Stalking 1 & 2 - Reg Gordon
42. Bucks & Bulls, NZ Chamois, Thar, Whitetail, Sportsmans Paradise, Pigs, Barramundi, Tusk Versus Tooth, Pig Hunting with Dogs
43. Bucks & Bulls, NZ Chamois, Thar, Whitetail, Hog Deer in Victoria
44. Bucks & Bulls, NZ Chamois, Thar, Whitetail, Sambar Stalking 1 & 2 - Reg Gordon
45. Dogs, Guns & Grunters, Tusk Versus Tooth, Lifes a Boar NZ
46. "How To Load From A Disk" Ballistic CD-Rom
47. Huge Hogs of Aust. North Part 1 & 2
48. Sambar Safari Vol 1, SHIKARI
49. Venison Hunters, Hunting Northern Cape, Hunting NZ Southern Alps.
50. Hunting the Zambeze Delta, Trophy Seekers, Trophy Seekers Shadows End
51. NZ Hunting, Hunting Safaris Vol 1 & 2, Rusa Hunting



The Douglas Trophy Scoring System Under Scrutiny

By Steve Isaacs

The Douglas Scoring system was developed by Norman Douglas, a New Zealand deerstalker and avid trophy hunter in the mid 1940's. He gave to the world a unique measuring system for both horned and antlered Big Game trophies .

Norman Douglas must have had an incredible understanding of trophy animals, in particular deer species. If you are a trophy scorer it helps to understand horn, hair, tusk and antler development. Horn and tusk measuring using the D.S. system is reasonably straight forward as there are just a few measurements; length, spread, base circumference and in the case of tusks grinder length. Deer antlers are much more complicated and one must be guided by the way antlers grow and what is typical for each species.

The Douglas Scoring system differs from some other systems such as SCI in that the Douglas System penalizes unevenness and asymmetry. Measurements are taken from both antlers but instead of adding these together, the smaller of the two is doubled. The Douglas system tries to reward correct type, for example by penalizing, over-spread in antlers. This is one area which has caused some controversy, with some hunters having a particular fondness for wide trophies. Never-the-less, overspread can be a hindrance to the stag or buck's natural movement and in fighting, making them less likely to become a dominant breeding animal.

Fallow trophies are particularly difficult trophies to score, often with cleft palms and uneven shapes they challenge the scorer to understand the many forms of type and style. It takes much practice and an understanding of what Norman

Douglas intended, to become an expert. There has been much debate about the importance of palm width in Fallow. Some trophy hunters and measurers believing palm width should take precedence over other measurements as it is this feature alone that differentiates and signifies the Trophy Fallow.

The Red deer trophy rack has also come under scrutiny by some scorers who have challenged the validity of some heads. In particular the development of the "Royal" tynes as in 6X6 trophies has been a source of confusion. These tops are formed by three tynes; the 5X5 forming a fork at the tops and the 6x6 forming a third top tyne known as the Royal. In fact the typical 12 point 6X6 is referred to as a Royal so named as the tops should be able to hold a Royal Chalice in their clasp. Tops development then goes on to 7x7 "Imperial heads", to 8x8 and on up.

Some scorers have sought to deny Royal 6X6 and Imperial 7X7 tynes preferring to disqualify the tyne due to its position, and thus not scoring it. The presence of points on tynes has also led to querying the scoring of Royal tynes. However this can be difficult to assess, particularly with strong webbing, a natural occurrence with Red Deer off good pasture. Benefit should always be given to the head.

Doubt is often formed due to the possibility of Wapiti in the blood line. A throw back tyne particularly adds to the doubt the head is pure Red Deer. Because of the mixed Wapiti/Red blood lines in NZ, the US and Canada, Boon and Crocket and other Trophy registers have resorted to DNA testing. This test is fairly definitive but should only be used where a challenge for the top 10 is in the pipeline.

As for judging a Hybrid just on visual inspection, caution should be used as the introduction of



Hungarian and North Eastern European Red Deer has had some dramatic effects on the typical English and Scottish Red Deer that were originally introduced into the South Pacific during colonization.

Unfortunately the use of hard and fast rules rather than being guided by the natural development of antlers, by a few strongly opinionated and outspoken people in the deer hunting/scoring community has undermined the spirit of the Douglas system and has generated a hybrid Douglas scoring system.

Red Deer throughout the English Isles and European countries have incredible variation in antler type with many heads developing throw back points and drop tynes. Failure to acknowledge this natural variation when scoring Red Deer antlers denies the trophy its rightful place in the record book, and its owner the pride of having taken a magnificent Trophy.

Indeed Norman Douglas did follow the typical forms of antler growth and must have had incredible experience and knowledge in the way antlers develop. Deer behind wire, such as they exist by the millions today, was a rarity in the mid 1900's except for some wealthy land owners and of course zoos. Studying the various forms of deer antler was Douglas's passion. His understanding of the various species and lines is evident in the way his system is constructed. The Douglas scoring system handbook is almost unchanged from its original first print in 1958, other than for some minor inserts and explanations. The underlying statement in the hand book that many scorers overlook is that at all times when scoring a trophy to "give the benefit of doubt to the trophy". This is a more important statement than most scorers give credit to and was meant to avoid the current situation. Measuring difficulties should be overcome by understanding and following the

natural growth of antlers rather than trying to closely and legalistically define arbitrary rules to cover every example. Scoring should be a system of simple measuring able to be performed by any person with the use of a tape measure graduated in eights of an inch. Those that seek to invent side rules and other tools such as the so called Red Deer tops gauge and the use of protractors have ignored the guiding principle of the Douglas System. The creation of arbitrary rules is simply adding penalties that penalize the trophy outside of the simple values of symmetry versus unevenness.

Other than measuring of course is the actual value of the style and how pleasing the trophy looks through the eye of the scorer. We often hear a head being described as stiff meaning it has few flowing curves or ugly often meaning the head is out of balance, untypical or with many unmatching tynes. Whatever the head scores or however the antlers look, the owner should always feel pride in the experience of the hunt. This is much more important and will remain in memory, to be retold for years afterwards.

I have often heard amongst hunters the comments such as "I have never measured my trophies" or "I am not interested in trophy scores, or who cares what the head scores". There are lots of reasons for scoring the appendages of Antler, Horn and Tusk and it has nothing to do with the 'mine is bigger than yours' theory. The size, strength and style that Norman Douglas studied in Trophies and that led to the scoring system is no different to how the farmer develops his dairy herd or beef stock. It is about the fittest and the best equipped for survival and breeding. Hinds are attracted to the Stag with the most impressive, often largest set of antlers; his readiness and ability to use it against his rivals in his quest for the right to breed.

Over millions of years, and free from human influence, natural selection and the survival of the



fittest deer to breed, have governed the type, style and size of antlers in each species. The Douglas System and the way measuring is done recognizes all of the special traits of the various species to make the most symmetrical and strongest in size and weight the most desirable trophy. It is therefore important to have a scoring system for all deer that recognizes and values those evolutionary processes.

The subtleties of this great system doesn't become obvious until one understands why the measurements are made in the fashion they are. For instance, length measurements are taken along the blood vessels from the pedicle to the end point of that measurement, and for tynes, from the junction where their blood vessels branch off, to their ends. This branching of the blood vessel into the tyne is origin of that tyne and thus the true start of its measurement. The length of antler is not ordinarily measured in a straight line; it turns and divides, erupting points, branches and palms. Therefore the true measurement must follow the normal path of growth. This is normally via the main vein lines on the outside of the antler but Douglas experimented by dissecting antlers to also see how the arteries fed calcium and nutrient to the growing antler. The arteries just as in all mammals grow and are protected by the density of the strongest muscles and bony structures. The arteries in antlers deliver blood from the centre of the growing velvet antler and divide at the junction points of the tynes just as the veins do, distributing calcium to form the bony growth that when it dies hardens into antler displaying the true point of growth.

By understanding the way in which antlers grow, the measurer can follow the Douglas system better. Field trips to zoos and deer farms during various velvet growth periods will help understand the Douglas scoring system as the system is based

on how the complete antler grows. The junction points are referred to as pith points and a harmless chalk spot is used to mark this point from which to measure. All antler lengths follow this same path from the coronet, the very start of the antler mounted on the pedicle bone protrusion above the skull to the longest extremity point or antler tip.

Apart from growth and size as previously mentioned being an attractant to the females, the antlers need to be formed correctly to provide the best defense against rivals. In the case of Fallow, a missing guard tynes may cause damage to the top of the neck should a rival's antlers slide over the palm, injuring the stag and ruling him out of the game. While antler detail may vary between individuals, there is no doubt about size and type being essential to function. This can be witnessed on deer farms should a spiky get into the breeding pen with mature bucks that have had their antlers cut during velvet. There is every chance the spiky will do serious damage; even kill a mature stag in a fight twice his age and strength.

Many deer farmers have also seen the value in the Douglas scoring system, which has allowed them to cull stock and breed from superior males based on antler development. It is not essential to dart the stags to check the score, just observing, understanding and applying the scoring system will assist in determining body weight and velvet or antler production for the farmer.

The accompanying diagrams provided are from the Douglas Scoring System hand book and we acknowledge and thank the New Zealand Deerstalkers Ass for their use and for protecting the legacy and defending the values of the system. Norman Douglas has determined that no one person or organisation owns the system but has dedicated the system to all people, be they



hunters, biologists, deer breeders or naturalists who have an interest in trophy animals, particularly deer.

Unfortunately in Australia there are only a couple of organisation that either use the Douglas Scoring system the way it was meant to be used or keep a record of all of the top trophies taken in this country. There are various web sites such as the New South Wales Deerstalkers Association, (www.newsouthwalesdeerstalkers.org.au) that have members' best trophies submitted but many of the top heads in this country remain unscored and unseen. As the custodians of the system, The NZDA have made attempts to develop lists and books of heads taken in Australasia which includes New Guinea and New Caledonia. However it is now unlikely a complete history of correctly scored trophies will ever be developed. Rumours abound of incredible racks either scored by their owners or by a club measurer but are never seen. These often spiral into the whispers of "shot behind wire". What we can say is that trophies are getting larger and more typical. This can only be attributed to the excellent breeding by hunting groups and deer breeders.

We must remember this; every set of antler, horn or tusk is unique, the result of the growth and life of a noble creature. Failure to acknowledge "nature" by applying geometry or a belief in exactness steals the overall value of the trophy. The Douglas system has where possible used an understanding of "nature" and simple measurements to compare one trophy with another and this works as long as we keep the scoring simple.

For those embarking on providing the service of measuring trophies using the Douglas Scoring system, use the handbook developed and still obtainable from the NZDA, which will insure all trophies are scored equally and at all times give

the benefit of doubt to the trophy.

All deer associations and hunting clubs should be encouraged to embrace the true methods of the Douglas Scoring system to ensure that the system is passed on just as the Boon and Crocket system has survived in North America.

In recent times a couple of organisations such as the Nepean Hunters Club and the New South Wales Deerstalkers Association have set up Seminars using experts from the NZDA, in particular Bruce Banwell, a world expert on deer and the Douglas Scoring System.

At least 25 scorers in Australia now have that knowledge to measure trophies correctly, the way Norman Douglas intended. This will insure that in the years to come we will be able to accurately judge great trophies from the past against those taken today and into the future.

These scorers are listed both on the Nepean Hunters Club and New South Wales Deerstalkers Web sites. You can be assured that when your trophy is measured by one of these NZDA accredited scorers that your trophy will be measured in accordance in the true spirit of the Douglas Score Rules and not by any other hybrid system.

Also note that Safari Club International uses a different scoring system. Should you want your trophy scored for SCI refer to the SCI web site .

We have organised for the next club meeting on the 19th of February that representatives from the Game Council will be in attendance.



WHAT DO DEER THINK?

Ted Nugent, rock star and avid bow hunter from Michigan was being interviewed by a French journalist and animal rights activist. The discussion came around to deer hunting. The journalist asked, "What do you think is the last thought in the head of a deer before you shoot him? Is it, 'Are you my friend?' or is it 'Are you the one who killed my brother?'" "Nugent replied, "Deer aren't capable of that kind of thinking. All they care about is, 'What am I going to eat next, who am I going to screw next, and can I run fast enough to get away. They are very much like the French.'" The interview ended at that point.

The Bill Davey OUTDOOR LIFE radio program - now streaming live on 3WBC 94.1 FM

Bills weekly radio program can now be streamed live every Wednesday from 7.00am to 10.00am over the internet. He covers all the great issues of interest for hunters & fishers.

Click on the link below each Wednesday morning & get up to date with all the latest.

<http://3wbc.org.au>

As the start of the hunting season draws near I would like to remind members that **the club has a current AQIS import permit for salt dried skins from New Zealand/ New Caledonia** available to members wanting to hunt there this year. Just contact Darren who will forward copies. His email address is plumbd@aussiebroadband.com.au.

Victorian DSE on the right track!!

Now for NSW with Private Game Reserves, ducks, quail & game birds?

from The Age newspaper;

Hunting park offer to farmers

- * Peter Ker
- * November 22, 2008

VICTORIAN farms could be transformed into hunting zones for deer and birds under a State Government plan to boost farmers' income and expand the shooting of animals for sport.

The Department of Sustainability and Environment said it wanted to "increase the hunting opportunities" for Victorians, and has asked farmers to come forward if they are willing to allow recreational shooting of animals on their property.

Dubbed the "property-based game management" project, the scheme offers farmers financial incentives to turn their farms into "game parks".

The plan has infuriated conservationists.

Under Victorian laws, four types of deer, ducks, quail, pheasants and partridges can be shot recreationally, within certain seasonal rules.

The duck season has been cancelled for the past two years because of low numbers. A decision is expected soon on whether the 2009 season will go ahead.

In this week's communique, the department asked farmers: "Does the prospect of receiving a monetary or in-kind payment for providing



access to hunters to hunt game species on your property interest you?”

It described the project as a “unique opportunity” for farmers to have vegetation and habitat work carried out on their land “to attract the game out into good hunting positions”.

Its biodiversity policy director, Dr Paul Smith, said the primary aim was to help the environment by removing “pest animals” and improving habitats. However, he added: “A secondary benefit is providing an extra potential income source for rural landholders. It does not provide landholders with the opportunity to create commercial game parks.”

Animal rehabilitation worker Marcus Ward has waged a long battle against plans to start a hunting park next to his Kyneton wildlife refuge.

He dismissed claims by the department that “increasing biodiversity” was a motivation for the project, and labelled it “sickening”.

“That’s the worst kind of public relations spin I’ve ever heard,” he said. “It’s about making money out of exploiting animals in the most cruel, abhorrent way.”

Mr Ward said safety would also be compromised if more people were encouraged to recreationally shoot guns.

Greens MP Greg Barber was also dismayed by the plan.

“Imagine if one of these shooting galleries opened up next to your bush retreat,” he said. “What is the Government doing . promoting this?”

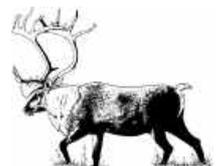
Officials from the department met animal welfare

groups yesterday to discuss shooting and culling issues, including possible kangaroo culls north of Melbourne.

Environment Minister Gavin Jennings declined to say whether he was a recreational shooter, but said hunting could help the environment.

“When overseen by the appropriate and stringent regulations and policies, hunting can deliver a number of conservation benefits,” Mr Jennings said.

The Down Under Chapter of SCI will be conducting their annual Convention & Expo on the weekend of the 28th of February & the 1st March. This will be held at the South Bank Convention Centre, Brisbane.



In Europe there has traditionally been a strong passion for shooting the oldest in the group. Europeans tend to adorn their dens with the unusual, displaying the trophy of a deformed deer. There game is strictly managed and yes they do have sanctioned areas or Hunting Parks as they are termed. Europeans are encouraged to take the weak and old to allow the top of the crop to propagate the species; isn't this a great lesson to teach our kids?

wanted to do their whole life. Not everyone has the free time to learn to hunt and understand what makes a magnificent trophy. Hunting enclosures will be the way of the future and will take pressure off the wild herds. However it will be a sad day when the wild herds are degenerated to the point of smaller animals with feeble trophies.

An example of how selective hunting of the best trophies has reduced the numbers of quality

trophies in the wild can be read in the Canadian Wildlife Journals that have reported on isolated but huntable numbers of Big Horn sheep, which have suddenly shown a reduction in the physical size after decades of managing the herd by imposing minimum size limits (only allowing the hunters to take the largest of the trophies); "full curl" sheep with the belief that these are the old rams that will be pushed out by the stronger up and coming males. Research now has shown that many of these full curl rams taken as trophies were only just reaching their breeding age, having been larger and faster growers of horn but lacking the dominant status to breed. The result of this management policy being that smaller rams with less horn growth were



A Fallow culled because of a missing trez tine.

With the move towards large hunting enclosures those individuals that want the biggest and the most symmetrical can have their reward and be able to take that one off hunting trip they have

left to breed, producing more smaller rams. This result has only just become evident after hunters began reporting a reduction in the numbers of full curl males despite a significant reduction in hunting permits.



NSWDA Merchandise

I have organized some new club shirts, polar fleece & caps.

The colours are at this time ;

Polo shirtswhite/navy trim.....\$ 25.00

Micro fleece top.....Moss green.....\$ 35.00

Caps.....bottle green.....\$ 15.00

Caps.....blaze orange.....\$ 15.00

All garments have the club emblem embroidered on the item

We will have the items at the next meeting for sale & also at Coffs Harbour.

For further information members could contact me on 48 210 774 / 041 202 1741
or at 43 Ryans Road, Quialigo 2580. NOTE, NEW ADDRESS.

Postage will be at \$5.00 for members.

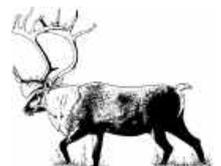
Also, other colours are available but will need to be a special order.

Thanks..... Darren



Presentation of a trophy for the best cull of the season.

continued page 18.



As hunters we need to lead the way in conservation in order to justify our sport. There are many examples of the fate of poorly managed herds of game. Elephants for instance in South Eastern Africa, years and years of hunting bulls with the biggest Ivory, tusks has left many herds with both weak and tuskless breeding Elephants. You guessed it, they are seeing more and more thin tusks and tuskless Eles' in today's herds.

We can turn this all around and we can bring back the balance quickly by just changing the rules and educating newcomers. As a well known and respected club we can help lead the way; but can we put our egos to one side and manage our game herds a little differently? How about we give a prize out at the next Trophy Exhibition for the best game species cull, judged from the entire roll up on the day? One of our schemes does this every year and it is now a coveted prize.

NSW Game Council News December 2008.

MAJOR FINES AND 10-YEAR BANS IMPOSED ON ILLEGAL HUNTERS

Two men will be banned for 10 years from holding a game hunting licence in New South Wales after they were convicted of hunting-related offences and fined a total of more than \$3500 in Queanbeyan Local Court on Friday. Game Council NSW, the licensing and regulatory authority for voluntary conservation hunting in NSW, applauded the verdicts for sending a strong message that illegal hunting will no longer be tolerated.

“Under the Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002, the Game Council must refuse to grant a game hunting licence to a person found guilty of an offence in New South Wales involving unlawful entry into land,” Game Council chief executive officer Brian Boyle said today.

An ACT man was found guilty of entering private land to hunt an animal without the owner's consent and also of hunting game on private land without a licence.

He was fined \$2000 plus court costs.

A second man from Sydney, was found guilty of entering private land to hunt an animal without the owner's consent.

He was fined \$1500 plus court costs.

The convictions followed charges that arose over a deer hunting incident on 3 February this year on private land at Bungendore in the State's south-east and near the ACT border.

While in the company of another man, the two men were found in possession of deer meat and antlers near a slaughtered fallow deer buck. The deer had been taken on private land where both men did not have permission to hunt.

The deer had also been shot out of season.

In court, both admitted lying to investigating



police.

Magistrate Brian Van Zuylen told them in sentencing: “You were poaching ... and you knew it.”

Game Council chairman Robert Borsak said the convictions should be a warning to all illegal hunters.

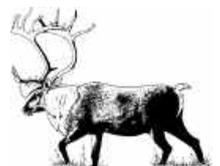
“It is only fair to crack down on the wrong-doers because these people smear the reputation of Voluntary Conservation Hunters who are licensed and responsible,” Mr Borsak said.

“The Game Council is currently expanding its force of field-based game managers in preparation for major compliance work throughout 2009, and illegal hunters can only expect more attention with each passing day,” he said.

The Game Council has also commended the NSW Police Rural Crime Unit based at Queanbeyan for its efforts in pursuing this long and complex case over eight months through the courts.

“Credit should also be given to members of the Australian Deer Association who first brought the details of this matter to the attention of police,” Mr Borsak said.

Names and other information were supplied in the original Game Council flyer, but have been removed, as the object of re-printing this information is to show that the Game Council is serious in its resolve to catch and prosecute poachers. It is not to further punish these offenders. Editor.

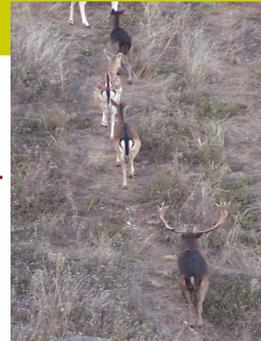


2009 DEER HUNTING WORKSHOP

GAME COUICIL NSW and co-hosts; THE AUSTRALIAN DEER ASSOCIATION (NSW): 4-day hunter education workshop, Bondi Forest Lodge, Bondi State Forest, Bombala, Friday 5th June to Monday 8th June 2009

DEER HUNTERS

AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN HOW TO HUNT DEER IN NSW—BONDI FOREST LODGE—IN THE HEART OF THE STATE'S DEER COUNTRY.... *The aim of the weekend is to educate hunters on how to hunt deer safely, legally and successfully in NSW. This workshop will put you years ahead in hunting deer in NSW and elsewhere.*



Presenters include:

Associate Professor Tony English OA (*Game Council Councillor, eminent deer researcher and "Father of the Deer Industry in Australia"*), **Errol Mason** (*Author of "Secrets of the Sambar"*), **John Dunn** (*hunting author and Senior correspondent in SSAA Hunter Magazine*), **Major Bob Gough** (*hunter, survival and navigation expert*), **Reg Gordon** (*Sambar expert and hunting video producer*) **Clark McGhie** (*hunting guide, deer farmer and organiser of RIDGE in Q'land*) and **Professor Rob Mulley** (*Game Council Councillor, eminent wildlife and fallow deer scientist and hunter*)

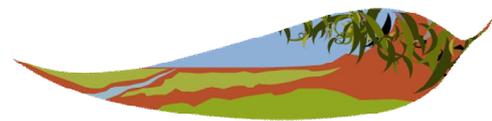


you will learn about...

- ▶ The principles behind successfully hunting fallow, rusa, sambar, hog, and red deer in NSW
- ▶ Deer habitat and deer sign, deer recognition, ecology, behaviour and hunting techniques
- ▶ NSW hunting law and legal hunting areas
- ▶ Hunting deer with firearms and bows
- ▶ Hunting from hides and tree stands
- ▶ Navigation basics, bushcraft and survival
- ▶ Meat care and trophy preparation
- ▶ Photographing game and trophies
- ▶ Hunting equipment, from entry level to advanced



Australian
Deer
Association



GAME COUNCIL
New South Wales

CONSERVATION HUNTING

OPEN TO ALL HUNTERS, BOOK EARLY TO SECURE YOUR PLACE AT THE WORKSHOP

NEW SOUTH WALES DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION INC.

Dedicated to the Sound Management and Conservation of Deer in NSW.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

SURNAME:.....CHRISTIAN.....MIDNAMES.....

DATE OF BIRTH..... SEX: Male/Female

DRIVERS LICENCE NO:..... STATE.....

SHOOTERS LICENCE NO:..... CLASS:.....

POSTAL ADDRESS:.....POST CODE:.....

HOME ADDRESS.....POST CODE.....

HOME PHONE.....BUSINESS.....MOBILE.....

OCCUPATION.....

FEES (Please tick payment being made):

1 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION

FAMILY: \$55.00

SINGLE: \$50.00

JUNIOR: \$25.00 (Under 18)

3 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION

FAMILY: \$150.00 (SAVE \$15.00)

SINGLE: \$145.00 (save \$5.00)

JUNIOR: \$70.00 (Save \$5.00)

PLEASE NOTE: By law, to possess a shooters licence you must hold appropriate insurance. This is included in the subscription with the exception of FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS which include only one insurance payment. Insurance must be obtained for each additional family member after the first at the rate of \$10.00.

INSURANCE @ \$10.00 PER FAMILY MEMBER AFTER THE FIRST TOTAL: \$.....

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FEE \$.....

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$.....

I AGREE TO ACCEPT AND PRACTICE THE NSW DEERSTALKER'S CODE OF ETHICS AND TO ABIDE AT ALL TIMES BY THE CONSTITUTION, FEDERAL, STATE AND TERRITORY LAWS.

Signature:

Date:...../...../.....

PLEASE NOTE: This form is an application for renewal of membership only and is subject to Committee Approval. An application will only be considered if accompanied by all the necessary Fees, This form must be completed in full and is due for renewal 1st July of Membership expiry.

PLEASE PAY PROMPTLY.

Return to: The Secretary, NSW Deerstalkers, P.O. Box 519, Picton NSW 2571