



THE BUSH TELEGRAPH

From the Hunting & Conservation Manager

Value adding SSAA (NSW) Inc H&C registration for 2010. The St Marys retail manager Anthony Papalia has been able to source some excellent products to promote SSAA (NSW) Inc participation. These, along with generous discounts on entry to activities along with five H&C participant weeks at Tilterweira at special discounted rates, make registration good value.

The September Deer Farm Workshop was not able to run due to unforeseen circumstances. H&C managers have been able to schedule the next visit for the 17th and 18th April 2010. The farm owner has asked us to ensure his integrity is protected so the application to attend follows the same procedure as 2009 and attendance is by invitation. Application to attend is included with this *Bush Telegraph* please ensure you apply early - the 2009 course was booked out.

The Shooters Party Bill to allow hunting in selected NSW National Parks continues to generate debate. There has been ongoing attacks on the bill by Greens supporters presenting claims that cannot be substantiated. Hunters and shooters, by remaining united, have unsettled many of the Greens' attacks. Much of the Greens' attack is by making misleading statements hoping the Public will accept the claims. The claims are being refuted and slowly the public are getting the facts. The positive to each attack is that the Greens are losing their credibility as the public becomes aware of the deception tactics and are beginning to question some of the claims.

Game Council NSW reached a milestone on the 3rd of November when harvest data showed that 30,000 animals had been taken by hunters. This is the result of a significant effort by NSW R Licenced hunters and it will result in an improved habitat for many native species. It also shows that conservation hunting is working due to the dedicated Restricted Game Licenced hunters getting out there. We have a long way to go and several bird species need to be considered. The European Starling, Black Bird and the Indian Mynah all being re-

sponsible for displacing the smaller urban bird populations.

SSAA NSW Inc. H&C R Licence Hunting in the Pilliga Forest information packs proved to be very successful with 35 being made available. Kim Tomsett at the SSAA (NSW) office informs me there are only several left. The kit is a good start for hunters as it reduces the number of hours required researching the area. It also allows the printing of essential maps and saving time waiting for computer down loads. These maps, when supported by satellite image downloads from Google Earth and NSW Department of Lands SIX viewer, form an important planning tool for any hunting excursion into the Pilliga.

The H&C managers are looking at producing other packages. One being considered will be a resource on the R Licence hunting opportunities close to Sydney.



Volunteer Jeff Stewart & Russ Wilson

On occasions H&C participants are asked to assist land holders with pest animal problems. One recent program started with the removal of goats that were causing problems. An inspection showed that the goats were only part of the problem and pigs were also present. The goat carcasses were dumped in a location to form a bait station. The next visit to the property saw the hunt team score several pigs. The result has been a very happy land holder and some great references that may lead to other opportunities.

St Marys Indoor Shooting Centre Hunters day in January is an important activity in the annual calendar. The organising team are working on getting a number of exhibitors, Taxidermists, Butchery Suppliers, GPS display and sales advice, Australian Hunting outfitters, African Outfitters, Game Council NSW, Product Displays and Hunting Advice.

The 2010 Calendar has been completed. In 2009 I tried to fit too many activities into the time available. In 2010 I will be relying on H&C volunteers to assist and in some situations actually run the workshops. There is always a place for new volunteers.

I know what it's like and understand that some find it hard to get away from work or planned activities. If you are able to help with one activity or support the team there will always be a job to do. If you would like to join the H&C Volunteers please fill out the attached form and return it to Kim so we can add your name to the Email list.

The volunteer email system works as a primary contact system where regular updates of information and invitations to join in programs are sent out.

John Pond
H&C manager

A Big Thanks and Best wishes for the festive season.

On behalf of Rod Broderick and George Hackney I would like to thank all the volunteers and St Marys Staff who have assisted by taking on the many tasks which have resulted in the successful running of the 2009 program. These people have helped out by managing Tilterweira when George wanted a break, organizing and conducting workshops at Tilterweira for visitors, assisted with 2009 Youth Camp and helped setup and the management of Hunters Days at St Marys. There is always a vacancy for more volunteers so don't be hesitant your assistance is appreciated.

A New World Opens by Robert Broderick

This year I had the privilege of introducing my godson, Robert to the world of rifle shooting and hunting. He had been waiting for a long time to turn 12, just to start the Junior Development Program.

After joining SSAA and acquiring a Minors Permit, the fun began. Rob's enthusiasm was unbelievable to watch. After a number of weeks of Juniors, the questions came, such as, "when are you going hunting?", "can we go hunting one day?"

My wife hatched a plan with Rob to finance his involvement in the Youth Camp when he turns 14. Rob was to do "chores" for his mum for a few bucks and every week we would visit or meet up with the family and my wife would match \$2 for every \$1 Rob earned. Kids being kids we should get out of this pretty cheaply. How wrong we were! After looking for a second job to finance this scheme I thought about taking young Rob with me to Tilterweira for the Easter Family Camp.

Being a volunteer for the SSAA Hunting & Conservation, I had signed up to be part of the staff at the family camp at Tilterweira over the Easter holidays. This kid is keen.

Off we went on our first hunt together. We all know what kids are like when travelling to a far away place. Stopping overnight at a wet Nyngan van park, all talk was about the next week. We left at sparrows for the last leg to Tilterweira.

At the Station we met with the participants of the camp and George. Rob is a quiet kid around new people and stays close to me.

The first day was an introduction to Tilterweira with drives around the vast areas, viewing many and varied animals. A number of other kids were on the camp as well, so Rob was getting along fine

with them. A lot of walking around during the day saw sleep come quickly for the young folk.

Next day, Rob and I with another family, John, Matthew and Brendan went out for a hunt. A number of mobs of goats were spotted so we decided to get out and stalk a small mob that were seen to dart into the low scrub in front of us. I had tutored Rob on bullet placement and why we do this. He had never shot anything



alive before so he was excited. We stalked for about 100 to 150 yards into the scrub and the slowed and settled. I told Rob to move up to the little clearing to his right and squat down. Now he was very excited. Rob had a 30-30 we had borrowed from George and I carried my 270 just in case. The next may seem a little corny but it is true. A medium sized billy just walked into the clearing about 40 metres away and lay down facing us at a slight angle. I told Rob to chamber a round and take his time. He slid over to a low bush, took a rest and aimed up, boom, a textbook shot through the shoulder and the job was done.

The smile and the look on his face

bought back memories of my first time. I had never seen a kid so pleased with himself in my life. We took photos and the head for a trophy. The head was no record breaker, but it was in Rob's eyes. I was so proud of him. From that morning this kid was on his way to becoming a young man.

Over the rest of the week we hunted over a number of areas with John, Mathew and Brendan, with all taking goats for trophies and meat. We had great days and evenings talking about what was taken and learnt. Many goats were seen along with camels, pigs and a fox. A great character-building week for all I thought.

A lot more happened over the week, but that's another story. This is about Rob's transformation.

After coming home with trophies, Rob opened up so much. His confidence has grown and so has his skills as a target shooter. Rob still does Juniors now and again, but, comes with me to St Marys Indoor Shooting Centre on a Thursday night to shoot our Field Rifle competition. Within two months of starting Field Rifle, he has shot his Junior Medal (300) and now shoots consistently over 300 every Thursday night.

Many people have spoken to me about the change in Robert. He now talks freely with the adults at the range, discussing techniques, rifles and scopes.

The questions are again emerging: when are we going hunting again?

Being involved with the SSAA, Hunting & Conservation and Junior Development has been one of the best things in my life. Seeing a kid change into a young man because of this, has made it even better.

Without juniors this sport will disappear.

Tilterweira Maintenance Week by Phil Roberts

On Sunday September 13, a group of willing workers convened at Tilterweira Station. We had come from various parts of the state, some from as far away as the Snowy Mountains. Members of the group were John Chinnock, Julius Kudor, Bryce and Philip Roberts, Rosemary and Bernard Schultz, John Creamer and his friend John.

On Monday morning we were instructed by George Hackney to build a roof over the six metre diameter water tank behind the firing range. We made the best of the materials available such as old bore casing for the frame, steel strip for brackets and a pool liner supplied by John Creamer. The steel purlins, corrugated sheeting and screws were on their way from Dubbo to Bourke (so George assured us). By Monday afternoon pipes

had been hammered into the ground and the six support columns positioned. John Chinnock and Julius were cutting and drilling steel strips for the brackets. Meanwhile George was chasing up the rest of the materials.

A request was issued for a volunteer to weld the steel work and John Creamer got the job.

John Chinnock and Julius had to leave early Tuesday morning to attend to a medical situation back in Wollongong. Meanwhile the brackets were welded to the tubular "edge beams" which were then welded into position ready for the purlins. Bernard installed the pipes and fittings to collect the water from the range shed roof.

On Wednesday George and Bernard set out to pick up the roofing material

from Bourke. Alas there was not much for the rest of us to do for the rest of the day while we waited for the materials to turn up. So there was really no other option but to go hunting. A bit of a tough call that.

George and Bernard returned around sundown and the evening's highlight was spaghetti Bolognese courtesy of Rosemary.

Thursday was a busy one, the roof went on, with Bernard and Phil as chief "screwdrivers". The pool liner went in and the outlet valve installed. As the sheeting had gone on without any evidence of the frame being out of true, we made a check of the diagonal measurements and found the difference was a mere five millimeters; not bad for a six metre square structure.

A Day Pig Culling by Neal Hughes

A few years ago Mike and I were culling pigs in Western Australia. We were set up in a camp that consisted of a shed and a shower under an elevated tank. As it was about 40 degrees in the shade each day the shower got a work out. Our best tally in a single day follows.

We dragged ourselves off our mattresses at 4:15 am after sweating all night and were driving along the station track by 5:00. The plan was to catch some pigs out on the flat as they mean-



dered back to spend the day in the shade by the river. Soon we saw a boar standing by the side of the track looking at the approaching vehicle. Mike jumped out and the .300 Remington Ultra Mag dropped it on the spot. Not a bad start we thought. A little further on we saw

some small pigs about 100 metres up the track and we crept in to get the drop on the mob that was no doubt hidden by the scrub. Whispering over the radios we agreed I had the left side and Mike had the right and we were as close to them as we needed to be. We opened fire on a group of about ten, nearly getting them all as the scrub came alive with pork running in all directions. I couldn't work the pump on my Remington .308 or change magazines fast enough. After I shot any pig I could see in my area I sprinted off after a group of five survivors. I dropped the group and paused, trying to suck in some air, only to see another four pigs standing staring at me 50 metres further on. A quick reload, a couple of shots, another sprint and a couple more shots had them on the deck. The frequent barking of the .300 off in the scrub told me Mike was also getting his fair share. I strolled the couple of hundred metres back to where it started, counting bodies on the way.

Meeting Mike we compared tallies and the count was 24. We walked down to get the 4WD only to turn around and see another four pigs on the track

among their dead friends. I borrowed the .300, carefully lined up the head of a small boar standing in front of a sow and dropped them both while Mike took care of the other two with my rifle. We discussed that it was a bit strange that they had showed up when there had been so many shots already but before we could



get into the 4WD, two more appeared in the same spot. Mike shot one and the other escaped as by now we were sweating buckets and couldn't be bothered chasing it. All up it was half an hour of sweat for 29 pigs and it was barely time for smoko. We dragged the closest pigs together for some photos which had to be censored later as the .300 produced some pretty scary wounds.

The .300 was totally overpowered for pigs but was spectacular to watch. It created massive wounds and smaller pigs were frequently airborne after being hit with a 150 grain Remington Core Lokt projectile at nearly 3500 fps. One sucker was propelled over a metre into the air and landed 15 metres from where it was shot. But it was not an optimum culling rifle as the barrel heated up markedly after three to four shots and I didn't even want to stand near it after a bomb-up like that one – you could cook toast on the barrel.

GPS Basics with Brian Sommerville

GPS and Mapping Units for field and vehicle use.

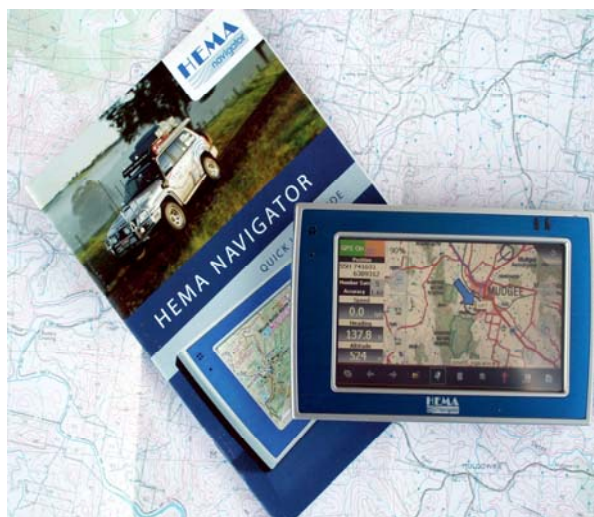
Vehicle-based street GPS navigators are not designed for field use. There are any number of vehicle street navigation GPS units on the market and most achieve the outcome of getting the user to the desired location. They have an internal battery which has limited life and require a 12 volt vehicle supply for recharging. Street information is processed by the CPU in a different way to a mapping capable unit. Waypoints are saved as street addresses. The low cost versions of the street navigators are not able to be programmed with trip information from a Personal Computer. When selecting a unit it is important to ensure that it will fulfill your needs.

Two GPS units that have established a good working reputations are the Hema Navigator and Garmin 60CSx both are multifunctional which means they can be for used street navigation and mapping. The Hema Navigator is a dual function unit using Route 66 software for street navigation and OziExplorer for field and

cross country mapping.

Hema navigators are best suited to in vehicle applications with a variety of map loadings that can be accessed from SD card storage. The Garmin 60CSx relies on mapping information stored on the internal SD Card which can be used for land mapping with OZtopo, marine mapping with Blue Chart or street navigation City Navigator.

Don't forget, a good brand and a good supplier and you'll be well on your way to not getting lost!



HEMA NAVIGATOR: a dual function vehicle based GPS.

SSAA Shot Expo

2010 will see the return of the SSAA-hosted Shot Expo to NSW. Once again this exciting event will be staged at the Homebush venue over the weekend of June 5 and 6, 2010.

It is anticipated that this one will be bigger and better.

More information will be forthcoming in the *Bush Telegraph* and the *NSW Shooter* newsletters. Stay tuned.

For all enquiries contact:

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The Bush Telegraph is produced by the SSAA (NSW) Inc. for the Hunting and Conservation Program. All enquiries and contributions to the Bush Telegraph should be addressed to SSAA (NSW) Inc. PO Box 1001 St Marys NSW 1790. Email: rod@nsw.ssaa.org.au

The Reliable Icom IC-41s UHF Radio

The market place has any number of hand held UHF transceivers. They are rated from 0.5 to 5-Watts of transmission power some include GPS units which will locate your buddy who is using a similar transceiver. Hunters and casual users want reliability and value for the dollar. Having been in a position where I had to rely on a UHF transceiver to ensure help arrived I know the importance of a reliable unit. When I was asked to look at a product for SSAA NSW Hunters, H&C participants and provide reliable performance on Tilterweira Station I established a set of criteria for selection.

The UHF transceiver had to have, an established reputation for quality, shower proof and dust proof construction, a transmission power rating of 5-watts, achieve better than 5 km range regardless of terrain, the ability to take alternative antennas so that signal gain could be improved and transmission range increased, provide adequate results in vehicle to vehicle applications and microphone fitment for hand free use.

I initially identified three 5-watt units that could be considered. The manufacturers were Uniden, GME and Icom. The Icom IC-41s provided several features which gave it a very good rating. The case was dust-proof, water-resistant and robust which means it could be used in bad weather and survive in a hunters backpack or on the belt clip. It had a repeater scan function this finds available repeater stations even when mobile-travelling. Repeater channels when available increase the transmission range of a UHF transceiver. The radio comes with Li-ion battery and charger or a battery kit is available. The Li-ion batteries are rated to give approximately 13 hrs of operation time. Battery saving option is available when the transceiver is used with an in vehicle power supply. Priority scanning, cell call and group setup allows only calls from selected units to be received which avoids unwanted radio chatter.

Field testing was the next stage of the assessment. I have a reliable early model GME TX6200 hand held which is fitted with a flexible high gain GME antenna. Experience has shown that in heavy scrub/timber conditions the transmission and receive distances can vary considerably. The greater the transmission power the better the signal footprint and the further the distance. UHF transceivers are as good as the antennas footprint or line of sight.

Field test 1. SSAA NSW Youth camp at Tilterweira provided a good opportunity to give a Icom IC-41s owned by David Docherty an opportunity to demonstrate its field performance. Transmissions

between the GME and Icom hand held units each proved they were of similar capability with transmission and reception. Both hand held UHF transceivers had high gain antennas fitted which proved to be of considerable benefit in the conditions. David made a transmission the following day over a distance of 8km to a mobile vehicle mounted Icom 400 Pro transceiver fitted with a GME bull bar mounted 4.5 dB gain antenna. His transmission was through heavy scrub conditions. The volume and clarity could not be faulted.

Field Test 2. Working around the Mudgee hills chasing goats. I found the unit worked faultlessly even when I was well down in a deep gully. In the past a 2-watt transceiver had failed to achieve contact with a UHF base unit 5 km away.



The IC-41s with high gain antenna and speaker/microphone kit.

The Icom IC-41s unit is packed with features which are set up using function keys and screen menus. Selecting functions are a personal choice, they can be maintained at a basic level which is channel, squelch or extended to the required menu applications. The strong water and dust proof case is an advantage. This transceiver is well constructed and should provide the owner with many years of faultless operation. The 5 Watts power is the maximum available for unlicensed UHF use and is adequate for hand held applications. UHF transceivers are the same as other products what you get is what pay for.

John Pond

H&C Calendar 2010

March - Sun 7th to Sat 13th: Tilterweira week 1 - Special discount rate for registered H&C participants on a week stay. Discount is not available on a day rate. Tilterweira may be booked by all SSAA members.

April - Fri 2nd to Thurs 8th OR Sun 4th to Sat 10th: Easter Holiday for family members. Scheduled one week self contained camp for families at Tilterweira. Non Hunting & Hunting participants.

April - Sun 25th to Sat May 1st: H&C Volunteers Tilterweira Maintenance Week. Scheduled one week Camp at Tilterweira. A team of up to 10 volunteers to undertake scheduled property maintenance activities.

May - Sun 9th to Sat 15th: Tilterweira week 2 - Special discount rate for registered H&C participants on a week stay. Discount is not available on a day rate. Tilterweira may be booked by all SSAA members.

June - Sun 13th to Sat 19th: Hunters Camp 2010. One week Camp at Tilterweira with workshops. H&C accreditation, R license, WIT, guided hunts.

June - Sun 20th to Sat 26th: Tilterweira week 3 - Special discount rate for registered H&C participants on a week stay. Discount is not available on a day rate. Tilterweira may be booked by all SSAA members.

July - Sun 4th to Sat 10th: Parent and Child Camp 2010. One week Camp at Tilterweira with workshops. H&C accreditation, R license, WIT and guided hunts.

August - Sun 1st to Sat 7th: Tilterweira week 4.

Writing Competition

Sponsored by Blackfoot Designs, the Bush Telegraph writing competition is open to all budding authors and story tellers who like writing about their hunting and bush experiences. Entries close in December with the prize awarded at the February Hunters Day.

