

Dear Friend,

As you are aware, The Overflow is now receivable by subscription only.

Three pages of this weeks' issue are included here for your examination.

Extra news this week included articles regarding:

- Lake Purrumbete
- The RabbitScan Challenge
- WIT tests
- Fox Hunter Job
- Tassie fishing news
- Greenies controlled
- Game licenses skyrocket
- Buxton working bee
- Lawsuit against gunmakers
- Kids and hunting
- Alpine report

We would dearly love to have you as a subscriber each week and remind you that the cost is only 75c ie \$36 per year.

Your subscription will keep you up to date and entertained with every bit of material we think is appropriate to your interests and pursuits.

Subscription form follows. Hope to hear from you soon.

Regards,

Bill Davey - Editor

The Outdoor Life Show is pleased to announce the inception of its' HALL OF FAME
Inductees will be selected in recognition of standout performances

And the first Hall of Fame member is **Chris Tingay of Avenell, Vic.**

He and two of his friends recently shot 150 foxes over five nights while whistling and spotlighting. On one of those nights, hunting from dusk to dawn, they shot an astounding 54 foxes on the one night.

Chris's father, a keen birder, encouraged the group to focus on an area where the Stone bush-curlew bird was being decimated by the nocturnal hunting European Red Fox. Curlews have only two major

enemies: Birds of prey and the fox. The Curlews camo colors helps him hide from the raptors but the fox is another matter. And it is a fight the Curlew is losing. The Curlew population all over the state is now greatly reduced due to the predation of foxes. The curlew is a ground nester and easy for foxes to attack and eat the eggs as well.

From the very first episode of the Outdoor Life Show the hunting of foxes, wild dogs and feral cats has been encouraged almost every week.

So we are extremely pleased that our very first Hall Of Fame member is a fox shooter.

And apart from his membership in The Hall of Fame also comes some tangible rewards, including a years' subscription to The Overflow Newsletter, a magnificent Gerber hunting knife and ten Fred Hollows Sight Restoration procedures, to be performed in the Avenell Hunting Groups' name.



 The Fred Hollows Foundation

 The Overflow Newsletter



curlew track notes

Bush stone-curlews are birds standing 50 - 60 centimetres high, with long gangly legs, large yellow eyes, and grey-streaked upper parts. Their colouring makes them hard to see in bushland, especially in the dusky shadows and evenings, when they are most active.

current status

VICTORIA: Endangered (and listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988)

NEW SOUTH WALES: Endangered (Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Vulnerable (National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972)



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Victorian permitted recreational abalone fishing days

Recreational abalone fishing is permitted in central Victorian waters in the next 3 months only:-

- 10 to 13 April 2009 inclusive (4 days)
- 25 to 27 April 2009 inclusive (3 days)
- 21 and 22 March 2009 inclusive (2 days)
- 9 and 10 May 2009 inclusive (2 days)

Cancer Council Relay washed out and blown away



Zdenka McCaskill & Alan Stoops at the relay

Due to gale force winds and soaking rain, the 24 hour relay, to benefit The Cancer Council of Victoria, at Sandown Greyhound Racing Club, was stopped at 7.30 pm on Saturday night by the relay organisers.

The SSAA team, plus 15 other teams, had already been drowned three times since the midday start. They threw in



the towel because many of the tents and other light structures set up around the inside of the track were either blown down or blown away. Gauged too risky to continue.

Such bad luck for all involved. Zdenka McCaskill, the SSAA team captain, was very disappointed to be forced to quit by the weather. Her team had clocked up 100 circuits of the 600 metre track and were all set for the long walk to the midday Sunday finishing time when the relay was abandoned.

Update re Melbourne Herald Sun junior hunting poll



The question asked was: "Should children be encouraged to shoot animals?"

This loaded question would have been written with the expectation of getting a big fat NO.

But that is not how the fair citizens of Victoria voted.

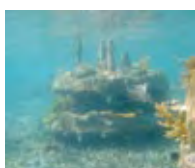
An enormous number said **kids should be taught to hunt**. This count must have annoyed the Herald Sun's little green team of manipulators! And of course this

comes in on top of the Age Duck Season Poll that ended with a 10:1 positive vote. So thanks to all who voted to maintain our heritage and continuing outdoor pursuits of hunting and gathering.

Here is the final results of the poll (that we could find)

Total votes cast - 51,850
Yes, it is character building - 46,900 votes (91%)
No, it is too brutal - 4,950 votes (9%)

Port Phillip Bay artificial reef naming competition starts in April



Members of the public are invited to enter into a competition to name three artificial reefs that are to be installed along the north-east corner of Port Phillip Bay. Not only will you be able to win great prizes, you will also be able to officially name one of Victoria's newest landmarks. This initiative involves the DPI trialling the deployment of artificial reefs to assess the potential to use such structures to provide better opportunities for recreational fishers. Based on a range of social, economic and environmental criteria, three locations have been selected

offshore from Spendale, Seaford and Frankston in approximately 11 metres of water depth. It is planned to deploy the reefs in April 2009 for a three-year trial. The reef areas and a buffer zone (approximately 1 km) would be closed to commercial fishing in order to assess the recreational use of the reefs and to maximise opportunities for fishers to catch fish at these sites. The competition will be run during the week leading up to Easter. To find out more about the rules for the competition, visit www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fishing.

Australian fox fur - an environmentally friendly option for fashion?



The Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (SSAA) Inc is calling on its members, fashion designers, retail stores and the government to promote European fox fur from Australia as an environmentally friendly fur alternative. The fox has had a detrimental impact on Australian wildlife since its introduction and will continue to decimate wildlife into the future until their numbers are reduced.

The SSAA believes that the utilisation of fox pelts from both commercial and non-commercial fox hunters should be promoted in a fashion similar to 'Eco Fur' products in New Zealand. New Zealand has major environmental problems due to the introduced Australian brush-

tail possum. 'Eco Fur' is promoted and supported by the New Zealand Department of Conservation and is also encouraged by many conservation groups. The use and resultant sale of possum fur products plays an important role in preserving the country's natural beauty by conserving New Zealand's flora and fauna.

In Australia, research has shown that the fox normally consumes approximately 30 per cent wildlife in its diet. A single fox can consume around 40kg of small native animals per year. This accounts for a very large number of native animals lost each year, particularly when the current fox population in Australia has been estimated at 7.2 million. That's a potential of at least 288,000 tonnes of native animals killed and consumed by foxes each year. This is equivalent to 6900 fully loaded semi-trailers, which if parked bumper-to-bumper in a straight line would stretch 104km.

The use of animal fur has been a contentious issue for a many years, mainly due to animal activists. They

can be held partly responsible for the previous collapse of the Australian fox fur industry from its peak in the mid-1980s. The subsequent decreased demand and lower export prices for pelts reduced the commercial harvesting interest. The reduced hunting pressure on the fox for fur is certainly one reason behind an explosion in fox numbers that is now decimating our native species.

While animal rights activists now target and attempt to discredit all fur-farming practices in overseas countries, the key issue for the acceptance of fur by the general public is assuring a humane supply chain. Foxes taken from the wild in Australia are dispatched instantaneously using a firearm out in the field. They are not caged or raised in farms. This process is one of the most humane ways to begin any fur supply chain.

Promotion of Australia fox fur will lead to an increase in demand and this will potentially lead to higher export prices, resulting in additional economic benefit for the community.

Push for croc culling safaris



Culling crocodiles or hunting them safari-style is being considered by the Northern Territory Government after an 11-year-old girl was savagely killed in a flooded creek.

Briony Anne Goodsell's remains were found by a search squad in Black Jungle Swamp on Monday.

The local girl was dragged underwater in the flooded creek at Lambells Lagoon, in rural Darwin, while swimming with friends on Sunday afternoon.

Her death has prompted renewed calls for the NT Government to implement tighter controls of the crocodile population, recently estimated to be the highest in Australia at more than 80,000.

A plan for limited trophy hunting was rejected by the Commonwealth for the first time in 2005.


The NT Government had hoped to allow fee-paying hunters to shoot 25 of the 600 crocodiles already culled from the wild each year, generating income for impoverished Aboriginal land owners.

"We remain in favour of it," a spokeswoman for NT Environment Minister Alison Anderson said today. "It's an issue we will continue to pursue."

The NT Government is currently considering the issue as part of a revised croc management plan, to be completed in a few weeks before going to the Federal Government for approval.

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