




Victorian Hunting Guide 2016



SSAA Victoria

Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (Victoria)



- 
- Promoting ethical hunting, advocating game and fauna conservation.
 - Promoting the interests of firearms owners.
 - Collaborating with government and key industry partners.
 - Offering programs for youth, women, physically challenged etc.

As a member, you are part of an Australia-wide network.

SSAA Victoria has more than 35 sub-clubs, including the Deerstalkers, Field Hunters Club and the Working Gundog Association of Australia.

Join now and enjoy the benefits: two metropolitan Melbourne ranges; 13 regional branches; monthly and bi-monthly magazines; all shooting disciplines; automatic coverage of \$20 million public liability and personal accident insurance and access to coaching and training in firearms usage and safety.

Open seasons, bag limits and licence fees

GAME SPECIES

2016 OPEN SEASON DATES

BAG LIMIT

Native quail		
Stubble Quail	2 April 2016 – 30 June 2016	Twenty (20) birds per day
Introduced game birds		
Pheasants and partridges, European Quail, Californian Quail	All year	No limit
Duck		
Pacific Black Duck Grey Teal Mountain Duck Wood Duck Chestnut Teal Hardhead Duck Pink-eared Duck	19 March 2016 – 13 June 2016	Opening Saturday: Eight (8) game ducks. Remainder of season: Four (4) game ducks per day. The Blue-winged Shoveler cannot be hunted during the 2016 season.
Deer		
Hog Deer	1 April 2016 – 30 April 2016	One male and one female
Red Deer	All Year	No limit
Sambar Deer (stalking only)	All Year	No limit
Sambar Deer (hound hunting)	1 April 2016 – 30 November 2016	No limit
Fallow Deer	All year	No limit
Chital Deer	All year	No limit
Rusa Deer	All year	No limit

GAME LICENCE FEES (valid until 30 JUNE 2016)

Type of Game Licence Available	Short-term One year or part thereof*	Long-term Three years or part thereof*
Deer	\$54.40 or \$27.20 concession	\$163.20 or \$81.60 concession
Deer (stalking and hounds)	\$54.40 or \$27.20 concession	\$163.20 or \$81.60 concession
Game birds (including duck)	\$54.40 or \$27.20 concession	\$163.20 or \$81.60 concession
Game birds (not including duck)	\$54.40 or \$27.20 concession	\$163.20 or \$81.60 concession
Game birds (including duck) and deer (stalking)	\$81.60 or \$40.80 concession	\$244.80 or \$122.40 concession
Game birds (including duck) and deer (stalking and hounds)	\$81.60 or \$40.80 concession	\$244.80 or \$122.40 concession
Game birds (not including duck) and deer (stalking)	\$81.60 or \$40.80 concession	\$244.80 or \$122.40 concession
Game birds (not including duck) and deer (stalking and hounds)	\$81.60 or \$40.80 concession	\$244.80 or \$122.40 concession
* Licences for juniors (12–17 years old) are free of charge. For information on Provisional, Non-Resident and Game Bird Farm Licences, see Section 1.		

If you would like to receive this information/publication in an accessible format (such as large print or audio), please call the Customer Service Centre on 136 186, TTY 1800 122 969, or email customer.service@delwp.vic.gov.au

Published by the Game Management Authority,
February 2016.

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Authorised by the Game Management Authority
121 Exhibition St, Melbourne 3000.

ISBN 978-1-925466-05-8 (Print)

ISBN 978-1-925466-06-5 (PDF)

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For more information about the Game Management Authority go to www.gma.vic.gov.au or phone the Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

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Welcome to the 2016 Victorian Hunting Guide

Minister's message

Welcome to the 2016 *Victorian Hunting Guide*. This guide details the arrangements for deer, duck, quail, pheasant and partridge hunting in Victoria this year.

Many Victorians have a long tradition spending quality weekends camping with friends and family and hunting game, whether that's close to home or further afield.

As one of our 48,000 licensed game hunters, you make a significant contribution to our social and economic wellbeing. Rural towns and regional centres across Victoria share in the more than \$439 million benefit that hunting brings each year, as well as supporting thousands of jobs.

I am committed to ensuring that hunting in Victoria continues to be a safe, responsible and sustainable recreation for you and for future generations.

We have been consulting with hunting organisation representatives as we develop a plan that will see government agencies working with hunters to improve the promotion of responsible hunting, maximise the benefits of hunting, provide better hunting opportunities, and ensure that our game species remain sustainable.

The Government sees hunting as a legitimate recreational activity and is keen to develop new opportunities for hunters.

The Game Management Authority (GMA) is now in its second year as the independent body tasked with the administration, licensing,

compliance and enforcement of game hunting in Victoria. I thank them for being such a professional face for responsible hunting.

The GMA provided its recommendations on the 2016 duck season to the Government in December, based on the best available science. Following this independent advice, the Government announced that this year's season will be of normal duration, but reduced bag limits are in place in addition to a ban on hunting Blue-winged Shovelers this year. The changes reflect the impact of the prevailing dry conditions on bird numbers across eastern Australia in the lead up to 2016.

This guide, the free Game Hunting Victoria app, and the GMA website – www.gma.vic.gov.au – are valuable sources of information for your next hunting trip.

I hope you enjoy your hunts this year, and thank you for hunting responsibly.

The Hon. Jaala Pulford

The Minister for Agriculture



Chairman's report

Welcome to the 2016 *Victorian Hunting Guide*. This guide is designed to keep all game hunters up-to-date with the current arrangements for deer, duck and quail hunting in Victoria.

I also encourage hunters to visit the Game Management Authority's (GMA) website (www.gma.vic.gov.au) and download the Game Hunting Victoria phone app. for the latest information on hunting, as well as other useful resources, such as online bookings for tests and courses, education videos, licence renewals, change of address, hunting maps, fact sheets, research and more.

Since GMA was established on 1 July 2014 it has been working hard with other agencies, such as Parks Victoria and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, to enhance hunting opportunities and ensure that we have productive game and wildlife habitats. Although some programs need time to take effect, we hope that game hunters and the general community will start to see better and accurate hunting signage erected across the parks and reserves estate where game hunting occurs, as well as better management and more hunting opportunities in areas such as State Game Reserves.

Since its inception, the GMA has been determined to prevent legal and responsible hunters being tarnished by the small minority of illegal hunters. We make no apology for strongly targeting illegal hunters who affect public and private land, stealing resources and putting hunting opportunities at risk.

We will continue to actively enforce hunting laws to address issues such as illegal spotlighting, the taking of protected wildlife, the use of non-compliant hounds and dogs, early/late shooting, the illegal use of lead shot and shooting from public roads.

Illegal hunting activities are dangerous to the general public and damage the reputation of all law-abiding hunters. Hunters breaking the law can expect to have their vehicles and firearms seized, and face the risk of hefty fines as well as the cancellation of Game and Firearm Licences.

I would remind you that hunting's future depends on you and your respect for the laws, animals, the environment, other hunters, non-hunters and the hunt. Please do not turn a blind eye to illegal behaviour. If you suspect illegal hunting activity, report it to 136 186.

This can be done anonymously. If you require urgent assistance, call Victoria Police on 000.

Actively coach and mentor young hunters in the field to ensure we raise a generation of respectful, responsible and skilled hunters.

I encourage each of you to get involved in conservation efforts, enjoy Victoria's environment and take advantage of our unique hunting opportunities. Support regional communities and take pride in your recreation.

I wish you a safe and successful 2016 hunting season and implore you to RESPECT – Hunt Responsibly.



The Hon. Roger Hallam

Chairman, Game Management Authority



1. Licensing

Game Licences

‘Game’ includes those species of duck, deer, quail, pheasant and partridge declared to be game in Victoria.

Anyone hunting game in Victoria, including juniors (12–17 years), must hold a current Game Licence. The Game Licence must be endorsed for the type(s) of game that you wish to hunt and only permits you to hunt that game in Victoria during the period the licence is valid. Licences can be purchased for a period of one or three years.

A range of licence types are available, depending on your requirements.

Traditional Owners acting in accordance with a Natural Resource Agreement or other authorisation are exempt from the requirement to hold a Game Licence. However, Traditional Owners who wish to hunt duck or Sambar Deer with the use of hounds must obtain a pass in the relevant test before hunting those species.

For more information on Game Licensing, visit the GMA website: www.gma.vic.gov.au

Licence types

There are a range of Game Licence types that can be purchased to cater for your hunting needs (see table, opposite). Licence fees are included on page 1. In addition to the regular Game Licence, three other licence types are available to assist junior and international hunters and game bird farmers.

Provisional Game Licences for juniors

A Provisional Game Licence is available for juniors (12–17 years old) only.

Unlike a regular Game Licence for juniors, the Provisional Game Licence allows juniors to hunt duck or Sambar Deer with hounds without the need to first pass the Waterfowl Identification Test or Sambar Deer Hunting with Hounds Test. However, a junior hunting under a Provisional Game Licence must be under the direct supervision of an adult who holds a valid Game Licence for the species being hunted and has passed the tests for those species.

As with the regular Game Licence for juniors, there is no fee for a Provisional Game Licence. It is valid for the remainder of the calendar year in which the licence is issued.

A junior will be issued a Provisional Game Licence to hunt duck or Sambar Deer with hounds only once for each entitlement. It allows a junior hunter to experience hunting under supervision before deciding whether to continue duck hunting or hunting Sambar Deer with hounds. At the conclusion of the Provisional Game Licence period, a junior who wishes to continue hunting must obtain a regular Game Licence and pass the relevant tests.

A Provisional Game Licence holder is subject to all conditions and laws that apply to regular Game Licence holders.

Game Bird Farm Hunting Licence

The Game Bird Farm Hunting Licence is free of charge and is valid for seven days only. This licence makes it easier for game bird farms to cater for corporate events and clients seeking a game hunting experience in a controlled environment under expert instruction. This licence can be obtained from the GMA website.

The holder of a Game Bird Farm Hunting Licence can only hunt **non-indigenous** game birds (i.e. introduced pheasant, partridge and quail species) on a game bird farm. **Game ducks and Stubble Quail must not be hunted under this licence.**

Holders of a regular Game Licence for game birds, including duck, can still hunt game duck and Stubble Quail in season and non-indigenous game birds at game bird farms.

Game	Licence type	Other requirements
Stubble Quail	Game Birds (including duck) or Game Birds (not including duck)	Nil
Pheasants, Partridges, European Quail and Californian Quail	Game Birds (including duck) or Game Birds (not including duck) or Game Bird Farm Hunting Licence	Nil
Duck	Game Birds (including duck) Juniors (12–17 years old) may acquire a once-off, 12-month Provisional Game Licence Overseas hunters may hunt under a 14-day Non-resident of Australia Game Licence	Pass the Waterfowl Identification test*
Deer (including Sambar, Red, Fallow, Rusa and Chital)	Deer (stalking)	Nil
Hog Deer	Deer (stalking)	Obtain Hog Deer tags
Hound hunting Sambar Deer	Deer (stalking and hounds) Juniors (12–17 years old) may acquire a once-off Provisional Game Licence Overseas hunters require a Non-resident of Australia Game Licence	Pass the Hound Hunting test*
* Not required for holders of a Provisional or Non-resident of Australia Game Licence.		



Hog Deer stag

International hunters

A 'Non-resident of Australia Game Licence' is available to facilitate game hunting for international visitors and support the commercial hunting and guiding industries.

The Non-resident of Australia Game Licence removes the need for international hunters to pass the Waterfowl Identification Test or Sambar Deer Hunting with Hounds Test. However, a Non-resident of Australia Game Licence holder must be under the direct supervision of an adult who holds a valid Game Licence specific to the species being hunted and has passed the required tests.

The Non-resident of Australia Game Licence is only available to people who reside outside Australia and is restricted to a maximum period of 14 days. A Non-resident of Australia Game Licence attracts the same fee as a full 12-month Game Licence.

Overseas visitors intending to use firearms for hunting in Victoria must apply to Victoria Police for a permit to possess, carry or use a firearm.

For information about Firearms Licences and the possession, use and ownership of firearms, contact the Licensing Services Branch, Victoria Police, on 1300 651 645.

First-time hunters

First-time hunters can obtain a Game Licence application form from the GMA website at www.gma.vic.gov.au

Game Licence fees are listed in the summary table on page 1. Pensioner concession card holders are eligible for a discount of 50 per cent on the price of a licence. Junior (12–17 years old) licences are free of charge.

Game Licence applications may be lodged by mail as described on the application form, or over the counter at some GMA, DEDJTR and DELWP offices between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday.

On receipt of payment, your application will be processed and a Game Licence sent to you by mail. The turnaround time for Game Licence applications is about three working weeks, but delays may occur during peak periods.

Free junior licences

Juniors (12–17 years old) must obtain a Game Licence in order to hunt game; however, there is no charge for a junior Game Licence.

Hunting on a receipt

When payment for a Game Licence is made either in person or electronically (phone, internet, Australia Post or BPAY), you will be issued with a payment reference number (receipt).

This proof of payment is regarded as an 'interim licence', and you can hunt with this until you receive your licence in the mail.

If you sent a cheque or money order by mail and you have confirmed that this has been cashed, you may hunt using your cheque stub or money order stub as proof of payment. This applies to payment receipts for all new, renewed or amended licences.

Game Licence amendment and replacement

Have you changed your address?

If you change your address, you must advise GMA within 14 days of doing so. This can now be done on the GMA website.

An updated licence will be sent to you free of charge. Providing your new address also ensures that you will receive a copy of the Victorian Hunting Guide and any other information that GMA needs to send to you.

How do I change my licence type?

To change your licence type, download a Game Licence Amendment Form from the GMA website.

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Mail the completed form to the address below with a cheque or money order for payment for the licence type you wish to change to.

Lost or stolen licences

If your licence is lost or stolen, you will need to send a signed Statutory Declaration outlining the circumstances together with a cheque or money order for \$13.20 (fee valid to 30 June 2016).

Send completed documents to:

Game Management Authority
Accounts Receivable
GPO Box 4509

Melbourne, Victoria 3001

Upon receipt of payment, a replacement licence will be sent to you.

Game Licence renewal

If you have an existing Game Licence, a payment notice will be mailed to you about six weeks before your licence is due to expire.

To renew your licence, follow the instructions on the payment notice. Your new licence will be sent to you after receipt of payment. Early payment of Game Licence renewals will facilitate the early issue of a renewed licence.

Hunters with a Game Licence that expired on 31 December 2016 that has not yet been renewed can pay by:

- Phone (by credit card)
- Internet (by credit card)
- BPAY
- POSTbillpay.



A well-trained gundog can improve your hunting success and enjoyment.

Hound Hunting Test

Anyone wishing to hunt Sambar Deer with the aid of hounds must have a Game Licence that authorises the use of hounds.

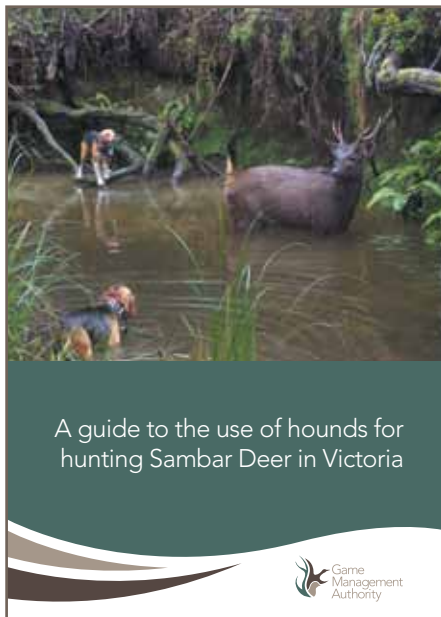
Prior to applying for a Game Licence to hunt with hounds, you need to pass the Hound Hunting Test, unless you get a Provisional or Non-resident of Australia Game Licence.

Hunters will be tested on their understanding of the legal, safety and ethical requirements when hound hunting.

Hound Hunting Tests can now be booked on the GMA website. The test costs \$29.90 (fees are current until 30 June 2016).

Before sitting the test, applicants are advised to read *A guide to the use of hounds for hunting Sambar Deer in Victoria*. The guide contains all the information needed to pass the test.

For more information, see the GMA website: www.gma.vic.gov.au/Licensing



An essential study guide for the Hound Hunting Test.

Waterfowl Identification Test

You must have a Victorian Game Licence endorsed for 'game birds including duck' to hunt duck in Victoria; this applies to hunters from interstate and overseas as well.

Prior to applying for a Game Licence to hunt game birds including duck, you must pass the Waterfowl Identification Test, unless you get a Provisional or Non-resident of Australia Game Licence.

The test ensures that only those hunters able to demonstrate adequate identification skills will be permitted to hunt duck. Waterfowl Identification Tests are conducted at selected GMA offices throughout the state.

A list of test centres and test dates can be found on the GMA website. The test costs \$29.90 (fees are current until 30 June 2016). Bookings to sit the test can be made through the online booking system at www.gma.vic.gov.au

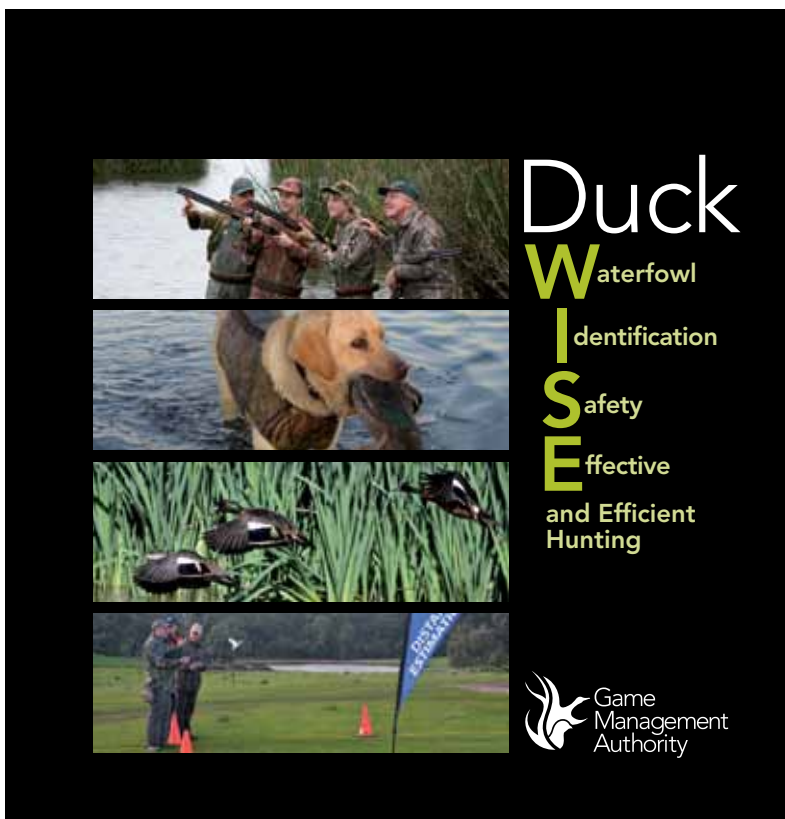
Before sitting the test, hunters can improve their identification skills by referring to *A Guide to Australian Waterfowl* and watching the *Duck WISE* DVD. Go to www.gma.vic.gov.au for details.

Duck WISE education video

Duck WISE (**W**aterfowl **I**dentification, **S**afety, **E**ffective and **E**fficient Hunting) is a new education video for duck hunters. The video will help all duck hunters accurately identify game and non-game species and will reduce the risk of the wrong birds being taken in the field. In addition, Duck WISE promotes responsible and lawful hunter behaviour and provides important information on effective and efficient hunting practices and firearm safety.

A copy of the DVD is available free of charge for collection from selected GMA, DELWP and DEDJTR offices across Victoria. You can also view the DVD on YouTube and on the GMA website.

For more information, and a list of offices where you can collect the DVD, go to www.gma.vic.gov.au



The poster features four horizontal video stills on the left: hunters in a field, a dog retrieving a duck, ducks in reeds, and hunters on a golf course. On the right, the title 'Duck WISE' is displayed in large white and yellow letters, with the full name 'Duck Waterfowl Identification Safety Effective and Efficient Hunting' below it. The Game Management Authority logo is in the bottom right corner.

Duck

Waterfowl
Identification
Safety
Effective
and Efficient
Hunting

Game
Management
Authority

2. Where you can hunt

Victoria provides some of the best hunting opportunities in Australia. These include large tracts of public land, and private land where you can hunt with permission of the landowner. Some areas open to hunting can be easily identified due to distinct and easily recognisable boundaries (e.g. roads); others can be difficult to identify and are only defined by physical features or lines on a map.

There are many land classifications in Victoria and, depending on the type of classification,

hunting may or may not be permitted. The table (below) provides general information on where you may hunt. For more specific details, see the information below and call the nearest DELWP office for details before you enter the field.

Land managers, such as the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Parks Victoria, will do their best to help you to identify areas open to hunting, but hunters also need to do some homework.

Location	Is hunting permitted?
State forest, forest parks (Cobboboonnee and Otway) and other unoccupied Crown land	Game species may be hunted during the open season only. Pest animals may be hunted at any time.
Licensed Crown land	Generally, game (during the open season) and pest animals (at any time) may be hunted, subject to the permission of the licensee.
State Game Reserves	Game duck may be hunted, but only during the open season. Sixteen State Game Reserves are available for Stubble Quail hunting, six for Hog Deer hunting and one for Sambar Deer hunting. Pest animals may not be hunted at any time, unless specifically authorised by DELWP or Parks Victoria.
Private land	Game may only be hunted during the open season and pest animals may be hunted at any time, but only with the permission of the landowner/manager.
Sanctuaries	Game species may not be hunted at any time. Pest animals may be hunted at any time.
National parks, state parks, coastal parks, wilderness parks, regional parks	Generally, hunting of any type is not permitted at any time, but there are some exceptions. See page 15 for details.
Melbourne Water catchment areas	Hunting of any type is not permitted at any time.
Flora and fauna reserves and nature conservation reserves	Hunting of any type is not permitted at any time.
Alpine resorts	Hunting of any type is not permitted at any time.

We recommend that you:

- Identify the general area that you wish to hunt.
- Obtain a map of the area and narrow it down to areas likely to have game.
- Talk to park rangers about the location of park boundaries.
- If you intend to use a firearm to hunt, adhere to the Firearms Safety Code and remember that even though an area may be open to hunting, the use of firearms may be prohibited under the *Firearms Act 1996* for safety reasons.
- For Crown land, find out from the local DELWP office whether the area is licensed or leased. Some lessees and licensees do not allow hunting on leased or licensed lands.

Victorian deer hunting maps are available on the GMA website: www.gma.vic.gov.au Information on Victorian State Game Reserves is also available from the GMA website and the GMA smartphone app.

When considering where to hunt, remember, *find out for yourself*.

If in doubt about the legality of hunting in a particular area, do not hunt there until you are sure. Hunting in a prohibited area could result in the loss of your Game or Firearms Licences and/or the seizure and confiscation of your firearm, vehicle or other belongings.

Above all, act responsibly and ensure that your actions will not put the safety of yourself or others at risk. Avoid hunting close to boundaries. Never carry a loaded firearm or use a firearm in a town or populous place (e.g. picnic area, camp site), or on any thoroughfare or place used by the public for passage with vehicles.

It is the land classification that determines where you can hunt. The *Firearms Act 1996* may override other legislation in site-specific areas, such as populous places.

Where hunting is permitted

State forest, forest parks (Cobboboonee and Otway) and other unoccupied Crown land

Generally, hunting for pest animals and game species is permitted in all state forests, the Cobboboonee and Otway forest parks and unoccupied Crown land (i.e. Crown land that is not leased or licensed). However, some restrictions may apply. Hunters are advised to consult the local DELWP office for specific information about any restrictions that apply to the area of a state forest, forest park or unoccupied Crown land where they wish to hunt. Remember, many people use state forests for recreation and/or their livelihood, so be considerate and act safely at all times.

Pest animals may be hunted at any time throughout the year. However, hunting for game species is only allowed during the open season and permitted times for that species. Make sure that you know when the open seasons are (see table, page 1).

Deer hunting by stalking is permitted in the Thomson River Forest Reserve and with the use of hounds or gundogs in parts of the reserve. Hunting pest animals is not permitted.

In the Delatite Arm Reserve at Lake Eildon, an unloaded shotgun may be carried only during the duck season.

State Game Reserves

All State Game Reserves are available to duck hunting during the open season. However, some State Game Reserves may be closed as part of seasonal arrangements. If this occurs, notices will be placed in major newspapers and signs will be posted at the reserve before

the opening weekend or at any time during the season. The GMA website will also list all closures.

Tower Hill State Game Reserve, near Warrnambool, is closed to hunting every day between 9 am and 5 pm.

State Game Reserves

The 16 State Game Reserves where Stubble Quail hunting is permitted

Title of reserve	Locality*	Title of reserve	Locality*
Blond Bay	20 km south of Bairnsdale	Jack Smith Lake	30 km east of Yarram
Bow Lake	40 km east of Edenhope	Jones Bay	5 km south of Bairnsdale
Clydebank Morass	12 km north-east of Sale	Lake Coleman	20 km east of Sale
Darlot Swamp	10 km north-east of Horsham	Lake Connewarre	8 km south-east of Geelong
Dowd Morass	10 km south-east of Sale	Mansfield Swamp	10 km west of Stanhope
Gaynor Swamp	10 km north of Colbinabbin	Macleod Morass	Near Bairnsdale
Hateleys Lake	10 km west of Natimuk	Rowan Swamp	15 km south-west of Yarrowonga
Heart Morass	5 km east of Sale	Wallenjoie Swamp	10 km north of Colbinabbin

The six State Game Reserves where Hog Deer hunting is permitted

Title of reserve	Locality*	Title of reserve	Locality*
Clydebank Morass	12 km north-east of Sale	Heart Morass	5 km east of Sale
Dowd Morass	10 km south-east of Sale	Jack Smith Lake	30 km east of Yarram
Ewings Morass	10 km south-east of Orbost	Lake Coleman	20 km east of Sale

The State Game Reserve where Sambar Deer hunting is permitted

Title of reserve	Locality*
Ewings Morass	10 km south-east of Orbost

* For maps of these and other State Game Reserves refer to the Game Hunting Victoria smartphone app or the GMA website.

Hog Deer may be hunted in the six State Game Reserves listed on page 15 and Sambar Deer may be hunted at Ewings Morass.

Stubble Quail may be hunted in the 16 State Game Reserves listed on page 15.

Pest animals or other non-game species, such as sparrows, starlings, rabbits and foxes, cannot be hunted on State Game Reserves.

A Registration of Interest to Hunt Pest Animals on Crown land does not entitle you to hunt pest species on State Game Reserves.

Licensed Crown land

If an area of Crown land is licensed, hunters must obtain the permission of the licensee before using firearms on that area. This generally includes areas such as unused roads and water frontages, which may be licensed for grazing or other purposes.

If you are in doubt about the status of a particular area, or require any further information, contact the DELWP office nearest to where you want to hunt.

Private land

Game species in season and pest animals may be hunted on private land provided hunters have obtained the permission of the landowner/manager.

Sanctuaries

Game species may not be hunted at any time in areas declared to be wildlife sanctuaries. However, pest animals may be hunted. Major Victorian sanctuaries are Mount Cole Sanctuary, Gunbower Island Sanctuary and Kow Swamp. The location of other wildlife sanctuaries should be checked with the local DELWP office.

National parks, state parks, coastal parks, wilderness parks, regional parks

Generally, hunting of any type is not permitted in national parks, state parks, coastal parks, wilderness parks, regional parks, but there are some exceptions. Where hunting is allowed, firearms must only be those calibres or gauges permitted for the species available for hunting in that park.

- **Alpine National Park and Avon Wilderness Park:** Sambar Deer may be hunted by stalking only in parts of the Alpine National Park and in the whole of the Avon Wilderness Park from 15 February to 15 December. The use of dogs to hunt Sambar Deer is not permitted. Pest animals and other species must not be hunted.
- **Baw Baw National Park:** Sambar Deer may be hunted by stalking only in the area east of Thomson Valley Road from 1 May to 25 October each year. The use of dogs to hunt Sambar Deer is not permitted. Pest animals and other species must not be hunted.
- **Cape Conran Coastal Park:** On Sydenham Inlet in the park, game duck may be hunted during the open season. Gundogs are allowed for the flushing or retrieval of ducks during the open season. Pest animals and other species must not be hunted.
- **Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park:** In certain sections, game duck, Stubble Quail and Hog Deer may be hunted in season. Gundogs are allowed for the flushing or retrieval of game ducks during the duck season. Check with Parks Victoria for details. Pest animals and other species must not be hunted. Hunters must have a permit from Parks Victoria to erect a hide in the Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park.

- **Lake Albacutya Park:** The hunting of pest animals (rabbits or foxes) is allowed, as is the hunting of game duck during the open season. Gundogs are allowed for retrieval of game ducks during the duck open season. Hunting is not permitted in part of the park at the Western Beach visitor facilities, including near the boat ramp.
- **Lake Eildon National Park:** In certain sections in the south-east of the park, Sambar Deer may be hunted from the first Saturday after Easter until 30 November. The use of dogs to hunt deer is not permitted. Pest animals and other species must not be hunted.
- **Mitchell River National Park:** Sambar Deer hunting by stalking is permitted east of the Mitchell River and south of Hortons and Calvi Tracks from 15 February to 15 December. The use of dogs to hunt deer is not permitted. Pest animals and other species must not be hunted.
- **Tara Range Park:** Deer hunting by stalking is permitted in this park from 15 February to 15 December. The use of dogs to hunt deer is not permitted. Pest animals and other species must not be hunted.
- **Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park:** Hunting for Hog Deer and game duck is permitted in certain sections in season. Pest animals and other species must not be hunted.



Download the free Game Hunting Victoria smartphone app

Available for iPhone and Android devices from the iTunes store and Google Play



www.gma.vic.gov.au

Melbourne Water catchment areas

A number of catchments and reservoirs in the outer metropolitan and central highlands area are controlled by Melbourne Water and are part of the metropolitan water supply system. Public entry to these areas is prohibited. Hunting of any type is not permitted at any time.

Flora and fauna reserves and nature conservation reserves

Hunting of any type is not permitted at any time.

Alpine resorts

Alpine resorts are closed to hunting at all times. However, you are allowed to transport a dog and firearms through a resort, providing the dogs are in a vehicle and the firearms are securely locked away.

More information

For more information on hunting in Victoria's parks estate, including State Game Reserves, contact Parks Victoria on 13 19 63 or www.parks.vic.gov.au

Areas closed to deer hunting

Some areas of the state have been closed to all forms of deer hunting and/or hound hunting. These are:

- Warburton and surrounds, and Rubicon and surrounds (**closed to all forms of deer hunting**).
- Around Jamieson and Marysville (**closed to hound hunting only**).
- The area immediately around Mt Timbertop and the Timbertop Campus of Geelong Grammar, near the township of Merrijig (**closed to all forms of deer hunting**).

- The Buttercup Lane area adjacent to the township of Merrijig (**closed to hound hunting only**).
- Several areas around Halls Gap (**closed to all forms of deer hunting**).

Deer may continue to be hunted in season on private land within these areas with the permission of the landowner/manager.

For further information, download the Game Hunting Victoria smartphone app (see page 17) or go to www.gma.vic.gov.au

Duck hunting and the Murray River

The southern bank of the Murray River, including the original location of that bank beneath impounded waters, such as Lake Mulwala and Lake Hume, is the state border between Victoria and New South Wales.

Duck hunting is not permitted on the Murray River; however, south of that border, game ducks may be hunted during the open season on any area open to duck hunting. This includes flood waters that have flowed over the southern bank of the Murray River into Victoria.

If you are hunting ducks on Lake Mulwala or Lake Hume during the open season, it is your responsibility to be aware of your location on those lakes.

Duck hunting is not permitted in NSW, unless as part of the NSW Game Bird Management Program. For more information, phone the NSW Department of Primary Industries on (02) 6391 3750 or visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

3. General hunting laws

Regulation and legislation

Most hunting laws are contained in the Wildlife (Game) Regulations 2012 and the *Wildlife Act 1975*. Hunters should know these laws.

Other laws on land management, firearms and animal welfare are contained in other Acts and Regulations. A list of these can be found on the GMA website.

Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals in Hunting

The Code was developed to:

- ensure hunting is humane
- encourage the considerate treatment of animals that are hunted, and those that are used in hunting
- protect the welfare of other animals where hunting occurs.

The Code sets out guidelines for hunter behaviour to ensure animals (game and non-game) are treated humanely. To enhance the environment and its wildlife, the Code supports the participation of hunters in conservation programs.

For a copy of the Code, visit the GMA website (www.gma.vic.gov.au) or contact Agriculture Victoria on (03) 9217 4200 for further details.

Public and private land

The laws that regulate hunting apply to both public **and** private land.

The powers of Authorised Officers apply to public and private land, which means they are authorised to enter private land and go on to private waters to conduct their compliance activities.

No night hunting

The hunting of game at night (half an hour after sunset to half an hour before sunrise) is not permitted in Victoria.

Artificial lights (spotlights)

Spotlights must not be used to hunt game in Victoria.

It is illegal to use a firearm on or across roads or tracks and to use vehicles or spotlights to hunt or assist in the hunting of game.

A spotlight is defined as any source of artificial light, infrared, night vision or heat-detecting device.

Hunting tip: General preparation

Before the hunting season starts, sort and prepare your hunting equipment and service, repair or replace old equipment; this will ensure all equipment performs and doesn't let you down at a critical moment. To avoid crucial equipment being forgotten, organise and pack your equipment well in advance.

Under the regulations, a spotlight **does not include**:

- A domestic light used for domestic purposes – this could include lights such as torches, lanterns and work lights when used around camp.
- An emergency light used for emergency purposes – such as hand-held torches or headlamps used when navigating out of the bush or 12 volt lights used when working on your vehicle.
- A light fitted to your vehicle that complies with the Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 2009 – this covers all spotlights and work lights that are fitted on your vehicle in a legal manner.

Possession of a spotlight and firearm when in a vehicle

Hunters travelling in vehicles between 30 minutes after sunset until 30 minutes before sunrise in **recognised deer habitat** can be in possession of a firearm and spotlight as long as:

- The firearm is unloaded and stored in a securely fastened case or container (e.g. gun bag or gun case) that is stowed in the boot or storage area of a sedan, dual cab or wagon and is not readily accessible by any occupant of the vehicle.

or

- For utes or single cabs, the firearm is unloaded and stored in a securely fastened case or container and stowed in a part of the vehicle not readily accessible by any occupant of the vehicle. The best approach here is to fit a lockable steel box to the tray and store the firearm in there.

and

- Any ammunition is stored separately (but not in a glove box) and is in a part of the vehicle not readily accessible by any occupant of the vehicle.

and

- Any spotlight in or on the vehicle is not in use.

Possession of a spotlight and firearm when on foot

Hunters on foot in **recognised deer habitat** between 30 minutes after sunset until 30 minutes before sunrise may carry an artificial light (e.g. torch or headlamp) for on-foot navigation purposes as long as:

- The firearm and magazine is unloaded – this means that all cartridges must be removed from the firearm and any magazine.

and

- Ammunition is stored in a closed case or container – this could include a backpack or cartridge case.

and

- Any artificial light is not fitted to the firearm, scope or other fitting attached to the firearm.

Recognised deer habitat

'Recognised deer habitat' is defined as all areas of Crown land in the following Victorian municipalities:

- Alpine Shire
- Ararat Rural City
- Baw Baw Shire
- Benalla Rural City
- Cardinia Shire



VICTORIA POLICE

Travelling with firearms

To protect your investment and keep the community safe consider the following when travelling with firearms:

- Keep your firearms and ammunition separate from each other
- Keep firearms and ammunition out of sight
- Keep your firearms in a padded cover or hard case
- Keep your firearms unloaded
- Render your firearm inoperable if practical
- When temporarily leaving firearms in your vehicle, lock it before you leave it
- Avoid publicising your own firearms
- If you will be away from where you usually store your firearms for a long period of time consider storing them elsewhere

When travelling ask yourself, am I doing everything to keep my firearms safe?

www.police.vic.gov.au/firearms

- Colac-Otway Shire
- Corangamite Shire
- East Gippsland Shire
- Glenelg Shire
- Horsham Rural City
- Mansfield Shire
- Mitchell Shire
- Murrindindi Shire
- Northern Grampians Shire
- Pyrenees Shire
- South Gippsland Shire
- Southern Grampians Shire
- Strathbogie Shire
- Towong Shire
- Wangaratta Rural City
- Wellington Shire
- Whittlesea City
- Yarra Ranges Shire

For more information on shire boundaries, hunters can contact the listed shires.

People exempt from spotlighting laws

Landowners/occupiers or their agents who are using a spotlight for the purposes of controlling pest animals to a distance of 250 metres outside the boundary of their property in recognised deer habitat are exempt.

Any person acting in accordance with an Authority to Control Wildlife or other authorisation issued under the *Wildlife Act 1975* that allows them to destroy wildlife (which may include some deer species) with the aid of a spotlight is also exempt from spotlighting laws.

Powers of Authorised Officers

Authorised Officers are there to help you understand the hunting laws and provide advice and information on hunting. They are also there to enforce the hunting laws to protect the resource and ensure that everyone has equitable access to hunting opportunities and that hunting is conducted in a safe and responsible manner.

When hunting, you may be stopped by a GMA Game Officer, a DELWP Wildlife Officer or other Authorised Officer, a Parks Victoria Ranger or a member of Victoria Police. An officer may not always wear a uniform, but they will always show you their official identification.

If you are approached by an officer in the field, you will be directed to unload any firearm in your possession. You may also be asked to produce your Firearms and/or Game Licence and to provide your correct name and address. Officers may also wish to inspect any game you have harvested or have in your possession.

Authorised Officers and members of Victoria Police may stop and search any vehicle or boat to carry out inspections. They may also search out-buildings at your property and your residence with a warrant. They may seize any game or wildlife or any equipment that has been used in the commission of an alleged offence, including firearms, boats and vehicles.

Fair game for all



Hunting in Victoria's game reserves

Victoria's parks protect our most treasured natural places. They are places that inspire you to explore and discover. Parks Victoria has an active role in managing state game reserves and we work hard to protect the park and ensure visitors have a safe and enjoyable experience. Parks Victoria rangers will be conducting several compliance activities across the state leading up to and during the peak hunting season. Compliance activities will focus on the game regulations as well as those regulations that protect our parks and reserves such as those on fire, camping and litter. Compliance activities ensure a fair game for all, the safety of hunters and the general public, and protection of our very special state game reserves and parks. Help us to ensure this legacy continues. We look forward to seeing you in the field.

For further information call Parks Victoria on 13 1963
or visit www.parks.vic.gov.au

4. Caring for the environment

Victoria has many areas across the state that are available for game hunting. Victoria's parks, forests and wetlands are special places, but to remain so, they need your help. Tread lightly to minimise your impact on the natural environment and maintain quality habitat for quality hunting.

Please help to protect these important areas by following some basic rules:

- Keep to the tracks
- Pick up all spent shotgun shells and cartridge cases
- Bury all feathers and carcasses
- Take all other rubbish home
- Dispose of deer carcasses thoughtfully.

Camping

Here are some basic rules you should follow when camping:

- Camp in an existing campsite rather than create a new one and camp at least 20 metres from any creek, lake or wetland.
- Only drive on formed tracks and roads. Park immediately adjacent to tracks where it is safe to do so.
- Be careful when camping under trees. Trees can lose their limbs at any time, but particularly during high winds.
- Do not dig trenches around tents.
- Take your rubbish home. If you come across other people's rubbish, do the bush a favour and take it out with you.

- Firewood is in short supply in many areas. Use only dead fallen wood. Standing trees, even dead ones, are a home for wildlife and a part of the scenery. Do not cut down or damage standing trees or vegetation. Wherever possible, bring your own firewood.
- If dogs are permitted at your campsite, ensure they are adequately restrained to protect wildlife and other campers. Remember to clean up after your dogs.
- Protect water quality – wash-up at least 50 metres from streams and avoid using soap (use gritty sand and a scourer instead).
- Leave campsites tidy.

Campfires

General advice about fire restrictions

Restrictions apply to having campfires in Victoria. These restrictions are important to reduce the chance of a bushfire that could result in loss of life and property. They are actively enforced.

On Code Red fire danger rating days

State forests and national parks will be closed on Code Red days, so no campfire can be lit on Code Red Days.

You should monitor all available media to be aware of Code Red days, Total Fire Ban days and prohibited periods, and take appropriate action.

On Total Fire Ban days

Campfires are prohibited on days of Total Fire Ban.

Solid and liquid fuel barbecues and ovens are also banned on Total Fire Ban days.

Only gas or electric appliances that have been designed and commercially manufactured exclusively for cooking may be used for meal preparation on a Total Fire Ban Day provided:

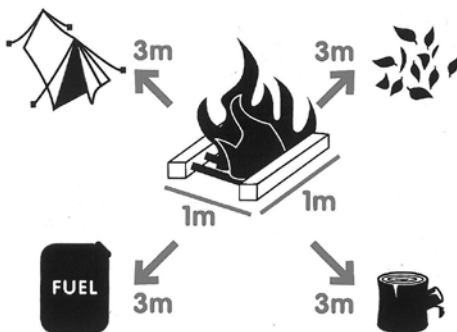
- the ground and airspace within 3m of the appliance is clear of flammable material
- a minimum of 10 litres of water is on hand
- it is in a stable position when in use

It is your responsibility to know if a Total Fire Ban is declared.

At all other times

On state forest and national park, campfires are permitted in the open air as long as you observe the following conditions:

- The fire is lit in a properly constructed fireplace or in a trench at least 30 cm deep.



Keep a space of at least three metres around and above the fire clear of flammable material.

- Where a fireplace is provided, this must be used.
- The dimensions of the solid fuel are the minimum necessary for the purpose.
- The fire does not occupy an area exceeding one square metre.
- The ground and airspace within a distance of three metres from the outer perimeter and upper-most point of the fire are clear of flammable material.
- **The fire cannot be left unattended at any time.** It must be extinguished prior to your absence.

Duck hunting

- **Cleaning ducks:** After plucking or breasting your ducks (i.e. leaving them with a fully feathered wing attached), feathers, offal and carcass remains should be buried in a site clear of vegetation and at least 50 metres away from the water. Better still, store them in a rubbish bag and take home for disposal.
- **Shotgun shells:** Spent cartridges must be picked up and disposed of correctly. The cartridges are generally made of plastic and brass and if left on the wetland will remain there as they don't break down. If not properly disposed of, spent cartridges will have a negative impact on the wetland and its wildlife.

Don't tolerate illegal hunting

Call 136 186 or Victoria Police

The irresponsible or illegal behaviour of some can damage the reputation of hunters and create unsafe or unsustainable situations. It is important that hunters act responsibly and encourage the rest of the community to do the right thing.



Do not tolerate illegal or irresponsible behaviour.

Helpful information includes:

- Time and date of activity
- Is activity continuing or past?
- Place
- Number of people involved
- Vehicle registration
- Activity
- Equipment used.

All information will be treated in confidence. Information provided will help plan patrols and enforcement operations when no immediate field response is possible.



Care for the environment, so everyone can continue to enjoy the great outdoors.

5. Use of dogs for game hunting

Many hunters use trained dogs to assist them while hunting game. Dogs can be particularly useful to locate downed game that may otherwise be lost.

The popular breeds of dog used to hunt game have been selectively developed over centuries to flush, trail, point or retrieve. They are bred to instinctively hunt, are obedient, obey commands from the hunter, only hunt certain types of game and ignore distractions in the field.

Hunters are responsible for the training, behaviour and conditioning of their hunting dogs.

Hunters should always be considerate of other public land users and ensure their dogs are under control at all times. Ultimately, and importantly, hunters are responsible for the actions of their dogs. Under no circumstances should dogs be set onto game or other wildlife. It is an offence for any dog to attack or maim another animal including pest animals, such as pigs. Any dog that does so must not be used for hunting.

Hunters need to ensure their gundog, deer hunting dog or hound is trained to a level of control so they do not interfere with other hunters or chase wildlife or livestock.

Deer hunting dogs or gundogs can be used to hunt all game deer species except Hog deer.

Deer hunting dogs or gundogs may be used throughout the state, wherever hunting with dogs is permitted.

Three types of hounds can be used for hunting Sambar Deer. They must be registered with the GMA (see page 49). Hounds can only be used to hunt Sambar Deer in parts of eastern Victoria. See the GMA website for more information. There are specific regulations regarding hound hunting (see section 7).

Dog breeds permitted for hunting game in Victoria

In Victoria, only those breeds of dog prescribed as 'gundogs', 'deer hunting dogs' or 'hounds' may be used to hunt game birds and/or game deer species, except Hog Deer. Other breeds and crossbreeds must not be used. The breeds permitted for hunting game in Victoria are shown in the table on page 28.

A hunter may use no more than two deer hunting dogs or gundogs when hunting. When hunting deer as part of a team, that team may use no more than two gundogs or deer hunting dogs, or one of each type.

All hunters planning to hunt with hounds need to pass the hound hunting test. Detailed information is available in the booklet: *A guide to the use of hounds for hunting Sambar Deer in Victoria*.

Training your gundog

It takes time and dedication to train a gundog to hunt game effectively. Many clubs have been established to assist members train their dogs. These clubs also organise field trials where dogs can compete and showcase their talents. Gundogs may only be used in field

trials conducted during the open season by organisations approved by the GMA.

Outside the hunting seasons, gundogs can be trained with the use of a starter's pistol and shotguns using blank ammunition.

It is an offence to train a gundog outside the open seasons while in possession of live ammunition.

On State Game Reserves, gundogs can only be trained 48 hours before and during a quail or duck season.

Training your hound

The regulations for hunting Sambar Deer set a maximum pack size of five hounds but allow the use of up to three additional pups (hounds under the age of 12 months) in training.

This allows the pups to be effectively trained without compromising how a pack functions and affecting the success of a hunt.

Care of dogs when hunting

It is the hunter's responsibility to care for their dogs in the field and be aware of any signs of stress or injury. Dogs used to assist in the hunting of game should be healthy and in good physical condition.

Permitted dog breeds for game hunting in Victoria

Gundogs (game birds and deer*)	Gundogs (cont.)	Deer hunting dogs (deer only*)
Bracco Italiano	Hungarian Vizsla	Border Terrier
Brittany Spaniel (Epagnuel Breton)	Hungarian Wirehair Vizla	Dachshund
Chesapeake Bay Retriever	Irish Red and White Setter	Finnish Spitz
Clumber Spaniel	Irish Setter	Fox Terrier (smooth)
Cocker Spaniel	Irish Water Spaniel	Fox Terrier (wire)
Cocker Spaniel (American)	Italian Spinone	German Hunting Terrier (Jagd Terrier)
Curly Coated Retriever	Labrador Retriever	Jack Russell Terrier
English Setter	Lagotto Romagnolo	Norwegian Elkhound
English Springer Spaniel	Large Munsterlander	Hounds (Sambar Deer only)
Field Spaniel	Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever	Beagle
Flat Coated Retriever	Pointer	Bloodhound
German Shorthaired Pointer	Sussex Spaniel	Harrier
German Wirehaired Pointer (Deutsch Drahthaar)	Weimeraner (Longhair)	
Golden Retriever	Weimaraner	
Gordon Setter	Welsh Springer Spaniel	

* Excluding Hog Deer

They should not be used under conditions where there is an unacceptable risk of injury or heat stress. To avoid heat exhaustion of your dogs, hunt when temperatures are less extreme (e.g. early morning and evening) and be sure to provide your dogs with plenty of water. If a dog is injured when in the field, ensure that it receives first aid or professional attention as soon as possible.

Offence for dogs to attack, bite or maim wildlife

Under the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals in Hunting, any dog used to assist game hunters must instinctively hunt and must be non-aggressive, obedient and be able to

be trained to obey commands from the hunter to only hunt certain types of wild animals and to ignore distractions in the field. Any dog that attacks, bites or maims wildlife, including game, must not be used.

It is an offence for a gundog or deer hunting dog to attack, bite or maim wildlife, including game. The maximum penalty for this offence is approximately \$2,800.

More information can be found in the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals in Hunting, available on the GMA or DEDJTR website.



**Missed the shot
Lost the fish
Busted the 4WD
Tell the tale**



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Pork Spare Ribs

Smoked Fish & Roasted Veggies

Marinated Venison, Lamb or Chicken

Roast Cashews with a Beer



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Hounds for hunting Sambar Deer

Hounds used to hunt Sambar Deer must be pure bred and must conform to the Australian National Kennel Council breed standards, with the exception of height requirements. This is set in regulation and is included below. Hounds that do not meet these standards will not be registered or will be deregistered and the possessor may be charged with offences under the Game Regulations.

Beagle (top right)

The Beagle is a small hound bred primarily for hunting. The dog is bred for working in packs and has an even temperament. A Beagle's general appearance is of a sturdy, compactly built hound, conveying the impression of quality without coarseness.

Maximum height at the withers: 40 cm



Harrier (middle)

The Harrier is a mid-sized hunting hound with a small, hard coat. It has large bones for stamina and strength. The Harrier is cheerful, even-tempered and tolerant of people. This pack dog is good with other dogs. In general appearance, a Harrier is slightly longer than its height. They are active, well balanced and full of strength and quality.

Maximum height at the withers: 53.5 cm



Bloodhound (bottom right)

The Bloodhound is a large hound bred for hunting. Its extraordinarily keen sense of smell is combined with a strong and tenacious tracking instinct, producing the ideal scent hound. A Bloodhound's general appearance is of a noble and dignified expression.

Maximum height at the withers: 69 cm

Join Victoria's Premier Hound Hunting Organisation:

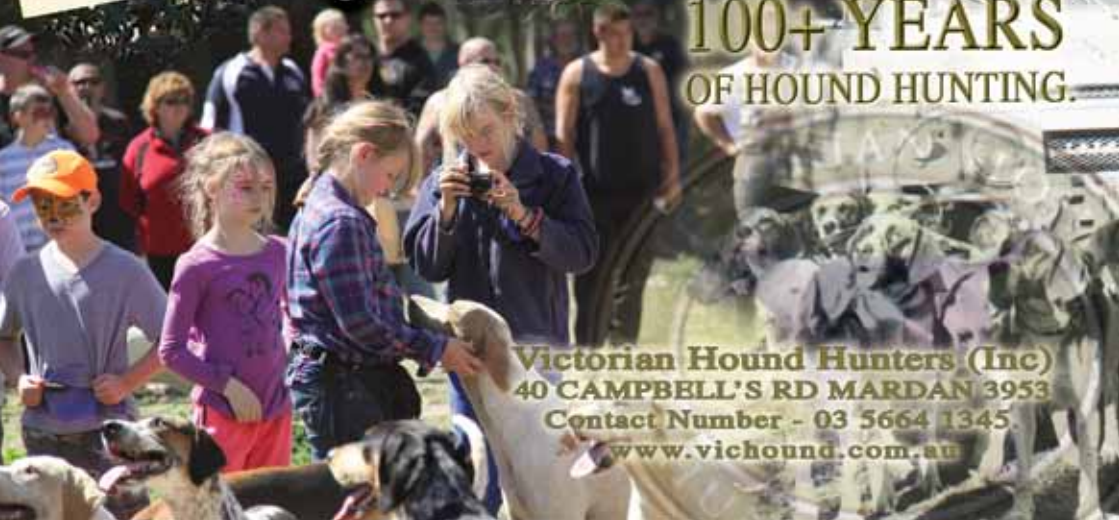


VICTORIAN HOUND HUNTERS (Inc)



The Family Friendly Organisation.

100+ YEARS
OF HOUND HUNTING.



Victorian Hound Hunters (Inc)
40 CAMPBELL'S RD MARDAN 3953
Contact Number - 03 5664 1345
www.vichound.com.au

Recommended Chokes and Loads for Game Ducks

Species Size	Distance (m)	Choke	Minimum Load	Steel Shot Size
Mountain Duck	20–32	Improved cylinder	32g/1–1/8oz	#3–2
	32–40	Modified	32g/1–1/8oz	#3–2
Black Duck	20–32	Improved cylinder	28g/1oz	#6–2
	32–40	Modified	28g/1oz	#4–2
Wood & Hardhead Ducks	20–32	Improved cylinder	28g/1oz	#6–3
	32–40	Modified	28g/1oz	#4–3
Blue-wing Shoveller, Teal & Pink-ear Ducks	20–32	Modified	28g/1oz	#6–4
	32–40	Full	28g/1oz	#4


Example of Steel Shot Performance for Mountain Duck

Steel Shot Size 3 to 2
Minimum Load 32g/1–1/8oz

Lead (Forward Allowance) Technique

Use a well practised Lead Technique and always keep your shooting ranges within your known personal shooting skill distance.





Modified (Half) Choke

32 to 40 metres

Improved Cylinder Choke

20 to 32 metres

Handy Hints

- Plan your hunting season.
- Practise often prior to the hunting season.
- Know the environment where you will be hunting.
- Check the weather forecast.
- Select hunting sites clear of vegetation and obstacles that will impede retrieval of game.
- Pass up shots where the bird will fall into heavy cover.
- Only take shots that are within your maximum shooting skills distance.
- Never take your eye from where a struck bird falls and don't start shooting at other birds until you have retrieved your game.
- When retrieving game, get yourself, another hunter or your dog there quickly and safely.
- Dispatch struck birds on the water immediately and safely.
- Carry and use 'swatter' loads for struck birds.
Typical shooting range 20 to 32m.
Most effective steel shot size 7 to 5 at 1oz/28g.
- Never shoot into flocks, pick a single bird at the rear of the flock.

Decoys

The proper use of decoys can attract some ducks to within effective shooting ranges.

Camouflage and Hides

Use of applicable tools and equipment increases the effectiveness of a hunter.

Shotgunning
Education
Program



FIELD & GAME AUSTRALIA BECOME A MEMBER

CALL (03) 5799 0960 TO JOIN

90% OF FGA MEMBERS ARE ACTIVE HUNTERS
92% PREPARE AND EAT THE GAME THEY HUNT
68% HUNT WITH THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILY

FGA Members' Quarry

DUCK 78.4%

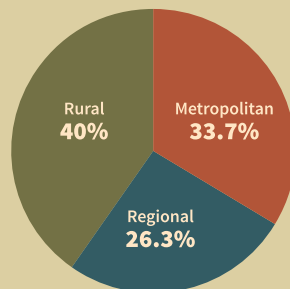
QUAIL 54.3%

PESTS 91%

DEER 32.4%

FGA MEMBERS

live in the city and the country
– be part of the community.



Field & Game Australia has its origins in conservation.

The association formed in 1958, to conserve Australian waterfowl and wetland habitat.

Today its members take part in conservation projects across the country.

AUSTRALIAN SIMULATED FIELD CLAY TARGET SHOOTING

Over 50 FGA shooting grounds in Australia

An average of **40** events **every month**

30,077 participants in 2014

2,606,509 total targets in one year



Be a part of Australia's premier organisation for the promotion of habitat conservation, hunting, and recreational shooting

visit www.fga.net.au

FGA MEMBER BENEFITS:

PROMOTING **HABITAT CONSERVATION**
AND **HUNTING TRADITIONS**

SUPPORTING MEMBERS WITH
EDUCATION AND **INFORMATION**

ADVOCACY AND **ENGAGEMENT**
WITH GOVERNMENT

LEADER IN HUNTER-ASSISTED
WATERFOWL RESEARCH

ONLINE TOOLS AND CONTENT FOR
MEMBERS AND **BRANCHES**

NATIONAL SUPPORT TO MEMBERS
AND BRANCHES

UNRIVALLED INSURANCE COVERAGE

CONNECTION AND **ENGAGEMENT**
WITH WIDER COMMUNITY

6. Duck

Game ducks

Due to drought conditions over large parts of eastern Australia, reduced wetland availability and low game duck numbers, the daily bag limits for the 2016 duck hunting season have been reduced.

Also, the Blue-winged Shoveler may not be hunted during the 2016 season. See below for details.

Seven (7) species of native duck may be hunted during the open season. They are: Pacific Black Duck, Grey Teal, Mountain Duck, Wood Duck, Chestnut Teal, Hardhead and Pink-eared Duck.

For information, colour illustrations and video clips of Victoria's game ducks, refer to the GMA website, www.gma.vic.gov.au

See page 44 for images of Victoria's game ducks.

Open season and bag limits

Duck hunting is permitted only during the open season from half an hour before sunrise until half an hour after sunset on every day of the season, except for the first day of the season, when fixed opening times apply.

Open season: 19 March 2016 until half an hour after sunset on Monday 13 June 2016.

Bag limit: Opening Saturday of the season: eight (8) game ducks.

The remainder of the season: four (4) game ducks per day.

Hunting method: Shotgun only, not exceeding 12 gauge or two barrels, non-toxic shot only. Lead shot must not be used to hunt duck in Victoria (some exemptions apply, see page 37).

Opening times

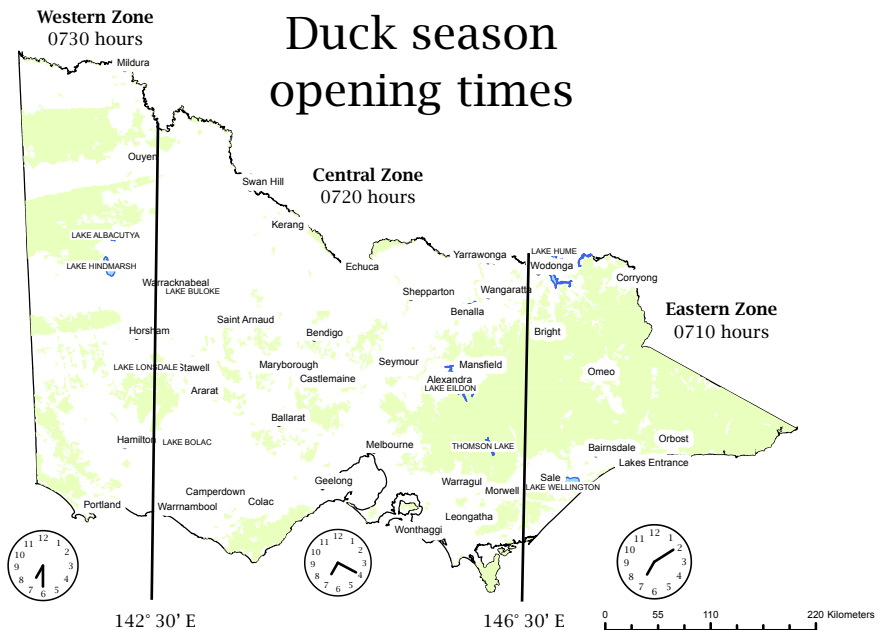
Hunting under poor light conditions may compromise your ability to positively identify game species and affect your marksmanship. This is particularly important on opening day when the majority of duck hunters are active.

Make sure you know the opening times throughout the season and stick to them. In doing so, you will not only reduce the possibility of shooting non-game species or wounding birds, you will improve the hunting experience for all hunters on the wetland.

If you are caught shooting too early or too late, Authorised Officers and members of Victoria Police may seize your firearm and you may be charged with an offence.

Opening day start time

Victoria is divided into three zones, each with its own opening time. East of longitude 146° 30' east, the season will open at 7.10 am; between 146° 30' east and 142° 30' east, the season will open at 7.20 am; and west of longitude 142° 30', the season will open at 7.30 am. Hunting on opening day (19 March 2016) – or any other day in the season – is not permitted after half an hour after sunset.



Opening day start times.

Opening and closing times for the rest of the season (any day after opening day)

For the remainder of the season, duck hunting is permitted from half an hour before sunrise to half an hour after sunset. See below for information on calculating permitted hunting times for the remainder of the season.

Calculating permitted hunting times

As sunrise and sunset times vary throughout the state (see page 64) and during the season, legal hunting times also vary. The following information will help you calculate the legal hunting times in your area:

- Sunrise and sunset alter by four minutes for each degree of longitude across the state. Basically, Victoria extends from 141° in the west to 150° in the east. Melbourne is near the 145° line.
- If your hunting location is east of 145° (Melbourne), sunrise and sunset times can be calculated by subtracting four minutes from the official sunrise and sunset times for Melbourne for each degree of longitude. Anywhere west of the Melbourne line, four minutes are to be added for each degree of longitude.

The following is an example of how to calculate hunting times in the Kerang lakes region on 30 March 2016:

- Kerang is one degree west of Melbourne.
- Official sunrise at Melbourne is 7:32 am
- Sunrise at Kerang is, therefore, 7.32 am plus four minutes = 7:36 am.
- Official sunset at Melbourne is 7:17 pm
- Sunset at Kerang is, therefore, 7:17 pm plus four minutes = 7:21 pm.

Using the above calculations, hunting is permitted between 7:06 am (30 minutes before sunrise) and 7:51 pm EST (30 minutes after sunset) at Kerang on 30 March 2016.

The Game Hunting Victoria phone app can calculate hunting times for wherever you are in the state. The app can be downloaded free from the iTunes store and Google Play (see page 17).

Non-toxic shot

The use of lead shot for duck hunting in Victoria has been prohibited since 2002. This includes duck hunting on all wetlands, waterways and dry lands on public and private land. However, hunters using muzzle-loading, Damascus steel or twist-barrelled shotguns for duck hunting are exempt from the mandatory use of non-toxic shot. All other hunters must use non-toxic shot for duck hunting in Victoria.

The approved non-toxic shot list has been updated to reflect advances in technology. These shot types have been extensively tested and found to be non-toxic to waterfowl and other wildlife. Allowing these additional shot types opens the market and provides greater choice to duck hunters to suit their shooting skills and hunting type. The shot listed below must reflect the percentage composition for each metal as described in Schedule 7 of the Wildlife (Game) Regulations 2012:

- Bismuth-tin
- Iron (steel)
- Iron-tungsten
- Iron-tungsten-nickel
- Tungsten-bronze
- Tungsten-iron-copper-nickel
- Tungsten-matrix
- Tungsten-polymer
- Tungsten-tin-iron
- Tungsten-tin-bismuth
- Tungsten-tin-iron-nickel
- Tungsten-iron-polymer

When used appropriately, these non-toxic shot types are safe and effective, but they vary in price. Hunters should check with their ammunition supplier to see which types best suit their needs. Hunters should also check with their firearm's manufacturer or a gunsmith to ensure that it is safe to use these shot types in their firearm.

Duck hunting tip: Don't stop swinging

Stopping the swing with the shotgun is a common reason for missing ducks. You must follow through with your shot! Keep the barrel moving after firing. Having a good follow-through is critical to being a good duck hunter.

Possession of toxic shot

It is an offence in Victoria (unless using an exempt firearm) to carry toxic shot while hunting ducks.

However, duck hunters may have toxic shot (e.g. lead shot) on a State Game Reserve or any other area where they intend to hunt duck, provided it is secured in a vehicle. For toxic shot to be secured in a vehicle, the ammunition must be stored in a closed case or container and stowed in the boot or storage area (not the glove box) of a sedan, dual cab or wagon. For a ute or single cab, the ammunition must be stored in a closed case or container and stowed in a part of the vehicle not readily accessible by any occupant of the vehicle.

Hunters may use lead shot while hunting Stubble Quail on the 16 State Game Reserves where Stubble Quail hunting is permitted.

Authorised Officers will check hunters' shot type throughout the season.

More information on the use of non-toxic shot for duck hunting can also be found on the GMA website at www.gma.vic.gov.au

High-grading or sharing bags

Hunters must not 'high-grade', which involves discarding or giving away ducks in order to free up space in your bag.

It is also illegal to share your bag with someone else in order to take more than the daily bag limit. You are only allowed to take the daily bag limit, irrespective of how many

birds are in your possession, e.g. in a normal duck season, if you shoot your tenth bird for the day and give it to another hunter, you have reached your bag limit of ten birds even though you only have nine birds in your possession.

Using the lethality table

Tom Roster's 2012 Non-toxic Shot Lethality Table (Adapted to Victorian Game Birds)© on the opposite page is a quick guide for game bird hunters wanting to improve their hunting effectiveness by using the correct ammunition and choke combination for different sized birds in different hunting situations. Information in the table has been scientifically tested and peer-reviewed and provides information for selecting the appropriate equipment to effectively dispatch your game bird.

Retaining a fully-feathered wing

To ensure that Authorised Officers can quickly and accurately identify all waterfowl in a hunter's possession, all hunters must leave a fully-feathered wing on any harvested duck until immediately prior to cooking or until the duck has been taken to the person's ordinary place of residence. This requirement removes the need for officers to seize ducks for laboratory testing to determine their identity and also reduces the amount of time that officers need to inspect hunters' bags. Leaving the wing on a bird also assists the GMA to collect harvest data during bag surveys and assists with other research.

Duck hunting tip: One shot at a time

When a flock of ducks is flying into your shooting range, remember that about 95% of what you are seeing is just air. Pick out a single duck at the rear or side of the flock and stay with it until it drops. Don't flock shoot – you will just end up wounding birds.

The Tom Roster 2012 non-toxic shot lethality table (adapted to Victorian game birds)©

Proven nontoxic shot loads for Victorian game birds load velocity: 1,275-1,450 fps	Typical shooting range of activity (m)	Most effective steel shot size for activity (US and Spanish shot size designations)	Minimum load weight – oz (g)	Minimum pellet hits needed on lethal areas for clean kills	Minimum pattern count needed at any distance for clean kills (# of pellets in 30" circle)	Most effective chokes
Mountain Ducks	20-40	3 to 2	1-1/8 (32 g)	1-2	75-85	I.C. (20-32 m), Mod. (32-40 m)
Black Ducks	20-40	6 to 2	(24 g-28 g)	1-2	85-90	I.C. (20-32 m), Mod. (32-40 m)
Hardhead and Wood ducks	20-40	6 to 3	(24 g-28 g)	1-2	115-120	Improved Cylinder (20-32 m)
	20-40	HEVI-Shot 6	(28 g-36 g)	1-2	115-120	Modified (32-40 m)
Shoveler, Teal and Pink-eared Ducks	20-40	6 to 4	(24 g-28 g)	1-2	135-145	Modified (20-32 m)
	20-45	HEVI-Shot 6	(28 g)	1-2	135-145	Full (32-40 m)
Swatter Load For downed ducks	20-32	7 to 6	1 oz (28 g)	1	200	Modified or Full
Stubble Quail	20-30	7	¾ oz (21 g)	1-2	225-245	Skeet, Improved Cylinder
Bobwhite, California and European Quail	20-30	7 to 6	¾ oz (21 g)	1-2	170-190	Skeet, Improved Cylinder
Chukkar Partridge	20-40	6 to 4	¾ oz (21 g)	1-2	150-160	Modified
Pheasant	20-45	3 to 2	1 oz (28 g)	2-3	90-95	I.C. (18-28 m), M (28-46 m)

- Practise regularly and broaden your knowledge about shotgunning.
- Pattern test ammunition to better understand how load and choke combinations work.
- Your loads should match the information in this guide.
- Know what your maximum shooting skill range is and don't fire at birds outside this.
- Use tools such as decoys and callers to bring the game birds within your shooting skills range.
- The Shotgunning Education handbook, *Be a better game bird hunter*, contains more detailed information and is available from the GMA website.

Duck hunting tip: Pattern test your shotgun

You wouldn't go out in the field without sighting in your rifle, so why go duck hunting without pattern testing your shotgun? Picking the best load and choke combination for your shotgun can make a world of difference.

The breasting of ducks is becoming more common with duck hunters. It is an acceptable practice if a fully-feathered wing remains attached to the breast after it is removed from the carcass. Please dispose of carcasses by burying them in a site clear of vegetation and at least 50 metres from water. Better still, take the remains home for disposal.

Hunting from a boat

On waterways (such as rivers, creeks, and streams), you are allowed to hunt duck from a boat under power, up to a speed of five knots. On open water (such as lakes, dams or swamps), you are not permitted to hunt duck from a motor boat with the motor running, whether it is in gear or not. A motor boat operating at a speed of five knots or less may be used to retrieve wounded ducks. Aircraft, boats or motor vehicles must not be used to pursue, hunt, take or destroy game.

Safe boating

Wind warnings and forecasts

Always check the latest forecast before you go on the water. Visit Bureau of Meteorology - Marine Weather: <http://www.bom.gov.au/marine/>

Safety tips when boating:

- Check the weather forecasts. Consider postponing your trip if weather is unfavourable and avoid areas exposed to high wind and waves.

- Ensure your boat is properly maintained, the battery is fully charged and you have enough fuel on board.
- Seek up-to-date local knowledge and obtain a copy of the appropriate chart or map for the area you will be navigating.
- Always let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Ensure you have the correct safety equipment aboard your boat and you know how to use or wear it correctly.
- Lifejackets save lives – wear a lifejacket.
- Observe speeds and distances.
- Operate at a safe speed and always maintain a good lookout.
- Don't drink alcohol while boating.

For information about boating safety, visit the Marine Safety Victoria website or call 1800 223 022 for a copy of the *Victorian Recreational Boating Safety Handbook*.

Entering or remaining on wetlands during prohibited periods

Not all people agree with hunting and people have a right to voice their opposition. However, this must be done in a manner that is both safe and lawful.

Legislation exists to ensure the safety of all people during the duck hunting season. These

laws prohibit protesters and other unauthorised people from approaching within 25 metres of the water's edge of 240 specified hunting areas every day of the open season. They also prohibit unauthorised people approaching within 10 metres of a person who is hunting ducks.

It is also illegal to interfere with, obstruct, hinder or harass a person who is lawfully hunting ducks. Authorised Officers and Victoria Police will focus on preventing unsafe circumstances from arising.

For detailed information on duck hunting and public safety, refer to the GMA website www.gma.vic.gov.au

Blinds and hides

There are only a certain number of native plant species that you can use to build blinds and hides in State Game Reserves.

The species are:

- *Phragmites australis*, a common reed found in many State Game Reserves
- *Leptospermum spp* (Tea Tree)
- *Typha spp* (Cumbungi/Bullrush).

An information sheet produced by Parks Victoria provides more information. If you have any further questions please call Parks Victoria on 13 19 63.

The construction of blinds and hides for duck hunting is not permitted in the Discovery Bay

Coastal Park, Lake Albacutya Park and the Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park.

Duck hunting and blue-green algae

Duck hunters need to be aware of the dangers of hunting in waters affected by blue-green algae. Blue-green algae is potentially toxic and can be dangerous to both humans and dogs if ingested.

If you suspect water to be contaminated with blue-green algae, make sure you take the following precautions:

- Avoid wading, unless you are wearing undamaged waders.
- Do not consume the water, or allow your dog to consume the water .
- Do not eat the offal of any ducks taken from contaminated wetlands, lakes and waterways, or feed the offal to your dog.
- Do not let your dog submerge itself in the water and, if it does, wash your dog thoroughly in clean water (wearing gloves) before it starts to groom or lick itself.
- Avoid using blue-green algae affected water and use alternative sources.
- Be aware that boiling algal water does not remove toxins from the water.

For detailed information on duck hunting and blue-green algae, refer to the GMA website, www.gma.vic.gov.au

Duck hunting tip: Develop a retrieval strategy

When developing a retrieval strategy, a game bird hunter should consider all hunting situations that are likely to be encountered in the field. The first consideration is how struck game will be recovered. Good game bird hunters will identify hunting sites or shooting zones where downed game can be readily retrieved and will avoid hunting in areas of heavy cover.

Freckled Duck – Not sure, don't shoot

In Victoria, the Freckled Duck is a threatened species and must not be hunted. While not a common sight, hunters may encounter Freckled Duck, particularly in times of drought. Freckled Duck should never be confused with Victoria's game duck species.

The following information will help you identify Freckled Duck. Importantly, if you are not sure, don't shoot, otherwise you could be facing a substantial fine, imprisonment or both.

Refresh your identification skills by viewing the new Duck WISE video, produced by the GMA. The video can be viewed on the GMA website.

Description

The Freckled Duck is a medium-sized duck, similar in size to a Pacific Black Duck. It is heavy bodied and dark grey/brown in colour.

The whole body is speckled with off-white markings which are visible up close. However, don't rely on this freckled pattern to identify a bird in flight. From a distance, the bird appears a uniform grey/brown.

If you are not sure, don't shoot.

Tips for identifying Freckled Duck

For Freckled Ducks on the water, look for:

- Dark brown/grey plumage speckled with off-white markings
- An up-turned ('dished') bill
- A tuft of feathers sticking out the back of the head
- Red colour at the base of the bill in breeding males.



For Freckled Ducks in flight, look for:

- Head down or hunched appearance
- Uniform dark brown to dark grey colour
- No distinct markings on the upperwing
- A lighter plumage on belly and narrow white triangle close to body on underwing.



Shotgunning Education Program

BAG MORE BIRDS WITH FEWER SHOTS

Shotgunning Education Program (SEP) workshops are hands-on programs aimed at developing key shooting and hunting skills. The workshops increase a hunters' success, reduce wounding, and ensure a sustainable future for duck hunting.

Each workshop covers:

- Equipment selection
- Pattern testing
- Distance estimation skills
- Shooting skills assessment
- Shooting skills practice
- Efficient and effective hunting strategies

Participants will receive all ammunition (including different types) and targets, as well as a complimentary showbag (\$55 value).

KILMORE FGA February 20th

LITTLE RIVER SSAA April 2nd

BENDIGO FGA July 16th

LITTLE RIVER SSAA July 30th

BALLARAT FGA September 10th

LITTLE RIVER SSAA October 1st

MORNINGTON FGA October 15th

SALE FGA November 12th

All bookings made at:

www.fga.net.au | www.ssaavic.com.au

For more information visit:

www.gma.vic.gov.au



Victoria's game ducks



Hardhead



Pacific Black Duck



Chestnut Teal (male)



Grey Teal





Mountain Duck (male)



Blue-winged Shoveler



Pink-eared Duck



Wood Duck (male)

7. Deer

Deer hunting in Victoria

Victoria has excellent opportunities for deer hunting, including access to large tracts of public land. Six species of deer are declared as 'game' and can be legally hunted in Victoria. They are Hog, Red, Sambar, Fallow, Chital and Rusa Deer. See page 54 for images of Victoria's game deer species.

Deer hunting is only permitted from half an hour before sunrise until half an hour after sunset during the prescribed open season.

Most game deer species can be hunted year round with no bag limit. See the table below for more detail.

There are also minimum calibres, draw weights and bolt specifications for firearms, bows and crossbows to ensure deer hunting remains humane. See page 48 for details.

Sambar Deer

Sambar Deer are the largest, most successful and widespread of the deer species in Victoria. Sambar Deer can be hunted by stalking or with the use of hounds, gundogs or deer hunting dogs. Different rules and regulations apply to these methods and hunters must ensure they understand and adhere to them.

Stalking Sambar Deer

Sambar Deer can be hunted by stalking for the whole of the year. There is no restriction on the number of deer that can be taken. On some types of Crown land, such as some national parks, there is a specified season when deer hunting can occur.

For more information, see page 13 and the Parks Victoria website, www.parks.vic.gov.au

Deer open seasons and bag limits

Deer species	Open season	Bag limit
Hog Deer*	1 April – 30 April 2016	One (1) male and one (1) female
Red Deer	All year	No limit
Sambar Deer (stalking)	All year	No limit
Sambar Deer (hound hunting)	1 April – 30 November 2016	No limit
Fallow Deer	All year	No limit
Chital Deer	All year	No limit
Rusa Deer	All year	No limit

* Tags required to hunt Hog Deer

Hound hunting

Hounds have been used to hunt Sambar Deer for more than 100 years in Victoria. There are a number of laws in place to ensure hound hunting is controlled, safe and humane.

Hunt in permitted areas only

Sambar Deer generally occur in the forests of the Victorian Eastern Highlands and can be hunted with hounds in the area bounded on the south by the Princes Highway and on the west broadly by the Hume Highway.

For details on the hound hunting boundary, see the GMA website.

Hunting Sambar Deer with hounds is not permitted in national or state parks or in water catchment areas, nor is it permitted on private property without the permission of the landowner or manager.

Hound hunting is also prohibited on all public lands in Warburton and surrounds, Rubicon and surrounds, Marysville and surrounds, Jamieson and surrounds, Buttercup and surrounds and the Timbertop area (see the GMA website for specific maps of the areas listed).

Size of hound pack

There are restrictions on the number of hounds you can use, with a maximum of five adults and additional three pups in training.

Hound team size

Hound teams can consist of up to 10 people, but to help develop the skills of younger hunters, a hound team can consist of 12 people, provided that two are Provisional Game Licence holders. For more information, visit the GMA website, www.gma.vic.gov.au

Hunt with hounds during the open season only

Sambar Deer may be hunted with the aid of hounds from 1 April until 30 November. The use of hounds to hunt Sambar Deer is not permitted outside this period.

Use permitted hound breeds

All hounds must conform to Australian National Kennel Council breed standards and specified heights (see page 30).



Approved Firearm Association
Liase With Government
Hound Registration
Monthly Meetings
Education nights
For Enquires
Write to
Victorian Deer Association
PO Box 257
Hallam, Vic 3803
or
Email- Vda.org.au@gmail.com
Web - www.vda.org.au

Pure Beagles, Harriers and Bloodhounds may only be used to hunt Sambar Deer and must not be used to hunt Hog Deer, Red Deer, Rusa Deer, Chital Deer or Fallow Deer.

Hound temperament

All hounds used to hunt Sambar Deer must have a non-aggressive temperament towards people and animals. Any hound that displays signs of aggression must not be used for hunting. Hounds must not hold, drag down or bite Sambar Deer, or attack or bite any other wildlife.

If your dog rushes at or chases someone, you could be fined, and your local council can declare your dog to be a 'menacing dog'. There are a number of offences and consequences should your dog attack a person or animal on or outside of your property.

You can read more about the confinement of dogs or the consequences of dogs attacking people or animals on the website: www.delwp.vic.gov.au/pets

Hunting deer with a firearm/bow

Minimum legal calibres, draw weights and broad-head specifications for deer hunting in Victoria

Firearm/Bow	Sambar, Rusa and Red Deer	Hog, Fallow and Chital Deer
Centre Fire Rifle	A minimum calibre of .270" (6.85 mm) with a minimum projectile weight of 130 grains (8.45 grams).	A minimum calibre of .243" (6.17 mm) with a minimum projectile weight of 80 grains (5.18 grams).
Muzzle-loading rifle	A minimum calibre of .45" (11.45 mm) with a minimum projectile weight of 230 grains (14.91 grams).	A minimum calibre of .38" (9.65 mm) with a minimum projectile weight of 200 grains (12.96 grams).
Long, Recurve and Compound Bows	A minimum draw weight of 50 lbs (22.5 kilograms), using an arrow fitted with a broad-head having a combined minimum weight of 400 grains (26 grams) and at least two cutting blades.	A minimum draw weight of 45 lbs (20 kilograms), using an arrow fitted with a broad-head having a combined minimum weight of 350 grains (22.5 grams) and at least two blades.
Cross Bow	A minimum draw weight of 150 lbs (68 kilograms), using a bolt fitted with a broad-head having a total minimum weight of 400 grains (26 grams) and at least two blades.	A minimum draw weight of 120 lbs (54.4 kilograms), using a bolt fitted with a broad-head having a total minimum weight of 350 grains (22.5 grams) and at least two blades.
Smooth-bore Firearms	A minimum bore of 20 and a maximum bore of 12, using a single solid projectile with a minimum weight of 245 grains (15.88 grams) and the firearm must be fitted with either: a front and rear iron sight (other than a beaded sight or sights); or a telescopic sight; or a reflex sight.	

Note: Combination guns can be used; however, firearms that have three or more barrels (e.g. 'Drillings') are prohibited under the *Wildlife Act 1975*, as they are classified as punt guns.

Registration of hounds

All hounds must be registered with the GMA before being used to hunt Sambar Deer in Victoria.

Representatives from three organisations are authorised to assess hounds for conformity with the breed standards and height restrictions. To organise for your hounds to be assessed, contact one of the following:

- Australian Deer Association
(03) 5762 1911
- Victorian Deer Association
(03) 9729 5291
- Victorian Hound Hunters Incorporated
(03) 5664 1345

Hounds are registered for life after 12 months of age or until ownership is transferred.

Identification of hounds

To ensure that Game Officers, Authorised Officers, Parks Victoria Rangers or members of Victoria Police can readily identify hounds and their owners, all hounds used to hunt Sambar Deer must wear a collar which has a securely attached permanent tag or label containing the full name of the hound owner and hound registration number.

All hounds over the age of 12 months used for hunting must be microchipped. Hounds that do not comply with these requirements cannot be registered and must not be used to hunt Sambar Deer.

For more information, read *A guide to the use of hounds for hunting Sambar Deer in Victoria*, available at www.gma.vic.gov.au

Red, Fallow, Rusa and Chital Deer

There are opportunities to hunt other deer in Victoria, including Red, Fallow, Rusa and Chital Deer. These deer species can be hunted year-round and there is no bag limit.

For minimum calibre and bow/crossbow specifications, see the table opposite.

Hog Deer

There are a number of rules and regulations that all Hog Deer hunters must be aware of before they go hunting.

Hog Deer Tags

Anyone wanting to hunt Hog Deer in Victoria must first obtain a set of Hog Deer Tags (one male and one female). When ordering your tags, make sure you have a current Game Licence endorsed for deer hunting.

Hog Deer tag packages (usually available two weeks before the season) can be obtained at the following DELWP offices during business hours:

- Bairnsdale: 574 Main Street 3875
- Melbourne CBD: 1 Spring St 3000
- Traralgon: 71 Hotham Street 3844

Deer hunting tip: Tape the muzzle

To ensure that the barrel remains obstruction free, tape the muzzle with electrical tape. The tape will prevent ingress of water, twigs, mud, etc, but will be blown off by the expanding gasses before the projectile reaches the muzzle, without a detrimental effect on accuracy.

- Yarram: 310 Commercial Road 3971
- Customer Service Centre: Please call 136 186 to arrange for tags to be mailed out.

The correct tag must be attached to the hind leg of every Hog Deer as soon as it is taken.

Full details are included in the Hog Deer Tag Package available to all hunters who take out tags.

All hunters must return a completed Hog Deer Tag Return Form within 28 days of the end of the season (28 May 2016) by post to the following address:

Game Management Authority
L16, 121 Exhibition Street
Melbourne, Victoria 3001

To assist you in returning the Hog Deer Return Form, a reply paid envelope is provided in every Hog Deer Tag Package.

The information provided on the Tag Return Form is used to monitor and manage Victoria's Hog Deer population.

Hog Deer checking stations

All harvested Hog Deer must be presented to a checking station within 24 hours of being taken. Checking stations have been established to gather biological information about the health and dynamics of Victoria's Hog Deer population. This information is used to monitor and assist in the management of the species.

Checking stations are operated by fully trained contractors who handle all Hog Deer with care.

Hunters wishing to take a harvested deer to a checking station should call ahead and make an appointment.

What happens at a checking station?

- Your name, address, date of birth and Game Licence number are recorded.
- Date, time and location of the take are noted.
- Shoulder height, weight, length and girth of the deer are recorded, and antlers are measured.
- All stags are photographed.
- The reproductive condition of hinds is assessed.
- A jawbone is removed so the animal may be aged.

Hog Deer – balloted hunting

Each year, the Blond Bay Hog Deer Advisory Group conducts a ballot to select hunters to hunt for free-ranging Hog Deer on Blond Bay State Game Reserve or on sections of the Boole Poole Peninsula. Entries open on 1 August and close on 30 November each year. The ballot is drawn in December.

To enter the ballot, submit the entry form that can be found in a number of hunting publications or apply online at the GMA website from 1 August 2016.

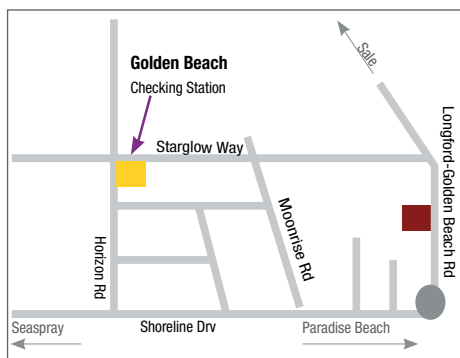
Deer hunting tip: Wait, wait and wait

After taking a shot at a deer, wait for at least 30 minutes before tracking, unless the downed deer is in sight. Assume the deer was hit. Only assume a miss if no blood spoor can be located after a thorough search and after tracking for a minimum of 150 metres.

Hog Deer checking station locations

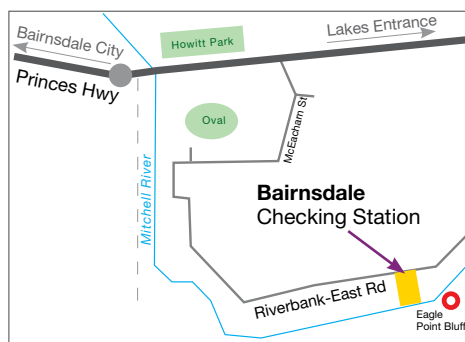
Golden Beach

Operator:	Andrew Brown
Telephone:	0417 377 702
Address:	23-29 Starglow Way, Golden Beach
Hours of operation:	By appointment only 7 days a week 8.30 am – 1.30 pm



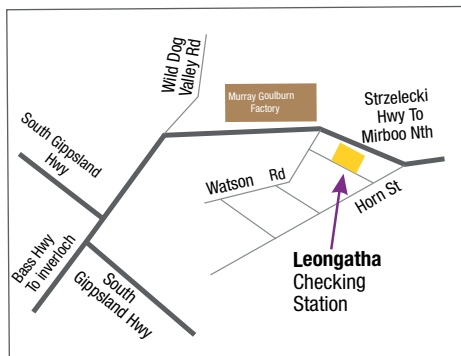
Bairnsdale

Operator:	Greg Rogers
Telephone:	0415 998 926
Address:	720 Riverbank East Road, Bairnsdale (about 8.5 km south of Princes Hwy)
Hours of operation:	By appointment only 7 days a week 8 am – 8 pm



Leongatha

Operator:	Geoff Cooper
Telephone:	0408 623 738 (03) 5662 2094
Address:	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Depot 18-20 Ashendon Street, Leongatha
Hours of operation:	By appointment only 7 days a week 8 am – 8 pm



Para Park Co-operative Game Reserve conducts a guided, balloted hunt each year for four junior hunters on land it owns. To be eligible, hunters must be aged between 15 and 17 years at the time of the April season, must not have hunted under the program previously and must hold a current Firearms Licence and Game Licence for deer.

Entries open on 1 September and close on 30 November each year. The ballot is drawn in December. Entry forms can be found in a number of hunting publications, or write to Junior Hog Deer Ballot, 11 Morekana Crescent, Bairnsdale, Victoria 3875.

Control of deer on private property

Arrangements have been changed to help private landowners in Victoria control problem deer more easily.

A number of deer species are now unprotected on private land if they are **causing damage**, subject to certain conditions.

The conditions regarding the destruction of deer on private property, include:

- Sambar Deer, Fallow Deer, Red Deer (including Wapiti), Sika Deer, Sika Deer – Red Deer hybrids, Rusa Deer or Chital Deer may be destroyed where they are causing damage to landowners' property, infrastructure (e.g. fences), vegetation (e.g. plantations, pasture, gardens) or injury to livestock.
- Only landowners on their own properties, their managers, permanent employees or agents may destroy problem deer.
- Any person destroying, or in the pursuit of destroying, deer on a landowner's property must carry written permission signed and dated by the landowner of that property (a written permission form is available from the GMA website to assist landowners).
- All deer must only be destroyed by a firearm that meets the specifications of the order.
- Deer destroyed under the order must only be used for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- Meat from the deer destroyed under the order must be stored in a receptacle/bag clearly marked with the name and address of the property and the location and date the deer was destroyed.
- A spotlight may be used.

Changes do not apply to Hog Deer

- Hog Deer are *not* declared unprotected.
- Landowners with problem Hog Deer will still need to apply for an Authority to Control Wildlife to destroy them.

For the full conditions and a detailed fact sheet visit www.gma.vic.gov.au



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WE STOCK ALL THE LEADING BRANDS IN
HUNTING CLOTHING, EQUIPMENT, ACCESSORIES AND AMMUNITION



NEW BOW HUNTING AND ARCHERY RANGE NOW IN STORE!

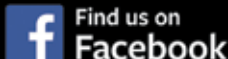


Shop online at **deerhunteraustralia.com.au**



We also have our own store at 15 Trade Place, Lilydale,
or you are welcome to email through any enquiries
to: deer-hunter-aus@hotmail.com

Remember to like us on Facebook to keep up to date
with our latest news, offers and specials!



Victoria's game deer



Chital Deer (stag)



Fallow Deer (buck)



Hog Deer (stag)



Red Deer (stag)

Rusa Deer (stag)



Sambar Deer (stag)



8. Stubble Quail

The Stubble Quail is the only native quail species that can be legally hunted in Victoria. The Plains-wanderer, a threatened species that may be found where Stubble Quail occur, is fully protected.

The Stubble Quail is the most common quail species in Australia and is found in Queensland and much of south-eastern and south-western Australia, across a range of habitats. Stubble Quail prefer areas of tall, dense ground vegetation, particularly natural or improved

grasslands, as well as areas of other low cover, including cereal and leafy crops and stubble.

Generally, quail hunting occurs on privately owned stubble paddocks and grasslands. However, 16 State Game Reserves are open to Stubble Quail hunting (see page 15 for details). The hunting of Stubble Quail is only permitted from half an hour before sunrise to half an hour after sunset during the prescribed hunting season.



Stubble Quail – female

Stubble Quail – male

Quail hunting tip: Walk into the wind

Walking into the wind will give the quail a lesser chance of hearing you and makes it easier for dogs to pick up the scent.

Open season: from first Saturday in April (2 April 2016) to the last day in June (30 June).

Bag limit: 20 birds per day.

Hunting method: shotgun only, not exceeding 12 gauge.

Distinguishing between Stubble Quail and non-game quail

It is important that hunters can readily distinguish between Stubble Quail and protected species while hunting.

Below is a general description that can be used as a guide to recognising the differences between Stubble Quail and non-game quail species.

Particular attention should be paid to bird size and flight characteristics, the habitat that you are hunting in, and the social organisation of the birds.

If you are not sure, DON'T SHOOT.

How to recognise the Plains-wanderer

The Plains-wanderer has a laboured, fluttering flight and often its long, yellow legs can be seen trailing behind.

The use of gundogs for hunting Stubble Quail

The use of a trained gundog has the potential to increase hunter success.

Gundogs can be particularly useful when hunting quail in long grass and to locate downed birds that might otherwise be lost. Generally, quail become more difficult to find as the season progresses and the use of a gundog has the potential to increase hunter success. The Shotgunning Education Handbook: *Be a better game bird hunter* has information that will help you to improve your hunting experience.

Tips for identifying Stubble Quail and non-game quail

Stubble Quail	Non-game quail
Large, plump bird (compared to other native quail species).	Generally smaller than Stubble Quail (except Brown Quail, which is slightly larger).
Bold, pale streaks on shoulder, back and breast.	Uniformly darker wings (King, Brown, Little Button).
Prefer open grasslands (improved and natural), cereal crops, stubble, lucerne and often found along weedy margins of irrigation channels.	Found across a range of habitat types including woodlands, rank, dense grasslands, swampy coastal heaths, bracken, scrublands and grassy forests.
Avoid woodlands or areas with many trees.	Often found in small groups or coveys (Brown Quail may be found in groups of up to 30 birds).
Mostly found singly or in pairs, and occasionally small groups.	Often chirp or chatter when flushed.
Never vocalise (call) when flushed.	Quieter wing beats, not as rapid. Often fly only a short distance.
Loud whirring of wings when flushed. Fly with fast wing beats and may travel as far as 500 metres.	Glide in flight (Brown, King), may drop head-first into cover (Brown).
Never glide when flying. Curved flight before dropping tail-down into cover.	

9. Introduced game birds

Introduced Californian, European and Japanese Quail, pheasants and partridges may be hunted throughout the year.

Hunters may only use shotguns that do not exceed 12 gauge. There are no bag limits for these birds.

There are no known wild populations of pheasants, partridges and other introduced game birds in Victoria and hunting opportunities are generally only available on licensed game bird farms on private property.

Introduced game birds cannot be bred or brought and released for hunting on either public or private land without a Game Bird Farmer licence. Anyone caught releasing game birds without a licence can face significant penalties and prosecution.

When hunting introduced game birds, it is an offence to propel birds and simulate flight either by mechanical means or by hand. This is considered to be 'trap' shooting and is illegal. Substantial fines or imprisonment may apply.



Chukar Partridge



Grey Partridge

Californian Quail



female



male

European Quail



female



male

Ring Neck Pheasant



female



male

10. Pest animals

This guide is directed primarily at providing information about hunting Victoria's game species. However, many game hunters also hunt pest animals.

The hunting community makes a significant contribution to the control of pest animals, particularly when conducted as part of a systematic and integrated control program.

You may hunt pest animals on areas of state forest and other unoccupied Crown land and areas of private land, as long as you have

the consent (written or verbal) of the private property landowner/manager.

Pest animals may not be hunted in State Game Reserves, national, state, coastal and wilderness parks, or flora and fauna or nature conservation reserves.

Pest animals may be hunted in Lake Albacutya Park in the north-west of the state.

For detailed information on hunting pest animals, contact DEDJTR or DELWP.



Get involved in conservation monitoring

Hunters have vast experience and knowledge about the health of the environment. There are opportunities to get involved in conservation management through programs such as:

- Pest and disease surveillance
- Weed surveillance
- Feral Scan Pest mapping
- Victorian Biodiversity Atlas
- Birdata Atlas

The collected information improves the management of our bush and wildlife. Every little bit counts. See the GMA website for further details.



Hunters can report sightings of pests like myna birds at Feral Scan Pest Mapping.

www.gma.vic.gov.au

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11. Further information

GMA website

The GMA website contains comprehensive information about game hunting and legislation on game hunting in Victoria. Information about game hunting, duck, deer and quail, maps of State Game Reserves and a series of maps showing where you can hunt deer throughout Victoria are also available.

Video footage from the Waterfowl Identification Test is available, including a practice test.

Hunters are encouraged to visit the website to keep up-to-date on game hunting in Victoria. To access the game hunting website, go to www.gma.vic.gov.au

Smartphone App

You can download the Game Hunting Victoria smartphone app (see page 17), which contains much of the hunting information on GMA website and in this guide.

Fact sheets

Fact sheets covering a wide range of hunting information are available from the GMA website, www.gma.vic.gov.au

Deer hunting maps

Maps of the areas for deer hunting are available on the GMA website.

Ninety-six 1:100,000 maps, covering around eight million hectares of public and private land, are available to show hunters where they can

hunt deer throughout Victoria. Eight of these maps cover the Grampians area; the other 88 cover eastern Victoria.

They are available from the GMA website, www.gma.vic.gov.au or the Game Hunting Victoria smartphone app.

The Game Management Authority endeavours to ensure the maps are as accurate as possible. However, the maps are designed only to provide an indication of where deer hunting is or is not permitted. They are not intended for use for navigation. You should always refer to a detailed topographic map when navigating through the bush.

It is important to remember that the maps are a guide only and may be subject to change. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are hunting only where permitted. If you are unsure, contact your local DELWP or Parks Victoria office to confirm that deer hunting is permitted in your intended location. Do not hunt until you are sure.

Hunter education

Some hunting organisations offer hunter education courses. These courses often address firearm safety issues, bush craft, legislative requirements for game hunters, game biology and hunting skills. Some of these organisations are listed opposite.

Carriage and use of firearms

You must not carry a loaded firearm on any thoroughfare or place open to or used by the public for passage with vehicles. Never shoot on or across public roads or tracks or towards populated areas, including camping and picnic areas and walking tracks.

For information on the ownership, storage, use and carriage of firearms and crossbows in Victoria contact the Victoria Police Licensing & Regulation Division. See contact details listed below.

Key contacts list

Game Management Authority (GMA)

Website: www.gma.vic.gov.au

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)

Customer Service Centre

Phone inquiries: 136 186

Website: www.delwp.vic.gov.au

Parks Victoria

Parks Victoria Information Centre

Phone: 13 19 63

Website: www.parks.vic.gov.au

Victoria Police Licensing & Regulation Division

Phone: 1300 651 645

E-mail: licensingregulations@police.vic.gov.au

Website: www.police.vic.gov.au/firearms

Australian Deer Association (Vic)

PO Box 220, Boronia, Victoria 3155

Phone: 0438 840 915

E-mail: secretary.vic@austdeer.asn.au

Australian Bowhunters Association

Greater Victoria and Tasmanian Branch

Website: www.bowhunters.org.au

Field and Game Australia Inc.

PO Box 464

65 Anzac Avenue, Seymour, Victoria 3660

Phone: (03) 5799 0960; Fax: (03) 5799 0961

E-mail: fga@fga.net.au

Website: www.fga.net.au

Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (Vic)

Unit 3/26 Ellingworth Parade, Box Hill, Victoria 3120

Phone: (03) 8892 2777; Fax: (03) 8892 2700

Website: www.ssaavic.com.au

Victorian Deer Association

Phone: 03 9729 5291

Website: www.vda.org.au

Victorian Game and Deerstalking Association

PO Box 127, Blackburn South, Victoria 3130

Phone: 0417 352 459

Website : www.vicgame.org.au

Victorian Hound Hunters Inc.

40 Campbells Road, Mardan, Victoria 3953

Phone: (03) 5664 1345

Website: www.vichoundhunters.com.au

For a more comprehensive list of hunting organisations, including local clubs, go to the GMA website or download the Game Hunting Victoria smartphone app (see page 17).

12. Sunrise/sunset times

Apart from the opening morning of duck season, all game hunting must occur between half an hour before sunrise to half an hour after sunset.

Melbourne (37°50'00 / 144°58'00) during the 2016 duck season

Important dates to remember:

- 19 March 2016: Victorian duck season opens: 07:30 – Western Zone; 07:20 – Central Zone; 07:10 – Eastern Zone.
- 3 April 2016: Daylight Savings ends.
- 13 June 2016: Victorian duck season closes half an hour after sunset.

Date	March		April		May		June	
	Sunrise	Sunset	Sunrise	Sunset	Sunrise	Sunset	Sunrise	Sunset
1			7:34	7:14	7:01	5:33	7:26	5:09
2			7:35	7:12	7:02	5:32	7:27	5:09
3			6:36	6:11	7:03	5:31	7:28	5:08
4			6:37	6:09	7:04	5:30	7:28	5:08
5			6:38	6:08	7:05	5:29	7:29	5:08
6			6:39	6:06	7:06	5:27	7:30	5:08
7			6:39	6:05	7:07	5:26	7:30	5:08
8			6:40	6:03	7:07	5:25	7:31	5:07
9			6:41	6:02	7:08	5:25	7:31	5:07
10			6:42	6:00	7:09	5:24	7:32	5:07
11			6:43	5:59	7:10	5:23	7:32	5:07
12			6:44	5:57	7:11	5:22	7:33	5:07
13			6:44	5:56	7:12	5:21	7:33	5:07
14			6:46	5:55	7:13	5:20		
15			6:47	5:53	7:13	5:19		
16			6:48	5:52	7:14	5:18		
17			6:49	5:51	7:15	5:18		
18			6:49	5:49	7:16	5:17		
19	7:22	7:33	6:50	5:48	7:17	5:16		
20	7:23	7:32	6:51	5:46	7:18	5:15		
21	7:24	7:30	6:52	5:45	7:18	5:15		
22	7:25	7:29	6:53	5:44	7:19	5:14		
23	7:26	7:27	6:54	5:43	7:20	5:13		
24	7:27	7:26	6:55	5:41	7:21	5:13		
25	7:28	7:24	6:56	5:40	7:22	5:12		
26	7:29	7:23	6:57	5:39	7:22	5:12		
27	7:29	7:21	6:58	5:38	7:23	5:11		
28	7:30	7:20	6:58	5:36	7:24	5:11		
29	7:31	7:18	6:59	5:35	7:24	5:10		
30	7:32	7:17	7:00	5:34	7:25	5:10		
31	7:33	7:15			7:26	5:09		

IF IN DOUBT DON'T SHOOT

Identify your target beyond all doubt and what's behind it. Identify all of the animal. Do not fire at movement only, colour only, sound only or shape only. Before you shoot, ask yourself, **could it be a person?**

Keep your finger away from the trigger until you're absolutely certain it's safe to fire.

The Ten Basic Rules of Firearm Safety

- 1 Treat every firearm as loaded
- 2 Always point firearms in a safe direction
- 3 Load a firearm only when ready to fire
- 4 Identify your target beyond all doubt
- 5 Check your firing zone
- 6 Store firearms and ammunition safely
- 7 Avoid alcohol or drugs when handling firearms
- 8 Never have loaded firearms in the car, home or camp
- 9 Never fire at hard surfaces or water
- 10 Don't climb fences or obstacles with loaded firearms

The Firearm Safety Foundation Vic. Inc has recently produced and distributed the **DVD Hunt Smart® Hunt Safe.**
View at: www.firearmsafety.org.au

Firearm Safety Foundation Vic. Inc.



Hunting's future depends on you



We're lucky in Victoria to have such great hunting.

Maybe you went hunting as a kid or you now go hunting with your kids. Maybe you're new to hunting or you're an old hand happy to share some know-how.

Whoever you are, one of the key traits of being a good hunter is respect.

The hunting community has formed a partnership to promote a set of standards to ensure respectful and responsible hunting.

This will help to raise the awareness and maintain the highest standards of behaviour of all involved in hunting.

Through the below standards we can enjoy our hunting even more, improve the perception of hunting and be proud of hunting.

Respect for animals

Respect the environment

Respect other hunters

Respect non-hunters

Respect the hunt

Respect the laws

For more information on the standards visit www.gma.vic.gov.au

Hunting's future depends on you. Show respect and hunt responsibly.

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