

## DUCK SHOOTING

# Protest to keep birds off lake

By Michael Ruffles

PROTESTERS will be at Lake Burrumbeet this morning to keep ducks away from shooters' guns.

Members of the Coalition Against Duck Shooting and the Ballarat Organisation for Animal Rights will try to recover dead and injured birds.

CADS campaign director Laurie Levy said the protest would start early at Lake Burrumbeet, 20km north-west of Ballarat, to keep shooters away.

"Going back 10 to 15 years, Easter was like a second opening (of duck season)," he said.

"These days it's fairly quiet but, if there are any shooters, hopefully by publicising the protest, it will keep them away.

"The public sees it as one of those outdated male macho activities that is no longer acceptable in the 21st century."

Mr Levy said after 19 years with CADS the number of hunters had decreased and there had been a change in public opinion.

"I've seen a lot of change ... it's really a public campaign where the people have made the difference," he said.

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"We're pushing for a total ban now.

"The Bracks Labor government in the 21st century has the same policy as the Bolte government 45 years ago and I find that hard to understand."

Mr Levy said most shotguns sprayed pellets and wounded birds.

"That level of cruelty is unacceptable," he said.

"They used to shoot pelicans, ibises and swans, it's a lot different these days because there are so few shooters around."

BOAR president Lynn Trakell said Victorian wetlands would be patrolled until the end of duck season on June 13.

Duck season opened last weekend.