

EDITORIAL  
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## Sunday Times

# Ducking sport

**T**HE duck-shooting season began this morning. Throughout the State hunters were out at dawn, thigh-deep in water, awaiting their quarry.

Equipped with automatic or pump-action shot-guns, decoys bobbing on the surface, quack imitators poised, these hardy souls prepared for their sport.

Ducks are not particularly known for their intelligence, nor for their agility.

So with all the hunters' technological aids, it hardly adds up to a fair contest.

Shooters claim it is a sport. But it is really a slaughter and cannot be compared with stopping a charging rogue buffalo or tracking a man-eating tiger.

And anybody claiming they shoot ducks for the table is stretching a point. There is little pleasure in such eating when mouthfuls are interrupted by having to spit out lead.

But there is an element of real danger today. The shooters and the conservationists have each imported Victorian expert advisers.

Feelings are running high, and therein lies the danger. Strong, even passionate, emotions combined with loaded guns and itchy trigger fingers are a ready-made recipe for disaster.

A strategic police presence will be on hand hoping to keep the peace among people, but ducks may not be the only casualties today.

Perhaps things would be different if the ducks could shoot back.