

The Murray Pioneer

Editorial opinion

No justification for hunting ducks

Local duck hunters will welcome this week's announcement that there will be an open season on ducks in 1996. However, the wisdom of allowing ducks to be shot again next year, must be questioned.

The gun lobby mistakenly believes that only animal liberationists oppose hunting. It would be interesting to see this notion tested at a national referendum. They may well find that the vast majority of Australians would oppose any form of hunting involving weapons.

Duck hunting is a cruel and outdated "sport" and deserves to be outlawed along with other blood sports. There is no justification for killing wildlife in this manner, particularly when their numbers are such that they are not causing environmental problems.

Killing for the "thrill of the kill" is a dangerous practice and one which most clear thinking Australians would oppose. It is difficult to understand how anyone can get pleasure from killing animals in an "unfair fight" involving firearms.

There was no duck season last year because of low duck numbers and while the number has built up this year this should not be the only consideration when it comes to making a duck season decision. It is time a more enlightened outlook was shown and duck shooting should be one of the first hunting activities to be permanently banned.

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