

COALITION  
AGAINST  
**DUCK**  
SHOOTING

**A DUCK RESCUE  
SNAPSHOT**

[www.duck.org.au](http://www.duck.org.au)



Teams of rescuers preparing for action at Lake Cullen













A veterinarian and a paramedic check a shot Grey Teal for signs of life







A protected and illegally shot Red-necked Avocet rescued from the mud at Lake Burrumbeet







Shocking cruelty – a shooter twirls a wounded bird in an attempt to break its neck



If It Flies, It Dies!

**BT-50**

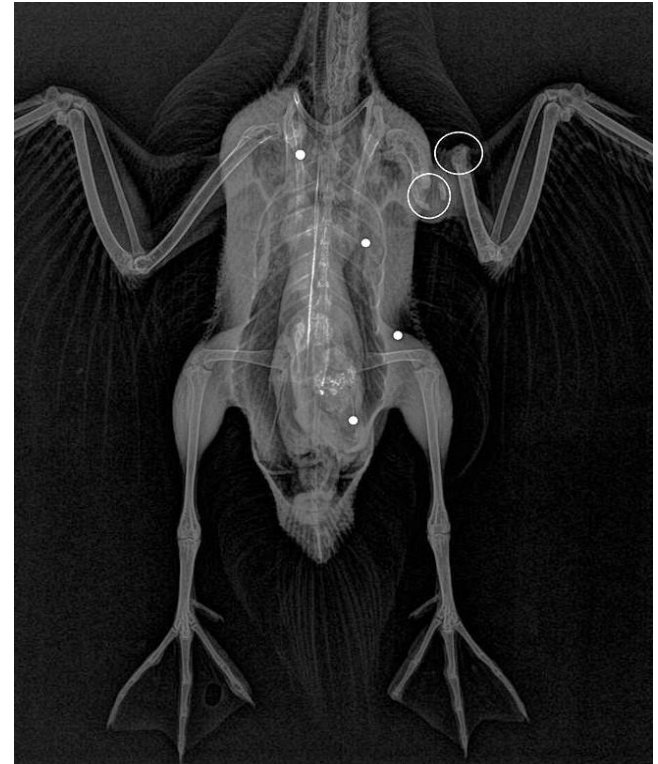
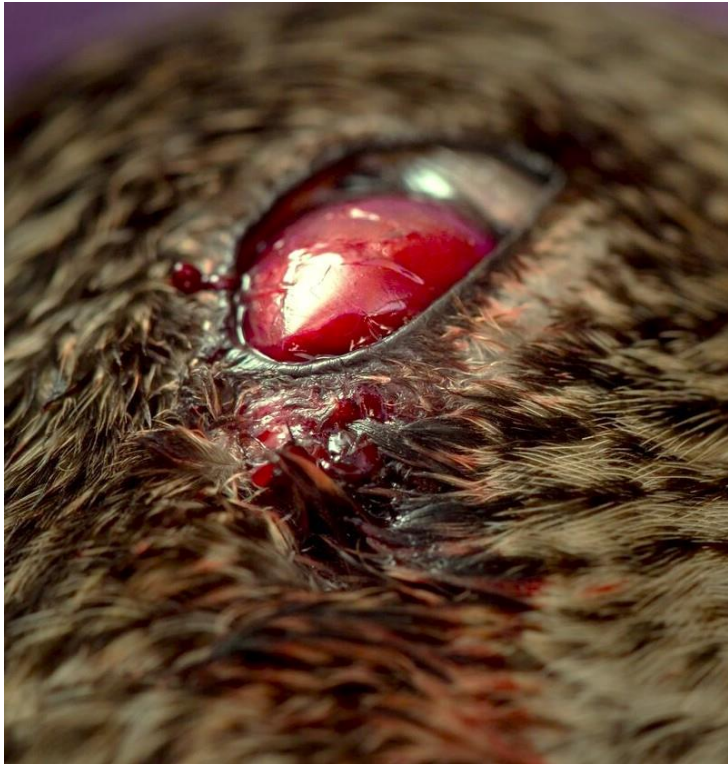
The shooters' motto displayed on the back of their vehicles



Voluntary veterinarian treating a wounded Hardhead Duck (a so-called 'game species') in 2017. Five years later this species was added to the Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act threatened list







The sad reality of duck shooting – blinded by shotgun pellets, parts of feet and legs blown away, pellets lodged in organs, smashed bills and broken, protruding bones





The first bird recovered by rescuers in 2022 - an illegally shot, threatened, Blue-winged Shoveler

An illegally shot protected Caspian Tern – the first bird recovered by rescuers in 2019 at Lake Cullen



The Freckled Duck is listed as threatened in the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988. Freckled Ducks are unique to Australia and are considered one of the rarest waterbirds in the world



Hundreds of Freckled Ducks have been shot during duck shooting seasons, despite shooters having to pass a Waterfowl Identification Test. The bird below was shot on the opening of the 2023 duck season at Lake Wooroonook, near Donald



**FREE BOMBERS STICKER** TOKEN PAGE 2

MARCH 20, 2011 heraldsun.com.au \$1.80 inc. GST **Herald Sun**

# Sunday

**YOUR 2011 AFL TIPPING CHART**

**PLUS GREAT FOOTY FEUDS**



# BLOOD SPORT FURY



**Wounded protester Julia Symons is helped from Lake Buloke after being shot in the face by a 14-year-old hunter (above), in a shooting drama yesterday that sparked an emotional debate over duck hunting**

**REPORTS, PICTURES: PAGES 4 & 5**

Picture: Yuni Kozamin, Weekly Times

**LIBYAN FIGHTER SHOT DOWN**  
AMAZING PICTURES, REPORTS: PAGES 20-21



Rescuers continue to risk their lives to help native waterbirds. A rescuer was shot in the face and hands on the opening morning of the 2011 duck shooting season at Lake Buloke, near Donald. She was very lucky not to have been blinded or killed.



In 2012 rescuers found this swan nest at Lake Buloke. It appeared that shooters had kicked the eggs off the nest and used it as a dry platform to stand on while shooting, leaving their spent shotgun cartridges behind.

A dead, illegally shot swan was found nearby. It was taken to Melbourne and an x-ray revealed over 30 shotgun pellets in its body (right). It had obviously been shot at close range. Swans are a fully protected species.



Left: Another of the many swans illegally shot by duck shooters



Mutilated by gunshot pellets, this Pink-eared Duck was left abandoned on the wetlands to suffer



An angry shooter aims his gun at a rescuer







Shooters leave bird body parts, feathers, cartridges and other general rubbish littering the State's wetlands, including on Ramsar wetlands of International Importance





More illegally shot threatened Freckled Ducks



Display outside the Premier's office after a duck opening weekend



A wounded illegally shot threatened Freckled Duck is treated at Melbourne Zoo

## Rehabilitation and release



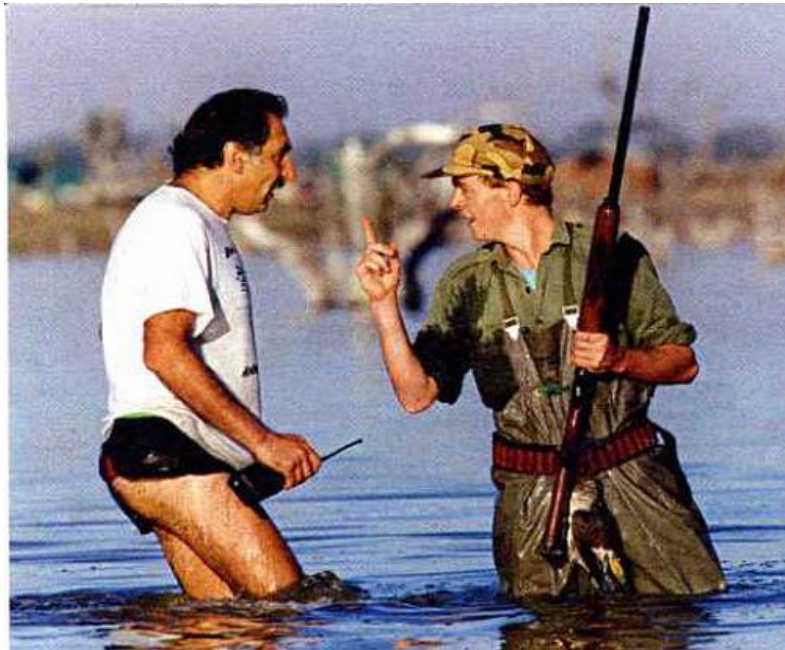
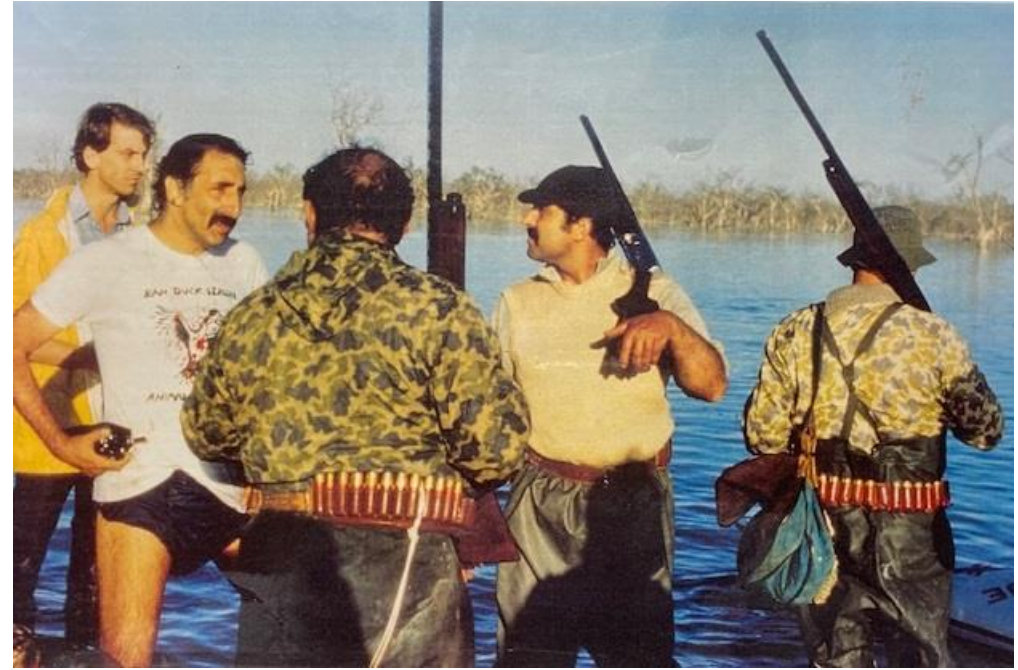
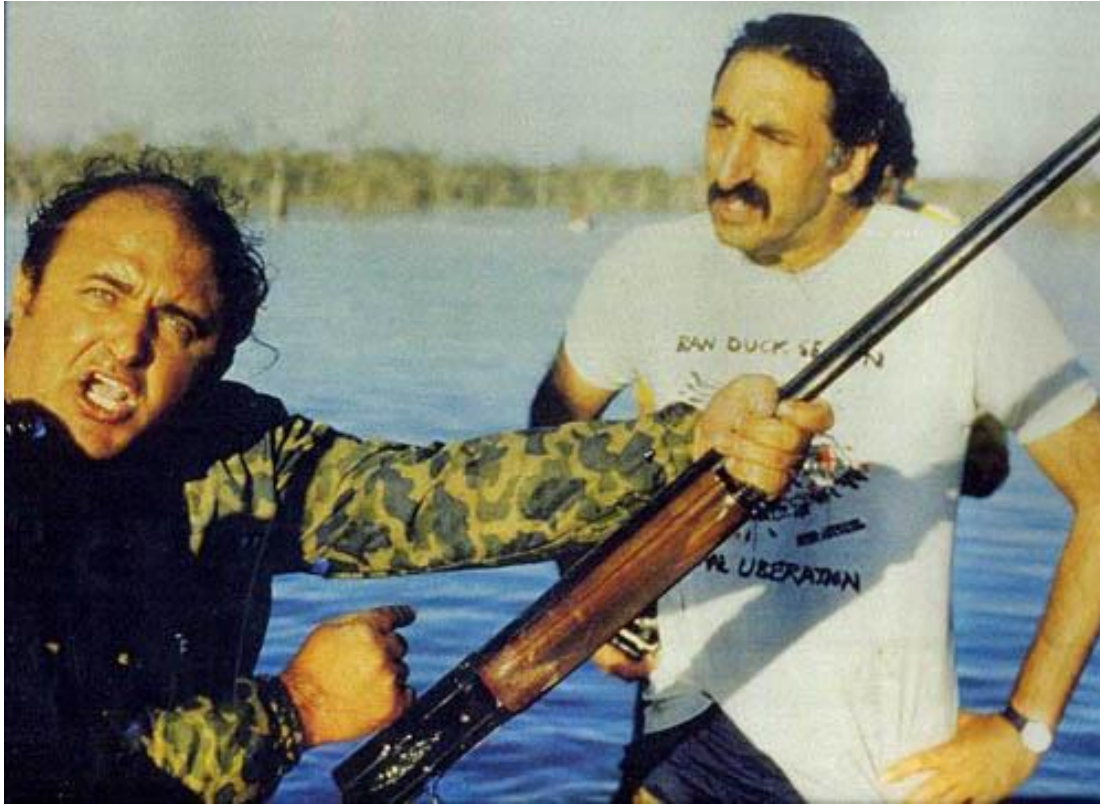
After months of rehabilitation and tender loving care from veterinarians and wildlife carers, a so-called 'game' species and an illegally shot threatened Freckled Duck (right) are finally released back to the wild.



Since commencing the campaign in 1986, it has been left to concerned volunteer members of the public to care for Victoria's native waterbirds.

## Levy in action on the wetlands early in the campaign

Below: Top Marsh, 1988



Left: Lake Murphy, 1991. Levy has a 'friendly' chat with a shooter.

Right: Lake Buloke, 1993, Levy recovered an armful and bagful of illegally shot threatened Freckled ducks. 272 were found during that season.





## HOW THE CAMPAIGN STARTED

In 1985 Laurie Levy stood for the Democrats in Geelong. The duck shooting season started on the same day as the election. Laurie took a break from handing out how-to-vote cards and decided to visit the nearby Connemara wetlands to see what took place during duck openings.

He knew very little about native ducks at that time but did know that the pelicans, swans, ibis, cormorants and myriad of other species being illegally shot were not ducks. Laurie was outraged at the injustice to the beautiful birds and he was astounded that some of the regulating officers were shooting waterbirds instead of watching the hunters.

Later that year his intervention led to Conservation Minister Joan Kirner preventing wildlife officers from shooting birds while on duty, and a change in the opening times so there was less shooting in total darkness before dawn.

In 1986, when Victorian licenced duck shooters numbered well over 100,000, a group of 15 Animal Liberation rescuers joined a rescue team that Laurie organised at Reedy Lake, part of the Connemara Lakes near Geelong, where they confronted around 8,000 shooters.

*Right:*

*Duck rescuers, Matthew Perry and Patty Mark (Animal Liberation Vic.) at Lake Connemara in 1986 with the first birds ever recovered by rescuers – two illegally shot protected Australasian Coots*



*Left:*

*Veterinarian, Dr John Auty, attending to wounded birds in the mobile veterinary unit provided by the rescue team*





In the 1980s, it was the vision of Labor Premier John Cain and Ministers Joan Kirner and Evan Walker, to protect Victoria's Phillip Island penguins and set up a world class tourism attraction. They succeeded on both fronts. Their actions led to over one million worldwide tourists visiting the penguins annually

## **A vision for 2024**

### **First Nations nature based wetlands tourism potential**

When duck shooting is banned and an Indigenous wetlands tourism industry is established, it will have the potential to draw millions of overseas tourists annually to Victoria.





The Coalition Against Duck Shooting is a not-for-profit volunteer organisation established to protect Australia's native waterbirds. Since 1986, many thousands of volunteers from across Australia and overseas have donated their skills, time and money to help native waterbirds.

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AGAINST  
**DUCK**  
SHOOTING

[www.duck.org.au](http://www.duck.org.au)  
0418 392 826

To the many thousands of  
rescuers and the photographers  
who contributed to this booklet –  
thank you.

A special thanks to Wildlife Victoria for  
their veterinary presence and expertise on  
the wetlands.

**WILDLIFE**  
**VICTORIA**  
ON CALL TO HELP  
03 8400 7300