



**Media Release March 6 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Ducking the Truth

Tasmania's duck season opens tomorrow, and the International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH) have reiterated their challenge to claims by animal rights lobbyists that duck numbers are in decline.

"According to the recently launched *State of Australia's Birds 2008*, there have been long-term increases in Wood Duck numbers in various locations, and Pacific Black Duck abundance has remained steady over the past five years," said WiSH Chair Dr Samara McPhedran.

Wood Duck and Pacific Black Duck are declared game species in a number of states.

In contrast, declines have been recorded among many non-game waterbird species.

"One reason why duck numbers are stable or increasing is that hunters are out there on the wetlands year round, restoring habitat, building nesting boxes, and removing introduced predators so that ducks can breed and thrive."

"Quite simply, without the care and active conservation efforts of hunters, ducks and wetlands would most likely be faring every bit as poorly as other waterbird species and habitats. Animal rights extremists cannot bring themselves to admit this, choosing instead to duck the truth and ignore the facts."

A recent poll by Victorian newspaper *The Age* found that the majority of respondents, over 5500 people, support the Victorian Government's declaration of a duck season for 2009.

Related information: State of Australia's Birds 2008

http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/images/stories/publications/soab/SOAB_2008.pdf

Contact:

Dr Samara McPhedran –

0415 963 189/+61 415 963 189

Chair, International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH)

www.ic-wish.org

WOMEN ON TARGET FOR POSITIVE CHANGE