



Nightly Record of Eye-Witness Accounts of Kangaroo Shooting on ACT Nature Reserves 2023

Week 1 commencing Sunday 11 June

All shooting this week occurred on Red Hill.

Sunday: Watchers observed at Red Hill, but heard no shooting. Although the reserves have always been closed for shooting on Sundays, we have never caught them shooting on a Sunday, so this was not unexpected.

Monday: Our focus was on Red Hill because that's where shooting was occurring. Watchers were continuously present from 5.00 pm to 2.00 am. 25 shots were heard. Shooters' comms channel reported 62 killed (26 males, 25 females, 11 furred joeys and 10 pinkies) as at 3.03 am when shooting concluded. As usual, they count the pinkies killed but don't include them in their total.

Given the shape and size of Red Hill Reserve, watchers feel that shots anywhere on the reserve can be heard anywhere else on the reserve – although there some evidence shots at the Garren end of the reserve have sometimes not been heard from the golf course.

Summary: 25 shots reported at Red Hill. Shooters' comms reported 72 dead (including 10 pinkies) but did not say where.

Tuesday: 14 shots heard at Red Hill. Shooters reported 63 dead, no reserve mentioned or breakdown provided. The 63 would not include pinkies.

Wednesday: 3 shots heard at Red Hill before 9.00, 9 shots in a few minutes after 9.00. At the time it was not clear where in the reserve the shots were occurring but later the shooters were using torches to clean up bodies. They then drove off slowly in their jimmy. They stopped again, cut a fence, and drove away with a trailer loaded with dead kangaroos. No report from the shooters' channel was intercepted.

Thursday: No report available for Thursday.

Note on week: Shooting occurred at Red Hill. Spot watches were held at other Reserves but no shots heard there. 42 shots heard, all at Red Hill.

Given the presence of watchers at Red Hill for 9 hours on Monday night, it seems unlikely that the shooters' could have shot a further 37 kangaroos between 2.00 am and 3.00 am, when it took them nine hours earlier in the night to shoot 25.



Week 2 commencing Sunday 18 June (secure coms set up for watcher group)

Sunday: Nothing heard or seen at Red Hill, Pinnacle or Mulanggari. Shots reported by third parties at Mt Majura but shots also heard on Friday, so unlikely to be the govt – possibly from the shooting range? Nothing intercepted on the shooters' comms.

Monday: 6-7 shots heard at Mulanggari at 10.45. Nothing else seen or heard but watches curtailed by freezing temperatures. Nothing intercepted on the shooters' comms.

Tuesday: Nothing seen or heard by watchers at Red Hill, Pinnacle, Kama or Ainslie-Majura. Remote lights seen at Kama. Nothing intercepted on the shooters' comms.

Shooting reported by a third party on Pinnacle, but nothing to be seen or heard when watchers arrived – could have been a nail gun at a nearby home workshop.

Wednesday: Nothing seen or heard by watchers at Red Hill, Pinnacle, Mulanggari, Ainslie-Majura. Bikes and joggers seen on reserves. Nothing intercepted on the shooters' comms.

Thursday: All reserves watched during prime shooting time, no shots heard. Weather was wet and very foggy. Although they have shot in similar conditions before, the Code of Practice prohibits it, so the absence of shooting on Thursday might suggest we are having some impact.

Note on week: No shooting confirmed this week. 6-7 shots heard at/near Mulanggari. Shots reported at Majura by a third party might have been the shooting range. Shooting reported by a third party at Pinnacle – could have been a nail gun in a nearby private garage.

Week 3 commencing Sunday 25 June

Sunday: Nothing heard or seen at Red Hill, Pinnacle or Mulanggari. Nothing intercepted on the shooters' comms.

Monday

Around 5.15 pm shooters' comms said they arrived at one of the reserves – they did not say which reserve. A jogger (on whatever reserve it was) held them up for a while. According to shooters' comms shooting commenced around 6.53pm. Nothing to be seen or heard at Ainslie, Kama or Pinnacle. 16 popping shot (silencers?) were heard on Mulanggari around 7.09pm.

At 7.18 security spotted a person. This coincided with one of watchers hearing a single shot, spotting the shooters on Red Hill, and flashing a torch at them, so the watcher was likely the "person". Shooters' comms reported shooting resuming around 7.31pm

Strong, gusty winds had blown up. A Red Hill watcher approached a ranger's truck parked not far away and spoke to ranger, Miriam, advising that they should not be shooting in such windy



conditions because it breached the legislated code of practice. Miriam stated that she was unaware of the existence of any code of practice.

Shooters comms reported completion of “one run” and were heading out for another. A watcher thought she heard a single shot on Mulanggari.

At 9 05-9 07pm, shooters comms reported a load of ten (11?) victims, 4 males, 6 females 1 furred joey and three pinkies. Still no indication of which reserve. Only one shot had been reported at RH and about 16 popping shots at Mulanggari.

Monday summary: 1 shot reported at Red Hill. 16 “popping shots” reported at Mulanggari.

Shooters’ comms reported 14 dead (including 3 pinkies) but again no indication where they were shot.

Tuesday

At 5.58pm, shooters’ comms reported shooting would commence soon, but did not say which reserve, though a ranger’s vehicle was observed at Red Hill.

At 6.26pm, the ranger vehicle was observed at Glasgow Street. At just before 6 00pm a watcher reported being hunted by a ranger near Glasgow Dr, and eluding them. A few minutes later the shooters comms reported suspending shooting because “someone” had been seen on the reserve near Gowrie Drive. The report was incomplete.

At 6.57pm, a watcher reported a dog-walker on RH but nothing was noted in shooters’ comms. At 7.14pm, shooters comms reported shooting to re-commence. At 7 57-8 06pm, shooters’ comms reported heading out to unload trailer with ten: 3 females, 6 males 1 furred and no pinkies. At 8.50pm, shooters’ comms reported another load reported: 2 females, 9 males, 0 furred and 1 pinkie.

No shooting had been heard at Red Hill, Mulanggari, Ainslie or Majura, no sign of ranger activity seen at Pinnacle, so no idea where all these kangas were killed.

9 40 to 10.00 to 11.00pm, watcher heard five shots at Red Hill. At 11 07 shooters’ comms reported ten more dead on board.

Tuesday summary: Shooters were at Red Hill. Five shots heard at Red Hill, all late, around 10.00-11.00 pm. Shooters’ comms reported 22 killed but not where they had been killed.



Wednesday

5.55pm shooters reported preparing at Red Hill, and ready to go at 6 12pm.

Watchers heard one shot at 6 45pm, two more by 7 02pm, one around 7 47pm, two around 9.37pm. Long gaps between shots, no sound of a quad bike. Then nine shots, quite quick, between 10.41 and 11.07pm, one possible shot at 11.12pm, two more at 12.07am, one at 12.27am.

At 6.54pm, shooters' com reported 6 dead, 3 males, 3 females, but not where they were shot. 7 05pm, a jogger was seen within exclusion zone. (Not clear if this report was from a watcher or shooters' comms.)

No shooting heard at Pinnacle or Mulanggari.

Wednesday summary: 19 shots heard this night at Red Hill but shooters reported only six dead.

Thursday

5.23 pm death truck spotted at Red Hill again, near water tanks.

Watchers at Red Hill heard one shot at 6.31pm, saw lights near the golf course. Three shots heard at Red Hill at 7.08pm, and sound of a grader.

Twenty shots heard at Mulanggari 7.12-8.18pm. This confirms two shooter groups were operating.

Watchers at Mulanggari reported the following around 11.00pm:

- shooters' comms reported having trouble finding the body of a shot kangaroo;
- police arrived;
- watchers gave them some details;
- watchers asked the police to find the shot kangaroo, in case it was wounded or had a pouch joey;
- five police searched for the missing kangaroo without success;

The incident had delayed shooting for about two hours but the watchers assume it resumed later.

Thursday summary: 4 shots were heard this night at Red Hill and 20 at Mulanggari.

Note on week: 29 shots heard at Red Hill, and about 20 at Mulanggari, as well at 16 "popping shots".

Ranger Miriam's unawareness of the laws she was on duty to enforce was a staggering admission of government incompetence, and indifference to animal suffering. A letter about was published in City News



Week 4 commencing Sunday 2 July

Sunday: As with Sundays in the past, no shooting heard. Nothing heard on the shooters' comms. A full moon week, might put them off shooting. Large number of cars visiting Red Hill.

Monday: Intel reported no shooting to occur this week but not considered trustworthy due to previous discrepancies. A security vehicle drove into the Gowrie gate at Red Hill.

Red Hill and MtAinslie/Majura checked. No shooting reported. A jogger on reserve at Red Hill around 6.45pm.

Tuesday: Fresh tyre tracks at Red Hill gate but no shooting heard at Red Hill, Mulanggari or Pinnacle. Nothing heard on shooter's comms. Heavy rain around 8.00 pm, soon followed by fog.

Wednesday: Windy at Red Hill. No shooting heard at Red Hill, Mulanggari or Pinnacle. Nothing on shooters' comms. Two shots heard far away across Kama.

Thursday: Windy again at Red Hill. Rain between 7.00 and 8.00. No shooting heard At Red Hill, Pinnacle or Mulanggari. Nothing heard on shooters' coms.

Note on week: No shooting reported this week. Wildlife ACT reported a higher than usual number of kangaroos injured on ACT roads since the killing started this year.

Week 5 commencing Sunday 9 July

Sunday: On the basis that, in our experience they've never shot on Sundays, spot checks only undertaken, at Red Hill only.

Monday: Intel informed us there would be two teams shooting at Red Hill on Monday and Tuesday.

Mulanggari and Pinnacle were checked but no sign of vehicles and no shooting heard there. Red Hill very dark and windy. Shooters' comms indicated that they were aware of "protestors", and "air horns as expected" but appeared unaware that members of the public were also walking on the reserve on the Mugga Way side.

Shots heard: at Gowrie Drive, Red Hill, 2 shots around 6.18pm; 2 shots around 6.55pm; 2 shots around 7.03pm; 1 shot around 7.32pm. Shooters then moved towards Glasgow Place, Red Hill and were seen "down from gate on the Glasgow side". Shooters seen below the lookout, 1 shot heard at 7.45pm.



Shooters' comms reported "Opps to Bogie: protester at the location, at least the car is and we haven't seen them leave". Bogie replied: "We have been making a bit of noise down here and haven't seen anyone." Opps replies "No Worries".

Watcher moved identified car to another location. Shooters' moved to the Glasgow side of Red Hill Reserve, so watchers moved to that side, some on foot, some by car where they lectured the ranger.

One watcher was hurt in a fall in the deep darkness, able to walk a while but then requested assistance. Hurt quite badly, missed the next day but was able to watch from car Wednesday and Thursday.

Some more shots heard, but no count reported. Shooters, only about 50-100 metres away from watchers, possibly less, then fired 4 shots in 20 seconds, believed to be purely to spite watchers. Not far from Mugga Way, watchers obtained footage of the quadbike and trailer load of bodies about 50 metres away. Another was shot heard about 9.30pm.

Monday summary: At least 12 shots reported this night at Red Hill and others not counted. No numbers reported on shooters' comms.

Tuesday:

Watchers stationed themselves at Mulanggari, Pinnacle, Ainslie and Red Hill. No shooting was heard at Mulanggari, Pinnacle or Ainslie.

At 7.04pm shooters' comms reported "3 on board" (presumably meaning 3 dead) but no indication of which reserve. At 7.23pm a ceasefire was called when an unsuspecting male walker wandered straight past the shooters. Rangers followed him but decided he wasn't a protestor and apparently let him go. Still no indication which reserve.

A white security vehicle with Victorian plates was spotted at Red Hill. Shooters' comms reported "heading for the bridge", and "near dog park" - presumed to mean Red Hill, but there was also a reference to "the village" which suggested Mt Ainslie. Shooters' comms also revealed there was someone with them – presumably an observer.

Between 11.00 and 1.00 pm, five shots were heard at Red Hill on Davidson Hill where lights had been seen earlier. Shooting was so close that watchers could smell the residue of the shot. The shooters were very close to watchers, just over the lip of the hill but apparently unaware the watchers were there.

A private security vehicle tail-gated a watcher's car down Mugga Lane.



Shooters' comms reported several times that kangaroos were "thin on the ground" and "short on the count". They were told to "pull the pin".

It turned out the observer was probably Bren Burkevics, the Conservator. He revealed this the following day in an email response to one watcher's emailed concerns. He offered to meet the watcher and others who have contacted him about them to "brief them" about what a great job the killers are doing.

Tuesday summary: A total of only five shots were reported this night, all at Red Hill.

Wednesday:

Watches kept at Mulanggari, Pinnacle, Kama and Red Hill.

No moon till 2.00am and pitch dark. Shooters appear to be using headlights on quad bike to shoot by.

Around 5.45pm, shooters' comms stated they had arrived at Pinnacle.

17 shots heard at Red Hill:

- on the Mugga Way side, two around 6.06, two more at 6.24 and 6.31pm;
- on the Gowrie Drive side, two at 6.35, and 6.36pm;
- near Glasgow Place two around 6.39pm;
- three on the Deakin side at 6.48, 6.50 and 7.24pm;
- on Mugga side, two at 10.47, three more (in 15 seconds) at 11.03, one more at 11.05pm.

The white security vehicle (a Corolla) drove past watchers.

On the Mugga side of Red Hill, shooters or rangers were seen walking round with torches, presumably searching for kangaroos or watchers.

On shooters comms, ops told shooters they were clear to use the WH underpass. If this meant William Hovel Drive it seemed likely they were heading for or leaving the Pinnacle. But no shooting was heard there.

At 9.57pm shooters' comms went quiet for about an hour – possibly changed to an encrypted channel. Watchers suspect the shooters comms report re WH was a red herring to lead us away from Red Hill. Asked by email if there was shooting at Pinnacle on Wednesday night, Bren Burkevics confirmed not, and said no further plans to shoot at Pinnacle this week.

Wednesday summary: 17 shots heard at Red Hill this night. Spot watches at other reserves reported no shots heard.



Thursday

Watch kept at Red Hill and Mulanggari.

Truck, rangers and quad bike seen at Red Hill. Windy again. Three shots heard at Red Hill from Mugga Way roundabout and bridge.

Security car parked near watcher, headlights directly on watcher's car.

No shooting heard at Red Hill between 6.30 and 11.49pm, but surveillance around early in the night and a watcher's car tailed by a white ute when leaving.

Note on week

37 shots heard, all at Red Hill, but watch not continuous. We might hope that the far fewer shots heard on Tuesday, compared to Monday and Wednesday, were because Bren Burkevics' presence had the shooters on their best behaviour and they were shooting less wildly than usual at the few and far between kangaroos they were able to find.

Week 6 commencing 16 July

Sunday: On the basis that, in our experience they've never shot on Sundays, and this year seems to be no exception, only one spot checks undertaken: 7.00-7.30pm at Red Hill, and Mulanggari from two watch points.

Monday: On the basis of an email assurance from Bren Burkevics that shooting would finish up this week, watchers did spot checks only. No shots heard and no sign of vehicle or shooter/range activity.

Tuesday: Shooting signs had been removed at Red Hill.

Wednesday: No shots heard, or sign of shooter/ranger activity.

Thursday: Shooting signs down at Pinnacle. Bren Burkevics informed Save Canberra Kangaroos (SCK) by email that the slaughter is over.

Friday: Bren Burkevics published figures on the number of kangaroos the shooters claim to have killed on each reserve. The number they claim to have killed on Red Hill exceeds the number present on that reserve a few weeks before the shooting began, a figure that was consistent with several earlier direct counts following last year's slaughter. The SCK counts were direct counts across the entire reserve, and therefore much more accurate than the Conservator's extrapolated estimates.

Summary of week: No shooting appears to have occurred week as the massacre ended two weeks early.



Summary notes on the slaughter season

144 shots heard by watchers across all reserves, but only one reserve at a time could be fully watched, and rarely all night.

Not for the first time the government's reported kills are implausible. The discrepancy would seem to echo the number of kangaroos shooters claim to have shot on Red Hill on Monday 12 June.

Shooters reported 62 dead, when only 25 shots were counted by watchers who were continuously present from 5.00 pm to 2.00 am. Shooting ceased at 3.00 am. If it took the shooters seven hours to shoot 25, it seems unlikely they could have shot a further shooters 37 in one hour.

Because the shooters comms are only intermittently intercepted and rarely give away the location of where they shot their latest kill load, it is difficult to establish which of their claims are outright lies.

Shooting occurring within metres of watchers hidden nearby (29 June), and failure of rangers to notice joggers, cyclists and other members of the public nearby while shooting is underway is not unusual. It routinely occurred when shooting was conducted at Isaacs Ridge, night after night, for several years. However, it can be added to our growing list of shooter misbehaviour.

The revelation that at least one ranger had not even heard of the code of practice she was engaged to administer is a club we can use to beat the Conservator and the government as often and as hard as possible.