It is hard to believe that another year has passed us by - time waits for no hunter! 
And what a busy year it has been…. I was in Africa three times this year and introduced our 12 year old Grandson to his first Safari… very special.

Our clients hunted in six countries this season - Bird Hunting in New Zealand, South Africa, Argentina and Australia and Game Hunting in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

**Game Hunts**

Father and son hunts were popular and most successful:

Vince and Travis Vaina once again had a marvellous ten day hunt, both animal and bird, with Timkulu Safaris in South Africa. The game hunting included both trophy and management animals and a driven Springbok shoot. The birds included Guinea Fowl, Ducks, Geese, Francolin, Dove and Sandgrouse.

George Sianas and sons Dean and Paul had the hunt of a lifetime - the best hunt George has experienced yet! Trophies included Lion, Zebra, Kudu, Impala, Nyala, and the best Eland taken at Tshipise Safaris for a number of seasons. A follow up Buffalo hunt next year is definitely in the air.

‘My family and I would like to thank Peet and the staff at Tshipise Safaris for their friendly hospitality and guidance in making this African Safari an outstanding success. No request was too small or too large for the management of Tshipise’. George Sianas, December 2011
Leith and Adam Caple went on their first South African hunt, experiencing both the Kalahari and Limpopo areas of South Africa with Tshipise Safaris. Trophies taken were Springbuck, Black Wildebeest, Red Hartebeest, Kudu and Impala. A new 'Top 5' record Red Hartebeest was taken on this hunt.

Andrew Duncan and sons Hugh and Richard also hunted with Tshipise Safaris in both the Kalahari and Limpopo areas of South Africa - a wonderful family event. Animals taken - Impala, Eland, Nyala, Kudu, Gemsbuck, Warthog, Blue Wildebeest, Bushbuck, Red Hartebeest, Blesbuck, Springbuck and Sable.

Our other Game Hunts:

Mozambique was a popular destination this year. Three hunts went to Mozambique with Zambeze Delta Safaris to hunt in this magnificent wilderness concession covering 5000 square kilometres - one of the few remaining areas in Africa where you can still do a classical African Safari.

Jim Chambers taking a Buffalo, Nyala, Sable, Warthog and Waterbuck, and Tony Argent taking a Bushbuck, Baboon, Impala, Warthog and Waterbuck.

Also two of our Queensland hunters - one on a Buffalo package and the other taking a Buffalo, Sable, Chobe Bushbuck, Bushpig, Eland, two Liechtenstein's Hartebeest, Nyala, Oribi, Red Duiker and Reedbuck.
Paul Collis and Jerry Giddings enjoyed their hunt with Tshipise Safaris so much that they are booking again for next year - if there is anything they haven't already shot! Trophies taken were Impala x 2, Kudu, Baboon, Waterbuck, Blue Wildebeest x 2, Zebra x 2, Steenbok, Gemsbok x 2, Nyala, Eland and Bushbuck.

Andrew McAlister on his first overseas hunt took a huge number of trophies with Tshipise Safaris - Gemsbuck, Blue Wildebeest, Impala, Kudu, Giraffe, Eland, Zebra and warthog. This will certainly not be his last African hunt.

For the second year in a row my friend Brian Watson and I hunted in Zimbabwe with Pro Safaris Africa. We hunted non trophy bull and tusk less cow elephants which proved to be extremely challenging, especially the bulls. We saw many fine trophy elephants in the first seven days of the hunt. Hunting non trophy elephants is like hunting 100lb. tuskers - you have to check out each track to ensure that there is not a trophy 'at the other end' of the elephant. A worthy hunt - truly amazing and made more so by the incredible African wilderness we were in. At times you could be excused for thinking you had just stepped out of a 'White Hunters' novel of centuries past. We were also accompanied by Peet Bezuidenhout of Tshipise Safaris who took some time off to tiger fish with us. Deposits have been paid - we're going again next year!
Bird Shooting:

Three groups (including two return groups) saw in the Opening Season in New Zealand with Twilight Hunting. We also had two other shoots with Twilight Hunting in February and May, the early hunt taking advantage of the pre season ducks and the later one Canadian Geese.

Riverview Lodge hosted the Sturzaker Group for the second season for some great duck and geese hunting.

In Australia we had two parties join Victoria Range for pheasant hunting in the varied terrain of the Grampian Ranges. This spectacular area, between Melbourne and South Australia has much to offer, so a trip is well worth the effort. Not only is the shooting excellent but for short/ or extended stays there is lots to see and do and the wonderful local produce makes for fine eating.

Graham and Julie Eames were our only clients to go to Argentina this season. For the full story and photos you will have to look forward to reading the August, 2012 edition of 'Feathers and Fur'.
Bird Hunters Africa hosted two group this season

Mark Rogers (back again after a great shoot with his dad last year) and his two mates and partners once again has a wonderful early shoot in late May. English Pointers, Zulu beaters and an incredible variety of birds - Bird Hunters Africa have got it all.

I also led a group of eight guns and one observer on a ten day hunt in July. As one client, John Pearson, wrote: ‘the scenery, the shoot atmosphere, the company of the other shooters, the incredible birds, the accommodation, the food, and you guessed it! the South African wine, all combined to make this the most fabulous shooting trip I have ever been on, and I can't wait for Ian to plan another one’.

Our first Photographic Tour was a huge success with Ann Boggi (in her seventies) and June Whitty (an incredible lady in her eighties) travelling to Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe and then experiencing the Kwa Zulu-Natal and Limpopo areas of South Africa, staying at &Beyond Pinda Forest Lodge and Ngala Safari Lodge respectively.

The ladies, accompanied by my wife Pam, had a wonderful trip enjoying the exceptional hospitality, service and high standards that are a trade mark for the & Beyond Lodges. The guides and trackers excelled with their knowledge and expertise, affording some truly marvellous game viewing experiences ... not to mention the little extras provided at morning tea stops, 'Sun Downers' out in the bush, and the luxurious accommodation at the end of a long day.
In June one of our favourite clients, Geoff and Veronica Wise, and their friends Anka and Chris Smith and Vicki and John Dagan embarked on a photographic/hunting tour with Peet Bezuidenhout of Tshipise Safaris as their guide. They travelled through the Limpopo and Kalahari areas of South Africa, Chobe National Park in Botswana and Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. Animals taken were Caracal, Springbuck, Impala, Eland, Gemsbuck, Zebra and some Tiger Fishing as well. The tour ended with two nights at historical and luxurious &Beyond Kirkman's Kamp in Sabi Sands where they added 'Leopard in a tree' to the list of magnificent animals and sights they had seen on their tour.

Two new Outfitters for 2012:

African Safari Trails has two hunting areas in Namibia - one of which is 100,000 square acres of unfenced land. Two hunts have already been booked for 2012.

High Pheasant Shoots. We now have weekend pheasant shoots available in Victoria. Limited weekends available from May to end of August. One date only left for 2012 - Sunday July 8th. Have you a team of six looking for a fantastic day's shooting?

The Wild Deer Hunting Expo is on in Bendigo on February 4 and 5, SCI is on again at Coffs Harbour February 25 and 26, and SSAA Shot Show at Homebush in Sydney, June 16-17. We would love you to come and say hello - and of course we always have an Expo Hunt Special. I am off to SCI in Dallas, USA in early January so will have the latest info and prices for your 2012 hunting needs.

Christine, Pam and I thank you for your hunting business and friendship over this last year. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and safe New Year. Don't forget 'Once is Never Enough' when it comes to hunting!

Merry Christmas from all of us at WSX,

[Signature]

PS.... a hunting Gift Voucher in a Christmas stocking would make a great gift!