



Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (Qld) Inc.

Hunting and Conservation Division

"Preserving Australia's Heritage"

SSAA (Qld) Inc Hunting & Conservation Division
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HUNTING & CONSERVATION NEWS

March 2010 Edition

Queensland State Co-ordinator's Note

Hello everyone

I hope that you all have had a good break over Christmas.

I would like to thank David Gottschalk for all his help as Southern Coordinator. David has had to step down due to work commitments. I wish Owen McIntyre every success as he takes over as Southern Coordinator. Colin Penfold, our Southern Training Coordinator has also been taken away with his work. Both David and Colin have devoted a huge amount of their time into getting H&C to where it is now and we as an organisation wish them all the best. Hopefully, when their workloads become more manageable we will see them back again.

I would like to welcome Gary Cox as our newsletter editor. This does not mean that he will be writing it as it is YOUR newsletter. It is up to you to create the content! Gary will be putting together the stories and articles you send him - from one or two line tips to full stories about your trips away.

So come on, put your pen or keyboard to work and send Gary your stories and ideas.

Over the next 12 months you will see some changes, both in the newsletter, and in our committee and working groups. Our people are all volunteers so for us to operate efficiently and professionally as we grow in size and workload things have to change. Some changes will be gradual, some will take place now.

A lot of the changes you will see are aimed at reducing the work load on our existing committee. Each project will have an individual Project Coordinator who will pick a Team Leader for each trip. Our aim is to give more of you a little to do rather than a few of us doing the whole lot. If you can help in any way please have a talk with either me or your area coordinator. Don't be surprised if you get a call from one of the committee for a hand on one thing or other over the next few months.

The first of our new project leaders are Brad Hughes - Avocet, Rod Costin - Dingo Cat and Dog, Greg De Koning -

Gladstone and Calliope Pig Projects, Owen McIntyre - Stewartdale. They will be responsible for coordination of their projects, with the help of their area coordinator. To attend any of these projects please contact these people.

Finally, Queensland Gun Exchange has kindly invited us to be part of their Gun Expo again on 27 and 28 March. Your help to man our stand on the Saturday and Sunday of the show for just an hour or two would be appreciated. If you have some time free please call me on 0438 098 469.

Please remember, you will only get out of H&C what you put into it. We will not chase you to attend projects, you need to call or email the project leaders if you want to participate.

Happy Hunting, shoot straight!



Mark Woods - State
Coordinator

Gladstone Project Trip Report (Oct 09)

A run of dry weather prior to our week on the Gladstone project created ideal conditions and produced our best result so far. As a bonus the legendary mosquito plagues had also headed south with the dry weather which was a big relief.

The Gladstone project is based on a high conservation value stretch of coastal land. Our role is to help manage the impact of feral pigs that cause major damage to the fragile coastal plains and surrounding areas.



Photo - Night time set up

After the 7 hour drive north for those of us from Brisbane, we assembled at the property manager's Gladstone base. Five H&C project members sorted gear and vehicles in readiness for the trip out the following morning. The journey to the property was fairly rough in parts and included sand and bulldust stretches. Sealed storage boxes are a great idea as fine dust got into anything not sealed. The campsite's worth the drive as it's located just above the beach with sea views and breezes. Camp includes an old shack with a gas stove, BBQ and hot water shower.

Overall the trip yielded 50 pigs shot and 49 pigs trapped. One interesting fact is that most pigs shot in this environment are big cunning boars, whereas the sows and suckers are the ones generally caught in the traps. The boars were all in very good condition as it appears that these animals have a monopoly on the land adjacent to the beach. It is assumed that the boars dominate the area for its rich sources of food.

Our main strategy to eradicate the pigs (apart from trapping) was to focus on the large open grassy areas. Each night one group would set up a vehicle and camp out on one of the open areas near well used animal tracks. Night vision gear was then used to locate and eradicate the pigs that move onto these open areas causing massive damage by rooting up water chestnuts and other tasty foods.

Every morning before daybreak teams would also head out onto the plain in vehicles to cut off any pigs heading back to cover. On the first night and morning some 11 pigs were taken. In these open areas all the boars were over 80 kg and generally running flat out. Larger calibres including .270WSM, 308 Win & 300 Win Mag were used for humane culling.



Photo - Scanning the plains

Each day one team member would assist the manager in his work including checking, clearing, rebaiting and resetting 20 pig traps set around the property.



Photo - 50 pigs were shot

During the day, team members were free to either catch up on sleep or stake out one of the 5 permanent springs on the eastern side of the property. This also turned out to be a productive approach and not too strenuous as there are some large shady trees around the springs where you can hang a mini hammock and watch the visiting wildlife.



Photo - Stakeout by a spring

Like all of the H&C trips you have some great laughs, see some magic scenery and sights whilst using your skills to help remove feral pests. I've already negotiated with my wife so that I can head north again this year.

Cheers

Damien Ferguson

North Queensland Report

Christmas and the New Year are behind us and I hope that everyone had as good a time as I did, visiting family and friends and managing to fit in a H&C project and training session at Ripley.

Visits to the Hughenden and Collinsville projects have been programmed for the rest of the year. If you cannot make it to the project on the programmed days, but can make it a day or two before or after, let me know and I should be able to vary the program to suit.

There has been a lot of rain over the whole of North Queensland and the early trips may have to be cancelled because of the conditions. This will give me a chance to do some more training. There is still strong interest from prospective members, not only in Townsville, but in Mackay and the Northern Tablelands. I have just completed an accreditation course for 6 people in Mareeba including two juniors and a husband and wife team.

The last field trips have proven successful, reducing the numbers of pigs, rabbits and cats in the area, while building up our knowledge of how to get cautious animals within range. This includes the use of whistles and, believe it or not, an iPod telephone with a recording of a cat meowing.

Our members are always looking for ways to improve safety and an innovative night time visibility item was discovered. It is simple, light, cheap and easy to put on and can be seen from many directions. Get a length of

reflective tape and sew it into a loop long enough to go behind your back, in front of your shoulders and back over your head.



Photo – new member Chalan Irvin using NQ H&C's Innovative Night Reflective gear

Until next time, keep those ferals under control

Geoff Sloman - NQ Coordinator

Central Queensland Report

With the Dingo Cat and Dog project coming up in March we are hoping to see some members from other areas if they can make it. Reports from this project suggest that Nailtail Wallaby numbers could be increasing which is a good sign.

We may have to employ some different tactics here, as once again, spot lighting has not been producing good bag numbers. John has also mentioned they have had a real issue with ticks. Ticks can be a problem that we hunters are faced with at different times. It pays to keep vigilant and take measures to guard against ticks as they can cause serious illness.

We humans are creatures of habit, but it seems as though animals may be a lot quicker to change theirs. Avocet is a classic example. I wouldn't know how many hours we have

spent spot lighting, with little success. Compare this to when we as hunters have changed our habits (walking, dam and trail sitting, reading the signs) and bingo our feral tally has climbed dramatically. An old friend of mine once said to me, "If you keep doing the same thing and expect a different result you must be half silly, if nothing changes, nothing changes". So if you are out in the paddock and you know the little critters are there but you are not getting the results you want, try something different. You might surprise yourself.

Cheers from the central zone
Rod Costin & Brad Hughes.

Cat and Dog Project - Dingo

A note from our project partners:

Just a quick note to let you know that we have been seeing Nailtails at the house and barracks on site recently. It has been quite a few years since I have seen this. Anyway this may mean nothing but was excited enough to let you know.

Avocet

Not much has been going on up this end of the world because of all the good steady rain that we have been getting.

We have been able to do a couple of trips in between storms in January and February. First trip, we walked from one end of Avocet to the other checking all the usual haunts on the way but were unable to see a lot of signs because of all the surface water and long grass. However, Blake and Ron (one of our newer members) hit the trifecta on their last overnighter - pigs, a dog and a cat.

The country has changed a lot over the last few months. We have gone from dry, no grass, low dams, to having grass head high and above and the dams full and creeks running. The hard yards are back. Looks like it will be a while before we hit the ground again with the rain still falling.

Hope to have more news next time...I think that Blake and Ron have the right idea... find a shady tree, a comfortable chair a good book and sit and wait.

Brad Hughes.

SE Qld Report

Welcome to SE Qld for 2010. The prospects for this year are looking very good. We are planning two new projects which are much closer to our SE Qld members. These projects are in the final stages of processing. We intend to send out email descriptions of them when they are available and call for interest from members.

Our on-going feral control program is running at Stewartdale. This involves Saturday night spot light runs. Some new initiatives are being trialled in this work involving the use of trail cameras for monitoring of ferals.

The usual schedule of training weekends at Stewartdale are set for March, June, September and November and we would encourage all members who can to attend.

I think everyone in H&C would like to thank David Gottschalk for his dedicated work and great contribution during his time as Stewartdale then South East Co-ordinator.

Owen McIntyre - South East Co-ordinator

Are you vaccinated for Q fever?

Q fever is a bacterial disease of wild and domestic animals that is spread to humans (hence considered a zoonosis) via direct contact or through the air. Will you be safe if you keep away from animals? Well, not quite. Very small and resistant forms of the bacteria survive for long periods in the environment and infection can happen by inhaling the dust containing them.

Q fever was first identified in workers at a meat processor in Brisbane. Initially the unknown disease was called "Query" Fever, this was later abbreviated to Q fever. The bacterial agent called *Coxiella burnetii* is now known worldwide, except some countries like New Zealand. It is little known by the general public (it hardly gets any media coverage) yet it has been regarded as a very costly and severe infectious disease here. About 600 cases are reported in Australia each year. This doesn't sound like not much, but ... about half of these come from Queensland.

The symptoms of Q fever can be flu-like and last only a few days; but it can also result in more severe responses including excessive sweating, vomiting, diarrhoea and significant weight loss with prolonged recovery periods. Organs can also be directly affected leading to hospitalisations. In some cases acute Q fever can result in heart disease, or prolonged debility and incapacitating fatigue. It is a very severe

disease for the elderly and those with compromised health.

Q fever is present in populations of wild native animal (eg kangaroos and bandicoots) and introduced animals (eg rabbits and rodents) animals. From these the bacteria transferred by ticks to the main carriers from which humans are infected. These are primarily domestic animals, particularly cattle, sheep and goats; but they also include our target feral species - mainly wild pigs and goats. The infectious bacteria are shed in milk, faeces, and in great numbers in the various birth products. Human infection can happen by direct contact with these or by the inhalation of airborne particles. These particles are very resistant and can survive for long periods; hence contaminated dust can be infectious if inhaled. Drinking unpasteurised contaminated milk can cause mild versions of the disease. Q fever is only rarely transmitted to humans by ticks. A case has been reported in which the infection of several people in a town was traced to a cattle truck that drove through it with infected animals leaving an airborne plume of infectious particles.

There is not much that can be done to reduce the presence of the disease in the environment. And while wearing gloves glasses and masks is always recommended if handling animal carcasses, there is an adequate way of protection in the form of a vaccine that was developed in Australia.

Vaccination provides effective protection against Q fever. Professionals in direct contact with animals and animal products are routinely vaccinated and so should we, if we intend to cull feral animals

and process their carcasses. A severe reaction can occur if a person that has been exposed to Q fever receives the vaccine. To avoid this and as infection can be easily mistaken by flu, tests are undertaken prior to receiving the vaccine. An initial skin test consists of a very small dose of the vaccine injected in the arm to detect any reaction after seven days. This is later followed by a blood test. Only if both tests are negative you can receive the vaccine. Not all doctors administer the vaccine, a list of Q fever vaccine providers can be found at:

www.qfever.org/vaclist.php.

References

http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/4790_11469.htm

http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/InfectionsandParasites/BacterialInfections/qFever_fs.asp

Article by Francisco Bravo

Get Fit Like Our "Hunter" Ancestors

A review of the book "Younger Next Year" by Dr Henry Lodge and Chris Cowley

Many of the articles we read in hunting magazines provide all sorts of equipment reviews and articles on how to use, set up and maintain that equipment. However, the most basic piece of hunting equipment we own are our own bodies. Our ability to get out into the field for hours on end, especially doing extended walking and stalking sessions depends on a reasonable level of physical fitness. While this book is pitched at 50+ year olds the benefits of increased fitness apply to us all.

The authors argue that we humans lived as hunters and gatherers for hundreds of thousands of years. Our bodies evolved to perfectly match the lifestyle of the hunt, that is, walking for long periods with intervals of running and sprinting. Even the few hunter-gatherers that exist today, such as the bushmen of the Kalahari walk for 8 to 10 miles per day.

That exercise - the physical work of hunting and gathering - automatically makes the brain send powerful chemical signals to the body to grow, repair itself, lose weight and increase alertness, energy and optimism. These are nature's design specifications to keep you strong, aerobically fit, lean and geared toward working well in groups.

The problem for us modern humans is that our bodies, purpose built for hunting, remain unchanged. The authors argue that the modern lifestyle of unlimited calories and low levels of exercise is really a disease that our bodies don't know how to handle. Our bodies cannot "read" the absence of hunting everyday and the always plentiful food supply.

The body's reaction to inactivity is as if it were in the famine of a long frozen winter. In this situation the body produces chemicals that slows its metabolism, builds fat stores, loosens muscle and goes into a type of hibernation or low level depression. Unfortunately for us the modern sedentary lifestyle, over a long period, also increases heart disease, stroke etc

You can probably guess where this book leads to. Getting active will tell your body to turn on the healthy growth

chemicals. Too little exercise and too much sitting in front of the TV with a beer will tell it to shut down and decay.

The author's formula for a long and healthy life would require a *big* change for most of us. They include the following principles for exercise and general living:

- Exercise 6 days a week for the rest of your life.
- Do serious aerobic exercise 4 days a week for the rest of your life.
- Do serious strength training, with weights, 2 days a week for the rest of your life.
- Spend less than you make.
- Quit eating crap!
- Care.
- Connect and commit.

The good thing about the book is that it convinces you that regular exercise is an iron clad demand of our evolution as hunters and gatherers and not just the whining of the fitness industry. If you are up for it and especially if you are near retirement age, it could change your life.

Review by Gary Cox

Hunting Tip

Camp Light Beacon Tip

Finding your camp site after night time activities can be made a bit easier by leaving a solar powered garden light on top of tent pole. This can also be a safety aide while shooting as the location of the camp can often be pin-pointed from a distance

Geoff Sloman

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Upcoming Activity Dates - 2010

Be sure to mark the dates below in your diary and plan to come along. You never know – you might just be free on that date. We have kept this page separate so you can put it up on the fridge too!

Hunting Activities

Attendance at activities **must** be arranged with the Team Leader (Contact) as most activities will have a safe operating limit.

Date	Activity	Region	Contact
March			
5 th	Stewartdale - Ripley	Southern	Owen McIntyre
6 th -13 th	Gladstone Pig Project	Central	Greg Dekoning
13 th -20 th	Dingo Cat & Dog Project	Central	Rod Costin
20 th -21 st	Southern Training weekend	Southern	Brett Marais
27 th -28 th	Avocet: Emerald	Central	Brad Hughes
April			
2 nd -5 th	Hughenden	Northern	Geoff Sloman
2 nd -10 th	Avocet : Emerald Week Long	Central	Brad Hughes
10 th – 17 th	Calliope Pig Project	Central	Greg Dekoning
17 th	Stewartdale - Ripley	Southern	Owen McIntyre
30 th – 3 rd	Collinsville	Northern	Geoff Sloman
May			
15 th	Stewartdale - Ripley	Southern	Owen McIntyre
22 nd -23 rd	Avocet: Emerald	Central	Brad Hughes
June			
4 th	Stewartdale - Ripley	Southern	Owen McIntyre
11 th – 14 th	Hughenden	Northern	Geoff Sloman
12 th -19 th	Dingo Cat & Dog Project	Central	Rod Costin
19 th -26 th	Gladstone Pig Project	Central	Greg Dekoning
19 th -20 th	Southern Training weekend	Southern	Brett Marais
26 th -27 th	Avocet: Emerald	Central	Brad Hughes
July			
2 nd – 5 th	Collinsville	Northern	Geoff Sloman
17 th	Stewartdale - Ripley	Southern	Owen McIntyre
17 th – 24 th	Calliope Pig Project	Central	Greg Dekoning
23 rd – 26 th	Hughenden	Northern	Geoff Sloman
24 th -25 th	Avocet: Emerald	Central	Brad Hughes
August			
14 th – 21 st	Gladstone Pig Project	Central	Greg Dekoning
20 th – 23 rd	Collinsville	Northern	Geoff Sloman
21 st	Stewartdale - Ripley	Southern	Owen McIntyre
21 st – 28 th	Dingo Cat & Dog Project	Central	Rod Costin
28 th -29 th	Avocet: Emerald	Central	Brad Hughes
September			

3 rd	Stewartdale - Ripley	Southern	Owen McIntyre
18 th - 19 th	Southern Training weekend	Southern	Brett Marais
25 th - 2 nd	Avocet: Emerald Week Long	Central	Brad Hughes
29 th - 2 nd	Hughenden	Northern	Geoff Sloman
October			
15 th - 18 th	Collinsville	Northern	Geoff Sloman
16 th	Stewartdale - Ripley	Southern	Owen McIntyre
16 th - 23 rd	Gladstone Pig Project	Central	Greg Dekoning
23 rd - 24 th	Avocet: Emerald	Central	Brad Hughes
23 rd - 30 th	Calliope Pig Project	Central	Greg Dekoning
November			
5 th	Stewartdale - Ripley	Southern	Owen McIntyre
12 th - 15 th	Hughenden	Northern	Geoff Sloman
20 th - 21 st	Southern Training weekend	Southern	Brett Marais
27 th - 28 th	Avocet: Emerald	Central	Brad Hughes
December			
3 rd - 5 th	Collinsville	Northern	Geoff Sloman
4 th - 11 th	Dingo Cat & Dog Project	Central	Rod Costin
11 th - 18 th	Gladstone Pig Project	Central	Greg Dekoning
18 th	Stewartdale - Ripley	Southern	Owen McIntyre

Project Target Species

Avocet – Primary - Foxes, Cats, Dogs. Secondary – Rabbits, Pigs

Collinsville - Primary – Pigs, scrub cattle

Stewartdale - Primary - Hares, foxes, cats, dogs. Secondary – Pigs