



Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (Qld) Inc.
Conservation and Wildlife Management Division
"Preserving Australia's Heritage"



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CONSERVATION & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT (Qld)

NEWS

December 2016

Message from the CWM President

Thank You

On behalf of the committee I would like to thank all those members who have given their time and skills to organise trips or other events on behalf of CWM.

There is a good deal of work that goes on behind the scenes to bring projects to fruition, especially when dealing with large organisations in this day and age of safety first and any slip up can attract an anti social media storm from largely un/misinformed people the world over.

Once a project is up and running, our trip leaders do a great job coordinating each project visit. This organisation also takes a fair degree of time and I'd like to thank all of our team leaders for their time, effort and dedication.

Please remember to respect our trip leaders while on projects and offer to assist them in anyway you can.

If you would like to be a trip leader we do have a training program for those that believe they need it. To apply for this training, ask a project leader or committee member to nominate you.

New Projects

We haven't actively looked for new projects or properties for over 2 years now as landholders and land managers now contact us. This is a great position to be in, especially as our member numbers are growing at a rate to match the new projects coming on line.

Early in 2017 should see some exciting new properties come on line in far north Qld and in the Sth East.

In the meantime be sure to get to know the various project leaders or trip leaders and ask about the happenings of our many and varied projects.

Biennial committee gathering Sat Feb 11th 2017

Every 2 years we get all of the

regional coordinators and the rest of the committee together in Brisbane.

We assess what we've achieved since the last get together and plan what we want to achieve in the next 2 years.

Many ideas are shared, expressed, discussed and in some cases argued over. It's also a great chance to get to know the new coordinators.

This year we are again planning on having a meeting on the Saturday night where all CWM members will be able to attend.

Please put Sat evening of Feb 11th in your diaries.

Lastly, don't be afraid to volunteer to help on any project or task as it makes everyone's involvement in CWM far more enjoyable.

Damien Ferguson
President (Mob - 0402 424 424)
damien.ferguson@hotmail.com

South East Report

LIVERPOOL RANGE PROJECT

Until recently, Grandchester and Maryvale were independent CWM projects. Each property, roughly an hour's drive west of Brisbane, is located on either side of the Main Range National Park feature. A third property, also owned by this landholder, is located between these two and has recently been approved for CWM activities.

All three properties have now been combined to form a single, new project, titled **The Liverpool Range Project**. Alastair Rogerson is this new Project's Coordinator and his deputy is Greg Prior. This leadership change coincides with a new twenty year plus development plan beginning on & about the 'Grandchester' property which includes: A \$5M facility including a vet clinic, teaching and research facility and a visitor centre, and dozens of trail cameras to be deployed with obvious spin off



for our members in controlling pest animals, fifty kilometres of new mountain bike tracks and approval for our members to access more of available resort facilities.

However 'bush camping' remains necessary at times to facilitate stealthy access to more remote feral hot spots. The common feral targets are wild dogs, foxes and cats. However, deer and pigs have recently been added to the list.

Ambush has proven a most successful hunting tactic requiring sitting quietly for hours overlooking a carcass, water source or track which has been confirmed as dog active by camera or foot print evidence.

Rifle mounted Thermal Imaging sights have proven superior to hand held TI devices at night. However, as night turns to day, day scopes again come into use.

Engagement ranges have usually been about a hundred meters and perhaps surprisingly, dogs are often unaware of our human presence despite camouflage generally not being used but by hunters paying attention to wind direction and stealth and remaining still and quiet. Movement, for both prey and hunter is the key in determining success or failure.

Occasionally our members encounter resort guests in the bush. Obviously armed and well equipped we have been invited to engage with them to explain our aims and activities



as the resort managers believe this interaction enhances the bush experience for their mostly city visitors. This is a refreshingly open and trusting approach and consequently we must all strive that bit extra to ensure high levels of safety, field craft and field responsibility.

With greater access to even more pleasant and varied country there is an enhanced chance of hunting success. This coupled with the social company of like minded folk makes participation in this maturing, long term, now more complex project an enjoyable and satisfying experience.

Peter Ferguson
(Recently Superseded Project Coordinator)

Rockhampton Report

As the weather heats up and the rain comes, many projects in the state are starting to slow for the year. Rockhampton is no exception with only one project scheduled before Christmas. The Dingo Cats project is no exception. Located ~2 hours west of Rockhampton it is very weather dependant as only 10mm of rain make many of the roads unpassable. As the summer passes we will be scheduling several trips to Dingo and hope to see as many members as possible at the projects.

The region is home of the Bridled Nail Tail Wallaby, our priorities at Dingo are to assist in maintaining/reducing the predators of the endangered BNT. Several methods are employed including trapping, walk/shooting and spotlighting. There are also some great

vantage points, mostly around water, for a hide or a lazy afternoon under a tree with the bino's.

The property boasts great facilities including water, showers, toilets and a kitchen. There is also a lot of space to pitch a tent or roll out the swag in the large covered shed. With minimal camping equipment required, Dingo Cats project is great for people still new to camping.

We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year. Merry Christmas and a safe holiday from Rockhampton

Andrew McMaster

General articles, stories, tips

The 2016 Queensland pest Animal Symposium

The 5th Queensland Pest Animal Symposium was held in Townsville from the 7th to the 10th of November. It is supported by the Weed Society of Queensland and is held every two years in a different city in Queensland. This allows it to showcase some of the animal management programs within the different regions that it is held in.

Some of the 200 plus delegates that attended this year come from the QPWS, various Councils, Bio Security, researchers from the pest Cooperative Research Centre and many other areas including the private sector.

Randle Irvin, Ken Payne and I attended representing CWM. We attended the many

seminars that were held over the Tuesday and Thursday. On the Wednesday, we spilt up to attend the different field trips.

Functions like this give us an opportunity to see some of the many control programs and trials that are currently underway. It also gives us an opportunity to network with our many current and future, stake holders. It also allows us to get a feel for the different trends that will affect how we go about our business in the future.

Over the next couple of newsletters, the three of us will attempt to share some of the information that was shared with us over the three days of intense information upload.

Mark Woods

Ken Payne story

Ian and I left Ipswich on the Monday Morning heading for Winton to meet up with the rest of the team planning to meet Ray from the Sunshine coast at Chinchilla. Originally we had planned to meet at Winton on the Monday but due to the amount of rain out west it was put back a few days. While waiting at Chinchilla we had a call to say plans had changed and we needed to head for Windorah and come into the project from the southern end due to road flooding. The plan was to carry out pig control on the first project and then continue over to the next project to control cats around the Bilby's and other Marsupials.

On arrival at Windorah we did some checking with our project partners and the roads were deemed a definite no go for the

pigs, so we did the touristy thing and went sightseeing. The rest of our team was Dave from Townsville and Ian from Mount Isa. Our 2 project partners Barry and Gary were from Airlie Beach.

We had 2 vehicles out each night and covered about 120 km each night spotlighting for cats as well as GPS mapping Bilbies
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macrotis> and Kowari

previous years were in the hundreds – 2 that were taken were pregnant and would have increased the number by an extra 10 kittens.

After all my years of spotlighting at night I had never seen the astounding number of ground nesting birds, marsupial hopping mice and other marsupials as I saw out here. A single large tree, about 4 meters high was packed with budgies and other birdlife. As we were spotlighting one budgie fluttered out of the dark and landed on Ian.

While we were checking the cameras one day we came across a 2 meter Western Taipan
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inland_taipan – due to their toxicity they are classed as the most venomous snakes in the world.

On the Saturday we left and transferred to the Bilby project having to negotiate some wet roads but making it safely setting up camp and then started setting up the first of the 50 trail cameras with baits. Star pickets had to be driven in as there was nothing else to fit them to. It was an amazing place where at times you could do a 360 degree turn and not see a tree or hill as far as you could see.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kowari> sightings. One of the lessons we learned is that the marsupials eat insects and don't need to drink water and the cats live on the marsupials and derive moisture from them.

Even though only 6 cats were dispatched over the 6 nights it was seen as a win as originally the number of cats taken in

I would recommend this trip purely for the scenery alone and as a member of the team I made some new friends who worked well together. As I had never been to Birdsville Ian and I ended up doing an added 270 kms which made it a 4,800 km round trip.

Photos by Ray Fitzsimon

There is a bore beside the dongas with hot water that is so hot it almost scalds your head while having a shower. The one strong piece of advice about which I was warned, is to bring a fly head net. They were correct and when I looked out of my swag and saw Dave already up with a fly net on and the sun had not even come up I was glad I had bought 2 just in case one broke.



I am looking for Expressions of Interest for a bulk buy on a range of items, including Garmin UHF radios both hand held and base/car units, Garmin hand held GPS, GME epirbs and trapping supplies (game cameras, soft jaw traps, cage traps and other associated equipment).

How much interest I get will help to determine the final price and who I will set it up through. I will do my best to get the price as low as possible but it will take quite a reasonable sized order.

Some web sites to look at are:
<https://www.gme.net.au/land.aspx>

<https://buy.garmin.com/en-AU/AU/clntoSports-p1.html>
<https://traps.com.au/>

Please only genuine expressions of interest.

Mark Woods

Hints & Tips from the field: or lessons learnt.

Thermal Vision

CWM offers some great opportunities for access to projects and innovative technologies. One of these is the thermal vision monocular. All members are given the opportunity to use the thermals owned by CWM in the field (on CWM projects) and as a result a number of members have actually purchased their own units. As a hunting aid, they certainly give us an advantage over the animals we are managing.

One of the ways to use the thermals is whilst walking/stalking. It's an

exceptional tool to get a small group in close to a single or group of target pest animals thus increasing the success of the stalk. Here is an example of how to best make use of the technology ...

Three members stalking into a location after spotting a heat signature.

Don't's

- Fan out
- Stalk individually
- Ignore the member with the thermal. Typically the thermal user will stop because the animal is moving, has become uneasy or is changing direction. Other team member who move forward are now:
 - Out of contact
 - In front of the Thermal user
 - Unaware of what is happening.

Do's

Create and agree to a plan before stalking in

- Stay as a group until the plan is ready to be deployed as it may change
- Stay with and take the lead from the member with the thermal – he/she can see any movement/change of behaviour
- Keeping close allows the thermal to be passed between the group so all members have a visual of the terrain and lay of the land
- The member with the thermal must communicate what is happening, either

verbally or through signals (UHF radios with ear pieces can be of great assistance here, if out of whisper range)

Items for Sale

(1)
Quality GME TX 6150 hand held radio – only \$150 (plus postage if required) Ideal for CWM members.
This radio and accessories have been used but are in 'as new' condition and operate perfectly.

Seller would prefer face to face delivery to local purchaser but will post (buyer's preferred method) at additional cost of postage/courier rate if required.

Seller Details:

Peter Assfalg
SSAA Member No 24706
CWM member
Phone:
3364 4293(W)
3711 6335(H)
Email:
Assfalg.PeterM@police.qld.gov.au or
pandkassfalg@iprimus.com.au

Product Details:

5/1 watt switchable output power.
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What you receive (as per photograph):

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2200 mAh Li-Ion rechargeable battery pack.
Desktop Rapid Charger and 240V AC adaptor.
12V Car Charger adaptor.

Belt clip.
Speaker microphone.

Instruction Booklet.



(2)

A **5 watt Icom radio** and a **Garmin78 GPS** loaded with Aus and Nz mapping. I would like \$200 each.
Keith Staines 0432 475 631.

(3)

Black Wolfe Rybuck Swag.
Used once. Excellent condition. \$200.00.
(I live near Brisbane) Phone Jeff on 0428 308 458 preferably after hours.



Upcoming Activity Dates

Our calendar of activity dates is now published on our web site. Please go to:

<http://cwm.ssaaqld.org.au/2013/index.php/calendar/2016-calendar>

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Our Supporters

The businesses listed below support us in different ways, whether it is through direct discounts to members, donations to the Christmas Shoot, or items loaned for field use.

When purchasing items from these businesses please be sure to mention you are a Hunting & Conservation member for discounts where applicable.

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