



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



"Preserving Australia's Heritage"

SSAA (Qld) Inc. Conservation and Wildlife Management Division
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CONSERVATION & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT (Qld)

December 2017 Newsletter

Message from the CWM President

CWM Qld is now on Facebook

One of our members, Ben Harvey, approached us and suggested that we put together a CWM QLD Facebook page.

CWM has an excellent reputation and as most sensible hunters can agree, we have learnt to be very wary of media, including social media. This wariness is especially important because we have corporate and government partners who also do not want to be on the front page of the Courier Mail!

There are too many examples of hunters being their own worst enemy with

what they post on social media and in forums. We would counsel any of our members to be respectful and 'play the ball, not the man' in all your internet interactions.

Our future depends on those with specialised skill sets and time joining a respected group such as CWM.

As the younger generations have grown up with social media, we need to engage with them via facebook etc.

So with this in mind we discussed with Ben the best way to let other conservation minded hunters and shooters know about CWM via social media. Our facebook page will feature stories and articles that are interesting, educational and promote the highest in ethical & effective pest animal management

practices. If you see a great article you think should be shared, please refer it to myself or Ben.

We'd like to thank Ben who has done a great job in putting our facebook page together
<https://www.facebook.com/cwmqld/>

Please like and share our page.

We are also trialing a member's only page where we can share ideas, stories and tips about our projects.

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

South East Report

New properties join the Moonie project.

Our Moonie project has been very popular in the SE corner over the last 5 years. Many of our members have regularly contributed to our work there. We have built a strong reputation with the project land managers and owners who now see us as an important partner in their pest management strategy. We recently had 3 more adjoining properties sign up for the project. That makes a total of 9 properties comprising many thousands of hectares.

The new properties provide the usual array of target pest species e.g. pigs, cats, foxes, goats and dogs. The next story comes from our recent experience on one of the new Moonie project properties.

Trust local knowledge

Gary, Mick and I had been provided good information on where we would locate pig activity and nesting by the owner of a new property at Moonie that I visited for the first time. We confirmed that information by being at that spot and ready as the light switched to darkness in a moment, as it does in spring.

While thermal scanning an island of thick Brigalow, interrupted by an expanse of ready to harvest oats, the ghost image on the scanner resembled a mob of pigs undercover on the move.

There was an uninterrupted

view of clear ground between the scrub and the crop so we made ready lights and rifles as silently as is possible on an aluminium tray canopy and lay in wait. Perhaps sound, perhaps scent betrayed our position, the mob did not cross the open ground as we had anticipated, but entered the crop out of sight some distance away. Our one opportunity for a shot was at a wave of moving seed heads and the glance of reflected eyes, several hundred meters to our right.

The following morning we returned to the patch. Wilga and spindly Casuarina growing in a deep bed of red sand made

The pop, pop of a 300 Blackout was soon overwhelmed by the reports of a .270. The mob taken unawares scattered in a confused array, then wheeled and returned in our direction. Two mid-size males sprawled and rolled headlong into the sand as another ran directly past me, seeking any kind of shelter from the fire, hesitated and expired under a bush.

The action had lasted only seconds but the number of discarded empty brass cases and dispatched ferals bore testimony to a crowded frenzied encounter.

John Swift



stalking easy. Pig sign was abundant, droppings, earthworks and logs rubbed smooth. This was a favoured habitat on the sunny side of the ridge. Three rapid clicks in my earpiece alerted my attention to a statue figure with rifle at the shoulder pointed at a cluster of boars, sows and youngsters occupied with grazing within a stone's throw of our position.

Townsville Report

CWM Townsville invites all accredited CWM members to take part in the ongoing BRWL project to reduce feral animals within this high conservation value wetlands associated with the Burdekin River from March to November 2018. The project covers approximately 750 sq km encompassing in excess of

some forty (40) lakes, swamps and wetlands and there is a real battle to halt the damage being done.

Our activities include shooting feral pigs, rabbits and cats by day and by night while

awesome.

CWM Townsville runs about ten to twelve trips a year (and looking to do more), so if you wish to come along, you can use the 24/7 link below to register for the dates that you

Rockhampton Report

It's been unfortunate that a few projects have been postponed due to the weather lately. Central Queensland has sure been affected by the rain, as have many other areas of the state. However, the rain hasn't put a damper on all the projects, even if we did get a little soggy.

After receiving almost 15cm of rain in Springsure, it was a hard decision whether or not to proceed with the Avocet project. After talking with the land holder, it was decided that even if the rain continued, we would still be able to access the property on foot. On the day of arrival, it was clear that the roads had suffered from the wet with several of the vehicles sliding around on the road in.

Once on the property, we set up camp and assessed the situation. Yes, the tracks were wet, but the sky was clearing, and the weather reports were promising. So, after the inductions and paperwork, off we went to explore. With groups heading in all directions from camp, it wasn't long before we found some promising signs for the nights activities. The GPS's were out, and the routes were logged before heading back to camp for dinner.

Our clearing sky had now turned grey with the guarantee of more rain in the near future. While finishing our tea, we pondered our options. Sure, the tent option was discussed – 'curling up in the warm sleeping bag, listening to the rain fall as we drifted to sleep to the chorus of frogs and critters enjoying the night'. However, it



monitoring and recording the impact of the feral pigs on the wetlands. For those seeking variety during their hunting (or non-shooting CWM members) there is a need to monitor and record the 120 odd species of birds in the patch and doing a bit of wild dog surveying on the side. There is literally something to do for everyone – except your dog, it can't come!

This wonderland is located approximately 175km from Cairns or 170km from Townsville. Depending on which direction you approach the BRWL from, the final 80 to 119km is on dirt roads. The track in is suitable for campervans and specialist off road caravans. Access by 2WD can be undertaken with careful driving however you will require a high clearance 4WD to negotiate the internal tracks within the BRWL. The Escarpment Base Camp is extremely basic so come fully self contained but the view is

want to attend. Depending on the number of nominations over a given period, the Project Leader will appoint an experienced Trip Leader who will confirm nominations and issue the various instructions. The BRWL link is:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1S8z_QmcAl_qe4UkRZ_0eY9CwNLKMjC4Gx0TEqA-xw5s/edit?usp=sharing

Remember to save the above link to your personal drop box so that you can amend or nominate as the opportunities arise.

Project Leader: Randle Irvin

randle.irvin@gmail.com

Project 2IC: Tony Darlington

adarlington54@gmail.com

was our want to get into the field that won the argument. So on with the Gortex jackets, the pants and gators. It wasn't too long before there was a collection of spotlights, thermals and other equipment akin to a finely tuned team about to head into the wilderness. Signing out for the night, we slung our rifles and headed into the dark.

The rain began to fall as we headed from camp. We discussed the exploits of our fellow hunters in places like Tasmania where the current weather would probably be appreciated. At least we were warm. We spent hours searching for our quarry, down tracks, through the scrub and in the caves and rocks that surround the property. We looked high, low, in the grass and the tree tops, surely there would be a cat around the next corner - but alas no.

Eventually, we returned to camp, wet, broken and tired. After a cup of tea, with spirits lifted somewhat, we all headed to bed knowing we had put in the hours.

Although we were unsuccessful on the night, we appreciated the fantastic group of people to share such an experience with.

See you all on the next adventure

Andrew McMaster

General articles, stories, tips

Arrive Clean, Leave Clean

Any activity in the bush has the potential to spread invasive

weed species or pathogens. The introduction of plants and soil through the use of dirty tools and equipment increases the risks. Once these pathogens and weeds invade our bushland, eradication is often impossible. Guidelines exist to help prevent the spread of invasive plant diseases and weeds.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive-species/publications/arrive-clean-leave-clean>

Clothing, hats, footwear, tools, camping equipment, machinery and vehicles can transport invasive species like *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, myrtle rust (*Puccinia psidii*), insects and weeds (seeds) into our bushland. Even your skin and hair, as well as glasses, phones, watches, wallets and other pocket items can carry myrtle rust spores.

All Queenslanders have a general biosecurity obligation (GBO) under Queensland's **Biosecurity Act 2014**. Under this act, we have an obligation to prevent things that are under our control and that we know about, or should reasonably be expected to know about.

Under the GBO, individuals and organizations whose activities pose a biosecurity risk must take all reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimize each biosecurity risk and minimize the likelihood of causing a biosecurity event and limit the consequences if such an event is caused.

Conservation and Wildlife Management (CWM) Queensland recognise weeds to be detrimental to both the environment as well as to the

integrity of those operators who assist in their spread. As we enter numerous conservation areas and private properties, we need to be proactive in the prevention of spreading weeds.

It is critical to wash vehicles down before you leave for a hunting trip. The most appropriate method in this case would simply be by washing at home with a high pressure hose. Any weed infestations that arise from these procedures on your land should be managed using an appropriate registered herbicide. You could also make use of vehicle wash down facilities located across the state. To see a list of these facilities, visit www.daff.qld.gov.au.

It is important to also clean the interior of the vehicle, so it is advisable to take a dust pan and broom or a cordless vacuum cleaner on projects. These should be used on site before you leave or at wash down bays so the contents can be disposed of where they will not extend any potential weed issues.

Priority areas for cleaning are: Spare tires, Radiator and grill, Running boards and Mud trays. Inspect the interior of the vehicle, especially; Foot wells. Check carpets and mats for burrs, seeds, mud, water etc. Use rubber mats with high sides to capture and contain dirt, mud and seeds. Foot pedals, foot resting block and around gear shifts.

Inspect inside the boot of the vehicle. Carpet (deposits of hay, weed seeds, burrs and/or soil or water). Spare tire area and other recesses in the boot/rear of the vehicle.

Inspect the engine bay, especially: Radiator, Grill, Top of the transmission gearbox, Recesses under windscreen wipers and Air filters.

Inspect the underside of the vehicle, especially: Wheel arches, wheel trims, flares, running boards (step treads), Bumpers, Mud flaps, Tire rims (particularly the rear side), Axels and diff's. Spare tires on 4WD's and station wagons are often suspended underneath. Note: these are potentially a high risk area as contaminants collect inside the horizontally-positioned rim.

Motor bikes and four wheelers, trailers and camper trailers all to be inspected and cleaned paying attention to mudguards and spring areas and any where seeds may be. Tents, swags and sleeping gear, backpacks and gaiters are other things that will carry seeds. We camp in the field with this equipment.

Finally, don't forget about **YOU!** Clean the mud on boots, or if inappropriate to do on site, pack muddy boots in a bag to be cleaned later. Clean socks and fleece/woolen jumpers.

Check and clean the folds and cuffs in trousers and rolled up shirt sleeves. Editor

Damage done by cats

The Australian Associated Press on Wednesday 4 October 2017 gave the following summary;

- 377 million birds are killed annually
- 99% of birds killed are native birds – 373 million
- 316 million birds killed

by **feral** cats annually

- 61 million birds killed annually by **domestic** cats
- 338 species of native birds killed, including 71 threatened species

<https://theconversation.com/for-whom-the-bell-tolls-cats-kill-more-than-a-million-australian-birds-every-day-85084>

Feral Cat / Dog Training Camp – Cairns region

We are currently looking for



expressions of interest from people who may be looking to join the Feral Cat / Dog training program. With any luck, we will be holding this in June 2018 dates to be advised closer to time

This program is to introduce dogs and handlers to search and find feral cats in protected habitats and reserves. This weekend is to determine how the dogs and handlers work together and with other dogs

and trainers. There will be basic training and obedience and also lead and field work.

There will be a talk from the Veterinary side of things regarding dog health and the impact of feral cats on the native wildlife population. This will be part one of two levels to be held, and each handler and dog will be assessed according to the scoring criteria for Conservation Detection Dogs.

For more information please contact: Brian & Helen Poulos
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Email: brilen@live.com.au

Swine Brucellosis

A disease called swine brucellosis is emerging in New South Wales, carried by feral pigs. Endemic to feral pigs in Queensland, and sometimes infecting the dogs used to hunt them, it can be transmitted to humans through blood contact with infected pigs. A number of people have already been infected in NSW.

Recreational pig hunting in rural Australia is a widespread control method for the roughly 24 million feral pigs who call Australia home.

The ethics of this undertaking is open to debate – many authorities consider poisoning more efficient and more ethical than hunting with dogs. But regardless of this controversy, the emergence of swine brucellosis illustrates the risk that comes with hunting.

<https://theconversation.com/pig-hunting-dogs-and-humans-are-at-risk-of-a-disease-that-can-cause-miscarriages-and-infertility-81171>

Ken Payne story

Boar Fighting Pads

On several trips while hunting with different members, the subject of what size of a projectile to use on pigs has come up.

Even people who have shot a number of pigs haven't known about shoulder pads. Next time you get a good size boar try pressing your knife straight into the shoulder. You will find lots of resistance and the reason is that boars have a very dense cartilage that can be up to 30mm or more thick used to

protect themselves from sharp tusks while fighting other boars. This as well as the mud on their shoulder, up to another 30mm thick, can slow down or stop bullets that are not well constructed or heavy enough to punch through these layers. This is one of the reasons we recommend you use heavy projectiles.



Often we are shooting at running pigs in heavy cover and cannot always put a round in exactly the right spot every time.

One culled boar had mud on its shoulder to a depth almost up to the middle joint of my finger. A second smaller 50 kg boar had a shoulder pad of fat and

gristle.

I once shot a large sow, and when I dug the .44 projectile out, I found a 22 cal projectile very close to mine, that was not one of ours, and appeared to have been there for a while.

Ken

Advertorial

HUNTING ESSENTIALS – remember this name – was setup by two CWM members Mark McClure and Adam Gitsham. Adam competed at the 2000 Olympic Games in a shooting event called Running Target (formerly known as Running Boar) and Mark is a talented and handsome individual well loved by all who know him. (Modest fellow).

Part of the business is to import Safari Slings from the US. A product that was hard to get locally. These slings allow a rifle to be carried more to the front of the body without the need to hold it, thus completely



hands free. The rifle can quickly and efficiently be lifted into a firing position when needed. The sling also reduces fatigue on those long walks. At the last SE Qld training weekend, almost all members pre ordered one. Why? Because they work.

Mark – I first saw Adam using a Safari Sling on the Curtis Island project last year and it left a lasting impression. I have always carried my rifle in my hands and never used a sling, as I found them limiting when the action happens. However, after long days walking and after a specifically unpleasant walk through a swamp, including a bit of “swimming”, I knew that I needed a Safari Sling.

Fast forward to my first shoot with the Safari Sling. While I was walking near a dam, a pig was high-tailing it out of there at a speed *Usain Bolt* would have been proud of. The sling performed fantastically; my rifle was at the ready, raised and the sling loops fell away giving

me a perfect shot. Even the pig seemed surprised and passed away with a shocked look on its face. At the time I had not realised that the sling had performed so well and I had not



even noticed the sling. It was only afterwards, while reviewing the action, that its effectiveness became apparent. Equipment that just works and frees up your concentration for the game at hand is the sort of Hunting Essential gear you need.

thing that felt like a revolution in my hunting trips. Like some of you, I also saw the Safari Sling in action, even before I had heard of it or had seen it in the shops. The wiser and more

experienced hunters I saw, wielded their rifles with ease. This helped me to make my own version of the sling until I upgraded to the real thing. My journey of shooting moving targets in competitions and the love of our natural environment, culminate on many of the CWM projects. Having good hunting equipment that supports everyone’s enjoyment, accuracy and safety is why we made the effort in bringing the Safari Sling to the CWM group. Hunting Essentials –

www.huntingessentials.com.au

If any member has gear that you feel could benefit other CWM hunters, please let us know. We will source it, review it, ensure a great price and make sure CWM is the best equipped organisation out there.

Mark and Adam

Adam – I’ve been hunting and target shooting for as long as I’ve been allowed. My methods and equipment have evolved over time and I’m not shy to try something new, but if the results don’t show, it’s time to change it out again. This system of trial and error helped me through many training sessions and to continue to improve over time. The Safari Sling was the one new



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/2018-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 Conservation and Wildlife Member (CWM) for discounts where applicable.



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elena collins
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