



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



**"Preserving Australia's Heritage"**

SSAA (Qld) Inc. Conservation and Wildlife Management Division  
Postal Address: PO Box 2443, North Ipswich, Qld, 4305  
Email: [cwm@ssaaqld.org.au](mailto:cwm@ssaaqld.org.au) Internet: <http://cwm.ssaaqld.org.au>

## ***CONSERVATION & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT (Qld)***

### **December 2020 Newsletter**

#### **Message from the CWM Chairman**

CWM Qld is a sub committee of the SSAA Qld state executive. The SSAA Qld state executive appoints the CWM sub committee office bearers on a yearly basis.

In November 2020, the SSAA Qld Executive modernised the structure of the SSAA regions in Qld to align with the Qld Government Regions.

As a result of this CWM Qld has the following regions and sub committee office bearers:

- Northern – Randle Irvin,
- Central – Michael Horvath,
- Southern – Michael Farrell,
- Operations & Training – Mark Woods,
- Admin & Finance - Ken Payne,
- Chair – Damien Ferguson.

Essentially our reporting lines alter and there are now 2 regional committee members on the CWM Qld sub committee. Our existing (and new) area coordinators will continue to source and manage projects in the areas within the Northern, Central and Southern regions.

For most people this re alignment will not change how you are currently operating. We still encourage you to contact and support your area coordinators as we are all volunteers and many hands make light work.

Damien Ferguson  
Chairman (Mob - 0402 424 424)  
[damien.ferguson@hotmail.com](mailto:damien.ferguson@hotmail.com)

## South East Report

### Moonie

This was the second CWM project I've attended. The first was to another Moonie property 2 years earlier.

The day before my departure to the Moonie project, I was asked by my employer if I was able to go via Wyreema, west of Toowoomba to go to a job. So the opportunity was for me to arrive on the CWM project Friday night and not the Saturday morning.

I had been working in the sun for nearly 2 hours repairing a door on the Telstra exchange at Wyreema and I was feeling dehydrated. As I was coming into Moonie township for fuel, I noticed my right hand was starting to cramp from dehydration. I had drunk a few bottles of water on the way, but alas, I was a bit dehydrated.

From the CWM emailed directions, I made it to the project farm house and introduced myself to the property manager and his wife, confirming the shearer's shed for accommodation. I had arrived just on dusk, so I quickly set up my campervan ready for the next morning. In the morning, after breakfast, I went inside the shearer's quarters where the main accommodation was situated. This shed is open at both ends. There was a fine layer of red dirt on everything as the place is still in drought and the entrance road to the property comes past the quarters. I spent a while tidying it up for the guys who would arrive later. During this time I did not drink much fluid, which in hindsight did not rehydrate me enough

from my lack of fluids the day before.

The rest of the team turned up with Ted who was our team leader for the first half of the week. After giving us our project briefing, under Ted's guidance we organised into 2 teams. I went out with Ted and did an orientation of the property and then a 2 man walk along the river west of our base. The other guys went east along the river and they were lucky enough to find some pigs and managed to dispatch some of the adults and some piglets.

This walk was my first time firing a firearm from the shoulder in an actual CWM field event. A target appeared at 75m and I was given the go-ahead by Ted to take my shot, which gave me my first pest animal taken with an offhand shot. We walked back to our vehicle and drove back to base. By this time, I had drunk 2 litres from my 3 litre back pack bladder which had been filled with water and Power-Aid. On returning to camp, I drank more straight water.

I had bought a Mazda BT50 extra cab, installed with a storage canopy leaving a 750 mm gap between the headboard and the canopy. During the afternoon before we went out on a night time patrol we looked, as a team, to see what would be the best way to create a shooting rest on the vehicle roof panel. I had made a gate on one side of the vehicle, to get on and off the tray. The other side had an awning canopy, which would prevent someone falling off the vehicle. We felt that the vehicle was safe and ready for hunting that night.

Our night team consisted of a driver, along with two members up on the back of the vehicle. One with the thermal monocular, ready to turn on a 9 inch QI spotlight, the other with the firearm. We had a firearm rack behind the shooters, so they could put their firearms in a secure fixed storage position. We drove around on the western side of the property and the first feral animal taken was a fox followed by a cat. We then drove across the back track, which was dense with scrub, when some pigs crossed in front of the vehicle. They travelled so fast through the fence that we missed the ability to take a shot at them.

On the second day, we went out with a group of 3 people. Our hunting was along the riverbanks and lagoons. We had been out for about three hours. I had a backpack with a 3L bladder inside with a mixture of water and electrolyte, and as I had been perspiring, I had gone through 2.5 L of fluid. Even though I had consumed a fair volume of fluids, I was still dehydrated.

We were about 600 m away from the vehicle, when I started getting cramps in my leg muscles. I let Ted know I might not be able to walk back at that point. Adrian, one of our fellow members set off to bring the vehicle back along the track to come and collect me so I didn't have to have the risk of more cramping and dehydration, while Ted remained with me. I have been trained in sports medicine and trained in remote first aid. For an advanced first aider like me, to not realise that I was dehydrated was strange.

On return to camp, I started a rehydration program, using protein mixes and hyalalite products and got myself hydrated again - I thought all would be okay. The real part of this story is about how I handled the lack of hydration and how it affected me later on. I had arrived at the project, dehydrated. I had gone out the next day walking through the bush stalking and then working at night. I thought I was consuming enough water and nutrients to suit the application. However, there was an unintended outcome to this.

My expectation was that I would get cramps again and have problems, but it was actually quite an evil outcome.

Because I was dehydrated, my platelets changed in my blood system. One night later in the week, I started to get some chest pain, which I recognised not as chest pain but as tightness and soreness of carrying my backpack, water supply and firearm. I misinterpreted what was going on. I was actually having a heart attack.

I was to leave the project on the Sunday, but I left one day early and arrived back home on Saturday afternoon. I unloaded the vehicle of all my camping gear (and I've got lots of a gear) and I also moved the camper trailer around by myself, with a little bit of help from my wife.

After a shower I got myself cleaned up from the trip, sat down for dinner and after watching the Brisbane Lions getting beaten by Geelong, I got the pain back again. As it traversed down my arm, I recognised that I was having a

heart attack and called an ambulance.

At the time of writing right now I'm sitting in Saint Vincent's Hospital in Chermshire and about 8 tomorrow morning 25<sup>th</sup> Oct, Sunday, will have a bypass surgery.

So it is very important, when we go out to these projects that we are prepared for all the things we do. I had an AED, PLB and first aid kit. I had about 60 or 70 L of fresh water. I had two jars of Powerade powder. I had refrigeration to make sure fluids were chilled down. We did not have good telephone service at that particular site. I thought my preparation was adequate, but failed because I had allowed myself to turn up to the project in not the right condition.

The guys there, specially Ken and Ted, all were very helpful to me. Ted was there for first few days and Ken to finish the project off. Both ensured that all of us were safe and were doing things correctly. They encouraged me to make sure that I was consuming enough fluids, to make sure I wasn't dehydrated. Unfortunately, I had already done damage a few days before. The team leaders responded correctly, when I got the cramps on our walk, by making sure that we had a vehicle somewhere close. Adrian went to retrieve the vehicle, Ted stayed with me making sure I was resting in the shade and encouraging me to drink. We had an access point that vehicles could get to readily.

Their strategy was in place, before we even walked out, the leaders had thought about what to do if things went wrong - that

we basically circled the vehicle in the bush, so that we were always the shortest distance back to the vehicle at any point.

I thought it was very well deployed in the thinking of how the leaders manage our hunting trips during the day and night - the separation of one team from the next - to East and West paddocks to make sure teams weren't in any danger.

We also had a safe zone around the farm house and our accommodation and a specific boundary to load and unload before returning to camp.

Steve Davey

## Townsville Report

### **Townsville Quad Training Day 8/10/20**

There was movement at the Townsville range for word had passed around that Doc Jim Mitchell had come up for the day, to run a training course for side by sides and quads. So all the cracks had gathered to the fray  
Many tired and noted riders from CWM near and far  
Had mustered up in Townsville overnight  
For hunters love quad riding where the wild bush pigs are  
And the quad bike snuffs the battle with delight.

Gordon came from Cairns, Mick came up from Mackay  
And Mal and his Mrs are the Rocky crew  
The locals came with energy, with quads and utes to try  
Ron looked like Willie Nelson, Shane, Andrew, and Mick too.



Leave it in  
the gully,  
Mick, come  
along with  
us!"  
And so it  
waited sad  
and wistful  
in the creek  
bed in the  
sun,  
The intrepid  
driver didn't  
make a fuss.  
The Getz  
was left  
behind,  
alone, and  
there it  
stayed till  
we were  
done.

So we went  
and found  
the traffic  
cones by the

pay close attention to the zone,  
Slalom up then backwards,  
watch closely now, and never  
hit the cone."

Awards should have been  
given out among the motley  
crew  
Gordon's quad was organised,  
impressive to behold,  
with every thing a man might  
need - a pleasure to review.  
Ron had a mighty Rambo rig -  
powerful and bold.

Mick was in a hurry - kicked up  
dust like he didn't care  
It was like he thought we were  
there just to have fun  
The spectators choked and  
coughed on dirty air  
And wished that he was done!

Andrew Simon has a famous  
name  
It's confusing though because  
Roy doesn't look at all the same  
And this bloke never played for  
Aus!

Thanks Darlo, Col, Jim and  
everyone  
What more can I say?  
We learned a lot and had some  
fun  
Hope we see you all again  
some day!

And Darlo from the Townsville  
mob came out to lend a hand  
No better bloke had ever pulled  
some strings  
To find a side by side so we  
could go ahead as planned  
He got Greg's bright red racer,  
with huge and sporty springs!

big acacia tree  
We gathered there waiting to  
be told  
And the old man gave his  
orders, "go in circles, laps of  
three,  
Lean in, look up, and most of  
all, be bold!

The day began with PowerPoint  
and paperwork and reading  
As we settled in to learn the  
laws from Jim  
But then he said its smoko time  
and we were really needing  
To get outside, unload the  
quads, and let the practical  
begin

We set off for the training  
ground in utes and quads but  
one  
Bravely drove his little car - it  
was a battered blue,  
A tough and wiry little beast,  
that drew the sneers of some,  
And in the rugged creek they  
said "That Getz will never do!

The pivot point's the back axle,



Margaret Stockill

(Inspired by the Banjo  
Patterson Motel, Bowen Rd,  
Townsville.)

## General articles, stories, tips

### Pulsar Trail LRF Scope Review.

Twelve months ago I sold off a few unused “toys” and put the proceeds towards the item that had been sitting in top spot on my wish list for quite a while, a thermal rifle scope.

As with most high dollar purchases, much research was undertaken during the weeks prior to swiping the cash card. Specifications were studied on manufacturers' web sites and the screen resolutions, pixel pitches, sensor resolutions, magnification, battery life, WIFI capability, on-board recording and so many features were compared between units. After a few weeks I was at risk of becoming a “thermal geek”, speaking the lingo like a native, to the dismay of several of my hunting coppers.

A fortunate side benefit of participating in CWM projects was the opportunity to look through and even shoot with a few different thermal scopes belonging to other members. This hands-on experience in the field under hunting conditions helped sort through the information overload to make the final decision. In the end, Pulsar was the manufacturer that came to the fore with reliability being a key factor.



At the time of my purchase, the Thermion range of scopes was on the market, but I opted for the Trail instead. That selection was based on my requirement for an on board laser range finder, something I've found an absolute boon when walking out to pigs on moonless nights. Determining distances through a thermal scope or monocular is tricky and a skill I've never mastered so I rely on the LRF to pinpoint the distance to targets. If my nocturnal shooting was mainly done from the vehicle, I wouldn't have needed a scope with the range finder as targets inside 200 metres are within point blank range for both of my dedicated night guns. However, the majority of the pigs I shoot are taken by

walking out into crops on foot where we try to get in close

before firing. This enables follow up shots when there are multiple targets, before they disappear into the distance.

The Pulsar Trail is a reasonably large unit compared to the latest Thermions, but I haven't found it at all cumbersome. It has two colour palettes, black hot or white hot, which is all that is required by the majority of hunters. I have found that black hot seems to work best when sighting in the rifle during daylight hours, while white hot seems to give the better target identification under most nocturnal conditions.

Picture in picture mode is very useful, giving a magnified image of the target while retaining a wide field of view in



the main portion of the screen. One shot zeroing works well and the unit has not had any issues with zero not being

consistent from one outing to the next. The controls are intuitive with single button presses for the most used features like zoom, ranging, recording and waking from stand-by mode. Once familiar with the Trail's operation, taking it from stand-by mode to putting lead onto a feral beastly can be done in just a couple of seconds (ask my shooting buddy Mick).

We habitually spend long nights in the field and the only time I've run the battery flat is if I forget to charge it between all-nighters. Having a battery pack that is interchangeable with the Pulsar monocular has saved the day more than once.

Neil S

## Utility vehicle training courses.

I was a senior scientist with DPI (Biosecurity Queensland) for over 32 years specialising in feral animal management (mainly feral pigs). I am semi-retired and part time training in feral animal management and utility vehicles is now my hobby.

I have been a CWM member for over 7 years. I run the courses at a special heavily discounted price for CWM members only. The course is two training courses run together - so two certifications for the price of one (Side by side and Quad bike). Both courses are nationally accredited, AHCMOM216 – operated side by side utility vehicles and AHCMOM217 – operate quad bikes. I am a qualified trainer and operate under "Expert Training Group"; a nationally registered training

organisation (RTO number 30993).

I have over 37 years experience in operating a wide variety of utility vehicles. The course is over one day with 2 hours of presentation and 3 hours of practical in the field followed by assessment. I will travel to your group if 8 or more want training – I just need training facilities (open area and covered area) to be available. Having a certificate will enhance CWM standing with NPWS and environmental partners allowing greater access to conservation areas. Certification may also lower your insurance costs.

Dr. Jim Mitchell

## Battery sets off bullet

A rabbit-shooter in Essex had a shock when a rifle cartridge went off in his pocket. Gareth Jones from South Norfolk was shooting rabbits at night on a golf course when the spare

battery for his night vision short-circuited through a .17HMR round, and set it off. It gave him a minor burn on his stomach. Until the incident, Gareth kept his rifle cartridges and loose batteries for his night vision in the same front pouch on his coat. He now plans to keep them separate.

<https://www.fieldsportschannel.tv/battery-sets-off-bullet-in-pocket/>

---

## Ken Payne story

### Nothing is wasted

A couple of pigs we had shot the previous night were dragged off the farm road and into the bush.

A quick slit with a knife opened up the belly to aid in rapid decomposition. This revealed

that the sow was heavily pregnant with near term young. The following morning, we passed the same spot and decided to check the area for scavengers. We were surprised by two large goannas, one of which made off with one of the pig's young, carrying it in its mouth while scarpering up a tree. Nothing is wasted out here.



## Upcoming Activity Dates

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

<http://cwm.ssaqld.org.au/2013/index.php/calendar/2020-calendar>

## CWM Contacts

<http://cwm.ssaqld.org.au/2013/index.php/contacts>

## 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.



**CONTINUUM**  
FINANCIAL PLANNERS

**DAMIEN FERGUSON**  
Dip FP  
Certified Financial Planner™

M 0402 424 424  
T (07) 3421 3456  
E [adviser@continuumfp.com.au](mailto:adviser@continuumfp.com.au)

Sub-Authorised Representative &  
Sub-Credit Representative of  
Securitor Financial Group Ltd  
ABN 48 009 189 495  
AFSL & ACL 240687

**securitor**



**FDPRadios**

Peter  
0407 769 548  
[fdpradios@gmail.com](mailto:fdpradios@gmail.com)  
[www.fdpradios.com.au](http://www.fdpradios.com.au)



**AUSTYLE**  
CAMPERS & TRAILERS

Exclusive  
South East Qld  
Distributor for **desertedge**  
TRAILERS.COM.AU

Mention your H&C membership number for an exclusive deal  
Sales Office : 07 3807 8007  
[www.austylecampers.com.au](http://www.austylecampers.com.au)



**GCI**  
GROUP

Cutting edge manufacturing solutions

[www.gcigroup.com.au](http://www.gcigroup.com.au)  
**07-3807-0300**

Laser Cutting - Fabrication - Powder Coating

### **SHARP EDGE**

Knife Sales

[www.asharpedgeqld.com](http://www.asharpedgeqld.com)

Email: [asharpedgeqld@gmail.com](mailto:asharpedgeqld@gmail.com)

Ph: 07 3200 7187

M: 0412 713 382 Call 7am to 7pm - Georg Bernat

### **Queensland Shooters Supplies**

Ph: 3202 2111

Fax: 3812 8071 Emails: [sales@qss.org.au](mailto:sales@qss.org.au) Or  
for the indoor range: [sales@qir.org.au](mailto:sales@qir.org.au)



**elena collins**  
graphic design

Good graphic design helps your business create a unique brand position in the marketplace. It gets your message across.



**EXTRAVISION**  
AUSTRALIA PTY LTD

- \*binoculars
- \*telescopes
- \*night vision
- \*riflescopes
- \*microscopes
- \*magnifiers
- \*underwater video systems

Bridgemark Centre, 15/93 Rivergate Place Murarrie Qld 4172  
Phone: 07 3393 9384 Fax: 07 3393 9385  
[www.extravision.com.au](http://www.extravision.com.au) [sales@extravision.com.au](mailto:sales@extravision.com.au)