



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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HUNTING & CONSERVATION NEWS

June 2010 Edition

Queensland State Co-ordinator's Note

Hello everyone. I hope you all had a great Easter, followed by a couple of long weekends.

With all the rain over the last 4 to 5 months the grass and ground cover in most places is a good 1 to 2 metres tall. This will obviously make hunting, and finding ferals quite hard. It will also mean a change in tactics in how we go about hunting. You will need to pay a lot more attention to track sign along with watering and feeding habits to be successful.

Speaking of successful, the first trip of the year for both our new projects at Gympie, and to our Calliope Pig Project have gone well, with the primary target species being taken on both projects. Now that the Gympie Project is up and running the assessment team tells me there is some pretty amazing scenery to be taken in and while it may be a low yield project it will be very challenging to the hunter. For those of you that like the challenge of taking a smart wild dog or two this one will be right up your alley.

It was unfortunate that we had to cancel the Gladstone Pig Trip, Avocet and the Dingo Projects for the first part of the year due to the wet. So please give a little extra support to these projects as they come up again.

Over the last two trips, on the Gladstone Pig Project, members have help to take over 150 pigs and the property manager is saying there are plenty more where they came from.

At last we have been able to get hold of some more certificate paper for your accreditation certificates. By the time this goes to print most of you should have your certificate. If you do not have it by the end of June please drop me a line and I will follow it up for you.

We have purchased 4 trail cameras to be used on our projects and as part of the World Wildlife Foundation Grant that we received 18 months ago. We purchased another 9 cameras for the Avocet project. This equipment will help us to learn about predator movements and habits

and take advantage of this knowledge.

Happy hunting and see you in the field soon.



Mark Woods - State Coordinator

Deer Project

The deer research project is well under way with just over 20 deer darted and collared so far. If you want a real hunting challenge try darting a deer. You will need to stalk in to less than 30m to get a shot at the rump area that you need to place the dart. Then there is the radio tracking. That too is quite challenging. There are a variety of other activities that need to be done to make this project work.

One of the biggest bonuses from this project work is that it will really test and fine tune

your stalking skills.

This project demonstrates what Conservation and Wildlife Management is really about. The research will help us to better manage deer (eradication is not a viable solution) and it will help with the conservation of native animals and plants.

The project is based around the Cressbrook Dam area. Excellent facilities have been provided for our use. It is a fantastic opportunity to learn a lot about hunting, wildlife management and deer in general. This project is open to all SSAA members.

If you would like to know more about this project please contact Geoff Jones 0407 673 597 me on 0438 098 469.

Mark Woods

SE Qld Report

Like most of Queensland, Stewarddale has received lots of rain over the summer and the grass is very high. The boggy ground limited access and interrupted the feral control program for an extended period. However, the control program is back underway now with a focus on pigs that have increased in numbers and activity on the property. At this stage we are trying to establish their patterns of behaviour and the trail cameras are part of our learning experience. We have just built the first of our pig traps and had our first success. Please contact me (contact details on back page) if you would like to participate in the Stewarddale feral control program.

I would like to thank Bob

Pardon for his work in the trail camera evaluation program. Bob has put lots of effort into researching, purchasing, setting up and trialling the new cameras. We will be presenting an overview talk on this topic at the upcoming Sothern training weekend on June 19 and 20. All members are encouraged to attend the training weekend.

Owen McIntyre - South East Co-ordinator

Trail Cameras

Trail cameras have become an important tool for hunters, researchers and wildlife management groups. The cameras are battery operated and triggered by movement of the animal. They are either flash or infra red (no flash).



Camera and solar panel set up

Recently CWM purchased a number of cameras and is in the process of learning how to apply this technology in the field. Led by Bob Pardon, a number of camera's have been set around Stewarddale to identify and understand the behaviour patterns of ferals e.g. where and what time they are active. This will assist in developing hunting strategies. Bob says the cameras are easy to set up by using the laser aiming mechanism.

A number of cameras have been sent to Central

Queensland CWM and it is expected that each of our areas will end up with their own. Members can contact Bob Pardon or Owen McIntyre for more information.

The following are a selection of trail camera photos from Stewarddale and Central Qld:



Gympie Dog Project

Located just south of Gympie this new project provides SE Qld members access to an activity within easy reach of Brisbane. This scenic, high rainfall, hilly country backs onto a national park. The property is a mixed cattle /macadamia nut farm and has been troubled by stock losses from wild dogs which are suspected to be coming from the adjoining bush land. We have conducted 3 trips to this point including the initial property survey and reconnaissance to discover the probable dog routes and habits. The major focus has been setting up stake out hides near animal carcasses. This work has produced one dog (pictured) to this point from an early morning session.



Dog taken by John Bayliss at the Gympie project

The dogs are proving to be a challenging and elusive quarry. The property owner reports that they move through the property at intervals on a likely circuit through the area. Visits to the property can be conducted both over weekends and during the week. There are some great views to be had from the flat elevated camping area that allows walking access to various stake out positions. Interested members should contact me on 0402 424 42.

Damien Ferguson
Central Queensland

Report

We have only been to Avocet a couple of times this year as it has been too wet. The grass is like we have never seen before. Never-the-less on the last trip we saw quite a lot of dog and pig sign. To achieve results in these conditions will require the hard yards of effort and strategy.



Rod Costin with a pig previously shot at Avocet

We have just received our new trail cameras which have been donated by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). These cameras will be a great tool to gather intelligence in the field.



Trail camera photo of a dog looking at a cat caller tied to a tree at Avocet

We've had some new members shoot their targets and get accredited so more feet on the ground will be good. We have a Dingo trip coming up in June so members are encouraged to attend. Until then, safe and happy hunting.

Rod Costin

Queensland Pest Animal Symposium

On the 3rd to the 5th of August delegates from CWM will be attending the 2010 Queensland Pest Animal Symposium. This is held every two years with different research bodies along with both the Government (EPA, NRM DERM and DEED) and private sector groups presenting papers on feral control and research. Papers are based on areas that are of concern in the current climate. This is a great opportunity to pick up information on new control measures and see who is doing what in the world of feral animal control.

At this symposium, some of our projects will be showcased by their property managers. This will increase people's awareness of our organisation and may open up other projects that we can help with in the future.

Three members of the CWM management committee have been on the organising committee of the Symposium. This has meant they have had to give up a weekday afternoon per month for meetings. I would like to thank them for their time and dedication to this.

Mark Woods

For Sale

Projectiles for sale - 178 x Hornaby 44 cal 240gn, .430 FMJ, \$50 ono.

Contact Ken Payne 32889886 or 0400828690

HID Conversion Kit for Lightforce Handheld Spotlight

HID (High Intensity Discharge) light sources are becoming popular because they produce more light for a given level of power consumption than ordinary tungsten and tungsten-halogen bulbs. Recently, CWM member and Rebel Gun Works employee, Tim Moule located a HID conversion kit for a lightforce hand held spot light on eBay and had a go at assembling it.



HID bulb and ballast

Assembly required simple hand tools and a drill (and a 3mm drill bit). The steps are:

1. Drill to remove the rivet that retains the original aluminium bulb holder, and cut two wires to completely remove the aluminium bulb holder
2. Drill a hole on the back of the spotlight arm for mounting the HID ballast
3. Fit the HID bulb in the spotlight arm
4. Connect the HID ballast to the two wires from the spotlight on/off switch
5. Plug in the ballast and bulb connectors, and attached the ballast onto the back of spotlight arm by using the glue supplied.

Tim said the assembly was pretty straight forward except for step 2. He used 2 screws

instead of 1 screw and epoxy glue rather than the supplied super glue.



Ballast fitted to spotlight

As for the results, Tim agrees with suppliers claim that the light output is double or more than the standard bulbs. "For spotlighting it's brilliant and a number of us are so impressed that we will be doing more conversions". Tim says that the eBay seller (AE International Trading) was very helpful and quick to respond to questions. The eBay seller says he has been selling these HID conversion kits for over a year, and the feedback from customers had been excellent. He claims the current draw of the 35W HID kit is around 3.7Amp, and the amount of light output is almost three times the original Lightforce (75W) bulb. Colour temperature is 5000K, i.e. almost pure white. The kit weights less than 220g.

We contacted the Lightforce headquarters in Adelaide. They said that a HID conversion kit was on their list of future products but they could not say when it would be available.

Rebel Gun Works (ask for Tim on 3391 6744) will be supplying these kits and also the motor vehicle spotlight HID kits. More information can be found in the AE International eBay Ad. : <http://cgi.ebay.com.au/HID-KIT->

[LIGHTFORCE-SL240-170-140-HANDHELD-SPOTLIGHT-
/170401427612?cmd=ViewItem
&pt=AU_Hunting&hash=item27
acb7709c](http://LIGHTFORCE-SL240-170-140-HANDHELD-SPOTLIGHT-/170401427612?cmd=ViewItem&pt=AU_Hunting&hash=item27acb7709c)

SSAA-ADA Ripley Challenge

Each year, on the last Sunday of July, there has been a challenge shoot at Ripley Rifle Range between SSAA and the Australian Deer Association. It is a great fun day and you will get to shoot from a range of distance from 50 yards at a fox to 300 yards at a full sized fallow deer. The minimum calibre for men is 243win and for ladies and juniors is .223rem.

This year the practice and sight-in day has been organised on the Saturday. This will work in with the normal range shooting.

Everyone is encouraged to camp over on the Saturday night. The range has excellent kitchen facilities and it is a good social night that gives you the opportunity to share hunting stories and tips with each other.

Over the last few years the SSAA numbers have been low as it has not been promoted very well. As a consequence we have been getting our butts flogged. So come on you hunters out there, this is the perfect chance to get some practice in as well as help us outshoot the ADA Hunters. A set of rules are available from the Ripley Range.

If you have any other questions please give me a call on 0438 098 469 after hours - Mark Woods.

Bush Ticks

Ticks are a potential health risk for hunters and there is some evidence that this year's high rainfall has brought them out in larger numbers.

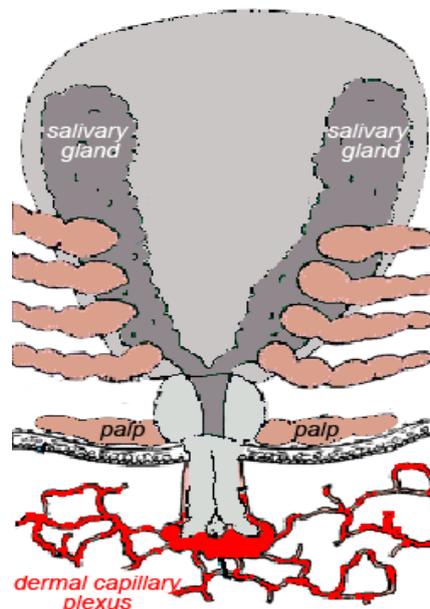
There are four main species of ticks of veterinary/human importance in Queensland. The cattle tick (*Boophilus microplus*) that mainly parasites cattle, buffalo and deer and is a minor worry to some domestic animals. The brown dog tick (*Rhipicephalus sanguineus*) native to East Asia, finds hosts in marsupials, cattle, dogs and also humans. The bush ticks (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*), also introduced, is primarily associated with wild animals and cattle but also bites humans. The paralysis tick (*Ixodes holocyclus*), associated with wetter vegetated habitats and typically hosted by native fauna, is best distinguished by the brown first and fourth pairs of legs, while the middle two are pale.



The paralysis tick *Ixodes holocyclus* before and after feeding.
Source: *Wikipedia*, Bjørn Christian Tørrissen

Ticks reproduce according to temperature and humidity, with highest fertility being during the warm wet months. After larva and nymph stages (also requiring hosts) adult numbers rise from July to December often associated with wet spells. They have a predominantly coastal distribution in Qld.

Ticks transmit several diseases of veterinary significance including cattle tick fever, which is produced by parasites that live in the blood. Ticks can even cause anaemia when animals are exposed to very high parasite loads. But probably the impact that we are most aware of, is the effect of the neurotoxin that is released by the paralysis tick. The toxin is constantly released in the saliva of the attached tick, which can cause paralysis, severe illness and even death.



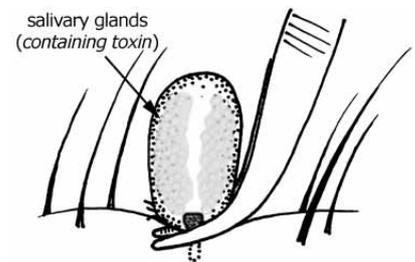
The tick's feeding process.
Source: *Wikipedia*

It appears that native and feral animals in the wild develop immunity to the toxin due to regular exposure. Domestic pets that are unexposed to ticks can fall ill to the toxin requiring veterinary treatment, which could be very costly due to the care involved and the price of the antiserum. A word of advice here, if tick poisoning is suspected don't delay seeking veterinary attention for your pet.

In humans the neurotoxic effect of the paralysis tick is identical to animals but the disease is

uncommon as ticks are usually found and removed during the early stages. Ticks also carry significant human diseases including Lyme Disease and spotted fevers. Lyme Disease has not been confirmed in Australia. The Queensland Tick Typhus characterised by a rash, pains and fever is the variety of spotted fever present in North-eastern Australia.

Insect repellents and tucking in clothes may prevent tick bites, but the best thing to do when finding a tick attached seems to be to remove it ASAP.



Removing the tick
Source: *Wikipedia*

The recommended procedure is to use tweezers or similar to grasp the tick near the mouth parts, as close to skin as possible, and then pull gently while avoiding squeezing the body of the tick. We have removed lots of ticks from our bodies using a tick-twister that we found at the local vet. Shaped like a jimmy-bar it allows a good grip and easy removal. It is generally recommended not to use chemicals or matches to remove them. After removal disinfect the bite with soap and water or alcohol, and record the date and location of the tick bite, which would be valuable information when you contact your health care provider if a rash or flu-like symptoms appear - Dr. Louisa Poutsma and Francisco Bravo

The outdoors and one clear risk –The SUN

These days when hunting or just going into the outdoors, we go to great lengths to anticipate risks and take action to reduce or eliminate those risks. We carry; first aid kits, snake bite kits, mosquito repellent, two way radios, high vis orange clothing, survival kits, water, spare food.

But what about protecting ourselves from the sun, or more specifically, ultraviolet radiation and reduce our risk of skin cancer.

Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Each year there are around 1600 deaths from melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer.

The majority of skin cancers can be prevented by;

- limiting your exposure to UV radiation from the sun.
- seeking shade when outdoors.
- wearing sun protective clothing.
- wearing a sun protective hat.
- wearing sunglasses.
- wearing sunscreen.

Wear sunglasses

While we as hunters do tend to seek shade, wear sun protective clothing and a hat for example, sunglasses should also be considered as basic sun protection gear.

Wearing sunglasses can

substantially protect the eye against both short term and long term exposure to ultraviolet radiation UVR. Long term UVR exposure can cause the surface of the eye to degenerate. Cancer on the eye surface and eyelid are strongly linked to UVR exposure.

When purchasing sunglasses, choose:

- sunglass lenses that meet the Australian Standard (AS/NZS 1067: 2003)
- sunglass lenses with an Eye Protection Factor (EPF) rating of either 9 or 10
- sunglass lenses that eliminate UVR, decrease visible light to a comfortable level and allow adequate vision
- frames that fit closely to your face and minimise the amount of UVR entering your eyes (e.g. thicker frames, curved lenses or a wrap-around style).



Choose sunglasses with an Eye Protection Factor (EPF) rating of either 9 or 10 and that meet (AS/NZS 1067: 2003)

Practical Advice

EPF is a measure of the protection provided by sunglasses and other eyewear. EPF has a number scale from 1 to 10 which indicates how well a sunglass lens blocks UVR. Sunglasses with an EPF rating of 9 or 10 transmit almost no UVR.

All sunglasses sold in Australia

must be labelled to indicate which AS/NZS 1067:2003 category they comply with. This provides consumers with the necessary information to select the correct sunglasses. To find out more see:

Queensland Health: http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/SkinHealth/SunSafety/sunglasses_ap.asp

Cancer Council Queensland:
<http://www.cancerqld.org.au>

Article by Pete Dobson

Hunting Tip

GPS Tip

If your GPS has a Man Over Board (MOB) facility, here is a good way to take advantage of it.

If you are hunting from a vehicle and decide to go for a walk, or mark a point that you want to return to shortly, but do not need to keep the location permanently, use the MOB facility to mark the position, go for the walk and then go to MOB to return.

GPS units will not allow you to reuse a waypoint name (without a lot of editing), but the MOB creates a temporary waypoint that will be edited automatically the next time you use MOB, using only a minimal amount of keystrokes

Geoff Sloman

North Queensland Report

We have been quiet in the Townsville area over the last few months.

Proposed visits to the Collinsville project have been postponed after the recent cyclone caused extensive damage to the property. Phone communications were out for several weeks. The river through the property rose from the usual level of a few centimetres to 2.5m then peaked at 16.5m a few hours later and was not crossable for a few weeks except in the 35 tonne dump truck on site. There was only minor damage to buildings but a helicopter survey of the boundary fences revealed 290 fallen trees in 90 km of fencing, and then there are the internal fences and many kilometres of tracks to also be repaired. Cattle have taken advantage of the broken fences and the whole property will have to be mustered, cattle drafted and put back in their correct paddocks before the property can return to normal.

We should be able to go out again for our next scheduled trip in July, but will only be a small team so as not to interrupt any reconstruction still in progress.

Hughenden also has had its problems, still wet after the same cyclone, access roads were closed. The Easter trip was cancelled with a threat of wet weather in the area. This proved to be a good idea as the property had 75mm rain overnight on Easter Monday and no one could move for 3 days.

The team from the postponed Collinsville trip was diverted to Hughenden, with one good size pig taken a dog seen too briefly to get him.

Welcome to the new members in the Mackay area. Several new members have recently completed their accreditation and several more will be doing the course in the near future.

On a lighter note, the daughter of one of our members wanted an unusual venue for her

birthday party - the rifle range. With help from the club and many members, it was great success. 12 juniors, guests and family, from 15 to 17 years old were given a safety briefing before going onto the range to be supervised one on one with an experienced club member. All enjoyed themselves greatly and handled a new sport with ease. Thanks to all those members of CWM who helped on the day to make it the success it was.

A new project in the Townsville area is due to start this month. Target species will be mainly pigs and dogs and also cats and foxes if they are seen. Because of the frequency of visits of this project, a roster system is in place to give all members a chance to go. Let me know if you can come along

Until next time, keep those pest animals in your sights

Geoff Sloman
Nth Qld Co-ordinator and
Townsville Training Officer

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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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Fax: (07) 5533 9079
Emails: btranspt@bigpond.net.au

Creek Marine

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Fax: 3393 0711
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www.qldgunexchange.com.au

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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
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