



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) NEWS

June 2012 Edition

Message from the Committee Chairman

We have some exciting news this period. Our major state government project partner has given us an excellent report in the end of contract review process. In our discussions they said that, based on the skill, effectiveness and professionalism that CWM has demonstrated over the past 5 years on the 3 properties that we service they would like to significantly expand the work we do together. The result of this will likely be an additional 5 to 8 new project properties in our next contract. These properties are located in different parts of Queensland and include some very interesting island locations.

This is a significant achievement for CWM and a testament to the hard work of our members.

The big issue will be our ability to service these projects. Realistically we will need to double our current membership size. This means that we all

need to think about attracting and nurturing new members to become active on CWM projects. At the recent committee workshop we all agreed that inviting new members to activities and using a "buddy" system to build their confidence and skills is vitally important. Expanding our active membership base is every ones responsibility so please step forward and lend a hand and bring along friends and contacts who might like our activities.

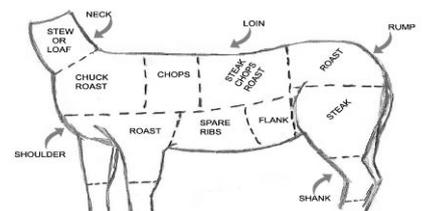
We are holding a family day at the Ripley Range in southern region at the end of June. This will focus on having some fun with the kids and families and also building relationships with a group of people from Agforce who said that will be attending.

Another area of big demand is the strip between the Sunshine Coast and Bundaberg. We are getting requests from landowners to help reduce feral pigs, dogs and cat numbers. We need members who can assist on some of these projects.

Damien Ferguson
Committee Chairman
Mobile - 0402 424 424
damien.ferguson@hotmail.com

SEQ Training weekend - Field Dressing of Game

If you are one of the people that has thought about utilizing the meat from the animals that you shoot but haven't because you were not sure how to go about it well what a weekend we have planned for you at the June training weekend! To get the most out of it you will need to be there all day Saturday and Sunday morning. Apart from our normal activities we will be doing a three part Field Dressing and Butchering demonstration of wild game.



It will be conducted with two segments on Saturday and the final segment to be completed on Sunday morning.

Section 1

- Introduction
- Benefits and risks
- OH&S
- Animal Choice
- Animal Recovery
- Choice of equipment and its care and maintenance.

Section 2

- Hygiene and sanitation
- Talk on dispatching and bleeding of the animal
- Evisceration of the animal (Gutting)
- Skin on Skin off
- Carcass storage and care
- Practical run of dispatching and bleeding of the animal
- Evisceration of the animal (Gutting)
- Practical Skin on Skin off
- Carcass storage and care

Section 3

- Description of the various cuts that can be taken from the animal
- Carcass breakdown
- The uses of the many cuts of meat

Your presenter is a fully qualified butcher who has worked in wild game processing facilities as well as, operating as a butcher in rural Queensland for the last 17 years. Additionally, he is a professional, licensed and accredited, macropod and wild game harvester for both human consumption and pet food for the last 14 years.



A general discussion about knives, steels and stones will be included so please bring along your favorite knives steels and stones to see all their uses and limitations.

To complement this discussion George Bernat from Sharpe Edge will be there, so don't forget to bring your wallet (efpos might not work out there so it is recommended you bring cash). George supplies the food processing industry you will find considerable savings.

There will still be some shooting activities on Saturday and on Sunday in addition to the last segment on the Field Dressing and Butchering demo there will be a project update from the Committee.

Please see the training day schedule for the other activities that will be held in between each section.

SE Queensland Report

The regular Stewartdale monthly feral control program has been attended by a mix of new CWM members and regular attendees.

Although fox sightings have reduced recently we have seen pigs under spotlight for the first time. Considerable effort has gone into walking the property. Fresh pig sign was found however they seem to be a step ahead of us at the moment.

We have commenced a trial in collaboration with the SSAA United Field and Retrieving and their gun dogs. This involved a combined walk with us on the Sunday morning of the feral

control program. The aim was to flush out ferals in the heavily grassed, gully system of the Stewartdale property. Again fresh pig sign was found but no other action. This will be an on-going trial throughout this year. United Field and Retrieving will bring different dogs along on each occasion.



Gundogs are trained to hunt and retrieve

The regular Stewartdale monthly feral control activity includes camping overnight Saturday afternoon walk, night spotlight session, and Sunday morning walk. Find out more go to:

<http://cwm.ssaqld.org.au/projects/project-stewartdale.html>

This is great way to get familiar with CWM and meet fellow members.

The up-coming Southern training weekend will be a great program. All members should try to get there on 16th – 17th June at Stewartdale.

Owen McIntyre – Sthn Qld Co-ordinator, Stewartdale Project and Accreditation Officer

Central Eastern Queensland Report

The Calliope project was held on the last week in April. This meant that things were finally starting to cool down making the walking quite comfortable. There were six CWM members present at the project. One travelled from the Sunshine coast, two from Proserpine, one from Yeppoon. There were two locals, so we had a mixed lot.



A total of 5 pigs were taken

Due to cut backs in funding, there was no free feeding like the previous to the trip. This reduced the numbers of pigs recorded on the cameras. Also it's thought that the combination of the Easter long weekend (i.e. lots of tourists driving through the park) and the prevalence of leaches scared the pigs deeper into the forest.

During the week a lot of miles were covered both on foot and four wheels. From one end of the property to the other and everywhere in between we tried to discover the location of the pigs.

Five traps were set during the week, with little or no activity shown around them, though 1 boar was caught. A total of 5 pigs were taken with only fleeting glances of 4 others that just moved too quickly into the forest.

This trip was quite different from the last project in that the pigs shot and the ones seen were solitary animals. Last trip, the pigs shot and seen were much more in groups.

A great and enjoyable trip was had by all who attended.

Greg De Koning

North Queensland Report

Townsville report

In addition to the ongoing Townsville Pig Project there are several new and exciting projects in the process of being organized and finalised.

Townsville Pig Project is ongoing and we are currently liaising with the Council Rangers concerning review and re-commencement of the project in June. We would like to try to achieve field activity with this project twice a week when it is up and running again. So there will be plenty of opportunities for participation.

Ross River Pig Project is a new project adjacent to the existing Townsville Pig Project. After an initial assessment we are now undertaking a survey to establish how best to deal with the area bearing in mind that it has a common boundary with the existing Townsville Pig Project.

Kennedy Pig Project is also new for what is currently a reasonably small area but we may be able to expand into adjacent areas. This will be subject to an assessment at the end of May to establish how best to deal with the area. This project is mid way between Cairns and Townsville and will

be within easy reach of members who live North of Townsville.

Government Agency - We have had discussions with our major CWM government partner concerning activities in properties adjacent to Townsville and in North Queensland in general. We are now awaiting the completion of their Pest Control Plan at the end of June, to enable us to have further discussions on what role CWM can play.

Townsville Dog Project - We are awaiting further discussions on a potential dog project in a camping area north of Townsville.

Several of us attended the Pest Smart road show organized by the Invasive Animals CRC held in Townsville in May. This was a great opportunity to learn about the latest pest control techniques and meet with rangers and landowners who may have a need for our services and generally let people know of our existence.

We continue to seek new members and have recently gained five new members who are in various stages of finalising their accreditation. We plan to hold an Accreditation Day in the Bowen area later this month to cater for those who live south of Townsville.

We also have a meeting planned north of Townsville in the Ingham area at the end of May to keep in touch with members in that general area.

Everyone is welcome to the Range Days at the SSAA Thuringowa Range at 1530hrs on the Saturday before the first

Sunday in the Month. We look forward to seeing you to take part in a practical shoot to challenge your skills, or just do some general range practice.

Randle Irvin 0411040010

Trip Report - Blackwater Cat & Dog Project

While not on the calendar of events, this trip provided an opportunity to visit this property prior to 1080 baiting program. The fact there were no researchers at the property allowed us to organise an "at short notice" trip.



Home away from home - Blackwater project

Upon arrival at the camp, we had a project induction with all paperwork completed and risk assessment discussed. The use of personal protective equipment (PPE) was encouraged and a daily pre-briefing was conducted with any issues discussed along with plans for the day. These plans were written on an information board along with contact details (mobile and UHF) so we could be contacted if required.

The weather was fine throughout the entire trip. Temperatures dropped down to around 18oC at night which made spotlighting a bit cool and the day got to a max of 30oC.



Hi Ho, Hi Ho a hunting we will go

Trapping at various locations around the park saw the temporary incarceration of a native rat (released with no injury) and a cane toad. Some traps were sprung but no bait was taken. Attractants used was fish oil, raw chicken strips and tinned sardines.

Day hunting detected one (1) black dog on the fence-line to the neighbours. He took off when the quad came level and not having permission on the neighbouring property, he got away.



I know they're around here somewhere.

Spotlighting gave the best returns with a tally of four (4) cats and fifteen (15) rabbits. Twelve rabbits were shot using both shotgun and .22 RF. While the shotguns with No. 4 were effective, in hindsight a .223" (or similar) would have had an edge on most shots with the cats.

Pig sign while evident, were not in great numbers or very

recent. Long grass hindered hunting in most areas so most species were taken alongside the road edge.

Driving around the property was pretty good as the grader has been doing a lot of work. It would be risky taking a conventional 4WD into some of these areas mainly because of the width and extreme approach and departure in the gullies. We used a Kawasaki Teryx during the day and for spotlighting and were kindly offered the use of the quad bike during the day.

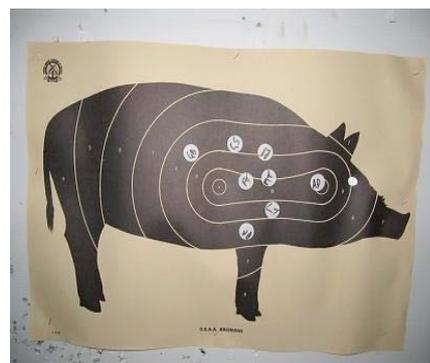
We had a great time and were able to develop skills in navigation and leadership. We have become more familiar with the property and the habits of the targeted species.

Paul Thompson

Mackay Report

Other news, in addition to Paul's trip report above includes:

We had a night practice using a spotlight and centrefires on lever action silhouette targets and a LED torch on rimfire metallic silhouettes. Throw in a reload during the course of fire and a timer and it was a good event. Got the pulse racing a bit and added some realism.



Night spotlighting practice target.

We are running another accreditation course on Saturday 26th May at the Mackay SSAA Range.

We are also working on having another Collinsville Project trip. If anyone is interested they can get in touch with me. The trip will most likely be Aug/Sept and up to a week in duration but no firm dates yet.

Graham Blines

Burbank Fox Project

Monitoring fox activity at this southern Brisbane peri-urban area has continued with the placement of members' trail cameras in a variety of locations. Fox activity was located in a particular area and a cage trap was placed adjacent to the area identified.



The trap was not set initially and pre-feeding undertaken for two weeks. The trap was then set with a variety of baits, including a fox lure.



The property owner had to place baits after dark due to

predation by crows. A trail camera identified a fox adjacent to the trap 2 days later.



4 days later the camera identified the fox investigating the trap with subsequent capture. Trail camera monitoring continues to determine if foxes are still present.

Bob Michael

A CWM member's reflection on "enjoyments of the bush"

One of the main things I like about hunting is when you are out in the bush you find that by looking for feral animals you really get to see what is around you.



The slightest movement attracts your attention and you really get to see what the bush has to offer from sunsets to Echidnas and bower bird nests.



Once we were standing under a young wedge tail eagle in its nest watching him stretching his wings feeling the breeze - just magical.



The views from the camping spots can be very relaxing. The only noise is the wildlife and the sounds we make ourselves.

The costs are minimal and most landowner owners welcome you for the help that you can offer. If you are keen to help out further you can get to experience life on a farm from fencing to putting the cattle through their yards or even assisting with scientific conservation work.

Ken Payne

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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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Upcoming Activity Dates –2012

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.

June			
9 th – 16 th	Gladstone Pig Project	Central	Greg de Koning
16 th – 17 th	Southern Training Weekend	Southern	Brett Marais
16 th – 17 th	Avocet: Emerald	Central	Brad Hughes
July			
13 th – 20 th	Calliope Pig Project	Central	Greg de Koning
21 st – 22 nd	Stewartdale – Ripley	Southern	Owen McIntyre
21 st – 22 nd	Blackwater Cat & Dog Project	Central	Rod Costin
August			
11 th – 18 th	Gladstone Pig Project	Central	Greg de Koning
18 th – 19 th	Stewartdale – Ripley	Southern	Owen McIntyre
18 th – 19 th	Avocet: Emerald	Central	Brad Hughes
TBC	Collinsville	Northern	Graham Blines
September			
All Month	Gympie Wild Dog Project	Southern	Damien Ferguson
1 st – 7 th	Calliope Pig Project	Central	Greg de Koning
15 th – 16 th	Southern Training Weekend	Southern	Brett Marais
15 th – 16 th	Blackwater Cat & Dog Project	Central	Rod Costin
October			
All Month	Gympie Wild Dog Project	Southern	Damien Ferguson
TBC	Hughenden	Northern	Randle Irvin
13 th – 20 th	Gladstone Pig Project	Central	Greg de Koning
13 th – 14 th	Blackwater Cat & Dog Project	Central	Rod Costin
20 th – 21 st	Stewartdale – Ripley	Southern	Owen McIntyre
November 2011			
All Month	Gympie Wild Dog Project	Southern	Damien Ferguson
TBC	Townsville Project	Northern	Randle Irvin
TBC	Collinsville	Northern	Graham Blines
10 th – 11 th	Avocet: Emerald	Central	Brad Hughes
17 th – 18 th	Southern Training Weekend	Southern	Brett Marais
23 rd – 30 th	Calliope Pig Project	Central	Greg de Koning
December			
1 st – 8 th	Gladstone Pig Project	Central	Greg de Koning
8 th – 9 th	Avocet: Emerald	Central	Brad Hughes
15 th – 16 th	Stewartdale – Ripley	Southern	Owen McIntyre
TBC	Avocet: Emerald	Central	Brad Hughes

For both the new Townsville project and the existing Collinsville project either contact the relevant project leader or keep a close eye on the email traffic for trip dates as they will be at short notice at this stage

Project Target Species

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

Collinsville - Primary – Pigs

Gympie – Primary – Wild Dogs. Secondary – Feral Pigs, Foxes, Feral Cats and European Hares

Stewartdale - Primary - Hares, Foxes, Cats, Dogs. Secondary – Pigs

Townsville – Primary – Pigs