



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 2015

Message from the CWM President

Feral animals maim and kill countless millions of native animals every day. Feral cats alone are considered to account for some 75 million native animals every night as per this article from the Australian Wildlife Conservancy - [AWC & feral cats](#).

Then there are foxes, wild dogs and feral pigs consuming their fair share of our native and livestock animals. The environmental destruction that they cause hasn't been measured as yet and most would agree that it would be significant.

However, even though feral pests are massively destructive we have an absolute obligation to ensure that they're dispatched humanely at all times.

Humane destruction under Australian welfare codes of practice in relation to pest animal control is "a desire to avoid the infliction of

unnecessary pain upon wild animals (Gillespie 2003). As such, when animals are to be legitimately killed, it must be done in a way that causes minimum pain and reduces the time to death wherever possible."

(Sharp & Saunders - A model for assessing the relative humaneness of pest animal control methods. Second edition June 2011)

Skilled shooters & hunters that have high levels of marksmanship deliver the most humane dispatch of all the available forms of control.

For more info on the codes of practice and how all the different forms of feral animal control stack up in terms of animal welfare see - [Animal-welfare/humane-codes](#)

Remember that animal welfare is not to be confused with the views of the extreme animal rights/liberation groups. Sadly, even the once respected RSPCA is heading down the extreme path in a chase to the bottom for the donations that

other extreme animal rights groups are securing.

It is critical that everyone's marksmanship skills are not just maintained but also improved. **Training** weekends and range days are coming up in your region. Make sure you get along to improve your skills, meet other CWM members and to hear about what projects you can be part of. And bring along someone new.

Keep an eye on our **projects calendar** as some dates have recently changed - [2015 CWM Calendar](#)

Properties for chainsaw training required.

As part of our chainsaw accreditation we need to find properties where we can 'practice' on 18 - 30 trees. Ie they will be cut down and can be cut up for fire wood etc. Please call me if you know of any properties..

Damien Ferguson

President

Mobile - 0402 424 424

damien.ferguson@hotmail.com

Everyone's Environment Grant

Our last newsletter featured an article on our work with a cluster of Qld nature refuge properties which is being supported by an Everyone's Environment grant from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.

It appears that our EE grant sponsored work is having a real impact and over the last few project visits we have noticed a significant lack of pest animals on the ground. We wrote to the property owners proposing a break in activities so that the owners can monitor pest animal activity levels. Here's what one property owner wrote back and said:

"It's quite clear your efforts have been successful. A few missed animals is inevitable especially as your time is so limited, and it's kind of nice that you can keep coming back for them when time and energy allow. I see animals and old sign from time to time but not the extensive damage to the delicate ecosystem that we were witnessing when you began the project. Thank you for helping us to conserve our Nature refuges and the buffer zone properties in such a pragmatic and valued way. It's a great model for future feral animal control everywhere, and I am convinced there is no better way than this two-pronged approach between land owners and trained ...marksmen. You have made all the difference. Thank you."

South East Queensland Report

Hello to everyone from SEQ.

The contractors who are doing the tree planting at SSAA's 'Stewartdale' Koala nature refuge are literally ploughing ahead with their work and are keeping us apprised of any feral animal sightings/sign.



Come along to the **June 13-14 South East training weekend** and get connected with some great training activities and meet some fellow CWM members. Looking forward to seeing you then.

Owen McIntyre
Southern Qld Coordinator
Phone: 0417 615 505



Whitsunday/Bowen Report

The weather has turned cool now which is a lovely change from the heat earlier of this year.

Three Bowen members attended the CWM team leaders course at SSAA Mackay range where a lot of info was exchanged and members were brought up to speed with procedures and paperwork, a good weekend.

Bowen SSAA range hosted a CWM accreditation course on 16 May with approx. 20 members attending. We are getting a few numbers now and some who take the time are getting work via Farmer Assist.

A couple of pic's below of the new donga at the range that I promised last newsletter.

Peter Hannah



My first trip as a Trip Leader

This trip had two firsts for me. First commencement of the new Kilcummin Project and my first trip as Trip Leader.

Four members from the Mackay branch met at the gates to the property at 10am for our induction with the local ranger. Once the formalities were conducted, we set up camp while the property was being made secure and closed. In our pre trip communication we roughly worked out who was bringing what gear so we didn't double up and overload our cars, as we all usually do.

Being a new project, our first task was to assess the property and its tracks, and to gauge some of the wildlife movements through the property. The first thing we noticed was the height of the grass, which was higher than the land cruisers bonnet.



Our first walk was from the middle of the property to the boundary fence following the creek. No fresh sign of pigs or pig activity were seen. Supplied fermented grain was placed in feed points and one trap was set, with two cameras set up on feed points. The only visitor who smiled for the camera, was a wild dog who tried the grain molasses mix and then rolled in it.

Next day an early morning start saw us driving along the property boundaries. A very large boar was spotted. As we were closing the gap the pig crossed the fence headed into the crop and then into long grass and we lost sight of him.



Leader rewarding and smooth sailing. There is a bit of work involved but well worth doing, I would encourage anyone thinking of giving Trip Leading a go, as you are not alone, the CWM team will be there to assist you.

Mick Horvath

Mackay Report

Since our last Newsletter the Kilcummin Project has become a reality with the first two trips successfully completed in April and May. The scoping arrangements for two projects in the Nebo area are yet to be finalised but we remain hopeful their commencement may not be too far away. The Belyando Project is yet to commence, however it is now ready to go and it is anticipated that the first trip may be undertaken around Aug/Sept this year.

We then split up, two of the team pursued the lone boar into the neighbouring property while the other two commenced a walk from the fence along the south side of the creek in the property to the dam.

We came across a mob of approximately 10 pigs. Two pigs were dispatched and the rest quickly vanished into the long grass with no chance of a follow up shot.

After a bit more exploring we commenced a walk on the northern side of the creek. Lots of old sign but no pigs were seen. After lunch we again split up with two walking the edge of a crop and two of us dam sitting. One young cat made the mistake of visiting us at the dam.

As the light was fading we headed off from the dam to pick up the other two. As soon as we pulled up at the meeting point a mob of pigs ran straight past the two as they were walking out of the crop. The roar of the shotgun saw one big sow down and the rest made it into the long grass.

Considering the hunting conditions with the long grass and it being unfamiliar territory we managed 3 pigs and a cat, and sighted around another 10 pigs in the 3 days we were there.

Now we have some idea of how the wildlife are running through the property the next trip should produce better results.

I would just like to thank Graham, Bob & Steve for making my first project as Trip

The Collinsville Project is being organised to run between 20th and 30th July. Expressions of interest to participate should be sent to Ian at it.radley@bigpond.com or give Ian (0438 899 903) or myself a call.

Our next CWN Accreditation and Training Day is scheduled for Saturday 1st August at the SSAA George Range, Mackay, commencing at 8.00am

Since the Trip Leader training course was undertaken here in Mackay in March, a couple of participants have stepped forward to assist which has been greatly appreciated. Anyone wanting to get more involved, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

Graham Blines
0417 762 161

Make your own Garmin GPS maps

For all CWM members who have a Garmin GPS and have a little computer knowledge here is a way to make your own GPS maps.



BaseCamp™

Basecamp must be installed first as a free support program for your Garmin GPS. Installing Garmin Basecamp support software on your home computer or laptop is a good way of saving your tracks and waypoints or uploading other members saved projects to you GPS prior to heading out on an unfamiliar/new project. It's a free download from <http://www8.garmin.com/support/mappingsw.jsp>

GPS Maps.

It is recommended that you always use Garmin map software but if you do not wish to purchase and install Garmin map there are a number of options available from Shonkymaps for free. Please remember that you use this software at your own risk.

First, you will require Garmin Mapsource software installed on your computer first. See the Garmin link above for download and a zip extraction program on your computer to open the file. Installing Map Source looks for Basecamp and gives you a free licensed version.

Then installing Shonky maps on your computer will automatically pre load its maps

into both programs. Please see <http://shonkylogic.net/shonkymaps/download.html> for a selection of ways to go about getting them. (Please read the conditions of use and instructions)

Once you have Garmin Basecamp, Mapsource & Shonky maps set up open Basecamp, select maps at the top menu bar & click on Shonky Full Topo. You should now see quite a bit of detail when you zoom in on an area.

So far so good. Connect your GPS to your computer, select Maps/Install Maps and select your GPS from the field then select the map/maps you want to upload to your GPS and upload. Once uploading is complete you will still have to select the map to be able to see it from your GPS via setting menu/map.

Now you should be away with more detail on your GPS than you had before.



Demonstration output .pdf file

Saving Tracks & Waypoints



Uploading your saved tracks & waypoints from your GPS to Basecamp:

- Open Basecamp on your computer and connect your GPS.
- You should see your GPS model pop up in the top left area of your screen in the library window under "data received from".
- Data can be viewed, copied, pasted, and exported as required to your existing "my collection" or elsewhere. It is recommended that you make a new folder under My Collection to store your data in. (A separate folder for each area is recommended)
- Once you have the file saved you can send it to other people who have Basecamp/Mapsource installed on their computer.
- Use File/Import into my collection, selection the source where you have the file saved.

Printing your own maps

- You can also open saved tracks/waypoints/projects etc. in Mapsource or Basecamp and print your own custom maps for the area you are intending to visit with UTM grids.

Adding topography

By now you should be getting sick of all this but if it's working for you there is another high definition selection of maps you can import into Basecamp giving even more feel to your project.

Tris Forster has kindly converted available government .dat files to KMZ map overlays that can be used in basecamp and other software. Downloads are free for individual use from <http://natmap-cdn.shoddynet.org>

Try one to get the feel for it and see what it looks like but be careful uploading the finished result to your GPS with a small screen it is a bit too much detail.

Download more .KMZ files and you can make custom maps for any area in Australia with UTM grids to the scale you require.

Note: These are KMZ raster versions of the Geoscience Australia [NatMap 250K 2008](#) dataset suitable for Google Earth and CustomMap compatible Garmin units. It is released under the [CC BY 3.0 AU](#) licence - please respect it.

Google Earth

Another good free government program just released is Queensland Globe which uses Google earth version 7.02 or latter as switchable overlays in their data base like land title boundary's, free hold, lease hold, of national parks and waterways.

If you have google earth installed just click on this [link and download Qld globe .KML](#)

[file](#) and follow their instructions. Open Google Earth and select your criteria under layers globe.information.qld.gov.au to see different overlays.

Thanks to Randle Irvin for getting me started with Basecamp references.

Ray Ackland, CWM Bowen

First time hunter

Recently I took one of our new members out to my "once in a while" property about 6 hours from Ipswich. Not much in the way of pigs but lots of long grass, rabbits and hares. For me it was a chance to catch up with some property owner friends while enjoying the peaceful times in the bush on 20,000 acres.

Derek had only done range shooting and it was only his second time out hunting but had not been successful on his first trip. I have been hunting for about 40 years and shooting a few bunnies is fun but until I sat back and watched the way that Derek was buzzing I realized I

had become immune to the simple things.

Once I thought about it I started to enjoy myself more just watching the excitement that Derek was having and passing on the knowledge that my father and uncles passed to me many moons ago.

Once Derek got over the initial shakes and settled down the training he has been doing on the silhouette afternoons at Ripley soon had him dropping them with well-placed head shots. After the 4 days we headed home and Derek was looking at what CWM projects he could attend next to continue his leaning.

An important part of the CWM experience is mateship. Derek commented that since joining CWM he has made quite a few new friends and is looking forward to meeting more.

So if you have the chance take a new hunter and mentor them you may find that some of their enjoyment will rub off on you.

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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Or for the indoor range: sales@qir.org.au

Upcoming Activity Dates –2015

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

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