



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 2016

### ***Message from the CWM President***

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#### **Famer Assist and CWM**

We often get questions about Farmer Assist and how it differs from CWM.

Farmer Assist (FA) is a free online system whereby farmers will advertise 'jobs' to help with pest animal control. It is then up to the the hunter/shooters to apply outlining their skills, experience, what type of equipment they will utilise and how often they can attend etc.

The farmer will then go through the applications and decide on which people they want to invite to their property.

All shooters that attend under an FA introduction need to have completed the FA accreditations. Having references certainly helps in securing an invitation.

CWM differs in that we have negotiated agreements with various government agencies, corporations and private land owners to conduct pest animal control activities on their

properties. CWM projects are coordinated to augment other pest animal control activities that are being undertaken on those properties.

Curently there are over 1700 SSAA members registered on FA, but not enough farmers are using the system to cater for the numbers of hunters registered. More marketing is currently underway to improve uptake by farmers.

At CWM we have approx 600 members assisting over 60 properties with their pest animal activities. Some of our projects cover multiple properties in an effort to better control pest animals over a larger area as feral animals ignore fences.

CWM have project leaders who coordinate with our landowner partners in advance of when they require us to undertake control programs on their properties. Dates for this years projects are on our 2016 [calendar page](#).

*CWM needs more members* to properly service the projects on our books. We have not

actively sought out new properties over the last two years. Due to our excellent reputation and results, we are now offered new properties via word of mouth and through our existing government and private land owner partners.

Recently Farmer Assist emailed all the SSAA members who have registered with FA to tell them about CWM and our need for more members.

We welcome all FA members who are looking to come on board and assist with controlling feral animals. CWM requires all members who want to be able to shoot on any of our projects to complete both theory and marksmanship tests. There are many practical topics covered in this training including humane destruction of pest animals and ethics.

CWM members who have completed our accreditations automatically qualify for FA.

Damien Ferguson  
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**Bowen/Whitsundays Report**

Hi all, up in beautiful Bowen/Whitsundays we completed a CWM accreditation course on the 14 April. It was a long day but a few more hunters will join our ranks. Our work on private properties is bubbling along nicely with some work still to be completed around the mid western areas.

The recent rain has made the grass jump out of the ground so our targets have spread far and wide. Maybe the farmer's stock might get a chance to graze without too much competition, I hope so. We have a couple of things on the books, but a little rain now and again has put those on hold. Till next time .....keep your powder dry.  
Peter Hannah



**Cairns/Ravenshoe Report**

Detection Dog Trials

There has been a lot of discussion over the last twelve months regarding the use of detection dogs in feral animal detection. Over the past few months in the Ravenshoe District, Brian has been training three dogs. They are currently at the stage where all three can find, follow and track feral cats. Each dog has its own hi-vis vest and they are on lead lines as they train. Eventually, it would be preferred if the dogs could track any type of feral/native animals or even be trained to track humans when given marker scents.

There are other members of

CWM with dogs who are also participating in this program. It would be great if more people were willing to train dogs for this purpose, but it is not a five minute job. Long term patience is required, but the rewards are great.

For more information on this subject, or if you are interested in becoming part of the dog detection trials, feel free to contact Brian on 0499151873.

Helen Poulos Ravenshoe

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For the uninitiated;  
'If the dogs are being trained or worked around in and around threatened or endangered species, they must have ethics approval to do so and it is a real pain to get as I have been through it twice now.

When working the dogs in the field they must not show any interest in any other animal, bird, lizard or frog. They also can not touch or harm what they are scenting.

You may be working the dogs around areas that use 1080 baits that are specifically designed to be effective on dogs. There is no antidote for 1080. As dogs have the least tolerance to 1080, I would be keen to know what sort of muzzles people are using as I am yet to find one that does not allow them to lick through it. I would be keen to hear your ideas? If anyone is having trouble with their training drop me a line or give me a call'.  
Comment by Mark Woods.

**South East Report**

Stanthorpe Border Project.



sitting at waterholes and shot at least one animal.

On one such evening Dan and Cameron culled a deer each and I shot a pig. Later that night Cameron shot a deer while spotlighting from Dan's Suzuki. Steve shot a deer several kilometres upstream from the camp and two more while spotlighting. All of the deer we shot were along the banks or in the bed of the river, either feeding or taking water. A number were taken at night by spotlighting and the thermal night vision equipment enabled us to detect and despatch deer from an elevated position as they entered the river bed at dusk. Dan shot one of them at a range of about 150m.

The gorges and the high ridges did not produce any results although we did see or hear deer running away, but in the thick vegetation they did not present a clear shot.

The two groups at the northern section of the property had greater success.

In all the three groups took a total of 84 Deer, 8 Goats and 3 Pigs -making a total of 95 feral animals removed. Team leader Keith believed that the shortage of feed and water were a contributing factor to our success.

Ted (Editor)

### ***Townsville Report***

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#### **Burdekin River Wetlands**

By the end of 2015 the number of pigs on the BRWL had been greatly reduced. But after the 2016 wet season the long

Four of us worked the southern end of the property while two other groups worked the northern end. We drove in on Sunday afternoon and set up our home for the week. After lunch we drove around to orientate the newbies to the property and pointed out the geography from a high ridge.

The area and the river were very dry with only a couple of waterholes with any water.

This gave me the idea of staking out the waterholes each evening and early mornings. This strategy proved effective when on the first night we bagged the first deer. Each afternoon, we had people



grass was making them difficult to locate. You had to be lucky to find them on any water hole.

On the first May weekend trip ten hunters only shot two pigs. So our coordinator, Randle, asked for volunteers to place trail cameras around the wetlands in advance of the usual monthly ten day trip so that pig routines could be determined. Then we could hunt by ambush, saving time and energy, whilst being more effective. The other aims of our trip were to shoot pigs and cats and report on cattle and horses. Domenic and I volunteered.

On the first day we set out to place the cameras overlooking pig wallows or diggings or trails leading to them. As we approached the second lake we could see horses through the trees. The road goes beside the lake so we decided to approach it through the forest. As we crested the hill beside the lake we saw pigs of all sizes in the water feeding on the green water weed which floats on the surface. They were not in a hurry but were heading for the land and some of the piglets were looking in our direction.

Once they were on dry land they moved faster, however we didn't want to risk a



ricochet off the water so waited as they moved slowly out of the water. On the count of four we fired. I hit a boar which dropped on the spot. Dom hit a large sow which staggered dropping it with a second shot and a piglet with the third. He proved that he was very good on moving targets. So the trip started well.

While the Burdekin Wetlands had enough rain for good grass growth, this year there was no flooding of the river to fill all the beautiful lakes. The levels were much the same as they were last September. So by the end of this year there will be fewer waterholes for all wildlife. Also on this trip the Eastern River crossing was only axle deep. This should make the pig hunting easier.



When you arrive at the lake you will see at a distance all these black dots in the water. The question you ask yourself is "Are they swans or pigs?" When one of them raises a long neck in the air you know it is a swan. Swans are just one of the many species which inhabit the wetland and this is why it is one of our prime projects.

On the first afternoon we crossed the River and placed a camera on a trail leading to a lake where I have seen most pigs in the past. The only animals we saw there were three cows of a dairy breed.

They must have been house cows left over from when the property was a working station. The next morning we stopped off at a small lake where we had seen a sow emerge the day before from the grass under a fallen tree. The sow escaped again but one of the accompanying piglets was shot. When we returned again a few hours later we found a large goanna with the carcass and he had eaten half of it. There were fresh wallows below the spot so we mounted a camera on a stump.

Our camp was on the escarpment overlooking the largest lake about 100m below. This is beautiful scenery and with a pair of binoculars one can see all that goes on in the valley. All of the usual birdlife is there but one day we saw nine horses which were duly reported. We did notice a large pig which had appeared morning and afternoon at the same spot for two days.

The plan was for Domenic to go wait under a shady tree near where the pig would come to feed. My job was to advise him by radio when the pig arrived. On the call he moved closer to the pig, crawling the last 50m. He shot from about 80m whereupon the pig took off up the bank but expired when it reached the top. There were a couple of surprises. Looking through binoculars from on top of the escarpment by its size we guessed the pig was a boar. But it was an extra large sow

with a piglet. The piglet made its escape. From the top of the escarpment one can see pigs in the long grass through binoculars so you can direct shooters by radio to where the pigs are.

We dispatched five pigs in two days. Hopefully the party which arrived late the day we departed could make use of the information on the trail cameras which we set up.

Bill Burgher, 15 May 2016.

### **General articles, stories, tips**

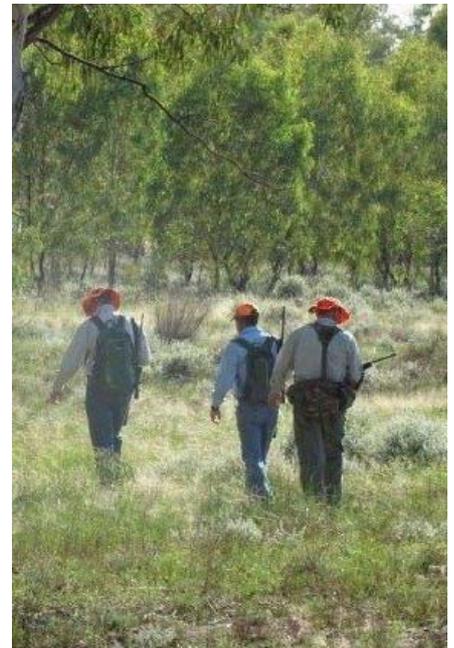
Tips on being selected for a project.

A quick glance of the CWM website Projects Calender reveals a wide variety of projects throughout Queensland. Here are some tips on being selected as an accredited participant.

Get to know your fellow members, project team leaders in particular. A common formula for project team selection is to raise a cohesive team by combining experience with newly accredited membership, coupled with the best available resources for the desired duration. So, attend Skills Development weekends and other CWM activities regularly to learn and get to know people.

Apply for the short duration feral control projects first up. These are a great introduction to the members and equipment selection and what is expected when operating in the bush as a team. Wear your name tag.

At the first opportunity, study the CWM Project Calender and become familiar with the project



logistics descriptions. Identify prospective projects in your region that suit your ability and availability, and then make early applications.

Some projects are booked months in advance. Prepare and equip yourself for your preferred hunting style and capability. Projects vary from rangelands where a 4WD with shooting platform is preferred, to high country and bushland where the ability to walk long distance, climb and clamber may be required and light weight equipment suits. Apply for projects that fit your physical ability and equipment.

Be aware, projects are hard earned valued agreements with stakeholders from the private and public sector with a specified conservation outcome, based largely on the well-respected CWM reputation. You will be selected to perform tasks according to the team leader's directions and CWM Code of Conduct. So, do your background research. Become familiar with team leaders and come appropriately equipped. Apply early and often and we will see

you out there.

John Swift (Trip Leader)

**A good guide to Blister Prevention.**

Peter Finch found this useful reference.  
<http://www.blisterprevention.com.au/>

**Ken Payne story**

Safety equipment that we carry.

On a recent project to Moonie there had been several rain events leading up to the trip. We were aware of several areas that were still a bit damp.

One night, while sitting with the thermal imager on a pig trail, our team received a call from another team spotlighting at the other end of the property. They had been going around one of many damp areas when the ground, softer than they had anticipated, gave way. They had tried unsuccessfully to get themselves out and wisely decided to call for help. It showed the advantages of having a good radio at both ends and teams that had coordinated to monitor key radio channels.

A clear description of where they were was an advantage as we went straight to them. Owen, upon seeing their plight, backed in and using three snatch straps ensured he did not risk getting too close. The next night it was our turn to get bogged but Owen is set up with rescue gear and by using max tracks we made our own way out.

So if you are going out take some basic items, here is an



example of what to bring. At least one good radio to let people know what area you intend to go to and the time you expect to be back. Secondly, have warm clothes with you as it can get very cold while you are waiting. Take water as it is better to be a little hungry rather than thirsty. Each person should also have their own personal headlight with back up batteries for when you have to walk out to check on a downed animal.

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The power of rational argument  
Should animal rights trump human interests?

Our SSAA magazines do a good job informing us of the political debates and arguments around hunting and gun use and control. It is important that we take an interest in these arguments so we can be better informed and put our point of view across to people more effectively. The SSAA suggest that we take a rational and evidence based approach to the issues as the best way to influence people.

A fine example of emotional versus rational argument was

provided recently in an ABC Radio National 'Big Ideas' debate on the motion that 'Animal rights should trump human interests'.

Before the debate the audience voted:

- 44% for the motion
- 34% undecided
- 22% against the motion

After the debate the audience voted:

- 37% for the motion
- 10% undecided
- 53% against the motion

It seems that rational arguments can win the debate. Listen to the debate by clicking;

<https://radio.abc.net.au/programitem/pgOL6Mmow6?play=true>

**RAVENSHOE INVITATIONAL SHOOT 2016**

The SSAA Ravenshoe & District Branch Inc is holding an Invitational Shoot on 27th August 2016. Start time is 9 am. There will be a Rimfire and Centrefire competition which

will be held at 50m and 100m respectively. For those wanting to really test their skills there will be an offhand shoot at 50m.

The main event is the Cat Badge competition which consists of Three levels—Gold, Silver, Bronze. This is a precision shoot as all shots must be within the designated area.

Nomination fees are \$25, this covers range fees, nomination, targets, light refreshments etc. There is also free camping available on site.

Nominations close on **31st July 2016**, please forward nominations via email to [ssaa.ravenshoe@gmail.com](mailto:ssaa.ravenshoe@gmail.com) or PO Box 93 Ravenshoe 4888.

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### ***Item for Sale***

Iridium Sat Phone  
Telstra model Grab n Go 9575  
Phone is in "as new Condition"  
and complete with all  
accessories, it has no contract  
so can be hooked up to pre  
paid services such as iridium  
satphone shop 1300368611.

New cost is \$1945 sell price  
\$1200.ono. Price includes  
postage within Queensland.  
Actual photos will be supplied  
on request.

**Wayne Bowker**  
**0417931032**

**[Wbowker68@bigpond.com](mailto:Wbowker68@bigpond.com)**

## **Grab n Go 9575 Handset Bundle (SAP 116343)**



This \$1,945 (GST incl.) package includes:

- Iridium 9575 Extreme handset
- AC charger with international plug kit
- hands-free Headset
- auxiliary antenna and adaptor
- USB data cable
- Nanuk orange case

Package is available when you connect to an eligible Telstra Mobile Satellite Plan for 24 months. Minimum cost based on a 24 month TMS 35 plan (\$35 per month) is \$2,785 (excluding usage charges).

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## ***Upcoming Activity Dates***

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

***<http://cwm.ssaaqld.org.au/2013/index.php/calendar/2016-calendar>***

## ***CWM Contacts***

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## Our Supporters

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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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