



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)**

### June 2017 Newsletter

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

First up, I'll cover a necessary update to our Code of Conduct. Item 27 currently states the following:

*In the field, safe conservation hunting with CWM requires two or more participants per team. All team members must be in visual and or radio contact at all times. ....*

Following our May committee meeting it was agreed to amend this as follows:

*In the field, safe conservation hunting with CWM requires two or more participants, **who are aged over 18**, per team.*

Our reasons for this amendment are due to possible liability issues that could arise, namely, is a person under 18 able to drive their hunting partner (generally a parent) to help if needed? There are other issues that had a bearing and contributed to this change, namely insurance, the 'blue card' and other safety conditions applied by our landholder partners.

#### **Shot Show Brisbane Aug 26 & 27**

Thank you to all those that have volunteered to assist on the SSAA and CWM stands at this event. We currently have around 700 members and with the extra projects coming on line, especially in both Far Nth Qld and in Sth East Qld we will require more good quality

hunters to assist landholders and managers to manage their pest animal issue.

#### **Positions Vacant:** **Graphic Designer**

CWM has some marketing material and collateral that requires updating and refreshing. We are looking for someone to update and source this material, and assist in distributing it to our regions across the state. We would also greatly value your ideas in developing new and relevant materials. Please call or email me to discuss further.

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## **South East Report**

### **Trip Leader Training**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of May the southern region held its 3<sup>rd</sup> trip leader training course. We had some dropouts due to the dreaded flu. The trip leader candidates and trainers gave up a full weekend of their time to do the course covering a wide variety of topics from animal behaviour, standard operating procedures to the CWM brand & culture and people management.

After a full day of knowledge upload our students earned a BBQ and a cold one or two. This gave the trainers and students time to talk about the different projects we have going and to get to know everyone a bit better.

On the Sunday, the candidates were put through the standard operating procedures challenge. This involved being given different scenarios where the candidates had to explain how they would handle each situation. We finished a little after lunch on Sunday and concluded a very full on weekend for the course attendee's and trainers.

This is the second one we have held this year (first one in Cairns). I would like to thank everyone in both areas for all the hard work they put in helping set up the venues, teaching the courses and learning everything imparted. You all have met or exceeded our

expectations.

If you are interested in being a trip leader ask a project coordinator or committee member to nominate you and drop me an email with your nomination and we will put you on the list for the next one. See you all out in the field soon.

Mark Woods

### **The Liverpool Ranges project**

The Liverpool Ranges project now has additional properties that CWM members can operate on. In April Peter Ferguson, Cameron McMaster with Dan and Bob Large (first trip there) all met up with Alastair Rogerson and his crew for the Mount Mistake project.

We met at a little town south of Laidley. We left in convoy getting further and further away from any civilization, after half an hour and several creek crossings we split up, the first group to hunt on the bottom of the property and us to hunt the top. The track to the top of the mountain takes over half an hour in four wheel drive, sometimes in low range, making the seven kilometres and eight hundred odd metres climb an adventure on its own. The track is a definite four wheel drive experience and with even the smallest shower

of rain would be impassable.

When we arrived at the top the transformation was unbelievable, lush thick grass, a pleasant temperature drop and well fed cattle that didn't bat and eyelid at our presence. The other sight was of acres of lantana.

The camp is a three quarters finished building and when we arrived there were tradesmen laying tiles in the bathrooms. The view from the edge is truly stunning; at night you can look down at aeroplanes flying out of RAAF Amberley and see the buildings in the Brisbane CBD.

It is a difficult place to hunt as you can hear the animals moving through the lantana but unable to see them. Sitting over one of the many dams and waiting for something to come out for a drink is the preferred method of hunting. This can be very rewarding as the tally is already seventeen pigs and a cat, with a dog both sighted on the properties.

Walks around the property vary greatly; from an almost casual stroll in the pastures, to thigh burning climbs up the side of forty five degrees sloped mountains. We hiked down to a creek which was about four hundred metres below the plateau and, not surprisingly, we didn't see a thing as we



made so much noise just trying to get down and back to the top without slipping back down.

The Liverpool Ranges projects are excellent projects for all CWM Members as they are close to Brisbane, usually short, Friday, Saturday and Sunday and can be as exciting as some of the bigger and longer projects, and will really test you and your hunting skills.

Bob Large

## **Rockhampton Report**

### **Bluff Cats**

Of the many projects in the central region, Bluff cats must be one of my personal favourites.

Located 2 hours west of Rockhampton, this project holds special importance for the protection of one of Australia most endangered native animals, the Bridled Naitail Wallaby.

Only found in Central Qld. The Bridled Naitail Wallaby (BNT) or flashjack as once known, is a small macropod growing to about 2ft fully grown. Its size and nature makes the BNT a prime target for the predators in the area which include dogs and cats. Not having developed any natural defences against predation, the BNT relies on its ability to outbreed their losses. The 'Bluff Cats' project's key objective is to reduce the effects of predation on the BNT population. Through a combination of methods, we are slowly making a difference in the area.

The camp location is quite luxurious with a full kitchen, running hot and cold water, shower and toilet. It also boasts a large under cover area and plenty of grass if you prefer to pitch a tent. Access to the project is also easy but a high clearance 2wd is required. 4wd is best for around the tracks in dry weather but unpassable after rain. Well set out, all



tracks on the property are well marked with features such as the dams and old yards marked on the site maps.

With the wide variety of camping options available, Bluff cats is a great project for beginners and experienced campers alike.

While on site, participants are taught the finer points of trapping both wild dogs and feral cats. Trapping duties are a daily activity and have proven the most effective method on the property. Once the work is done, participants are welcome to explore the park via foot or vehicle. Some choose to spotlight for cats, dogs and even rabbits while others may choose to visit one of the many dams and wait in ambush for a local pig or other unwary pest looking for an afternoon drink.

Some others have also spent their spare time bird watching over the main dam with its wide array of aquatic and land birds taking advantage of the open spaces.

While on site, we also encourage all participants to go in search of the Bridled Naitail Wallaby. Best seen at night or

in the evening, the chance to see one of these precious creatures reassures us that we are making a difference. For further information on these projects or other CWM projects in the Central QLD area, please contact Andrew McMaster at [CWMRockhampton@gmail.com](mailto:CWMRockhampton@gmail.com).

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

I am one of the original members to the CWM, though I have not been able to attend very many projects over the years due to work commitments. So I try to get out to some of my own properties when I can as well. I have tried a number of things over the years to be more effective in my feral control activities, and thought you

might like to share this with the members.

I recently went out to one of my properties, and while there are some pigs about they are not very visible, but are causing quite a bit of damage to the prime grazing land.

The sit and wait techniques are usually the best in this part of the country, and they paid off for us the first evening where we were able to bag two pigs which turned up right at the last moment of workable light. Both being sows, I thought there would be an opportunity the following evening to pick up some of the piglets that were left behind.

However, nothing was to be seen, until my son spotted a lone boar come out of the timber. It was soon spooked I believe by our scent left around one of the sows that we had shot the night before. I then

thought this would be an opportunity to try and call it in with a Game caller that I had, which had distressed piglet sounds recorded on it. We set ourselves up in positions that would hopefully give us good opportunities for a shot if we had a taker.

I put the caller into action, playing the call for a number of times and then rested for a short period. I repeated this after about ten minutes or so in the fading light, when in the corner of my eye I spotted a large black object making its way toward the call at a steady trot. I thought it was a sow at first coming to check on these piglets, but it turned out to be the large boar we had spotted earlier. Perhaps its intentions were more of having a feed than to rescue these distressed piglets. Unfortunately due to a series of blunders on my part, as it was coming in so fast, it was spooked again and made its escape back into the fading

light. But it did prove to me that these do work even on pigs, at least the boars. The caller could be useful when the terrain makes it difficult to pursue your quarry, or they are shy due to hunting pressures. This could make the difference as you can call them into an area where you have the upper hand.

A lot of the sounds can be downloaded off the net at no cost. Some are better than others in quality and content. I bought my caller from "Get Trapped". They have a number of different callers with different features varying in price as well as trapping equipment and supplies, and are located in Brisbane at Kedron. I can recommend having a caller on hand; they do work very well on all the species that I have tried them on! Now pigs have been added to the list.

Esa Luhtasaari

## ***Ken Payne story***

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### **Shooting with the other hand**

How many of you out there have been in the situation of sitting on a trail or dam waiting to take a well-practiced shot at a feral pig, fox or wild dog that is expected to come along a certain path, when Murphy's Law kicks in, and it appears from a totally unexpected direction. Because of the way you are set up, if you were to turn completely around to take the shot the feral would be gone in a flash. Wouldn't it be good if you could switch the rifle to your other side and take the feral with confidence - what a boast that would be?



Several times now, when I have gone to the range with others, we have had to share a bench, I took the right hand side and tried shooting left handed. I have shot right handed for nearly 45 years and even though at first it was quite weird I am getting more confident in my shooting. I feel that if the situation arose I could take that left hand shot. On my last try out I used a normal target at 50m and a rabbit target at 100m.

On one of my hunts last year we were driving around a hillside track when a wild dog appeared on the track in front of the ute. If we had moved the ute to present a shot, the dog would have been gone in the long grass so I leaned out the LHS window with the rifle on its side as though I was lying down and took the dog. There will be a few times when things are not set up the way we want and we need to practice different styles and go outside our comfort zones.

A while ago a new member was proudly showing me his 100m target with a very tight grouping saying he can do it every time. My question was how he was at 200m as not all our ferals will be accommodating and be at that distance and he said he had not tried that. He has since been practicing and is looking at trying the 300m target next.

Step outside your comfort zone and see what you or your rifle can do – any and all skills we can have make us better shooters. Above all else practice is the key and it doesn't have to be with the 308 etc, a 22 rifle is cheap to use, try some of the friendly competitions at the local ranges – silhouette, field rifle or just plain shooting as they give you a good reason to get out there and practice.

### Rimfire Field Rifle

This is shot with a sporting weight scoped .22lr calibre rifle

at 2 ranges using four positions. This is a very popular event that can be shot on any 50m rimfire range.

- 4 lots of 3 shots rapid fire in the standing unsupported position at 25m in 15 seconds for each group of 3 shots
- 10 shots slow-fire at 25m in the offhand position
- 10 shots slow-fire at 50m in the post supported standing position
- 10 shots slow-fire in the sitting post supported position at 50m.

Ken

### Wedge tail Eagles attacking a wallaby

The following pictures were taken by John Cosgrove near Ballandean in Southern Qld.





## **Upcoming Activity Dates**

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

<http://cwm.ssaqld.org.au/2013/index.php/calendar/2017-calendar>

## **CWM Contacts**

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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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