



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 2019 Newsletter

Message from the CWM President

PEST & WEEDS SYMPOSIUM 2019 (PAWS2019)

This year CWM sent 4 regional leaders (from Cairns, Mackay and South East Qld) to the symposium.

PAWS2019 program [here](#)

The program was different this year with the pest animal and weed symposiums combined. Some very enlightening research was presented by many researchers and practitioners and the chance to speak to them informally over the 3 days was most valuable.

We met with many of our project partners who work for the State Government, various local governments and research institutions.

We operate on nearly 30 State and Local Government managed properties across the state. Many of the people who manage these properties were at this symposium, giving our regional leaders a great chance to build relationships and discuss how we can further assist them manage pest animals.

It's vitally important that we stay ahead of the curve in methods of controlling pest animals and work closely with both public and private landholders.

There is some exciting technology in the winds that was showcased at the symposium. We will look to invest in this in the future to improve our effectiveness and efficiency.

Possibly the most important reason to be at this, and other events, is to be in the tent and at the table when strategies

are formulated to manage the various pest species.

Ground shooting programs that are well thought out, managed and attended, have proven to be very effective in maintaining pest animal numbers and their impacts to a low level.

If you'd like to ask any questions about the symposium, feel free to call me and I will do my best to answer your questions or direct you to one of the other attendees.

Damien Ferguson
President (Mob - 0402 424 424)

damien.ferguson@hotmail.com

South East Report

First Time at the newly added property at Moonie.

I met with Team Leader Ian at the Moonie Crossroads Roadhouse for a pre-arranged thermal and paperwork exchange and project briefing, then along with our property leader Shane, his mate Rob and Richard with his Suzuki Jimny shooting buggy in tow.

Having farewelled Ian, we progressed down the highway to meet up with the owner at the homestead to introduce ourselves get local intel, recent sightings, feral hot-spots and no go areas. The owner gave a thorough explanation of his gate latch and chain preference and stressed the importance of all latches to be returned exactly as found. His breeders were canny and are habitual escape artists.

I was pleasantly surprised with the quarters, freshly painted, renovated kitchen and bathroom, fireplace and air conditioner, mobile phone reception and heaps of space. Just add a stretcher, a fridge and Bob's your uncle. Richard and I teamed up, having worked together on a previous project. We set up camp on the veranda, so as not to be disturbed when the other team came in. The weather was beautiful for sleeping out, minus the mozzies. Lucky I had a few coils to burn and will remember a net in future.

Shane and Rob were well acquainted and worked as a well-practiced team. Shane established load/unload areas,

general safety procedures and communication protocols with "deconflicted" shooting areas. Richard and I were on the south region, Shane and Rob in the north on the first night. We established return times and leeway times for search and rescue, if ever needed. We did a daylight recce of areas for later that night, marking gates, features and dam waypoints on GPS etc. We returned home for a solid meal, a couple of hour's shuteye, then out from midnight till dawn. Mild temperatures, very little moon,

and I were shooting with hand-loaded 22-250rem 55grain Sierra Game Kings/Hornady Roo Max pills at 3600fps. Most foxes were dispatched by body shots, many on the trot between 200-300M, detected by white light, not thermal.

We shot several pigs with .308win when doing this and when river stalking and closer in pig only stalking. One boar had a couple of inches of dry, black mud crusting all over. Funnily enough, we culled a couple of pigs from the same



10-15kph SE wind were ideal for spotlighting.

Shane and Rob had the thermal the first night in Shane's Triton twin cab, Richard and I hunted by spotlight in his buggy. We culled 6 foxes, 6 hares and several lone pigs quite close to the quarters. The other lads culled a few cats, and about the same in foxes as us with nil pigs sighted on their patch.

Plenty of surface water spread the game out as melon-holes and drains were full from recent much awaited rains. Richard

mob, on the run, in the same spot, a couple of times.

Late afternoon Thursday, we patrolled the River section as a group of four with Shane and Rob on the river and Richard and me in line, all at 50m intervals. The boys on the river spotted several mobs of pigs and had a misfire on one occasion and later could not get a clear shot off in the timbered banks. I shot one which emerged across my field of fire at 150m or so, off the shoulder with an impressive heart shot from my .308. Shot on the run

as it crossed the open country to the west of the river. We spotted a group of spotted sheep, which at first looked like feral goats at 200m. Shane rang the homestead and confirmed they were indeed the owner's sheep and destined for the dinner table.

On return, the bloody dogs from the farm worker's camp had broken into the room where my tucker was stored and made off with two loaves of bread, a packet of cereal and a couple of ripe avos. They also left a slobbery mess to clean up as well.

Shane and Rob went out on the open stubble to the South of the cottage along the main road boundary on Thursday night with the thermal monocular. They had an enjoyable evening spotting pigs, then stalking downwind and shooting with rifle mounted torches. I think they got 15 or so pigs in this fashion. Richard and I went there later on before dawn and saw pigs, but they were too flighty by that time. Richard packed up and departed on the Friday.

Shane and I went out on Friday night in my ute and shot several foxes, then hunted pigs by thermal on the stubble, where they had been successful the evening before. We must have walked 3-5km all up in the dark over rough stubble.

Saturday afternoon and early evening I drove my ute around the NE section of the property with Shane and Rob shooting from the rest on the back. By evening the wind was 15-30kph and gusty, so I refrained from shooting. Targets were as flighty as hell, so I left Shane and Rob to go out thermal

spotting on the same area where they had success before. Too much wind for me, also the moon was on the wax and a half moon that was very bright. They had little success and returned in the early hours of the morning. I packed up early on Sunday morning, cleaned the veranda and surrounds and headed for home after saying farewell.

Steve Mallet

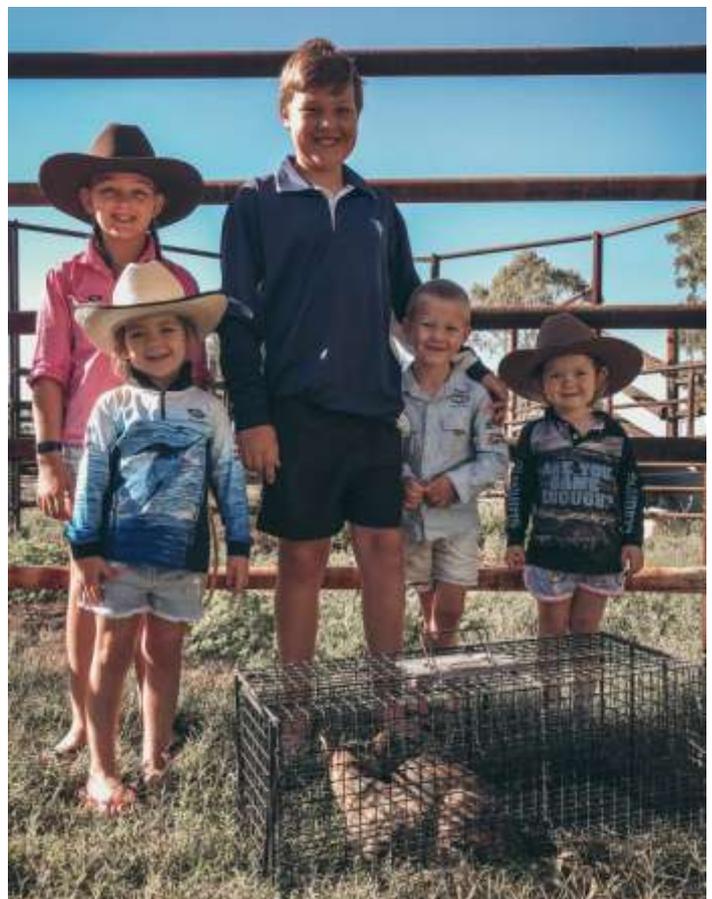
Townsville Report

Cats in the Coop

April last year we moved out of town (Mt Isa) and into a new property on a few acres. With the added space and an existing chook pen in the far corner on the edge of the creek bed we decided to get some chickens. Our thinking was it would be good for the kids to have some responsibility for a pet beside the dog that would also reward them with eggs.

Time showed the kids could handle the responsibility and the hens started laying eggs. The kids took pride in sharing the eggs with our neighbours

and it wasn't long before a clucky hen produced a batch of chicks that the kids doted on. However, the joy was short lived, as one by one chickens started to disappear. There was the possibility of snakes or hawks in the area, so the kids became more vigilant with locking the chooks up each night. With numbers still dwindling, we decided to set up the trail camera overlooking the pen for a few nights, with great success. The kids were amazed to see the footage we captured of several feral cats coming at different stages of the night and one even trying to



open the pen door using its paw.

The following weekend, we visited the local produce and ordered a cat trap and two weeks later we were in action. That Friday afternoon, with trail camera, tined sardines and cat trap in hand, the kids helped set up outside the chook pen at

about 5 pm. That night over tea the kids were all excited and asked if we could check the trap before bed time. I obliged, not wanting to dampen their enthusiasm, but tried to let them know there was a good chance it may not produce for a day or so.

Tea was hurriedly eaten, table cleared, dishwasher packed all in record time and by 8 pm we headed across the paddock over to the chook pen, torches in hand, to check the cat trap. Much to my surprise the trap had been triggered and the kids were stoked to see how quickly their efforts had been rewarded. With the trap reset, we were amazed the next morning, to see another feral cat in the trap. For the next three nights, the trap consistently produced, with the kids enjoying watching the trail camera footage each morning and seeing how the different animals behaved when approaching the trap.

Weeks on now, the trap still produces the odd animal, but with far less regularity than before. The creek seems to be a highway for them, with plenty of prey items and safe places to hide. The kids still get plenty of enjoyment from setting and checking the trap and trail camera knowing they are doing their bit to protect not only our chickens, but doing their part to protect all the native animals as well.

Shaun Hann

Rockhampton Report

The Calliope project

The Calliope project is on 43260 hectares of rugged

mountains, dry to the west and wet underfoot to the east. The plateau rises to a maximum height of 940 m, This is an environmentally valuable region rich with native flora and fauna The hunting for and control of feral animals; pigs, rabbits and hare in this area, is valued; whether lots of game is encountered or not.

Our party of eight operated in groups along fire trails. Forest sweeps were done on foot



and longer distances by 4WD vehicles. To cover maximum ground on foot, the group I was in with of Ian and Guy tried for efficiency. I would drop them at a creek bed or trail and move the vehicle to a point further up. With estimated times and radio contact it worked well for us.

With a property of this size, pigs in particular scrounged alongside the tracks and moved about onto fresher spots, seemingly without having a base. Waterholes and soaks showed few foot prints.

A feature of this trip was snakes; taipan, red bellied black and eastern brown snakes, which slithered into camp at night - as we were under canvas, they were not welcome.

The eastern facing forest and soaks were a haven for leeches, and no one escaped their attention. The guys wearing gaiters seemed to give these nasties the best cover. The problem with these encounters and their subsequent discovery was that it took about half an hour at camp to stop the blood seeping.

The esprit de corps carried the week, a report was prepared for the stake holders, and everyone stayed the course. There were some new friends to meet, and equipment for hunting and outdoors to check out.

The group's contribution: 1 pig to Adrian (thermal spot and scope); 1 rabbit to Ian, and 1 hare for me. In time, we may have to deal with many feral cattle in the area.

Paul Millist

General articles, stories, tips

Thermals - some of my opinions and tips after using thermal since June 2015

We definitely live in the most fortuitous time. Thermal vision has changed the way a lot of us hunt feral pigs today. Without a doubt, we also need to change to make this really effective.

Purchasing a thermal scope is a huge investment, but so worth it.



To sight in - I erected a normal target, cutting a small hole in the bull's eye. After inserting an ice cube in a party balloon, pull the balloon through the hole and staple on the back. It makes a great small target for the thermal scope as it is all about temperature difference. Using hot targets on a hot day with a warm background just doesn't cut it.

Adjust your scope to white hot or black hot depending on your view. I recommend you use picture in picture for better accuracy. Also always switch your small middle reticle to the opposite colour of your target.

No point owning this gear and going to bed at 10pm. We are talking doing all-nighters and

hunting nocturnal, the same as our target species.

There are numerous benefits including not hunting in the sun and no flies. We can also clearly see cows and water tanks behind our targets with thermal. I cannot stress enough still maintaining 100%

target identification before shooting. Just because you see a small animal looking like a cat or pig, it could easily be the cows head sleeping in a melon hole. If not sure turn a spotlight on or make a noise for it to move so you can qualify your 100% identification before taking a shot.

We use a thermal monocular set up in a box on top of a spotlighting system on the roof of my car, linked to a screen on the dashboard. We drive around slowly (about walking speed) with the tires deflated for a smoother ride and the lights on dim. Window mounted shooting rests are good value. Even the max box is good.

We can normally see a pig or a mob before they see us. This is when the action starts. We leave the car idling with lights on as a point of reference and start stalking them. We bought red headlamps from Hard Korrr and they work well – I avoided stepping on a Red-Bellied Black snake the other night without spooking the pigs. Be very mindful of the wind direction at this point – if they smell you they will take off. Stay close to each other, communicate by sign language and know where your partner is before shooting. Lugging around my Vanguard tripod stick is definitely worth the effort – especially once they are on the run you give yourself the opportunity to secure maybe another 2 kills and at the end of the night that equates to quite a few extra.

It is also wise to have a smaller caliber rifle ready with a mounted torch for cats and foxes- their eyes are their worst enemy, giving them away. Happy hunting.

Danny Holder

Pressure groups prevent culling of feral animals.

The UK Government has bowed to pressure and is banning most pigeon, crow, gull and Canada goose shooting in England. Natural England – the Government agency responsible – is “revoking three general licences for controlling certain wild birds as of Thursday 25 April 2019,” says the Government in a statement. It adds: “These licences (GL 04/05/06) cover 16 species of

birds including several members of the crow family, Canada goose, some gulls and pigeons.”

<https://www.fieldsportschannel.tv/generallicences>

Could it happen here??

Burdekin River Wetlands Lodge

If you would like to visit a gorgeous part of our massive country, then take a trip to Burdekin River Wetlands Lodge. While sitting on the veranda of this beautiful heritage listed homestead you can enjoy the magnificence of one of the many waterways in the area. There is an incredible abundance of birdlife and wildlife to enjoy whilst relaxing

Make the most of the incredible sunrises and sunsets and the mist rising off the water. Enjoy the peace and tranquility of this incredible setting. The homestead consists of a large kitchen with a fridge, stove, electric kettle and much more. There is a large bathroom with

a separate toilet and plenty of rooms to choose from for your stay. You will be required to bring your own bedding and food and the normal camp requirements. There is more than enough room for a large family or for a number of CWM members to be on site.

There is also a 2 bedroom Stockman's quarters available. There are plenty of areas for your normal camping requirements if bringing camper trailers or caravans. 240 volt mains power is also available for caravan sites. As a Heritage listed property be aware that staying at the homestead is a privilege not a RIGHT!

There are a few rules to be abided by. This includes

maintaining this beautiful homestead and its surrounds. It also includes mowing the grounds around the homestead, whipper snipping and general tidying. The homestead itself is to be kept clean and fresh at all times. As with all CWM projects the focus is on the project being left

cleaner than when we first arrive. The lodge resides in a restricted shooting zone, but is within the Burdekin River Wetlands project.

If you require further information then please contact the Project Coordinator, Randle Irvin, 0411 040 010. For a chat about the Lodge and its

surrounds call me, Helen on 0499151873

With many thanks
Helen Poulos
0499151873

Ken Payne story

I was thinking off reminding members of transport and storage of guns on projects, there was an article on this subject in the recent hunter magazine.

A while ago I pointed out to a friend travelling with the guns in full view on the back seat, including while stopped at McDonalds, that was not a great idea. Neither is leaving spare guns in their cases sitting on a table while going out hunting.

<https://www.police.qld.gov.au/pr ograms/weaponsLicensing/licenceApplication/storage/awayfromfacility.htm>

If a suitably licensed person in Queensland or from another state or from overseas and is unable to reasonably return their weapon to their safe storage facility, all weapons, when not in their physical possession, must be stored unloaded in either:

- a securely closed container with the bolt



- removed or with a trigger lock fitted; or
- a locked container.

The container must be either:

- out of sight in a locked room of a permanent building; or
- locked in the boot of a vehicle; or
- out of sight, locked in a vehicle that does not have a boot.

<https://www.police.qld.gov.au/pr ograms/weaponsLicensing/lice nseApplication/storage/invehicl es.htm>

Storage in or on vehicles

Section 6 of the Weapons Regulation 2016 states that a person in control of a weapon must ensure the weapon is not placed in or on a vehicle unless:

- If the vehicle has a lockable boot, the weapon is locked in the boot; otherwise:
 - The weapon is locked in a metal container fixed to the vehicle; or
 - the weapon is in a securely closed container that is out of sight in the vehicle.

- The metal container and anything on or attached to it, must not suggest that a weapon is inside.
- A person in control of a weapon (whether or not the person has custody of it) must ensure the weapon is not left in an unlocked vehicle if the vehicle is not being attended by someone licensed to possess the weapon. (This would include going in to pay for fuel and leaving someone not licenced in the vehicle if guns are not locked up).

Ken

CWM Members Gear Corner

This is the place to share experience with hunting gear, gadgets, rigs, tips and tricks that have helped you in your field work. Please keep these articles directly related to CWM hunting/activities rather than general firearms stuff. This piece is from member 'GC' in Brisbane:

The search for a 300 Blackout Subsonic Hunting Round

Reading Dick Eussen's field review of the Ruger's American Rifle Ranch in .300 ACC Blackout (Australian Hunter Dec 2016) I became hooked on the idea of a light weight short barreled rifle with low recoil and good stopping power. The thing that really caught my interest was that this calibre is designed to be usable in super and subsonic velocity. Dick tested the Australian made ADI/Outback ammo 125 grn soft point hunting round to good effect on pigs in the NT.

I figured that for CWM members who do very close

range (i.e. less than 50 m) work such as dam sitting that a heavy weight subsonic round e.g. around 200 grn plus projectiles could be useful. It could allow a greatly reduced rifle report (no sonic boom) to minimize the disturbance to the other feral animals in the vicinity. While this type of round at subsonic velocity is not acceptable for other situations, at very close range with time for careful shot placement, it is a very effective and humane culling method.

I purchased the Ruger plus an Aimpoint Patrol Rifle Optic.



This was the start of a journey of both fixing rifle problems and developing a subsonic hunting load.

Getting the rifle to work

I love this light-weight little rifle but I should have handed it back to the dealer and asked for my money back immediately. The problems with the Ruger were:

The 'floating' stock for-end was hard up against the barrel – the dealer agreed to send the rifle back to the wholesaler to have this straightened out

The rifle had consistent light primer strike misfires with some factory ammo – I started reloading my own ammo and didn't have any more misfires.

The rifle had ammunition 'feeding' hang-ups with various hand loaded bullets

The third issue led me to my greatest discovery -- a CWM member (Michael McGlenn) who is a registered gunsmith. I have used him ever since and he has saved my sanity and got this rifle feeding properly.

Here is Mick's description of my rifle fix:

"This rifle had one issue that caused all the frustration. This model Ruger was originally designed to feed .223 rounds. The projectile and the neck of the case has a smaller diameter than the 300BLK. Ruger hadn't changed the cartridge feed path to enable the larger diameter projectiles to transit through the ramp and breech area unimpeded. With a few minutes discussion and a study of the action I was able to determine what needed to be changed.

There were two areas in this rifle that cause feed problems. The feed ramp and the breech face. The feed ramp is set up to accommodate the smaller .244 cal projectiles, once 30 cal projectiles are introduced 'stove piping' occurs. The round doesn't exit the magazine feed rails before the projectile is pressed hard against the feed ramp. The feed ramp angle needed to be relieved i.e.. the angle made shallower, to allow the case to exit the magazine feed rails before the projectile contacted the feed ramp through the bolt ring. You may

have to look at the breech end of a Ruger American to understand that bit.

The second part of the solution involved increasing the breech chamfer at the 6 o'clock position to prevent the flat/hollow point nose of the projectile contacting the breech face thus stopping further progress of the round and damaging the projectile."

So simple with the right help.

For interested members here are Mick's details:

True shot Armoury – Michael McGlenn - 0472720900

Mick is an active CWM member. He is a licenced gunsmith and runs a 'micro' dealership and armoury at Redland Bay in South East Qld. I found him to be a very skilful, friendly and his service is better than any other I have found. He does a broad range of repairs, customising, re-barreling, etc.

Next newsletter - Developing a 300 Blackout subsonic hunting round

Upcoming Activity Dates

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

<http://cwm.ssaqld.org.au/2013/index.php/calendar/2018-calendar>

CWM Contacts

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

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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 Conservation and Wildlife Member (CWM) for discounts where applicable.



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