



Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (Qld) Inc.

Conservation and Wildlife Management Division

"Preserving Australia's Heritage"

SSAA (Qld) Inc Conservation and Wildlife Management Division

Office: Queensland Indoor Range

Postal Address: Office: 266 Brisbane Street, West Ipswich, Qld 4305

Phone: (07) 3202 2111 Email: handc@ssaaqld.org.au



CONSERVATION & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT (Qld) NEWS

March 2011 Edition

Message from Geoff Jones – SSAA Queensland President

Hi everyone

Late 2010 and early 2011 has thrown some extreme weather at many people in Qld and across Australia. On behalf of the committee we would like to let all of you know that if you, your family or friends have been affected that we are thinking of you and if you think we can help in any way, please let us know.

Committee changes:

With changing personal circumstances and increasing workloads on our volunteer committee in recent times, it has been decided to restructure the CWM committee to spread the workload more equitably among the committee members.

Damien Ferguson will be committee chairman with a primary responsibility for general coordination within CWM and public relations and liaison between CWM and both our existing and potential partners.

Mark Woods will be responsible for practical Projects and Training coordination so that we can concentrate more effectively on applying our "on the ground" functions.

Adrian Bulley and Ken Payne will be sharing the important general administration role where document and record control is an absolute imperative in such a group.

Mike Farrell, Owen McIntyre, Bob Michael, Brett Marais, Pete Dobson will make up the remainder of the committee and their roles will vary from time to time to suit the challenges that

are placed before us. Geoff Jones as SSAA Qld President and Graham Lucke as SSAA Qld Senior Vice President will also be part of the committee in a support role.

Our regional project coordinators will also be an integral part of the extended group as regions and projects come on line. Gary Cox as our newsletter editor is the hub of information dissemination so providing inputs for the newsletter is the most effective way of making sure that the information gets out. This is everyone's responsibility.

These people and positions will change from time to time to meet the personal commitments of the Committee Members and the needs of CWM to meet the demands placed on it and your support is essential to keep us as flexible and adaptable as possible.

There will be changes from time to time in any number of areas and every effort will be made to communicate these and general contact details through our newsletter.

Again it is everyone's responsibility to read the newsletter and keep up to date with the information that is provided. CWM is a volunteer group that can only succeed if it has support and commitment from *many* of it's members.

Geoff Jones - SSAA
Qld President

Message from Mark Woods

My deepest sympathies go out to anyone who has been affected by either the floods or cyclones throughout Queensland over the last few months.

Over the last two months we have restructured the CWM Team. Instead of having a State Co-ordinator we will have a Chair Person.

I will not be taking up the new Chair Person's position as I work fulltime and have a side business to run as well. Both of these take up a lot of my time. This does not mean I will be leaving the Committee.

I will be remaining on as a Committee member and will be responsible for practical projects and training coordination as well as being the liaison

person for the Bridled Naitail Trust
(bntwallaby.org.au).

I would like to welcome Damien Ferguson, who will take over the hot seat. Damien brings a wealth of knowledge with him to his position.

Thanks to all of you who have helped me throughout the last seven years as every little bit of help has always been greatly appreciated.

Remember, the Committee needs your help! If everyone does a little, no one has to do a lot.

Mark Woods

Message from the Committee Chairman

2011 Opportunities, Goals and Challenges

CWM is continuing to grow at a steady rate, however we are going to make a push to increase our membership this year as we expect to see more activities for our members. Our goal is to increase the number of long term projects / properties that we will conduct feral control on. We have been requested to assess a number of properties already, however haven't been able to get to them due to the wet.

More **social** and **information events** are also being planned. We

are looking at the following ideas:

Range days where members can socialise & swap ideas, introduce possible new members, test hunting loads and pick up tips;

A camping weekend where we can bring our families along to give our vehicles & camping gear a run and get to know each other;

Evening general meetings to discuss our projects and what gear works best, guest speakers on hunting techniques and gear, bring a friend, and swap stories & ideas.

Another goal this year is to update our **internet site** in order to give our members easier access to our newsletters, program of events, project dates and details.

We need your help

We are looking for people to take either a lead role or to assist in:

New member liaison officer - Speaks with enquiring potential new members and emails them info, application forms etc. Can be more than 1 person.

Logo update - Our logo still says 'Hunting and Conservation' and needs some minor artwork to alter the wording to 'Conservation & Wildlife Management' etc.

Internet site development - To assist us with our very outdated internet site.

Social / Info function co-ordinators - Various people to *help* run the social, technical and training functions.

Training manual - We are looking to update our training manual and modernise it's delivery, so that it is easier to deliver a consistent high quality program to people in all parts of the state.

Grants Officer - If you have had experience or would like to help apply for government and corporate grants please call or email me. Grants could be used to help pay for website development, an off-road trailer for projects (set up with tarps and kitchen facilities etc), more trail cameras, more night vision, VHF / Sat Phone communications gear, training equipment etc.

Trip leaders to look after the extra properties to come on line. In all regions we require more team leaders / joint team leaders for projects, or if you wish to introduce projects to the group and be the team leader for them.

Sponsorship - In addition to improving our website, our newsletter will also include more opportunities for suppliers and organisations to promote themselves.

Support our local gun shops. In Brisbane we get good service and support from Qld Gun Exchange & Rebel Gunworks and in Toowoomba Shoemsmiths are very supportive. QGE & Rebel donate prizes to CWM to give out at our November training day. *When in QGE please ask them to register any purchases in the 'CWM book' so they can determine their level of donations.* Please let me know of good service **in your area** and we can let everyone else know in our newsletter.

Remember, please put your hand up if you wish to assist in any of these areas to improve our organisation

Damien Ferguson
Committee Chairman
Mobile - 0402 424 424,
A/H 07 3341 5114 or
damien.ferguson@hotmail.com

SE Qld Report

As everyone knows SE Qld has experienced some extreme weather conditions since the last newsletter. However, with the weather much on the improve we have recommenced the Stewartdale Feral Control Program on the third full weekend of each month. With extreme weather has come extreme vegetation growth and as a result we are on foot looking for all ferals at Stewartdale. I

encourage all members to be involved with the Stewartdale project as it is a great way to meet other CWM members, learn and improve skill, exchange knowledge and most importantly enjoy the great facility that we have so close to home.

The Chinchilla pig project that got started late last year was severely affected by the floods and is expected to restart in mid March.

A reminder to all members in the Southern Region that the first training weekend for 2011 will be held on the weekend of 19th -20th March at Stewartdale. A flyer with details on the weekend activity will be sent out in early March.

Owen McIntyre
Sthrn Qld Co-ordinator
Stewartdale Project
Officer

Central Queensland Report

Happy new year to all.....well....as happy as you could make it under the circumstances!! As you are all aware, we didn't have a very good finish to 2010 or an ideal start to 2011 with the weather that we have all been experiencing of late. However, the grass is tall and there will be plenty of ferals this year it seems. We have not had the opportunity to do many hunting trips as yet. We have been all about

cleaning up around the camp and starting to clean the grass from around the cat traps. We are eager to start the trapping program and we are hoping to have a little more success this time round.

There are plenty of signs that there's been "movement at the station" so to speak, with dogs, cats and the odd pig. Therefore, weather permitting, we are keen to lift off where we left off late last year and get some action started.



Blake with that "sinking" feeling

Short and sweet report I know, but hopefully we will have a few more stories in the next edition. Until then...

Best regards from **Brad Hughes** and The Central Region

North Queensland Report

Christmas and the New Year, and hopefully the bad weather, are behind us.

After an early wet season and 2 cyclones in our area, the three projects in the area have been put

on hold for the next few months. As they come back on line we will have a challenge to find pest animals as they have plenty of long grass for cover and having plenty of water points.

Take advantage of the delay to check your gear and fine tune your firearms with plenty of practice at the range

Upcoming Practice days

Where - Thuringowa Practical Pistol Club Range, Mount View Road, Toonpan
When Sat 5 March, Sat 2 April, Sat 30 April
Gates Open at 12.00pm and practice starts at 1.00pm.

If you need any further details or directions to the range, please contact me

Accreditation Course –
Sunday 3 April 2011

Contact me for details and to register.

Geoff Sloman

Second time at Calliope Pig Project

I enjoy exploring new territory. I have been to a number of the CWM project sites over the years and I enjoyed them all. So was it a surprise that I chose to go back to the Calliope project for a second time?

2009. My first time exploring this giant

property on the tablelands to the west of Calliope was during 2009. I was lucky enough to spend a cold week with a great bunch of people. The elevation sure made a difference to the temperature with it taking me an hour to warm up in the sleeping bag on our first night. We were here to target pigs that were destroying part of the environment vital to the survival of a little native frog.



Checking the pig rooting out

We saw huge areas (hectares) of forest dug up by the pigs and during the day could hear the crashing of logs and undergrowth as these 4 legged bulldozers worked their way through the forest. I got my first ever pig, with a running shot at 30m with my 270WSM. The shot was spot on target and the big sucker didn't know what happened! All the training at the numerous 'CWM' training weekends paid off big time...seriously! Nailing that pig was the result of a lot of hard work by my hunting partner and I and this made the result even more satisfying. An even bigger pig taken one night over a cow carcass

at 40m topped off a couple of great days.

On the way down the mountain at weeks end, I swore I'd return to this beautiful place.

2010. It's now 2010 and we're back. It was pleasing to see the place looking more beautiful than ever and with no evidence of the large areas dug like last time, one might assume we had started to make a difference. There has been a few weeks put in chasing pigs during the year by various CWM teams and the property manager welcomed us with open arms!

Although most members had certain buddies that they regularly teamed up with each day, the regular sharing of information, help and advice made for a strong team and a very enjoyable and successful week.

Trip highlight. We'd seen a group of half grown piglets playing in a muddy hole with Damien successfully stalking one of the adults nearby in the bush. Later deciding to revisit this area, we SLOWLY (I've learnt this is the only way to be successful in this thick bush) made our way through the forest taking about ½ hr to go a few hundred metres.



Some piglets playing in a puddle on the roadside

At a beautiful open grassy area, I sat at the base of a big gum quietly waiting for Damien to make his way up to my position. I was happy for the rest as we'd already done a lot of walking that week. No problem getting in my 10,000 steps each day!

It was easy to be patient, as having radio communication meant we always knew where our partner was and had even developed a series of signals by clicking the mike, therefore not spending all day chatting over the radio.

Suddenly I heard movement in the bush some distance from where I was sitting. I wasn't able to see anything but over time the pigs continued their uninterrupted afternoon feed. I was finally able to figure out they were now ½ way up the hill in the opposite direction from where my partner was.

It took me 40 minutes to creep 50 metres up that hill, through the ferns, trees, creepers, over and around giant logs etc as the mob of pigs fed. I could see flashes of their

backs every now and then but mostly just ferns on the forest floor shaking violently as they uprooted everything in the area. It was so tempting to let off a shot knowing where they were. I didn't, and was patient, continuing to creep forward when able. As a reward, I ended up about 9 metres away from the big sow surrounded by her piglets. Finally with her body in full view, a giant hillside as a backdrop, my partner now waiting PATIENTLY in the clearing behind me, I remember thinking "everything's perfect, what are you waiting for!" To quote our new friend Alfred, 'KABOOOOM' and that was that.

I realised immediately that no further action was required on the old girl but raced up to stand amongst piglets going in all directions and me trying to watch all of them at once. It ended up with no more pigs taken. I was pleased to say I had done exactly what was expected, and again enjoyed the challenge while doing something to help our ecosystem at the same time.

I thoroughly enjoyed the whole week. We ended up with quite a tally between us and left a couple of property owners and managers happy.

Bring on the projects for 2011! – **Peter Dobson**

Have you ever been feral pig hunting?

Editors Note: Alfred Koster has not been long in Australia. He is from Holland and what follows is his story about his first CWM project.

Recently I did. My friend and I went to the CWM's Calliope feral pig control project, based on a property west of Calliope. This was our first trip and I must admit we both liked it!

On the first day we setup camp and met the property manager. She was very helpful and explained why we were invited and what we were expected to do and where we were not allowed to go. She also took us around the property and showed us several scenic sites as well as some flora and fauna.



A late afternoon downpour

We were on the property for one week to eradicate pigs who do a lot damage. When you see the damage they do in just one night you will be unpleasantly surprised.

The atmosphere in the CWM group was very good, we all got along very well. We did a lot of

laughing together and we had lots of fun during the week.

Because the property is a big area each group of two hunters had their "own section".

Every morning and afternoon the sections were changed so every group had the chance to go to all areas.



Pete checking his GPS

Every time we came back to the camp we debriefed each other as to where we spotted pigs, saw any movement, when we shot any or just saw nothing. Soon we could pretty much work out where the pigs were and were not.

We walked on the tracks, through thick scrub and sometimes we were more in the open forest. The pigs are very quick and can travel up to several clicks a day. So we all did a lot of walking that week I can tell you that!

Most of the pigs I shot were at very close distance, less than 15 meters. I brought my .308 but this was too heavy and more suited to longer range work. A light

hunting rifle or a lever

action was much more suitable for hunting in the scrub. Of course, I learned from this experience and I'm sure I will learn a lot more in the future!

We not only chased pigs but also enjoyed nature. We saw a few snakes, lots of different animal species, birds, butterfly's, roo's, frogs and lots more flora and fauna. We also enjoyed spectacular views and some awesome creeks and waterfalls.



A red bellied black snake around one of the dams

All together it was quite an experience for me and I'm glad I went – we accounted for over 25 feral pigs. We were on the property for one week, but it was over before we knew it. Next trip I'll be there again. I think I'll go on other projects as well. Its good fun, it's for a good purpose and if you want you can learn a lot about Australian wildlife.

Alfred Koster

CWM Contacts

H&C QLD Office

266 Brisbane Street, West
Ipswich, Qld 4305

handc@ssaaqld.org.au

Brett Marais

Southern QLD Training
Phone: 0417 708 568

bdmarais@iprimus.com.au

Phone: 0417 747 063

coscarp@bigpond.com

Brad Hughes

Avocet Project Officer

Phone: 0429 017 093

hughes-5@bigpond.net.au

Mark Woods

State Coordinator

Phone: 0438 098 469 or
3808 4881

markwoods2@bigpond.com

Brett Dénholm

New members and
accreditations officer

Phone: 0400 892 437

brett@dbdconsulting.com.au

Greg De Koning

Gladstone-Calliope

Project Officer

Phone: 0458 732 993

poohbah@aapt.net.au

Owen McIntyre

Southern QLD Activity
Coordinator and
Stewartdale Project
Officer

Phone: 0417 615 505

owenmcintyre@optusnet.com.au

Gary Cox

Newsletter Editor

Phone: 0407 734 470

garycox@bigpond.net.au

Geoff Sloman

Northern Co-ordinator and
Townsville Training Officer

Phone: (07) 4723 8852

geoffms@yourhub.com.au

Rod Costin

Central Co-ordinator and
Training Officer

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 – 2011

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.

March			
TBA	Rockhampton Deer Project	Central	Rod Costin
5 th – 12 th	Gladstone Pig Project	Central	Greg Dekoning
18 th -21 st	Collinsville	Northern	Geoff Sloman
19 th -20 th	Southern Training Weekend	Southern	Brett Marais
19 th -20 th	Dingo Cat & Dog Project	Central	Rod Costin
April			
9 th -16 th	Calliope Pig Project	Central	Greg Dekoning
15 th -18 th	Hughenden	Northern	Geoff Sloman
16 th -17 th	Stewartdale – Ripley	Southern	Owen McIntyre
16 th -17 th	Avocet: Emerald	Central	Brad Hughes
May			
13 th -16 th	Collinsville	Northern	Geoff Sloman
14 th -15 th	Stewartdale – Ripley	Southern	Owen McIntyre
14 th -15 th	Dingo Cat & Dog Project	Central	Rod Costin
June			
10 th – 13 th	Hughenden	Northern	Geoff Sloman
18 th -19 th	Southern Training Weekend	Southern	Brett Marais
18 th – 19 th	Avocet: Emerald	Central	Brad Hughes
18 th -25 th	Gladstone Pig Project	Central	Greg Dekoning
July			
15 th – 18 th	Collinsville	Northern	Geoff Sloman
16 th -17 th	Stewartdale – Ripley	Southern	Owen McIntyre
16 th – 17 th	Dingo Cat & Dog Project	Central	Rod Costin
16 th – 23 rd	Calliope Pig Project	Central	Greg Dekoning
August			
12-15 th	Hughenden	Northern	Geoff Sloman
13 th – 20 th	Gladstone Pig Project	Central	Greg Dekoning
20 th – 21 st	Stewartdale – Ripley	Southern	Owen McIntyre
20 th – 21 st	Avocet: Emerald	Central	Brad Hughes
September			
9 th – 12 th	Collinsville	Northern	Geoff Sloman
10 th – 17 th	Calliope Pig Project	Central	Greg Dekoning
17 th – 18 th	Southern Training Weekend	Southern	Brett Marais
17 th – 18 th	Dingo Cat & Dog Project	Central	Rod Costin
October			
7 th – 10 th	Hughenden	Northern	Geoff Sloman
8 th – 15 th	Gladstone Pig Project	Central	Greg Dekoning
15 th – 16 th	Stewartdale – Ripley	Southern	Owen McIntyre
15 th – 16 th	Avocet: Emerald	Central	Brad Hughes
November			
11 th – 14 th	Collinsville	Northern	Geoff Sloman
19 th – 20 th	Southern Training Weekend	Southern	Brett Marais
19 th – 20 th	Dingo Cat & Dog Project	Central	Rod Costin
19 th – 26 th	Calliope Pig Project	Central	Greg Dekoning
December			

3 rd – 10 th	Gladstone Pig Project	Central	Greg Dekoning
17 th – 18 th	Stewartdale – Ripley	Southern	Owen McIntyre
17 th – 18 th	Avocet: Emerald	Central	Brad Hughes

Project Target Species

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

Collinsville - Primary – Pigs

Hughenden – Primary – Dogs. Secondary - Pigs

Stewartdale - Primary - Hares, foxes, cats, dogs. Secondary – Pigs
