



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

March 2013 Edition

Message from the Committee Chairman

Firstly, I would like to thank Gary Cox for all his work in project managing our grant application to the Department of Environment & Heritage Protection Qld. We were successful in our application and will be rolling this out over 2013-2014. This grant allows us to support on ground works at various Nature Refuge, Bush Heritage and other properties across Qld.

We are currently looking at applying for other grants to purchase equipment such as quad bikes, trailers, VHF/UHF base stations, epirbs, fuel etc. *Gary's work commitments are about to greatly curtail his time for grant writing, so if you believe you have the skills to coordinate a grant application, please call me ASAP on 0402 424 424.*

CWM (Qld) continues to gain support from many sources in government, agricultural and environmental organisations.

Our reputation for carrying out effective animal control activities in diverse landscapes and for varying landowners continues to grow. I believe one of the keys to our great reputation is ensuring we continue to put good people on the ground on all of our projects.

Our membership base is expanding and so are the requests from property owners for our services. There are new projects coming online regularly now. If you would like to go on a project, there are certain things that you can do to help your application:

- We require project leaders and team leaders. Project leaders oversee a project and liaise with the landowners to coordinate dates, logistics etc. Team leader/s lead the on ground work for that project.
- Attend more than one training weekend (or range day) in your region. This allows the project leaders/team leaders to get to know you and feel

confident in booking you a spot on a project.

- Offer to assist the organisation in grant writing, training, accreditation of new members, building or sourcing equipment/tools for project work, marketing of CWM at ranges and the ADA expo or other venues, etc.

Please remember that CWM has no paid personnel and all the work to build and maintain the organisation is due to the dedicated work of volunteers who all have jobs, businesses and families too.

Damien Ferguson
Committee Chairman
Mobile - 0402 424 424
damien.ferguson@hotmail.com

Note from the State Operations Coordinator

Our Central Regions coordinator, Rod Costin, is stepping down from his position due to work commitments. The committee and I would like to

thank Rod for his commitment over the last few years in helping to build the Central Region. Central Region has been one of the fastest growing areas with the lion's share of projects within it. Most of these projects are already set up with Project Leaders to run them, however we need someone to help coordinate the other activities within the region. If you are interested in helping with this role please give me a call on 0438 098 469 to discuss details.

Mark Woods

South East Queensland

The CWM brand has been moving along quickly in 2013 with new projects up and running, grant money to help provide equipment for all projects and good numbers of new members completing the accreditation course. As a new member a good way to become more involved with the group is to come to the first training Weekend of 2013 on the 16th-17th March. You can find details of the weekend and directions to Stewartdale property on:

<http://cwm.ssaaqld.org.au/content/content/article/41-top-headlines/137-seq-stewartdale-via-ripley-training-weekends-details.html>

The regular feral control program held at Stewartdale each month has been well attended although the ferals have been keeping their heads well down and out of sight. This is a good project for new members to get started with, or get back into hunting

activity if you have been away from the scene for some time.

If you are a new member and have not yet done your Theory Accreditation contact me and I will let you know when the next course is on. If you know of anyone wishing to join a good place for them to start is the web site to learn more about us and then to contact me about the accreditation process.

Owen McIntyre
Southern Qld Coordinator
Stewartdale Project Office
Phone: 0417 615 505

New project - Stanthorpe "Amiens"

The project comprises several private properties, some of which are declared nature refuges, totalling some 2000 acres. The owners reported that goats, pigs, deer, foxes and rabbits are their main problem. The topography includes large rocky outcrops typical of the region surrounded by thick wattle and ti tree scrub. The properties include some cleared areas for stock and cultivation.



Vegetation is thick wattle and ti tree

CWM will be providing 1 or more teams over a period of 1 to 2 nights (or more). Teams are likely to be made up of 2 to 4 members per vehicle, depending on available

members. Members must carry and be competent using a GPS and radio with a minimum 5w capability as this can be difficult terrain to navigate in.

CWM members who attend the project must be fully self-sufficient including all remote area safety equipment. Base camp comprises a generous camping area supported by an open blacksmith's shed. The shed provides tables and dry space to cook and adjoins two composting toilets and a hot shower.



Base camp is a comfortable shed

On our first trip six goats were taken from two mobs of approximately 20-30 individuals. Rabbits were also in fairly good numbers on some properties with a total of six taken.

Some pig sign was seen that may have been up to two days old and one owner reported seeing foxes on a daily basis. Whistling was attempted with no result probably due to very windy conditions.

This is a great project for Brisbane and Gold Coast members as it is accessible and set up for weekend trips. Please contact Peter Keith if you are interested in attending this project by e-mailing him on peterkeith38@yahoo.com.au

Central Queensland

Avocet Report

The Avocet Project has received a big boost recently with the Bridled Nailtail (BNT) Wallaby Trust being successful in obtaining a funding grant from FAME (Foundation for Australia's Most Endangered Species Ltd) for equipment to be used on the project.

The \$25,000 grant was used to purchase a Honda 500cc ATV bike, UHF Radio and LED work lights for the bike, 2 x hand held GPS, various items for the census trapping kits and some more trail cameras.



As the Trust does not have the capacity to own major assets like the ATV, it has been agreed that this will be transferred over to CWM to look after. It will therefore be available to us to use on the Avocet Project for predator control as well as monitoring and census trapping.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank both FAME and the hard working team of the BNT Trust for their support in providing all these items to help us do our job of predator control more efficiently.

This is a great example of how three different organisations can work together for a common goal in conservation. Over the next twelve months or more we will be working with QPWS and other key stake holders in a larger community engagement program. This will include activities such as baiting and other forms of feral animal control over a much broader coordinated area. It is very important for other stake holders to get to know us and see the professionalism demonstrated by our members.



Bridled nail-tail wallaby (M Woods)

In time this will help to increase the predator buffer zone around the nature refuge that the bridled nailtails live in.

Also, the recovery group are looking at putting in an intensive trail camera monitoring grid across the refuge with a view to cover Avocet greater and Bush Heritage's Goondaroo Reserve. This program will take at least 12 to 18 months to cover the area and it will also take a lot of volunteers from several organisations and groups to make this happen successfully.

With this type of monitoring the recovery group is trying to better understanding of BNT wallaby density and distribution across the refuge. This will also

allow the monitoring of wallabies with ear tags to determine how much they move around, their interaction with the cattle and with predators. It will also allow us to see what predators are present and their habits before and after control is carried out. This will all help us better understand the BNT wallaby, and how to carry out a more effective feral animal management program.

If you have some time to help with this exciting new stage of the BNT's recovery this please call me on 0438 098 469. Remember you can do some hunting as well.

North Queensland

Whitsunday report

The Whitsunday region ran a project at Collinsville off the back of Graham Blines visit to the property a few weeks earlier. Nine members took part in the 4 day trip including several new and a few old hands. It was a good exercise in trip planning, navigation, 4 WD techniques, and a chance for members from Townsville, Cairns and Whitsundays to get to know each other.

During the trip the annual cattle muster via horseback and chopper was in progress on the property. Working closely with the property manager was paramount and this meant that large tracks of the property were off limits for certain days.

This trip was in early November and proved to be hard work with temperatures and humidity

rising. This forced us to spend the hottest part of the day cooling down in the creeks.



Collinsville has nice creeks to cool off in

The one and only boar was taken close to the main river by the member that made a 900 km track from Cairns to attend.

Several mobs of pigs were spotted in thick lantana dashing to and from cover. They offered no chance to fire a round. Some large wallows and tusk rubbings were also found in one of the more remote parts of the property.

Overall the project was a great chance for members to look over new equipment, share stories and familiarise themselves with a very large property with all types of terrain.

Justine Boseley

Mackay Report

The year has got off to a slow start with a number of trips cancelled due to wet weather.

Our first Accreditation Course for 2013 was held on 2nd February with 5 new members attending. There were another 18 existing members on the

firing line that morning, who took advantage of the time to complete their practical assessment, test new loads, sight in new rifles or adjust scopes etc.

Apart from making sure that green stuff doesn't grow on our rifles in the safe there hasn't been a lot we could do in recent weeks.

Talks are continuing in relation to the Island Projects and a meeting with the Rangers as late as last week seems to indicate that one of these Projects should be operational by the second half of this year.

Graham Blines
0417 762 161

Townsville report

Townsville is back for the year 2013. We have 5 projects in the local area that we are developing. The established projects are still subject to weather and access but there is hope that we should be able to get a start soon.

The first range day for Townsville CWM at the Thuringowa SSAA range was very well received with 4 new members completing their theory accreditation. We will be expecting a few more new members at the next Range day on Saturday the 9 March. The theory course will start at 9.00am and an informal update chat at lunch time. The range will be open after lunch for general practice and a friendly scored field style shoot at 3.30 if there is interest.



Electric powered vehicle

On a side note I have progressed to "the wheels are turning" on my electric powered, deadly silent, 2 seat, 4WD aluminium shooting buggy. We are aiming to construct a low speed all-terrain vehicle i.e. up to about 20kph and range of 70 km.



Maca's motor to gearbox adaptor

Maca, a member/armorer did the work on the motor to gearbox adaptor. It was supposed to be a quick fix just for development but Maca only knows one way.

If anyone in CWM has knowledge on electric vehicles or access to components like 36/48 volt motors please give me a call or email. Next newsletter for more images and detail.

Randle Irvin – 0411040010

GPS Tip

Handheld GPS's are becoming an indispensable item of kit to do our job, not only for navigating but increasingly required for marking locations of culls. While marking your current location as a waypoint is quick and easy, as is recording a track log, managing this information and particularly setting up waypoints and routes in advance of a trip, or a day's activities, can be very tedious to enter into the unit by hand. But there is an easier way — this brief note is to provide awareness about some free utilities that could be helpful for setting up GPSs with useful information before going into the field. These notes relate primarily to Garmin GPS's, but Magellan provide their free "VantagePoint" software, which may provide similar utility.



The Garmin free software is "BaseCamp" downloadable from their website: <http://www8.garmin.com/support/mappingsw.jsp> It is rather basic but simple to use; allows transfer of data both ways via USB cable between (most) Garmin GPS's and the software; creating and editing of waypoints (naming, selecting icons & setting other attributes),

defining routes and tracks (or create them from waypoints); making measurements. You can send your work directly to the GPS or save to a named .gpx (or other) file in a computer folder, which can be shared among team members. Data can be received from the GPS, edited and saved to computer file, enabling valuable information from trips to be managed and stored for re-use later. The included base map is fairly crude and not particularly accurate. Imagery can be purchased to load into it, but much better and free is to use Google Earth which can be downloaded from:

<http://www.google.com/earth/download/ge/agree.html>

With Google Earth, you can zoom in to see detailed land features in satellite images and directly pick 'placemarks' (waypoints), paths, and polygons from features of interest in the image. These can be edited (name, icon, etc), organised in folders called 'Places', and saved. They can also be exported as .kml or .kmz files, which can be imported into Basecamp where they appear as waypoints, routes and tracks that can be further manipulated as described above. Data from the handheld GPS can also be imported into Google Earth, so your tracks can be directly overlaid onto satellite images, and elevation profiles displayed. However, BaseMap (or .gpx file) is needed to load data into the GPS.



Note that Google Earth always uses the WGS84 datum, so BaseCamp and GPS's also need to be set to WGS84 for things to line up. Coordinates are less critical — all can do Lat/Lon or UTM but we usually use UTM's and this can be selected from the options menu in both BaseCamp and Google Earth. Also, set Google Earth's disk cache to the maximum size, then as you explore your next trip while online at home, your computer should have imagery stored in the cache to be used in the field even with no internet.



While maps and compasses are still needed, GPS's can make things easier and these free applications beat thumbing around fiddly buttons in the field.

Roland Pitcher

Taking on a Newbie

In January I was asked by my brother Dave to meet up on one of our properties around Taroom for a 3 day week end. I had a spare seat in my car so I asked Josiah, a new CWM member who had not been west of Toowoomba to come along for the 6 hour drive.

I was introducing a new shooter to the bush. Sometimes we hunt with the same friends or relatives for years but until we start showing a new shooter how to read sign, point out likely cover or even how to find their way around a small (20,000 acre!) property you realize how much information we have that can be passed on to the younger members of our sport.

As it turned out it was hitting 40 Degrees by 11am and Josiah understood after the first afternoon the reason we carried so much water, first aid kit and a blaze orange piece of clothing.



Can you see my blaze hat?

Part of this learning is that the property owner is not just there to be used. Over the years we have become like family on some properties by building up relationships where we give some of our time to help them in their day to day work. By

utilizing our skills to fix things on anything from door hinges and locks in the workers cottage we use to ride on mowers - things that they need done but never seem to have the time. When harvesting grain, branding cattle or making sausages those extra pairs of hands are greatly appreciated and in some cases a new learning experience that us city folk would not get to try.



Taking a break

On the way there while driving through Chinchilla we stopped and bought some watermelons that we shared with the owner's family. The obvious enjoyment of the young children and adults was a welcome sight.

Josiah's now has a better idea of what will be required when he goes on his first extended CWM trip.

Ken Payne

Hunters Beware Zoonoses

In another working life I was employed by the Commonwealth Government in the Veterinary Services Division inspecting livestock and carcasses for local human consumption and for export. This occupation and the tertiary qualifications that go with it made me keenly aware of hygiene as a preventative

measure to avoid some of the nasties that any one of us could be infected with from feral animals which we hunt.

Diseases that humans may catch from animals are called Zoonoses and parasitic diseases of animals which may affect humans are called Helminth Zoonoses. None of these diseases are very nice and it is certainly best to avoid them if you can. My way of approaching this in the field is to presume that all feral animals I come in contact with may be infected with something that I want to avoid.

Some of the measures I take include;

- Covering all cuts and scratches with waterproof dressings.
- Using disposable gloves when handling or slaughtering animals and using a disposable face mask when opening up the body cavity to remove entrails and offal.
- Thoroughly wash hands and forearms in soapy water after handling carcasses. Some of the sanitisers available that don't require the use of water can also be quite useful.



Some sanitisers don't require water

- Be extra careful when handling pregnant animals and especially avoid spillage of the amniotic fluid from the womb.
- Thoroughly clean all gear, including knives, of any blood, urine, faeces and any other bodily fluids.



Thoroughly clean all gear

Next time it is raining or you are looking for something to do, try “googling” some of these words; Hydatidosis, Q Fever, Brucellosis, Cat Scratch Fever, Toxoplasmosis and Leptospirosis. These diseases are probably more common than most people believe. With the exception of Hydatidosis I have personally know people who have suffered from one of the other diseases mentioned. I have also experienced Q Fever myself.

Graham Blines

Things that Bite and Sting

Protection from bites and stings is an essential component of risk management when engaged in C&WM bush related activities. Long sleeves and trousers, ankle gaiters, boots and hat all offer a degree

of protection from encounters with insects and snakes. Other than venomous snakes, ticks are potentially the most common and most hazardous. Tick bites, often regarded as a local discomfort can have serious consequences if left untreated. Refer to the link below.

http://www.health.qld.gov.au/poisonsinformationcentre/bites_stings/bs_ticks.asp

The paralysis tick ixodes holocyclus, very prevalent due to good seasonal conditions can cause local irritation, muscle weakness and allergic reaction and require immediate attention.



[-----3mm-----]

‘Scrub itch’ is a condition caused by seed ticks, the developing larva of adult ticks, are as small as a pin head and are known to latch onto a passing host by the hundreds. All ticks have the ability to transmit disease such as Lyme disease, a tick-borne disease that can be life threatening.

Insect repellents containing the active (DEET) or tea tree oil may reduce infestation. Regular self-examination and removal is the preferred treatment.

Often the ticks piercing mouth parts have firmly attached before any form of irritation is noticed. Fine tweezers or tick removers should be part of any backpack first aid kit.

John Swift

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Upcoming Activity Dates –2013

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.

Hunting Activities - Attendance at activities **must** be arranged with the Team Leader (Contact) as most activities will have a safe operating limit.

March			
4 th - 8 th	Calliope Pigs	Central	Greg de Koning
9 th	Townsville Training/Range Day - Thuringowa	Northern	Randle Irvin
16 th -17 th	Training Week end	Southern	Brett Marais
16 th - 17 th	Blackwater Project	Central	Rod Costin
29-31	Stanthorpe-Amiens	Southern	Peter Keith
April			
30 th - 6 th	Moonie Pigs	Southern	Damien Ferguson
13 th	Townsville Training/Range Day - Thuringowa	Northern	Randle Irvin
13 th - 19 th	Blackwater South Project	Central	Wayne Bowker
20 th – 21 st	Avocet	Central	Brad Hughes
20 th - 21 st	Stewartdale Feral Control	Southern	Owen McIntyre
May			
11 th	Townsville Training/Range Day - Thuringowa	Northern	Randle Irvin
18 th -19 th	Stewartdale Feral Control	Southern	Owen McIntyre
18 th - 19 th	Blackwater Project	Central	Rod Costin
20 th - 24 th	Calliope Pigs	Central	Greg de Koning
25 th - 31 st	Blackwater South Project	Central	Wayne Bowker
June			
1 st - 8 th	Moonie Pigs	Southern	Damien Ferguson
8 th	Townsville Training/Range Day - Thuringowa	Northern	Randle Irvin
15 th -16 th	Training Week end	Southern	Brett Marais
15 th – 16 th	Avocet	Central	Brad Hughes
15 th - 22 nd	Gladstone Pigs	Central	Greg de Koning
July			
13 th	Townsville Training/Range Day - Thuringowa	Northern	Randle Irvin
15 th -19 th	Calliope Pigs	Central	Greg de Koning
20 th -21 st	Stewartdale Feral Control	Southern	Owen McIntyre
18 th - 19 th	Blackwater Project	Central	Rod Costin
20 th - 26 th	Blackwater South Project	Central	Wayne Bowker
August			
3 rd - 10 th	Moonie Pigs	Southern	Damien Ferguson
10 th	Townsville Training/Range Day - Thuringowa	Northern	Randle Irvin
10 th -17 th	Gladstone Pigs	Central	Greg de Koning
17 th – 18 th	Avocet	Central	Brad Hughes
17 th -18 th	Stewartdale Feral Control	Southern	Owen McIntyre
September			
9 th -13 th	Calliope Pigs	Central	Greg de Koning
14 th	Townsville Training/Range Day - Thuringowa	Northern	Randle Irvin
21 st - 22 nd	Training Week end	Southern	Brett Marais
21 st – 22 nd	Blackwater Project	Central	Rod Costin

October			
5th - 12 th	Moonie Pigs	Southern	Damien Ferguson
12 th	Townsville Training/Range Day - Thuringowa	Northern	Randle Irvin
12th - 18 th	Blackwater South Project	Central	Wayne Bowker
19 th – 20 th	Avocet	Central	Brad Hughes
19th - 20 th	Stewartdale Feral Control	Southern	Owen McIntyre
26th - 2 nd	Gladstone Pigs	Central	Greg de Koning
November			
9 th	Townsville Training/Range Day - Thuringowa	Northern	Randle Irvin
16th - 17 th	Training Week end	Southern	Brett Marais
16 th - 17 th	Blackwater Project	Central	Rod Costin
25th - 29 th	Calliope Pigs	Central	Greg de Koning
December			
14 th	Townsville Training/Range Day - Thuringowa	Northern	Randle Irvin
30th - 7 th	Moonie Pigs	Southern	Damien Ferguson
21st - 22 nd	Stewartdale Feral Control	Southern	Owen McIntyre
30th - 7 th	Gladstone Pigs	Central	Greg de Koning
Projects - Dates to be confirmed			
TBA	Stanthorpe 'Amiens' Project	Southern	Peter Keith
TBA	Gympie Dogs	Southern	Glen Neville
TBA	Mundubbera Dogs and Pigs	Southern	Peter Ferguson
TBA	Avocet: Emerald	Central	Brad Hughes
TBA	Longreach 'L' feral Cat & Fox Project	Western	Mike Farrell
TBA	Longreach 'W' feral Cat & Fox Project	Western	Mike Farrell
TBA	Blackall Pig, Cat & Fox project	Western	Damien Ferguson
TBA ¹	Townsville Pinnacles Pig Project	Northern	Randle Irvin
TBA ¹	Townsville Serpentine Pig Project	Northern	Randle Irvin
TBA ¹	Townsville Pig Project	Northern	Randle Irvin
TBA	Mackay 'Islands' Projects	Northern	Graham Blines & Justin Boseley
TBA	'Edgebaston' Aramac Project	Central	Mike Farrell
TBA ¹	Collinsville Project	Northern	Graham Blines

TBA - For many of the projects marked as 'TBA', please contact the relevant project leader or keep a close eye on email traffic and the website <http://cwm.ssaqld.org.au/calendar-of-events.html> for trip dates.

TBA ¹ - Dry season only

Project Target Species

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

Blackwater – Feral Pigs, Dogs & cats.

Blackwater South – Feral Pigs and scrub cattle. Secondary – Cats.

Calliope – Feral pigs, foxes, cats & wild dogs.

Collinsville - Primary – Pigs.

Edgebaston – Primary – Feral Pigs, wild dogs, foxes & cats.

Gladstone – Primary – Feral Pigs, wild dogs, foxes & cats.

Gympie – Primary – Wild Dogs. Secondary – Feral Pigs, Foxes, Feral Cats and European Hares.

Longreach 'L', 'W', 'B' & 'D' projects – Primary – Feral Cats & Foxes. Secondary – Feral Pigs.

Moonie – Primary – Pigs, Goats, Foxes, Cats, Dogs, European Carp & Indian Mynah birds.

Mundubbera - Primary Dogs. Secondary pigs, cats & foxes

Stewartdale - Primary - Hares, Foxes, Cats, Dogs, Pigs

Stanthorpe 'Amiens' - Pigs, Foxes, Cats, Wild Dogs, Rabbits, Goats & Deer.

Townsville – Primary – Pigs

Serpentine Creek – Pigs

Pinnacles - Pigs