



## 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 2014

### Message from the Committee Chairman

Happy New Year to everyone,

It's a heartbreakingly dry start to the year for too many of our farmers and rural communities. However, the dry weather is our chance to target feral pests in their drought refuges where we can have maximum impacts.

We continue to have requests from various landowners to help with their pest problems. Now is the time to get your leave sorted out and attend the various projects and also to introduce other good people to CWM.

### **Positions Vacant:**

Assets Manager – CWM has accumulated some valuable equipment over the years. We have recently also been awarded a substantial grant of over \$25,000 as part of the 'Friends of Parks' program to purchase highly effective thermal imaging and night vision equipment. This gear is to be used to control feral pests

and monitor/count native species on selected state government properties. The plan is to provide a thermal and night vision kit for each of the Townsville, Mackay, Gladstone & South East regions.

To assist us to manage our existing and future equipment we require a member to volunteer their skills and time as our 'Assets Manager' to develop an assets register and assist us to keep track of our inventory of equipment.

Gympie dog project leader - Many thanks to Glen Neville for his work on this project to date. Gympie Dogs is a small project south east of Gympie. We believe there's scope to expand the project into neighbouring properties. Feral pigs and wild dogs are a major problem for macadamia growers and cattle producers in the area. Many thanks to Glen Neville for his work on this project.

If you're interested in taking on the role, or want to know more about being a project leader,

please contact Benn Harvey-Walker [bennhw@optusnet.com.au](mailto:bennhw@optusnet.com.au)

New Member Mentors – We have many new members joining and completing their written accreditation. However there seems to be a time lag in people then completing their marksmanship accreditation. We are looking for volunteers that would like to assist some of the new members finish their accreditations and to possibly accompany them on a project or two.

Training Weekend assistance – CWM runs training days across our various regions in QLD and we are looking for members who have specialist skills to assist running a training segment. We also require people to assist in the general running of these days and to possibly take the reins when the respective training leader is not able to attend.

Damien Ferguson  
Committee Chairman  
Mobile - 0402 424 424  
[damien.ferguson@hotmail.com](mailto:damien.ferguson@hotmail.com)

## **South East Queensland Report**

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### **SE Training Weekend**

**The SE training weekend coming up on the weekend 15th-16th of March at Stewartdale.** Members in the South east are strongly encouraged to come along. You will learn new things, have fun, meet fellow members and find out more about opportunities to get into a field project.

For directions to Stewartdale:  
<http://cwm.ssaqld.org.au/component/content/article/41-top-headlines/137-seq-stewartdale-via-ripley-training-weekends-details.html>

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

## **North Queensland**

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### **Townsville report**

North Queensland members from Cairns to Mt Isa and south to Proserpine are currently working through the tail end of a wet hot summer and looking forward to the cooler months with several new projects coming up in the North.

First up will be **the Burdekin River Wetland project** with dates set for the year and we will be looking for members to fill the vacant spots. There are several couples attending the BRWL project this year. The question of other family members attending was raised. The requirement for this project are such that those attending need to be actively engaged in the project including support roles. It is important

that all attendees on this project are there to contribute to the project goals of feral animal impact reduction and monitoring.

The **Longreach Bilby project** will be run again in May 2014. This will be the second year for CWM on this Project. The focus is on feral cats and reducing their devastation of the threatened Bilby. This is a very challenging project by all accounts but a rewarding experience for all those that attend.

The **Townsville Island Project** is expected to have dates set in the near future. The project had a very successful outcome in 2013 with approximately 1600 feral pests removed. We need to complete the job in the next period. This Project has several unique aspects that add up to a very special experience. The dates for the next Townsville Island project will be emailed out to all when we get confirmation.

That leaves 2 other projects north and south of Townsville that are in the development phase.

All in all, the members in the North are looking forward to a very eventful year. If you are interested in any of the projects up North please get in contact with us.

Randle Irvin 0411 040 010

### **Whitsunday/Bowen report -**

Hi everyone from our beautiful part of the world. I am currently working on setting up a few projects. These including following up on the **Collinsville project**, a new project east of

Proserpine and a couple of local possibilities that may eventuate.

SSAA Bowen have a fair bit of interest towards the CWM course as we are basically a rural group and understand the need for feral animal control. We will be running both practical and theory sessions in the up and coming accreditation course.

I hope the next input from Whitsunday/Bowen area will contain some more info and pictures. Until then stay safe, stay cool...

Peter Hannah 0438 676 495

### **Mackay report**

There is not a lot to report from Mackay at this point in the year.

I am anticipating a meeting with our major government partner towards the end of this month to discuss and plan for 5 new Projects to come on line in this Region throughout the rest of this year

I am hoping that we may be able to run **the Collinsville Project** again this year and have suggested to the Lessees that an earlier trip in August/September may be more appropriate and suitable for them. We are waiting to hear back from them at this stage.

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February we conducted our first Accreditation Course for the year with another 4 new members.

Graham Blines 0417 762 161

## ***Moonie - Our first CWM project.***

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Thirty millimetres of rain just days before the Moonie project start was very disappointing news. This was going to be a first time on a CWM project for Steve and I, so we did not want anything to go wrong.

Gary was project leader. He kept in close contact with property owners and CWM members such that there was never a moment in the build up to the scheduled start date that we were not fully aware of the expected weather and the situation on the ground.

The all clear for a Monday afternoon start came and we were off to Moonie.

On arrival Gary the project leader welcomed us and took time to show us the maps of the properties and boundaries, where feral sightings had occurred the day and night before, areas of no go, property protocol, safety issues and the need to give a hand with prickly pear tree removal. We were introduced to other members, made to feel very welcome and were off to a very good start.

This would turn out to be an action packed first project for us. More hunting than sleeping!

First afternoon, having just arrived under a shady tree for a spot of dam sitting, three piglets walked down a gully in front of us towards the dam. The sow came into view 20 seconds later. She walked within 15 meters of us before testing the air to realise she was not alone. Unfortunately, we were not quite prepared and lost the opportunity. However, this a very encouraging sign.

The night was full. Staking out a feed lot where a couple of boars stayed too close to cattle to get a shot at, followed by spotlighting until 4:45 am when the sun started to come up could not have been better. Cats, foxes, and hares in wheat stubble made for an excellent night's results. The thermal vision equipment was a great help.

Too much wind slowed us down the next day and night so results were harder to achieve, but we understood the properties much better after that day and a drive around the undeveloped central property saw us find a decent billy feeding in thickish scrub just off the road. Steve took him with a good shot from his .243. It was Steve's first goat and a good one too. We had seen the goats the previous afternoon so we knew they were in the area and this was the encounter we were looking for.



Steve's first goat

We joined Mick for spotlighting that night and the pigs and foxes were out in force. This was a good night for me as I used my new Aimpoint red dot

site on a Marlin 336 in 30-30 calibre with a running boar shot through the shoulder at about 50 meters.



My running boar

We had spotted two boars the night before starting their evening walkabout from scrub near the feed lot and waited to see if they did the same the next night. One did not disappoint and Mick surprised him with a good shot through the shoulder using his 45-70.

Excellent memories of our first CWM outing. We left feeling we had done a little to help Australian flora and fauna, made new friends, developed ideas on equipment for future projects, and had a really great time.

All up for the week 33 pigs, 23 foxes, 15 cats and 2 goats were removed.

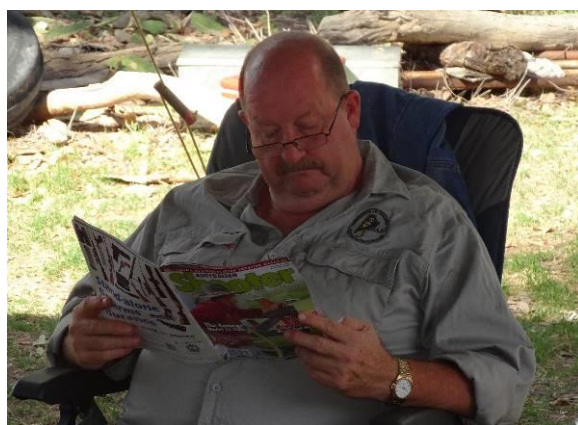
Special thanks to Adrian, Dan, Gary and Mick for making this first CWM trip so professional, friendly, rewarding and memorable.

Kevin Weston



## ***Moonie Project Photos***

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## **How much gun is enough?**

It is an old question but it's not until you get into a situation where it really comes to the fore.



When targeting dangerous game such as pigs and scrub cattle we can say to ourselves our rifle will be enough to do the job in dropping an animal with a well-placed shot.

Recently, I was hunting in thick cover, cypress pine, lime bush & scrub. This was snap shooting and one of my shots was not spot on a 50 kg boar.

As part of our code of practice we followed up until the animal was found. As I stepped around a bush and spotted him at 10m he spotted me too and charged. I fired a quick shot and missed and my next shot, basically at point blank, dropped him at my feet.

I use a marlin 444 with a 240 grain bullet for this type of work. Some think it is more than is required but in the situation I just described it shines. The other side of the story is that if I had missed again his sharp tusks could have spoiled what was a great weekend and would have put my hunting partner in the bad position of patching me up and getting me out.



So when selecting a rifle for a job make sure it is more than capable of doing the job and practice with it so it is second nature to aim and fire.

## **Comradeship between hunters**

While on the last Moonie trip one of our members, Tim, produced a full rib fillet and suggested we have a Sunday night roast on his Weber. Others chipped in and before you knew it some potatoes appeared and were cooked in alfoil and another knocked up a special sauce and another a salad.

Some of these members were first time hunting companions. Team spirit and generosity shows when people get together. It was a great time to spin yarns, relax and build lasting friendships between CWM members. During these times we share our combined experiences and discuss a wide variety of topics while looking at stars in the night sky that can only be really seen away from the city lights.



Sharing a meal

Ken Payne



## ***The Modern Day Message Stick***

It doesn't seem that long ago that I would throw a few essential items into an old ex-army backpack pick up my rifle and head off into the scrub for a day or two of hunting mostly on my own. When I do the maths though, some of these memories are now well over 40 years old. I was young, enthusiastic and fit and had never heard of a PLB. They hadn't been invented.

So why mention them now?

I still like to think that I am relatively fit and healthy, I still enjoy hunting but I'm now only one year away from becoming a sexagenarian. After all these years of marriage I have come to realise that Maree, my dear wife, does worry about me when I "go bush" and now insists that I never go on my own. There are just too many things that could happen to an old bloke like me she insists. The dangers out there are still the same but the odds of something happening have increased as I've grown older. Now, even I have to admit that she is probably right.

Taipan bites, Stoke, Heart Attack, Heat Stroke, Hypothermia and even getting lost can all kill and if you ever need help for any of these situations you probably haven't much time to lose. This is where a PLB comes into its own. When activated it alerts the authorities that you need help and provides them with your location. A search and rescue mission can be underway in minutes.

What is a PLB? It is a Personal



**There are different PLBs available**

Locator Beacon (similar, but not the same as an EPIRB). They now operate within Australia only on 406 MHz and these beacons can be and should be registered with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority so that your beacon can be tracked in case of emergency.

Some of our Projects now operate in some quite remote areas of the State where Mobile phone and UHF radio coverage is unreliable at best. Satellite phones are obviously a better option but they are expensive and not totally reliable either. For around \$300-\$400 it is possible to buy good insurance for yourself should something go pear shaped in a remote area and you need help fast. This is the one I have chosen for myself but there are quite a few others out there to choose from which are probably just as good or better. Like a lot of electronic equipment today these beacons are quite small and light weight and can be carried almost anywhere you want to put it. This one weighs only 235gms in its case.

Australian Government advertisements such as this one encourage the purchase and registration of such devices.



Another option that could be considered is a SPOT Satellite GPS Messenger, which you might remember was the topic of discussion in an article in the November 2011 edition of our Newsletter. This piece of equipment is again similar but not the same and has several other features which may be of interest to some people.

Accidents always happen to other people - don't they???

Graham Blines  
CWM Mackay



## **Feral Cat teeth**

A property owner near where we go in Taroom shot this feral cat recently. They sent me this photo and made comment on the teeth. Ken Payne



Any readers who have "big cat" stories or experiences can contact Graham Blines 0417 762161. Graham has a personal interest in this area.

## **Media release – Veterans helping veterans**

On Saturday 8 March 2014 at 0800 hrs (registration from 0700 hrs) the RAR (Royal Australian Regiment) STOMP for Support in aid of Trojan's Trek Veterans' Support Walk will be held. The activity is open to everyone; groups, families and friends are welcome. This event is the first walk in Brisbane in support of Trojan's Trek [www.trojanstrek.com](http://www.trojanstrek.com) a unique South Australian program which supports our younger veterans from all around Australia adjust to life after combat deployment. Walkers will commence at The Shrine of

Remembrance at ANZAC Square in Adelaide St, in Brisbane City and finish at The National Memorial Walk in Enoggera Barracks (Approx. 12 km) where there will be a Sausage Sizzle (Gold Coin). It is anticipated that in excess of 300 supporters will start. Entry is open to all, \$10.00 per person or \$20.00 for a family. All proceeds to the Trojan's Trek Foundation. Contact for the activity is: Michael Harding on 0423 491 327 or Arthur Willemse on 0405 693 066

## **Remington Swag Special - Qld Shooters Supplies**

Queensland Shooters Supplies is owned and operated by SSAA Qld. The store manager Ian Tutin has come up with another super special for CWM members.

This Remington Swag is H/D Green Canvas, with a 2" high densely form mattress, fly screens ( Head and Top) for those hot nights and water Repellent/Proof.

The swags are top quality. Raytrade the importer of Remington and Marlin firearms has slashed the price for CWM Members.

**CWM Members price \$150.00**



QSS pick up only or at CWM field days at Ripley Fig Tree. Post extra - ring for a quote

Queensland Shooters Supplies  
266 Brisbane St  
West Ipswich Qld 4305  
(07) 3202 2111  
Dealer's Licence # 50000025



## **CWM Contacts**

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### **Peter Hannah**

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### **Peter Ferguson**

Eidsvold Pigs and Dogs  
Maryvale dogs and pigs  
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### **Wayne Bowker**

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### **Peter Keith**

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### **Benn Harvey-Walker**

Membership and Gympie Dogs  
Phone: 0417 717 358  
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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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Steve Reeves, Brand Leverage

Ph: 0403 383 648.

[www.brandleverage.com.au](http://www.brandleverage.com.au)

### Barclay Transport

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Fax: 3393 0711

Email: [sales@qldgunexchange.com.au](mailto:sales@qldgunexchange.com.au)

<http://www.qldgunexchange.com/QGEWeb/home.seam>

### Queensland Shooters Supplies

Ph: 3202 2111

Fax: 3812 8071

Emails: [sales@qss.org.au](mailto:sales@qss.org.au)

Or for the indoor range: [sales@qir.org.au](mailto:sales@qir.org.au)



## Upcoming Activity Dates –2014

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.

<b>March</b>			
8th	Townsville Training/Range Day - Thuringowa	Northern	Randle Irvin
15th-16th	Training Week end - Stewartdale Ripley	Southern	Brett Marais
15th-20th	Blackwater South Project	Central	Wayne Bowker
24th-28th	Calliope Pigs (arrive Day before - Min 6 to go ahead)	Central	Wayne Bowker
<b>April</b>			
5th-13th	Moonie Pigs	Southern	Damien Ferguson
12th	Townsville Training/Range Day - Thuringowa	Northern	Randle Irvin
11th-21st	Burdekin River Wetland Project	Northern	Randle Irvin
18th-22nd	Stanthorpe-Amiens	Southern	Peter Keith
	Avocet	Central	Brad Hughes
19th-20th	Stewartdale Feral Control	Southern	Owen McIntyre
<b>May</b>			
10th	Townsville Training/Range Day - Thuringowa	Northern	Randle Irvin
10th-15th	Blackwater South Project	Central	Wayne Bowker
16th-18th	Blackwater Project (follow Blackwater South)	Central	Rod Costin
17th-18th	Stewartdale Feral Control	Southern	Owen McIntyre
19th-23rd	Calliope Pigs (arrive Day before - Min 6 to go ahead)	Central	Wayne Bowker
30th-1st	Stanthorpe-Amiens	Southern	Peter Keith
30th-8th	Burdekin River Wetland Project	Northern	Randle Irvin
<b>June</b>			
30th-6th	Moonie Pigs	Southern	Damien Ferguson
7th	Townsville Training/Range Day - Thuringowa	Northern	Randle Irvin
9th-17th	Stanthorpe Border Project	Southern	TBA
20th-22nd	Blackwater Project	Central	Rod Costin
21st-22nd	Training Week end - Stewartdale Ripley	Southern	Brett Marais
	Avocet	Central	Brad Hughes
<b>July</b>			
5th-10th	Blackwater South Project	Central	Wayne Bowker
11th-13th	Blackwater Project (follow Blackwater South)	Central	Rod Costin
11th-13th	Stanthorpe-Amiens	Southern	Peter Keith
11th-20th	Burdekin River Wetland Project	Northern	Randle Irvin
12th	Townsville Training/Range Day - Thuringowa	Northern	Randle Irvin
14th-18th	Calliope Pigs (arrive Day before - Min 6 to go ahead)	Central	Wayne Bowker
19th-20th	Stewartdale Feral Control	Southern	Owen McIntyre
<b>August</b>			
2nd-10th	Moonie Pigs	Southern	Damien Ferguson
9th	Townsville Training/Range Day - Thuringowa	Northern	Randle Irvin
15th-17th	Stanthorpe-Amiens	Southern	Peter Keith
15th-17th	Blackwater Project	Central	Rod Costin
16th-17th	Avocet	Central	Brad Hughes



16th-17th	Stewartdale Feral Control	Southern	Owen McIntyre
<b>September</b>			
1st-5th	Calliope Pigs (arrive Day before - Min 6 to go ahead)	Central	Wayne Bowker
12th-21st	Burdekin River Wetland Project	Northern	Randle Irvin
13th	Townsville Training/Range Day - Thuringowa	Northern	Randle Irvin
18th-23rd	Stanthorpe-Amiens (5 Day trip)	Southern	Peter Keith
20th-21st	Training Week end - Stewartdale Ripley	Southern	Brett Marais
27th-2nd	Blackwater South Project	Central	Rod Costin
<b>October</b>			
4th-12th	Moonie Pigs	Southern	Damien Ferguson
10th-19th	Burdekin River Wetland Project	Northern	Randle Irvin
11th	Townsville Training/Range Day - Thuringowa	Northern	Randle Irvin
	Avocet	Central	Brad Hughes
18th-19th	Stewartdale Feral Control	Southern	Owen McIntyre
31st-2nd	Stanthorpe-Amiens	Southern	Peter Keith
<b>November</b>			
7th-16th	Burdekin River Wetland Project	Northern	Randle Irvin
8th	Townsville Training/Range Day - Thuringowa	Northern	Randle Irvin
15 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup>	Training Week end - Stewartdale Ripley	Southern	Brett Marais
<b>December</b>			
Nil	Townsville Training/Range Day - Thuringowa	Northern	Randle Irvin
1st-5th	Calliope Pigs (arrive Day before - Min 6 to go ahead)	Central	Wayne Bowker
6th-11th	Blackwater South Project	Central	Rod Costin
6th-14th	Moonie Pigs	Southern	Damien Ferguson
12th-14th	Stanthorpe-Amiens	Southern	Peter Keith
20th-21st	Stewartdale Feral Control	Southern	Owen McIntyre
<b>Projects - Dates to be confirmed</b>			
TBA	Gladstone Pigs	Central	Wayne Bowker
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 <sup>1</sup>	Townsville Pinnacles Pig Project	Northern	Randle Irvin
TBA <sup>1</sup>	Townsville Serpentine Pig Project	Northern	Randle Irvin
TBA <sup>1</sup>	Townsville Pig Project	Northern	Randle Irvin
TBA	Mackay 'Islands' Projects	Northern	Graham Blines
TBA	'Edgebaston' Aramac Project	Central	Mike Farrell
TBA <sup>1</sup>	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 <sup>1</sup> - 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