



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 2015

Message from the CWM President

Our thoughts go out to anyone that has been affected by the recent cyclone Marcia.

This time of year traditionally see many of our projects in the north of the state put on hold due to the wet season. Keep an eye on our **projects calendar** as dates will be added here in the coming month/s -

<http://cwm.ssaaqld.org.au/2013/index.php/calendar>

The CWM state-wide committee meets every few years to plan where we are headed and in 2012 we set some goals that were a stretch in many ways. We've more than doubled in member numbers since 2012, however this hasn't kept pace with the numbers of our projects that we have on our books. Our goal going forward is to greatly increase our numbers of good conservation hunters.

Please make a concerted effort to promote CWM at every instance to all those good ethical hunters out there that you feel would be an asset to the group and that are likely interested in assisting our native wildlife and their habitat by removing feral animals.

Committee restructure

I'd like to thank all those hard working volunteers on the committee that put their hands up to look after specific areas of our organisation. Please refer to article below for more details and don't be afraid to volunteer your time and expertise in areas where you believe you can help.

Team Leader Training

As part of a grant from the Qld Dept of Environment and Heritage Protection we have conducted 2 team leader training workshops in SEQ, with 2 more to be held in the next month in Nth Qld. All up, over 60 CWM members will be

put through this training to assist with servicing the over 60 properties that we are tasked to carry out control and monitoring work on.

Other training & accreditation opportunities

We secured another grant from Qld National Parks which included chainsaw accreditation for over 70 of our members. This will be rolled out over the next few months across Qld, with team leaders being the first to go through and then others can nominate for remaining positions.

Future Grants

If you believe you can assist in applying for, securing and administering grants, please feel free to contact me or Gary Cox.

Damien Ferguson
President

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damien.ferguson@hotmail.com

New CWM Strategic Plan and Committee Structure

The CWM committee recently conducted a very successful workshop to review our progress, agree on key priorities, clarify committee roles and choose office bearers. The ultimate aim of the work shop was to provide a platform for the continued success and growth of CWM.



Peter – Master of Ceremonies

Looking back over the 3 years since our last workshop CWM some of key achievements were noted:

- Almost doubled our size (now 550 members)
- Currently over 60 projects properties
- Successful grant applications for equipment such as thermal vision.

- Training for team leaders being rolling out
- Established a very solid reputation with our project partners.

Looking to the future, the workshop agreed on some key priorities for the committee next period including the following:

- Aim to achieve 1500 members

- Develop and implement a CWM member training strategy

Many thanks to those people who put their hand up to take on a more defined role in the committee (listed above).

Many thanks also go to Peter Ferguson for initiating the process and to Peter Keith and Mike Farrell for workshop facilitation and follow-up.

Role	Responsibilities	Who
President	Stakeholder Management	Damien Ferguson
Admin Officer	Communication, Membership Management	Ken Payne
CWM Governance	SSAA Liaison	Geoff Jones
Policy Officer	SOP, COC, EH&S, Asset Register	Mike Farrell
Training Officer	Field Accreditation, Team leader training	Peter Keith
Information Officer	Information Management, Web Page, Reporting, Calendar	Roland Pitcher
Project Officer	New Project Assessment, Project Assessment	Mark Woods
Finance Officer	Budget, Financial Admin	Graham Blines
Marketing Officer	Recruitment, Marketing, Branding, Mentoring	Benn Harvey-Walker
Regional Officers	Regional activities	Regional Reps



Townsville Report

The year ahead, looks pretty good from where we are sitting. The projects in the northern and far northern parts of Queensland are all coming together in 2015. The program for the year is all but finalised and details and dates will be made available shortly.



Dave and Paul "Long-reaching" Cats

We will be starting the Turtle Protection and Mahogany Glider Projects to our north around April and on through the year. The Longreach Cat project will also kick off in April and a crew from Townsville, Mt Isa and South East Queensland will be looking to maintain our zero tolerance on cats.

The Burdekin River Wetland (BRWL) project is going to be monthly, we have new data and equipment to assist our efforts. This should be a very good project. A small crew has been on a quick trip to BRWL project over the current wet to collect information and also picking up 20 pigs for their trouble.

During the Oct 2014 trip to the BRWL Chris stumbled over a mound of pebbles that seemingly should not have been there. The two well-travelled CWM members looked down at this mysterious arrangement of pebbles. Was it a North Queensland version of a Crop Circle?

An image of the pebble mound and GPS co-ordinates was sent off to the QPWS experts. A flurry of emails went back and forth and we now know that we have confirmation of the existence of the *Pseudomys patrius* on this particular project area. It's an Eastern Pebble-Mound Mouse. We now have the information recorded on WildNet for all time.

Townsville Island Project has two dates set for 2015. This project offers some very special features and is in demand so put your name down early.

A special thanks to Bill and everyone involved in the Theory Accreditation course done in February. Townsville



Clint - 1 down 1600 to go

had 24 new members take the theory course this year, a new record for our region. This new record will be broken in the near future we hope. Bill will offer a Theory Accreditation course again in March if we get enough takers. So talk to your friends and acquaintances.



Chris's find - Eastern Pebble mouse

Just to finish, remember to bring your personal GPS configured to UTM when visiting the North.

Randle Irvin
Townsville Co-ordinator
Mob 0411040010

South East Queensland Report

Hello to everyone from SEQ. The rehabilitation program at Stewartdale has started with new fences being put in and a lot of ground work being done. As always, the weather has a big influence at this time of year and the monthly feral control program will move along as the weather allows. **Come along to the March 21-22 South East training weekend** and check out the rehabilitation and development of the SSAA Stewartdale property. Looking forward to seeing you then.

Owen McIntyre
Southern Qld Coordinator
Phone: 0417 615 505

Whitsunday Report

Hi all from the Whitsunday/Bowen area. Well the wet put some flow in the Don River and the grass is growing, good cover for foraging and feeding pig, feral cats etc. This also makes it a bit demanding on hunters considering the heat and humidity we have had the last couple of months. Thankfully the season is turning a bit cooler now.

I have been talking with Randal from Townsville and together we have a couple of projects in the pipeline that should materialize as the country dries out a bit. This will give local CWM members some long awaited in field tasks. This will help identify team leaders and give them practice with working as a team member.

Bowen will be running a cwm theory accreditation course followed closely by a (how to do

UTM navigation using GPS) practical day. We had a working "bee" at the range on 14 Feb to paint out the new (second hand) 40 foot donga. An air conditioned lecture room at last!!! No more sweat on the paperwork syndrome. Hopefully we will have some pictures of our activities next issue.

From the beautiful Bowen/Whitsundays...keep your powder dry.

Peter Hannah

Mackay Report

Our first CWM accreditation course for the year was held on 7 February 2015 with a small number of 6 completing the course.

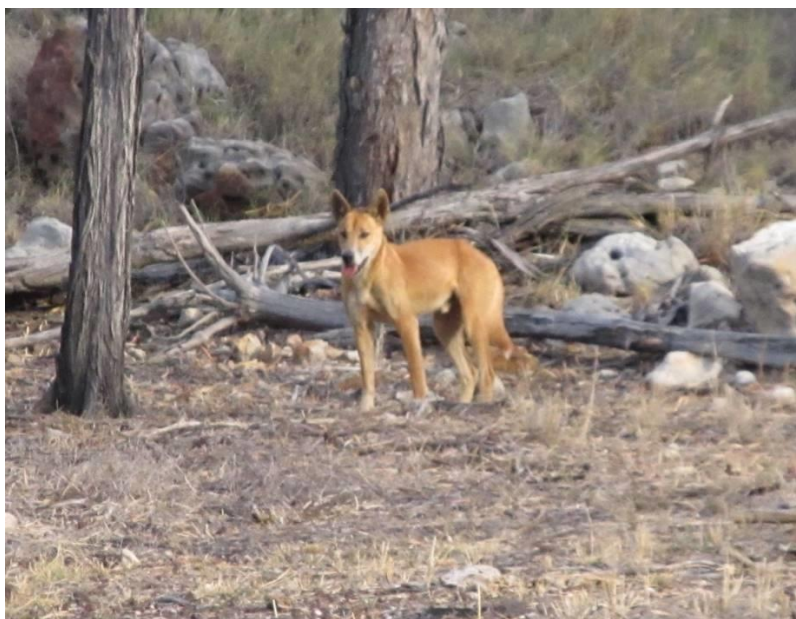
Once the wet season is behind us we anticipate that several new projects will be coming on-line in our region. At this stage two are in the Clermont/Belyando area and another is near Nebo.

Preliminary visits to the new projects (see next article) have been undertaken in early December and I am optimistic that several adjoining landowners will also commit to make these projects even larger and better. A start date is not anticipated until late April /early May followed by another 2-3 trips over subsequent months. Two of these Projects have cropping land (generally sorghum) adjoining which should make for some interesting visits.

There are two members, Ian & Carl who are working towards ensuring that the Collinsville Project will again be run this year with tentative dates for 20th – 30th July. As soon as these dates are set in concrete you will be advised.

A Trip/Team Leaders training day has been organised for Mackay and is to be held at the SSAA George Range on 28th March 2015.

Graham



See next page for details of new Clermont Projects

New Clermont Projects

These projects are about 1 hour and 2 hours north of Clermont respectively.

The Clermont project is flat ground with a small creek running through the rear section of the Property. There is no accommodation or facilities of any kind at this site, you will need to be totally self-sufficient and remove all that you take on site. There is a road around the boundary with a road through the middle of the property and another through the rear section. This site is mostly black soil and care should be taken during rain events. There is no permanent water on this site.

Belyando is undulating with one river and several creeks and dams on site. There is a small cottage with rain water for drinking as well as power, fridge, microwave, shower & toilet. The veranda is an excellent place to recover in the afternoon after a long day in the field. This site is much larger with many more roads and tracks with varying degrees of difficulty (ground clearance) required, especially at the creek crossings, suggest removing the towbar tongue. Belyando varies from stony ridges to river flats full of Gilgai's.

Pigs, foxes and cats are the target species at each of these locations, with no wild dogs to be taken on either site as per the managers request.

Friday was spent completing the site inductions and becoming familiar with the layout of each site and its suitability for CWM to be of help.



Saturday started early with the baiting of 4 pig traps at the Belyando Project and a tour around some of the site. These traps regularly turn good results as evidenced by the pig bones nearby. After this we returned to the Clermont Project for another look around and further assessment. In the afternoon we had a quick walk around a creek system that produced 1 boar.

We then chose ourselves a place to sit and wait until dark over water as everything needs to drink after a 40 degree day. Waiting at our chosen location proved interesting with kangaroos, several species of bird, rabbits and an adult male wild dog and another boar all coming in for a drink. Only the kangaroos noticed us sitting

amongst the trees near the water. The prey animals definitely notice their surroundings more than the predators. I managed several photos before the wild dog departed without his dinner. Sunday morning and another early start was made to check the traps before the temperature got too high. It started well with another boar in a trap. The other traps yielded nil result. Utilising the traps on each site in conjunction with ground based shooting will be the main feature of each project.

The two sites are very different to each other yet both offer good opportunities and I look forward to returning.

Glenn Simon



Calliope Pig Project

Well despite a great deal of effort put in by the team not a single pig was taken. Some of the guys covered up to 20km on foot in a day, no easy task in that country.

There were a few contributing factors to the scarcity of pigs including: the country has been relatively dry, there had been some significant fires, and property managers had conducted a 1080 (Pig Out) baiting program across the major pig affected areas of the property three weeks before the start of the project. As a result only a hand full of pigs were seen in the moister eastern sections of the property.

Although none of the team other than myself had been to this project before the guys very quickly picked up the lay of the place and got down to the business of covering the country. There was no fresh spoor observed at all in the drier western sections so the main effort was concentrated in

the higher, moister eastern areas where only a hand full of small isolated fresh diggings were observed.

I take my hat off to the guys who were determined to hunt down the small number of ferals that we knew were around. One of the guys even camped out all night to cover a small area where we observed the freshest diggings although it was likely caused by only 2 pigs. Good on you Tim, that's dedication. Also good on Allan for taking new member Luke under his wing and showing him the bush experience.

I hope the guys weren't too disheartened by the lack of pig numbers and will head back for another go after some summer rain and feral numbers build up again after the 1080 program.

A really great effort which proved the team's dedication. There will be a couple of small stories to tell, but I'll leave those to the story tellers.

Tim Giesberts.



Calliope project scenery

Gladstone Pig Project

You probably would wonder why a seventy-one year old would be walking along in near pitch darkness across dried out pig wallows, carrying a rifle while trying to follow near invisible figures in front, one of whom turns around and says, "Come on, Bill, catch up!"

We were on one of the scheduled CWM Gladstone Pig Projects. The project commenced in 2006 and its primary purpose is to control feral pigs which destroy the habitat of the small bird known as the yellow chat (Capricorn subspecies) which is listed as vulnerable or critically endangered depending upon which schedule you care to look up. The Yellow Chat lives mainly on the marine plain which is a large flat area of land which becomes covered in seawater during king tides. Foxes, dogs and cats were secondary targets.

Just after lunch on the first day Doug (team leader), Ron, Michael and myself set out for a look over the area. In the middle of the marine plain is a forty meter high island about one hundred and fifty meters across. It was a good vantage point to see what was out on the plain but we saw nothing but cattle which were due to be taken off the property. We later returned at night with a thermal vision scope and noticed pigs on the edge of the plain about 1000m away. We decided to walk the distance (see first paragraph) and the plan was to switch the spotlights on when in good range of the pigs. However, the pigs had disappeared before we came within range.

Gladstone Pig Project (continued...)

At the end of two days all we had taken were two pigs and a fox. On the third day the property managers came to service the trail cameras. The SD cards indicated that to shoot pigs we had to be out between the hours of 9 pm and 3 am. Up to then we had been going to bed at about 10PM. We had to change tactics a bit!

One other job we did was service the pig traps. First thing in the morning we would go on the rounds of the traps to check and re-bait them with fermented wheat. Unfortunately not one pig was caught in a trap! This was probably due to the plentiful food supply on the marine plain and the need to pre-bait the traps for a longer period to allow the pigs to find the bait.

To locate the pigs at night the Thermal Scope was attached to a rotating shaft mounted in a frame on top of a vehicle along with a spot light. We drove along the track at about 10 km/h and when they were seen on the screen the light was switched on and shots taken from in or near the vehicle. That was ideal.

When the pigs were located some distance away among trees three shooters would make their way towards the pigs being directed by the person in the vehicle watching the thermal screen. Communication was by UHF hand held radio using earphones for silence. When pigs were shot Michael used his iPad with the Mud map App to take GPS coordinates. This information was given to the

property manager. By the end of the week we had accounted for eighteen pigs, two dogs and one fox.

The reason I hunt is because I am disgusted with the damage that feral animals cause. Hunting is my way of doing something about it! There are still many pigs left of this property so there is plenty of scope for more CWM visits using similar techniques as described above.



Previous photos from Gladstone pig project



Everyone's Environment Grant

The following is a PR article featuring our Amiens project which is supported by grant funding that CWM was successful in obtaining from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.

Everyone's Environment grant helps with Nature Refuge feral animal control.

Feral pest animal control has taken on new meaning for a cluster of Qld nature refuge properties. Volunteers from the Sporting Shooters of Australia Conservation and Wildlife Management division (SSAA-CWM) supported by an Everyone's Environment grant from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, have provided a solution.

About two years ago three adjoining nature refuges located in the granite belt, about two hours' drive South-West of Brisbane, approached SSAA-CWM for help in controlling a growing number of feral goats and pigs. These pest species were damaging natural flora, farms and domestic gardens.

After an initial property assessment with the property-owners, the scope and scale of the project was established. Since then, SSAA-CWM has conducted over sixteen separate trips involving over fifty individual members. Pest species removed include goats, foxes, rabbits, pigs, deer and cats.



From humble beginnings, other land holders have seen the value of this work and the project has grown to include another eight adjoining privately-held properties and now comprises about two thousand acres. Additionally, Qld Govt have granted access to the Passchendaele State Forest four times a year to extend the range of the feral animal control.

The success of the project has come about by a combination of very high standards of professionalism, safety, results, and consistent communication from the SSAA-CWM team. Stakeholder relationships are strong with the landholders

providing reports of feral animal movements in the week before a project visit.

The Everyone's Environment grant has supported SSAA-CWM to work with local communities to control the damage caused by feral animals on this and other sites across Queensland. Most importantly, the grant has provided training for volunteers and team leaders to maintain very high standards of professionalism in their work. Since receiving the grant SSAA-CWM has almost doubled its size to become a sustainable volunteer environmental protection workforce.



Shirt Embroidery



Members wishing to get their shirts embroidered with the CWM logo can use either:

The Boots and Workwear shed

U6a/ 51, Logan River Rd,
Beenleigh Qld 4207
Ph: (07) 3382 6762.

Quotes for our logo embroidered onto your shirt come in around \$15 each (shirts extra), posted to you. Orders can be done over the phone.

Doree Embroidery

60 Manilla Street, East
Brisbane, Qld, 4169
Phone: (07) 3391 6044

Doree have a minimum charge of \$20. (1 unit \$20, 2 units \$10 each, 3-9 units \$8.50 each, 10-19 units \$8.00 each, 20 + units \$6.00 each.) Everything is plus GST. Members must show their CWM membership card when ordering embroidery.

Back up Rifles

My favourite hunting rifle for pigs in thick scrub is a 444 Marlin which I have been using since I was a lot younger, back in 1981. Being an old boy scout I have always been prepared by taking a backup gun along on my hunting trips just in case any issue arises and my main rifle is taken out of action.

Most times my backup rifle has been a 30/30 or 308. However, recently another 444 came up for sale and I grabbed it with glee. The advantage is that I only have to take one lot of ammo plus it's a joy for me to own 2 x 444's.



Late last year I started to have jamming problems on a hunt where occasionally a round coming out of my tubular magazine would jam half way out. This would happen at the worst times such as when a mob of 20 pigs, put up by another hunter in our group, were running either side of me. I only got 1 shot before the jam occurred. Unfortunately, on this trip I had left my newly acquired backup 444 at home.

I thought I had corrected the problem but the next trip I took it out the issue of cartridge jamming happened again. No worries, the following morning I took my backup 444. The first shot, less than a kilometre from camp, the same issue – jammed action. Back to camp for me!

A search on the internet suggests that the old magazine springs may be the culprit. I had put my faith in a rifle that I had only checked the sighting at the range – not if it had feed problems.

My point is that both second hand and new guns should be thoroughly tested before going into situations where we could be putting our safety in peril – yes even new rifles have been known to have issues.

Ken Payne

Brucellosis Alert

Brucellosis is very nasty and unfortunately reasonably common zoonoses (disease transmitted from animals to humans) and is a disease that CWM members need to be aware of. None of the zoonotic diseases are very nice but this one in particular can be very, very nasty.



There are a number of *Brucella* species (a type of bacteria) that may cause the disease in humans however the strain that our members are most likely to come in contact with is *Brucella suis*. Swine brucellosis which is caused by *Brucella suis* is endemic in the feral pig population in Queensland and has also been reported in some of the other States.



An infection in humans occurs principally from exposure through cuts and abrasions in the skin and by contact with infected tissues such as blood, urine, aborted animals and especially placentae. Airborne transmission from animals to humans is also possible. An

animal carcass will most often show no signs of the disease as you cannot see the organism, taste it or smell it.

The initial symptoms are often very similar to many other febrile diseases (fevers) and are most often accompanied by muscular weakness and pain as well as profuse sweating and headache. The duration of the disease can vary from a few weeks to many months or even years. In untreated patients the fever rises and falls over a period of weeks or more and this disease is sometimes referred to as Undulant Fever due to the "wave-like" nature of the fever.

The incubation period before symptoms are noticed is quite variable but with 1-2 months seeming to be commonplace. Diagnosis can only be confirmed by isolation of the organism from blood, body fluid or tissue samples. Blood cultures are best performed on blood samples taken whilst one's temperature is rising.

The disease is generally treated by a number of different antibiotics over an extended period of weeks or even months. There is no vaccine available to prevent brucellosis. There is a mortality rate associated with this disease which is widely accepted as being 1-2%.

What should our members do to protect themselves against this disease?

- Cover all skin cuts and abrasions with waterproof dressings.
- Be fastidiously hygienic in the field by using disposable rubber gloves and washing hands with soap and water



and/or hand sanitisers regularly.

- If you must eat feral pig meat, make sure that it has been cooked very, very well.
- Never drink unpasteurised milk.
- Avoid the temptation to "open up" obviously pregnant animals and in particular avoid contact with amniotic fluid, placentas and still-borns (abortions).
- Use a disposable face mask when slaughtering, butchering or conducting a post mortem examination on any feral animal, especially wild pigs.
- If members present to their GP with febrile symptoms make sure that they tell him/her of their possible exposure to the disease and ask that a Brucellosis test be undertaken. (I would also ask that other zoonotic disease such as Q-Fever and Leptospirosis should also be excluded in the testing process).

Graham Blines.

Telstra Sat Phone using next G sim card

Telstra mobile phone customers (with 04 number), on a post-paid plan (i.e. excluding prepaid) with Global Roaming enabled, can use their Telstra Next G SIM card in Iridium sat-phone handsets (models: 9500 9505 9505a 9555 9575; note sim sizes differ).

Call charges will be high, and charged for both incoming, outgoing calls and SMS (see <https://www.telstra.com.au/content/dam/tcom/personal/mobile-phones/pdf/mobilesat.pdf>). However, in an emergency such costs are not important. Also in a life-threatening emergency, calls to 000/112 apparently do work without a sim and have no charge on sat phones.

This opens up possibilities for buying used (or borrowing) Iridium Sat Phones and temporarily inserting a Telstra sim card during field projects without need for signing up to plans or buying pre-paid airtime. For more info, see e.g. <http://www.wangaratta4x4club.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Handheld-Satellite-Phone-Solutions-for-Travellers-@-ExplorOz-Articles.pdf>

Roland Pitcher

Tick Allergy

Catalyst (ABC TV Tuesday, 17 February 2015) recently did a story on tick bites causing a potentially fatal reaction to mammalian meat. Australia has the highest incidence of this in the world but it is relatively unknown. They also explain



Paralysis Tick

that the common methods of tick removal are ineffective against preventing this and explain how they should be removed.

The details are at the following link.

<http://www.abc.net.au/catalyst/stories/4177191.htm>

Click this link for more information on [How to remove a tick correctly](#)

Ether based freeze spray was recommended to kill adult ticks. Dabbing ointment containing Permethrin was recommended to kill juvenile ticks.



Examples of products to remove ticks

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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.

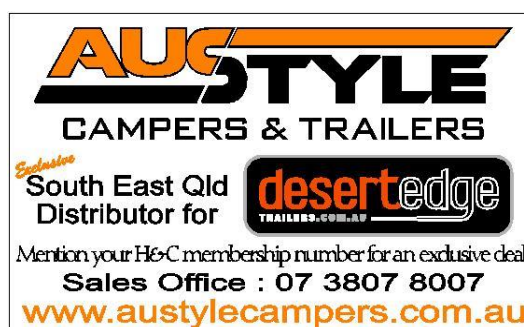
When purchasing items from these businesses please be sure to mention you are a Hunting & Conservation member for discounts where applicable.

Barclay Transport

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Fax: (07) 5533 9079

Emails: btranspt@bigpond.net.au



Creek Marine

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Fax: 3354 1455

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Queensland Shooters Supplies

Ph: 3202 2111

Fax: 3812 8071

Emails: sales@gss.org.au

Or for the indoor range: sales@qir.org.au

Upcoming Activity Dates –2015

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

<http://cwm.ssaaqld.org.au/2013/index.php/calendar>