



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

November 2012 Edition

Message from the Committee Chairman

Summer is just about here and things are hottin' up in more ways than one.

CWM now assists with feral animal management on well over 30 properties covering over 1 million hectares in Qld. The recent good seasons causing a large increase in pest numbers combined with less people on rural properties has resulted in many requests for our help. Word about our professionalism has spread and I would like to thank the CWM committee for the tremendous amount of work that they've put in.

The last month has seen the start of one of the four new 'Longreach' projects, where feral cats, foxes and feral pigs are the main cause of environmental concern. Many ferals were culled and reports about this trip are that the scenery and landscape is beautiful and the accommodation 5 star (air conditioned quarters with all the

mod cons). Don't forget that our project partner will also provide fuel for CWM volunteers' vehicles when on location at Longreach projects.

Another project that kicked off is 'Moonie' (about 4 hours west of Brisbane) where over 100 pigs, many goats and 2 cats were eradicated in the week. We are booked in to attend to this project every 2 months. Look for the report of the first trip later in this newsletter.

The committee would like to thank those members that have volunteered to help out in some way. We are matching people to 'roles' as we progress in bringing the many new projects on line. We are entering a new phase whereby we will be increasing the presence of CWM/ ground shooting/ feral management overall and need assistance from our members in the following areas:

JOBS (please apply):

Project Leaders – Needed to 'relationship & project manage' one or two projects. The main

responsibilities of this role are to communicate with the landholder on a regular basis, organise dates to attend the project, act as team leader and coordinate team leaders. Contact; Damien Ferguson, Mark Woods, Graham Blines, Greg de Koning Rod Costin or Randle Irvin

Team Leaders - Right across the state we would like to see more members step up and volunteer for the roles of team leaders in order that we attend to all projects as agreed. Contact your nearest regional coordinator or project leader.

Website Content Team – We only have a small fraction of our projects on the website. We would love to hear from someone that would be willing to lead a small team in putting together project content pages for our website. Contact Damien Ferguson

Accreditation Course Facilitators – With the many new members joining, our existing facilitators are stretched. If you believe you

have the necessary skills and experience to assist, please call Owen McIntyre (Sth East Qld), Graham Blines/Paul Thompson (Mackay), Col Hughes/Randle Irvin/ (Townsville) or Justin Boseley (Airlie Beach) to offer your support.

Grants & Funding Team – We definitely have the runs on the board that allow us to confidently apply for grants and commercial support, however we require assistance from those that feel they can help in managing &/or preparing grant applications or 'business cases' for commercial or government funding. Contact Gary Cox or Peter Keith.

Damien Ferguson
Committee Chairman
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SE Queensland Report

The Southern Region has been moving along quite fast with very good numbers of new members completing their theory accreditation course and also doing their shooting accreditation. With a much expanded project program for late 2012 and in 2013 we will need the expanded membership base to service them all. If you are a new member or know of new members that have not yet done their accreditation course yet please contact me or pass my details on. It is important step to get booked into an upcoming accreditation course.

Like a lot of properties in the South East Corner, Stewartdale has been hit with fire within the last month which burnt through a large area and into the

neighbouring White Rock Conservation park. As a result the weekend feral control of 20-21st October was a bit of a challenging task with plenty of smoke haze and from various fires in the surrounding areas and with a lot of wind changes. We had 4 new members and 8 regular members attend. We took 1 dog, 1 fox, and 1 hare. I would like to thank those that attended the weekend given the weather conditions. For details on Stewartdale go to: <http://cwm.ssaaqld.org.au/projects/project-stewartdale.html>

The upcoming SEQ Training weekend on 17-18 November is fast approaching and it is a good time to catch up and have a Christmas social shoot. Hope to see you out there.

Owen McIntyre – Sthn Qld Co-ordinator, Stewartdale Project and Accreditation Officer

Fire at Stewartdale

Just before lunch on Tuesday 25th September, the local volunteer fire Brigade was called to a grass fire near the SSAA Rifle range at South Ripley.

Through several acts of Murphy's law, this fire was to last nearly a week and prove to be one of the more challenging fires faced by the local volunteers in many years.

For more photos click on this link.

<http://www.ripleyvalleyruralfire.org.au/NewPages/IncidentsPost2010/RifleRangeFireSept2012.htm>

Central Queensland Report

Eidsvold Project

Earlier this year SSAA received a call from a distraught lady who lived in a rented house on an isolated property out of Mundubbera. A pack of wild dogs had killed a few of her adjusted cattle and neighbour's farm dogs and driven neighbouring cattle through a fence onto a public road. She even feared going to her isolated letter box alone.

The request for a response was relayed to CWM so Peter Monaghan and I set off for this small cattle property. Following an initial property visit and assessment we visited a second time and a number of landowners agreed to a syndicated approach involving CWM volunteers to work for about a week and be based on each of four suitable properties. We had time to undertake five Property Assessments prior to returning to Brisbane. Although we saw pigs during the reconnaissance no shots were possible.



A large feral cat taken

At last eleven CWM members, including Jim Klein all the way from Cairns, four landholders and one enthusiastic wife of a landholder met at the nominated property. All were briefed as per the SOPs with

the landholders included in all discussions. After announcing the small teams, the team leaders and the allocated properties, each landholder led his team home. This went well with the landholders seeming to enjoy the distraction from routine, a chance to meet new folks and introduce their hunters to their properties.



CWM members' comfortable camp

CWM's involvement was timed to 'mop up' after an extensive 1080 baiting program had been recently conducted. At least forty pigs and probably a number of dogs had been culled by the baiting. This meant smaller numbers of feral animals were seen.



CWM member with a fine but previously destructive wild cat

On our property, I was asked to put down a sick cow on arrival. We then towed the carcass to a suitable ambush site near a dam overlooked by useful elevated hide sites. We assumed wrongly that the fresh carcass would be a prime food source from day one. Only at

last light on day six while on a foot patrol, we sighted a fine yellow dog on the run within shooting distance, but the low light and speed of the dog entering dead ground defeated us. But we were getting closer.



A "stake out" hunter in Camo gear?

John and I selected ambush sites overlooking the carcass late the next afternoon hopeful that the dog would again seek easy food. John covered the carcass while I covered what seemed to be the most likely approach, but out of sight of the carcass, bearing in mind the prevailing wind direction.

John was well positioned, camouflaged and equipped with his 300 Remington Ultra Mag. I was comfortable with my .270 and we both settled for a long wait. Within probably an hour John radioed a dog contact. It had not used my chosen approach route. He neatly dispatched it from about 150 meters.

All teams put in long hours and considerable effort for a small overall tally of just four pigs, three cats and the dog. On the larger properties, the use of properly equipped 4 x 4 vehicles was essential both day and night. Remote cameras were also useful, with their early deployment proved necessary to generate timely intelligence.



The elusive dog was taken on day seven

As usual it took a few days to harden up to bush work and to adjust sleeping patterns. Vision improved as we became better at looking into rather than at trees. As with many such deployments, we had just become used to our various properties and team members when a return to our mundane normality became necessary. Real friendships emerged between CWM hunters and our hosts.

A number of good calls to not take shots at either too long a range or in doubtful positions and we did reduce feral targets to some extent. The fact that in every case we were invited back by the landholders was satisfying. Thanks to all members who participated in this project for their cooperation, professional behaviour and good company.

Bring on the next one!

Peter Ferguson (Coordinator)

Project Flashjack Avocet Report

We arrived at the Avocet Reserve on the Saturday evening around 9pm after one of the longest drives up here over the last nine years due to the large amount of road works and the Toowoomba flower festival.

We were greeted by our dynamo park ranger Janelle Lowry and family. After a quick setup and catch up with Janelle it was time to check out the inside of our eyelids.

On Sunday after going through the revised trip leaders tool kit it was time to go and check out the reserve and surrounds for any predator sign then go and help Janelle set all the flashjack traps with the hope of catching suitable animals to fit the new GPS collars to.

When we returned to camp "wild mob" had arrived and set up their camp. We then went through a tool box talk on communications including advising when entering the field and returning, area's we would be hunting in and what to expect during successful culling shoots. The "wild mob" volunteers were uni students and had not been exposed to shooting or this kind of feral animal control before. They were a great group that asked a lot of quality questions and genuinely wanted to learn more about we do.

Over the week we did quite a bit of spotlighting in between day hunting and setting and clearing flashjack traps and running cat trapping on Minerva mine site just down the road.

On Monday arvo we went over

to meet one of the neighbours Dion, to organise having a look over their place. It was great to catch up with the whole family and have a chat about what we have all been up to over the last few months. With night fast approaching we bid our good byes, got our toys out and went for a look around to see what we could find out amongst the wheat and chick pea crops. As the harvest was late this year the crops made for difficult spotlighting.

We only saw, and took, one hare for the night with not one predator seen! Maybe we are really starting to get on top of the feral animal population but most likely they were just hiding in the crops. This was repeated the next night again without seeing anything.

The next few nights were spent on Avocet and the reserve with only one rabbit being taken for cat trap bait. Again no predator's were seen - even around the dead cow that had died calving. It was hard to sneak in to check when you have about two thousand pairs of eyes watching your every move.



Plumed whistling ducks(M Woods)

Andrew and the wild mob crew did a lot of sand plot monitoring throughout the week. This showed that a female wild dog and two small pups were on the move and one cat east of Ron's

dam in the heavy timber. Even with this knowledge, they still seemed to avoid us quite well.



Bridled nail-tail wallaby (M Woods)

As a foot note, while the sand plot monitoring is important, to achieve reasonable successful predator control the monitoring really needs to be run at separate times. A couple of considerations for future trips:

- start feral control as wild mob monitoring team is leaving the project
- find out if the neighbours have started to harvest their crops as they will need to have harvested about half of their crop in order to allow effective predator control on the crop.

We managed to trap 3 cats on Minerva as well as 2 crows and countless Northern bandicoots. Apparently chicken drumsticks are high on the yummy list for bandicoots.

While the numbers taken were low it was quite a successful trip as we got two more flashjacks collared and managed to download some awesome data off two other collars that had been in the field for a while.

It was also a good opportunity to see how wild mob operate. So from a research and operations side of things it was a very interesting trip.

Regards Mark Woods

Moonie Project Report

“Awesome” — the only word to describe the first trip for this project!

Comprising two adjacent properties near Moonie, one cleared for cropping & grazing, and bordered on one side by a river and on the other by a dense Brigalow-Belah woodland (an important representative of this vegetation type remaining in Qld). Together these properties totalled 30,000 acres.

While important for the now rare Brigalow plant community, many native birds and other wildlife, and for agricultural production, the country is rather flat and unassuming. But no matter, for keen CWM members, the imperative to reduce pig numbers and remove goats to minimise their impacts on the environment and protect the vegetation was the priority.

Four members left Brisbane well before sun-up on Friday 28 September to meet the managers of the woodland property at 9 am. We were advised that there were still reasonable numbers of ferals, even after landowners had rounded up as many goats as viable, and set 1080 baits for pigs, foxes & wild dogs twice in the last month. At the north dam, the managers also demonstrated an animal activity monitoring technique they wanted us to set up, involving raking the water's edge and staking the ends of a 6x1m plot¹. They then guided us to the east dam buried >2 km into

the thick woodland; a likely watering hole for many ferals.

We then headed to the ‘cottage’ on the adjacent property to settle in and have lunch.



The ‘cottage’ was pure luuuxury!

The cottage was complete with kitchen, fridges, freezers, BBQ, ample beds, flush toilet and *hot shower*...little else is needed.

After lunch we met the farm manager, and were provided with more local info in discussions over detailed maps. In the afternoon we continued the orientation tour of the property. It wasn't long before 5 feral goats were spotted and dispatched.



The west dam in thick Brigalow woodland.

Continuing to the large west dam, this time along a vehicle track into the Brigalow, the managers completed their briefing and left us to our job. We set up five activity plots around the edge of the dam. Two members headed off to scout another dam on the edge of the grazing land where they took their first pig, and two remained for a dusk stake-out. Not long after setting up his fold up chair, Damien's 308 broke the tranquillity, adding a large

sow and 2 piglets to his tally in two shots — soon to be followed by a multi-coloured goat.

After a long first day, the return to the accommodation and dinner was very welcome. Two additional members arrived later from Brisbane. We also had the pleasure of Rick & Anne Huckstepp with us for the weekend. Rick writes for outdoor magazines including the SSAA Australian Shooter and Hunter. He accompanied us into the field, taking photos and gathering material for stories about CWM for these magazines. Their well equipped camper trailer and quad bike really set a benchmark.

An early start on Saturday morning had 3 teams of two heading off to different parts of the properties; Roland & Adrian dispatching 8 goats in the Brigalow, Brett & Damien another 2 goats & 2 pigs, and Aaron & Hayden used the breeze to advantage in an open paddock to take 7 pigs flushed from “gilgai's” (melon-holes) filled with dense tussocks of cane-grass. Not a bad 6 hours work!



Melon-holes were filled with dense tussocks of cane-grass.

The melon hole country proved to be a major daytime bedding ground for pigs that were raiding the wheat crops at night, and influenced the strategy for part of the trip.

¹ <http://www.feral.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/00014.pdf>



Four goats culled as they entered the Brigalow woodland from the adjacent crop.

One team sprung some goats on the main track, jumped out of the vehicle and chased them 150m into the Brigalow. Having downed the goats, which way was the car? The sky had turned heavily overcast and with no sun there were no directional cues — in the rush, backpacks (with compasses) had been left in the car — very easy to get lost in there!

Lesson: grab your backpack with life saving essentials *before* grabbing the rifles! Also, a blaze orange hat was essential to keep track of your buddy; no-one wants an accident!

Over lunch it started raining, and after it eased a little the 3 teams headed out again. One scored 9 goats & 3 pigs, a second got 3 weaner pigs while the third culled an entire mob of 12 goats.

Too early the next morning (Sunday), the 3 teams joined in a line along the boundary of the Brigalow and the gilgai/cane-grass grazing paddock, hoping to ambush some of the pigs seen there the previous morning. After a disappointing, but picturesque dawn, we decided to conduct a 6 man wide clearance through the gilgai's. With all team members walking 50m abreast, pigs aplenty were flushed — like 4-legged ground clay-targets dashing in all directions — presenting opportunities for all.

Again, blaze hats proved valuable for keeping and tracking the line. After 6 hours (and 15 kms walking) 23 pigs had been dispatched, and many more were sighted — lunch was well deserved.



Blaze hats were important

In the afternoon, the 3 pairs again headed out. One pair relaxed by a dam scoring 2 goats plus 5 on the way there; another walked the river culling 5 pigs (including 1 large boar by Hayden); and the third pair checked out the gilgai's again accounting for 1 cat & 3 pigs but demonstrating that the full line was more effective.



Perhaps the largest pig taken on the trip, on the bank of the river by Hayden.

That night the night-vision was used under the full-moon until 1 am to scan for pigs in the wheat crop next to the melon hole paddock. Members walked 30 metres apart along the wheel rows in the crop with Adrian guiding us onto pigs with the night-vision. When in range, rifle-mounted lights were switched on for the final targeting. In this way, 5 pigs were taken off the crop.

While some members recovered from the late night spotlighting, the Monday morning session yielded 2 pigs from the river, and Brett & Adrian removed 2 pigs & 1 cat from the melon holes. We then participated in a BBQ at the homestead with the manager's family and several neighbouring land-owners keen to hear of our progress. We learned that the group recently contracted helicopter shooting, at significant expense, which accounted for over 200 pigs on their properties — we hoped to be as effective for less cost. We also heard how long it takes to get medical attention in remote areas — another reason to take care in the field and have a well equipped 1st aid kit. Two arriving members exchanged with 2 departing members during the BBQ and in the afternoon they were given an orientation that quickly became a practical engagement with Bob & Steve contributing to the dispatch of 8 goats. Later, an evening of night-vision hunting & spotlighting yielded 2 pigs.

Tuesday's early start saw us conduct another line-walk through the melon hole/cane-grass with good effect — 17 pigs were culled and a cat fell to Steve's 270W. In the afternoon, the final member arrived — after John changed his flat tyre, we all walked along game trails in the Brigalow to the east dam. A lone pig arrived on the opposite bank just as we did, to its demise. A further stake-out of the dam proved unfruitful. That night we relaxed a bit to discuss and review progress, strategies and tactics so far.

For the Wednesday morning session, we all spent more time walking game trails in the

Brigalow. We were surprised by much fresh pig sign within ~300m of the northern boundary of the woodland. John accounted for all 3 pigs culled. In the afternoon, the 'activity plots' were checked raked & staked with starpickets, and more plots were setup at the edge of another dam. Track counts from the plots will be used as a feral activity index and will assist CWM to quantify the benefits of its work. Later 1 boar was taken on the river and 2 from grazing paddocks. Several members had to depart on Wednesday and Thursday, leaving 4 to finish up.

On Wednesday evening the remaining CWM members attended a local community feral control meeting and BBQ dinner, which included local property owners & managers and representatives from AgForce, QPWS, local & state government, and discussed a range of feral control issues and potential solutions — including the use of CWM. Our attendance, in CWM badged attire, was positively received and differentiated CWM from what the locals call 'Weekend Warriors'. CWM may be requested to assist on more properties in the region.

By the last few days, a week of experience improved efficiency — even though the number of pigs being spotted was decreasing markedly. The 'melon-hole' flushing techniques were perfected, with a 3-4 man line, and members getting better at spotting and successfully targeting pigs at 50-100m off-hand. Spotlighting was also optimised with two shooters and a dedicated spotter, as often multiple targets presented.

Thursday added 10 pigs and 4 goats in the morning, with another big pig from the river in the afternoon, and 4 pigs in 2 hours spotlighting that night.

The last session on Friday morning accounted for 10 pigs by 0930; after which everything was packed up and signs collected by lunchtime departure.



A satisfied member removes "feral control in progress" signs at the end of the trip.

Over the week, many snakes were seen — mostly browns and red-bellied blacks — so care and good gaiters are advisable, especially in the melon hole and grassy areas. Trail-cameras were set up in strategic locations, capturing images of a variety of natives and ferals.



A wedge-tailed eagle makes a meal of a culled goat on the west dam.

The final tally was 117 pigs, many goats, 2 feral cats and even 2 carp! — a very satisfying result for all; even though some members were pretty tired after a whole week of feral control. Also excellent

value was sharing in the incredible diversity of knowledge and experience among the group. Much was learned, in particular a great first trip for the several new members who attended. We thank the farm manager and his family for their generous hospitality and support.

Roland, Aaron, Damien and the team.

Longreach Project Report

A solid 14 hour drive from Brisbane and Townsville or 8 hours from Mackay, in total 7 members attended the project for the week.

This is primarily a cat and fox control project, not pigs. This means the main form of control is spotlighting dusk to dawn.



Animals were carefully recorded

Recording processes -

Each animal taken had a numbered tag allotted to it. The GPS spot the animal was shot was recorded and the distance of the shot taken. A small piece of the ear is put into a numbered vial and record it against the tag number allotted to the animal. A photo is then taken with the tag number visible. This is all recorded on a data collection sheet. If you do this as a team each doing a small part you can have it done

in 2 minutes flat, and yes, it is compulsory to do this each night.

The gathering of the above mentioned data is essential as the animals are going to a University for stomach contents sampling. This also makes it important to head shoot not chest shoot so as not to damage the stomach contents. You need suitable calibres for this, as well as suitable night time scopes, as there is some longer distance shooting required, not to mention the need to be able to read distance and wind as there is a lot of open plains area to cover.

Our accommodation was quite lavish compared to most other projects with a fully equipped kitchen (you do not need anything apart from food). There are eight two person rooms (individually lockable) provided. There is also a lounge room by the kitchen. The shower and toilet blocks have hot water and are separate from the main building. Despite the warm temperatures we were quite comfortable and sleeping in the day was not a problem.



Accommodation was luxurious

This brings us to **fatigue**. It does get very hot out there and I think we all managed our fatigue quite well by keeping up our fluids. A reminder from others to keep drinking was helpful!

As we were not getting to bed until 7 or 8 am it was very important to get a good sleep during the day. Having aircon is quite a luxury and went a long way to reducing our fatigue towards the end of the night. To put it in simple terms if your team is starting to show signs of fatigue stop and have a cuppa and if still tired call it a night.

Over the five nights in the field the two teams removed a total of 64 feral animals: 21 Cats, 7 Foxes and 36 Pigs. Pigs were not targeted specifically just taken opportunistically while spotlighting. We were to only shoot larger lone boars and leave family groups as they will trap quite easily if not stirred up



Fox were a primary target

Things that worked or did not

Button or fox whistle: was a waste of time most likely due to no rabbits in the area. **Predator caller:** worked sporadically on both foxes and cats.

Mouse squawker: this particular one is a blow through type like a miniature mouth organ. It seemed to work 95% of the time with a bit of persistence.

Two hand held lights: having two hand held spotlights up on the back of the ute allows both the light and heavy calibre shooters to spotlight both sides at the same time. As a pest is

spotted the person that is using the appropriate calibre to puts his light down and shoots while the other shooter takes over the spotlighting.

Containment frames: As part of the safety requirements for all the Longreach projects we must have some kind of containment frame. We have developed a removable frame that can strap into any tub/tray ute and I am pleased to say the prototype went well.

Shooting Platform: Some of us have a permanent shooting platform on their vehicles, with the option to remove it when travelling. This is also considered important as it increases your stability greatly to shoot from thus ensuring that you can deliver a humane kill shot. If you pad the board it will look after your rifle and scope as well.

Putting aside how long it took to organise the first trip into this project it was an awesome place to be. I found that the new revised trip leaders tool kit worked quite well and was easy to understand. Also as part of this trip I used it to help two potential trip leaders gain some experience in running a project. They both now feel quite confident to run a project on their own.

I think a great time was had by all. Over the course of the week everyone got to shoot and take some ferals out and enjoy each and others company.

All of this helps a lot in making a trip much more enjoyable I would like to thank everyone that attended. You all worked in well and got the job done.

Mark Woods- Trip Leader

Collinsville Project:

During the 10 day period from 28th September to 7th October 2012, sixteen members from Mackay, Proserpine and Townsville regions participated on the Collinsville Project. Members attended for various periods depending upon what time they had available, with the maximum of eight participants on any given day. A total of 27 feral animals were removed from the property during our stay.



First one for the new Marlin

For 10 of the members it was the first time that they had attended a CWM Project. Here is some of what they had to say about their experience and I hope their views may help others who have not yet participated on a Project to get out there and get involved.

“ I have recently joined CWM after I relocated to Qld from SA. I have attended many H&C activities in SA and NSW as a member but this was my first time with CWM. I would definitely attend this activity again and will most definitely nominate for further CWM activities.

I must say that the property is absolutely spectacular and most people really wouldn't get many opportunities to spend time in a location as beautiful as this. For me, it even rivals the Victorian High Country. I believe all members present had sufficient “bush experience” to be self sufficient and at no time did I feel that any members were ill equipped with either material possessions or experience to complete the activity. This must be a reflection on the Accreditation Course.

I intend to increase my participation within CWM and would be interested in becoming a Trip leader. I would also be quite happy to take on board a hunting “newbie” and show them the ropes with both hunting and bushcraft”. – **Kevin.**



Old homestead ruins

“ Finally the moons aligned and I could get away to a CWM Project. I had missed three previous opportunities so it was great to be finally involved. I had a great two days. The ferals weren't very obliging and we had to work hard to find and secure them but it didn't really matter. The company and location was great so everything else was a bonus. I had no idea what it would be like camping and hunting with people I didn't know, but it was a great experience and one that I would certainly recommend”. – **Anthony.**



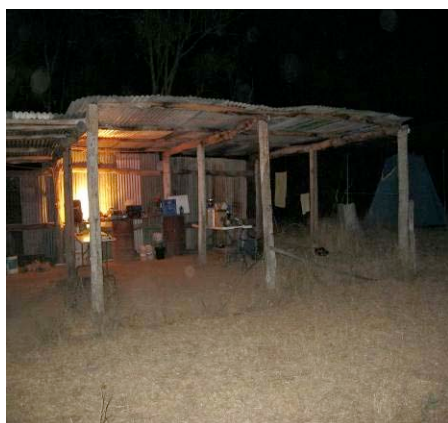
Another one bites the dust

“My first experience on a C&WM organised Project was most rewarding. I have always been a lone hunter and I was amazed at the meticulous planning carried out by the group. A combination of my 79 years, the rough terrain and a “gammy” knee limited my active participation somewhat after the first couple of days, but I really enjoyed the fishing. The arrival of new members in camp provided me with the opportunity to meet and learn from new friends as well as being able to look at a wide range of firearms and hunting equipment that I had only ever read about or dreamed of owning. I count the four days I spent in the company of fellow hunters among the most enjoyable that I have ever spent in the bush”. – **Murray.**

“ The highlight of the trip for my part, was the great team of people that I shared it with as well as the low pressure, but efficient organisation of the Project. I hunted a lot on foot due to the nature of the terrain and even though the younger blokes walked me almost to a standstill, I loved it” – **Ian**

“ I would go again for sure and would recommend it to others. As a new shooter I enjoyed the general discussions on reloading and projectiles” - **Jim**

"The trip for me was really well set up and run. I would go again for sure and my brother is keen also after me telling him about it. They were a good bunch of blokes that I met and hunted with and it was a good chance to meet some new like minded people. I would be keen to catch up again on other projects". – **Carl**



Camp kitchen at night

Mackay Shooters Supplies generously loaned us some new infra red night vision equipment to evaluate during the project. Most of us had a chance to trial either the hand held or the cabin mounted equipment and could not help but be favourably impressed.

The following is an account from one of our members who has also used this equipment in the field previously.



(FLIR) equipment vehicle mounted

" Driving to the Project after dark wasn't an issue as it gave me a chance to do some field work with the forward looking infra red (FLIR) equipment supplied to me by Mackay shooters Supplies. My vehicle was equipped with a roof mounted unit set up on a remote spotlight mount in a detachable window bracket. This makes it easy to install in other vehicles, change from driver's side window to passenger's side window or take down altogether when not in use. This unit was set up with a screen (a reversing camera screen) on the dash. I also had a FLIR Scout unit, which is a hand held unit and most useful when staking out a location during the night.



Handheld FLIR scout unit
<http://www.flir.com/cs/apac/en/view/?id=50440>

The road trip to the Project is through cattle country and on a number of occasions I saw cattle on the road ahead which were still well out of the range of the driving lights. I also drove through several groups of large kangaroos which were clearly seen some 300 metres ahead. The safety factor of this gear became very apparent. The FLIR opens up the night for me. I can see clearly, any animal up to some incredible distances in pitch darkness, with a small device which is half the size of good binoculars. One of my friends recently picked up a dog eating a calf at

a measured distance of 420 metres.

I look forward to more C&WM trips, especially after cats and dogs where I really feel that the FLIR will give us the edge. The FLIR will turn their otherwise perfect cammo coats into BRIGHT WHITE ones".

The general consensus from those who experimented with this equipment was that whilst quite expensive to buy, it really did work. If you want to know more about FLIR equipment give Ian at Mackay Shooters Supplies a call – (07) 4998 5795.

The next new member Accreditation course will be held in Mackay on 3rd November 2012.

Graham Blines
0417 762 161

Whitsundays Report

It's newsletter time again and project wise it's been all quite on the western front. Never-the less it's been a busy time getting accreditations completed with a further 8 members in the Whitsundays region.

The upcoming Collinsville project (1st to the 4th of November) will be an outing with old and new members attending from Townsville and Whitsundays regions. With the news fresh from Graham Blines trip to Collinsville were all keen and eager to hit the ground running.

I should have some interesting stories to share in the next newsletter

Justin Boseley

Townsville report

The north has been a little slow on activity due to circumstance beyond our control, but the New Year is looking better already.

Several of the Townsville members travelled out to projects around the state over the last month. All returned with very favourable reports and a wealth of knowledge that we will glean from them over the slow wet season that is just about upon us. Our members should be better able to participate in Southern projects over the summer while the hot wet dominates those left here.

Townsville's last C&WM range day will be the second Saturday in November. The day will start at 10.00 am with a get together for all interested in the next year and to reflect on the year past. The range will be opened after the meeting and we will finish with the practical shoot run by Col.

There will be a few from Townsville heading down to the last Collinsville project for the year. All are looking forward to the project after hearing about the previous team's successes in early October.

Randle Irvin 0411 040 010

The changing face of technology and wildlife management

The days of rambling along at night with a spotlight in the hope of illuminating a feral in

the small pencil beam of your light are about to change. With technology becoming more accessible and the cost coming down, night vision can now be combined with traditional hunting techniques.

I started used this technology 5 years ago whilst working on mega-yachts ferrying the worlds billionaires around the Mediterranean. It was the height of piracy around Somalia and my Russian oil baron boss decided on nothing but the best for the safety of the crew and his ship. These units are very small and light and designed to clip onto a helmet in military use.

I own the Night Optics NO/TG-7 Thermal Imaging Binocular and use it one handed with a lanyard around my neck. At sea the capability of this unit really became apparent. With no light and nothing but sea to look at the second a ship or small, fast runabout came over the horizon I could see it with a pure clean view. With the unit in infrared mode the heat signature of the exhaust or a small out board engine was visible at 12 to 15 km away. As the vessel drew closer the number of persons on board and if they looked to be carrying anything suspicious was easy to determine.

Now that I have field tested this unit in a bush situation its capabilities stand out as amazing. Game can be spotted at great distances with a near perfect silhouette enabling identification easy. On a project in Hughenden in 2011 I spotted a mob of animals through thick scrub some 500 metres away, their heat signature being evident despite the trees and bushes being in

the way. They turned out to be sheep but the ability to see through scrub at distance is a feather in any hunters cap.



Thermal image of a child at 50 M

The picture above is of my 2 year old son (almost impossible to get him to stand still for 2 seconds) at 50 M with it in infrared mode. The heat signature is so strong it's almost blinding.

The down side is that these units ruin your natural night vision. However, if you combine them with other forms of surveillance with the unit and when the time is right turn the spotlight on, it can be a winning combination. The specs of the unit are below.



The covert II trail camera

Game/trail cameras are another piece of technology that is also being used by a lot of C&WM members with great success. The usual technique is to have them set up on site some time before a project eg on a well used trail/track or water hole. When you return, it's as simple

as looking at the unit to see if anything has passed by and set off the motion sensor and taken a series of pictures. No photos can almost be as useful as a photo as this determines that there is no game in the area and you're looking in the wrong place.

I currently have 3 cameras on loan set up by a member on the last visit to the Collinsville project. They will be sitting there for a month and hopefully I will have a few pics to share on the next newsletter.

Justin Boseley

he Night Optics NO/TG-7 Thermal Imaging Binocular

As I said in the article above I own the Night Optics NO/TG-7 Thermal Imaging Binocular.

This unit features state-of-the-art non-cooled thermal imaging technology in a familiar PVS-7 housing. This type of thermal imaging system is virtually unaffected by bright light sources and deep shadow areas that can seriously compromise the image quality of most image intensified night vision.



The NO/TG-7 is a rugged, lightweight, and powerful thermal imaging optic that is capable of long-range thermal surveillance and acquisition. Combining the internal 2x magnification with the optional

a-focal germanium lens provides a remarkable 6x high-power magnification level that brings distant objects in for detailed close-up viewing. Inside the NO/TG-7, a sensitive thermal micro-bolometer and high resolution display provide crisp "white hot" or "black hot" images regardless of the ambient lighting or climatic conditions.

While the ubiquitous light-amplifying and image-intensifying NVDs rely on ambient or supplemental illumination to operate, thermal devices are completely passive, sensing extremely minute temperature differentials. Therefore, the NO/TG-7 is capable of acquiring targets in broad daylight or complete darkness with the ability to visualize through obscurants such as smoke and haze which often hinder image intensification devices.

While the NO/TG-7 was designed for military and law-enforcement use, it is also well suited to a myriad of other applications; reconnaissance and surveillance, perimeter control, search and rescue, vehicle identification, wildlife observation, locating oil spills, and geothermal event monitoring to name a few.

Justin Boseley

ADVERTISEMENT - Queensland Shooters Supplies – CWM Specials

LifeStraw Personal and LifeStraw Family

LifeStraw is a state-of-the-art water filter/purifier that will remove 99.9% of waterborne

bacteria and protozoan cysts, even in the harshest conditions.

Utilizing Swiss microfiltration membrane technology, this filters down to 0.2 microns and therefore removes Giardia (common in Australia & New Zealand).



Lifestraw personal



Hunter using Lifestraw

The LifeStraw personal measures 22 cm short, lightweight (only 56 grams) and affordable, making it a great addition to your emergency survival kit. It is extremely useful to drink straight out of a water source such as dams, rivers, creeks etc. For those who commit to long hikes, a bottle of water can run out pretty fast. LifeStraw enables you to refill your water bottle from a water source and drink out of it using your LifeStraw.

What may seem to be a fresh water source may have a carcass or animal feces just around the bend. It takes mouthful of water filled with bacteria to get into your system and cause serious illness. There are demonstrations shown on YouTube where people have drunk out of

containers filled with cow feces and water.

It has been scientifically tested and proven that the water coming out of the other end of the LifeStraw not only tastes like fresh filtered water but is also 99.9% bacteria free.

- Will filter a minimum of 1000 liters of water and has a 3 year shelf life
- Meets US EPA standard for a microbiological water purifier
- Removes a minimum of 99.9999% of waterborne bacteria
- Removes min. 99.9% of waterborne protozoan cysts
- Removes Giardia
- Contains no chemicals
- Requires no electrical or spare parts for the lifetime of the straw
- Very easy to use and is serviced by blowing out water after taking a drink

The LifeStraw Family:



Filters up to 18,000 litres of water, enough to supply a family of 5 for 3 years, Has a high flow rate and high volume of purified water - perfect for all cooking and drinking needs it is ideal for domestic family use in camping, hunting, caravans etc. The LifeStraw Family is very cost effective, reliable, and long lasting it requires no electrical

power, batteries, or replacements it requires no piped in water supply - simply fill the collection bucket.

Very easy to maintain and clean and is extremely efficient for the filtering out of bacteria, virus, protozoan parasites, and dirt. LifeStraw Family is internationally recognised as a cost effective and efficient water purifying device for use by families or groups of friends. LifeStraw offers exceptional performance and value for money, out-performing all other alternatives currently available on the Australian market.

- Purifies a minimum of 18 000 litres of water
- Removes 99.9% of all bacteria and parasites
- Works even on highly turbid water
- Requires no power or batteries
- Very easy to use and light weight

Lifestraw personal will be in stock in about 3 weeks, \$25.00 to CWM Members.

Hunters Gear



Hats (Orange) \$16.00
Blaze Orange Shirts \$18.00
Snake Gaiters \$80.00
Boots From \$135.00
Back Packs From \$52.75

Remington by the case.

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.308 150Gr \$258.00 for 200.

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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.

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Rebel Gun Works

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Fax: 3391 8835

<http://www.rebelgunworks.com/>

Upcoming Activity Dates –2012

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.

November 2012			
TBA	Mackay 'Islands' Projects	Northern	Graham Blines & Justin Boseley
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	Blackwater South Project	Central	TBC
TBC	Townsville Project	Northern	Randle Irvin
TBC	Collinsville	Northern	Graham Blines
10 th – 11 th	Avocet: Emerald	Central	Brad Hughes
17 th – 18 th	Southern Training Weekend	Southern	Brett Marais
18 th	Southern Social Shoot	Southern	John Bayliss
26 rd – 30 th	Calliope Pig Project	Central	Greg de Koning
TBA	Pinnacles Pig Project	Northern	Randle Irvin
TBA	Serpentine Pig Project	Northern	Randle Irvin
December			
1 st – 8 th	Gladstone Pig Project	Central	Greg de Koning
1 st – 9 th	Moonie Project	Central	Pete Dobson
15 th – 16 th	Stewartdale – Ripley	Southern	Owen McIntyre
16 th	Southern Social Shoot	Southern	John Bayliss
TBC	Avocet: Emerald	Central	Brad Hughes

For both the new Townsville project and the existing Collinsville project either contact the relevant project leader or keep a close eye on the email traffic for trip dates as they will be at short notice at this stage

Project Target Species

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

Blackwater – Feral Pigs, Dogs & cats.

Blackwater South – Feral Pigs and cattle. Secondary – Dogs & cats.

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

Collinsville - Primary – Pigs

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.

Stewartdale - Primary - Hares, Foxes, Cats, Dogs. Secondary – Pigs

Townsville – Primary - Pigs