



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 2013 Edition

Message from the Committee Chairman

Hi folks

CWM continues to grow through lots of hard work from the committee, project leaders and team leaders. We now number over 500 across Qld and I'm pleased to say that the quality of our members continues to be of a very high standard. We welcome all the new members and look forward to seeing you out in the field.

For all those new members, we would like to point out that successfully completing your written and marksmanship accreditation is not an automatic acceptance to participate in a project.

You also need to make yourself known to the committee, project leaders or team leaders. This can be done at CWM training or range days in your region. Alternatively, a known and trusted CWM member can provide a reference for you.

A sure fire way to get known and make the most out of your CWM membership is to volunteer to help with the many jobs that need to be done to keep us functioning effectively as we continue to grow.

Positions vacant:

Treasurer/Account Manager
We have secured a number of grants that require acquittal and are looking for 1 or 2 people to help with this function. You would be able to work with the SSAA Qld accounts people to collate income/expenses and present budgets and financial account information according to standard formats and in grant acquittal formats.

Project Leaders – Our project leaders are essentially project managers in the sense that they manage relationships and communications with the landholder/s and the various on ground team leaders. Project Leaders are not required to attend every project nor organise every project visit. Their role is more strategic,

communications and logistics. Look out for a project leader's role description and application form that will be in the Positions Vacant tab of the members section of our website very soon.

CWM – you get out of it as much as you put in.

Cheers

Damien Ferguson
Committee Chairman
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South East Queensland Report

Helping out - CWM is like other volunteer organisations I have been involved in. When the call goes out for help sometimes the same few turn up and at other times new members show up. The end result is that many hands make short work and the best part is that the friendships built can last a lifetime.



Members at the ADA - Australian Deer Association Expo

Recently, we have been involved in tasks such as cleaning up fig tree hill camp site on Stewartdale to manning the CWM booth at the recent ADA expo.

About a year ago the groundsman at the Ripley range was unwell and the grass was so long on the mounds that the targets were hard to see. Word went out and we all bought our whipper snippers and mowers along. In short time we had cleaned up the mounds before having an afternoon shoot. I always find satisfaction in leaving something in a better condition

Cleaning up the mounds at Ripley



Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (Qld) Inc.

than I found it. For all the volunteers out there ...keep it up!

Ken Payne.

SE Training Weekend

The SE training weekend coming up on the weekend 16th -17th of November at Stewartdale is a great time to come along and get involved in "your CWM". This will help you get to know more about what is happening and opportunities to get into a field project.

Stewartdale is a 1200 hectare property 40 minutes west of

Brisbane, owned by S.S.A.A. (QLD) Inc. The property has several shooting ranges and CWM has a camp site under a large fig tree overlooking Bundamba Lagoon. Tank water, composting toilets and a covered food preparation area are provided.

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

Central Queensland

I would like to start by thanking Norm and Bill for their time and efforts at Avocet.

We have had some success at Avocet of late. Norm and Bill started it off with a few days stopover and a pig for their efforts.

Dan, Blake and I went down for the last weekend of October. Blake scored a hare, two rabbits and a cat (another one slipped away). I got a cat, and the count was 5 hares and 15 rabbits. Not a bad little haul for two nights of spot-lighting.

The next morning Dan came across a mob of pigs while watching the whistler ducks fly off from Rex's dam. Old Dan still likes the thrill of the chase, and he left his bike behind to go after them on foot (not sure what's going on there).

On a positive note Kenny that koala has popped up again to say g'day, and I lost count of the number of Nail-tails that we have been seeing, some with collars on and others with joeys, which was good to see. We've seen plenty of possums and bandicoots as well.

Brad Hughes

Avocet report October 2013

Arrived about midday and met Norm and Danielle Bain. After setting up camp Norm and I explored a few of the tracks around the Avocet nature reserve. No cats, dogs, or foxes were seen but there were dog footprints on Dingo Rocks track.

Next day Norm and I got to Ron's Dam at first light. I was surprised to see about 30-40 pigs arriving at the waterhole to drink. Norm shot an almost full grown male (I was armed with a .223 so held fire). I was surprised how poor sighted pigs are. When they started running it was towards us around the perimeter of the dam, then across in front of us indicating they had not seen us. We immediately made the decision to come back the next day. Later we walked along the vehicle track heading north from the dam. A couple of hundred metres from the dam the smell of pigs was very strong. But the grass was too dry and long to sneak up on them.

Just before dusk we went Rex's dam where dog prints were found. We waited in ambush with spotlights. Sadly it turned out to be an exercise in patience. We were there for an hour before and after sunset and nothing turned up other than a few rabbits. We left them as we didn't want gunfire to disturb any cats or dogs that we might have been able to catch up with just over the rise.





A feral cat removed from Avocet

On the way back to camp we saw no ferals but had the pleasure of seeing a bridled nail-tail wallaby, a bettong and a brush tailed possum. Danielle spent the day identifying the birds in the area of the camp and Ron's dam.

On the last morning we went to Ron's Dam about ten minutes earlier than the previous morning and set up our ambush. Pigs may be short sighted but they are not completely stupid. Their Plan "B" was to drink somewhere else. It worked, and nothing else turned up either.

I was not disappointed that we did not shoot any of the primary target species. The fact that we did not see any was good news for the bridled nail tail wallaby. Brad Hughes told us that the previous weekend, his party shot three cats and about a dozen rabbits. So hopefully that has reduced the number of cats for a while.

This was my first CWM activity and found it very interesting and I learned a lot. I am looking forward to the next trip.

Bill Burgher

Danielle's bird list, Avocet October 2013

- Bee-eater – at least 6 nesting within the camp enclosure
- Crow
- Channel billed cuckoo
- Double barred finch
- Doves & pigeons
 - Bar shouldered dove
 - Crested pigeon
 - Peaceful dove
- Honeyeaters
 - Blue faced
 - Brown honeyeater
 - Little friar bird
 - Noisy friar bird
 - Striped
- Laughing Kookaburra
- Magpie
- Olive backed oriole
- Pardelote - striated
- Parrots
 - Sulphur crested cockatoo
 - Pale headed rosella
 - Red winged parrot
- Pied Currawong
- Thornbill - unidentified
- Wood swallows
 - Masked wood swallow
 - White browed wood swallow
- White winged chough
- White winged triller

North Queensland

Townsville report - The Burdekin River Wetlands project in Townsville was postponed so the next opportunity will be December 2013.

The Townsville Island project will be assessed and we will then put together a plan for next year for when the weather cools a touch and the rain stops falling. Townsville will go in to our annual monsoon hibernation soon and will rouse sometime around Easter 2014.

Townsville Range days will be subject to the weather for the next 3 to 4 months. I will be looking to get accreditations done over the wet, so if anyone has a friend interested in CWM now is the time.

Randle Irvin

Mackay report – the group has been really quiet since the last newsletter with no involvement yet in any of the "new" Projects. The Collinsville Project was "on again", "off again" for quite some time but in the end the new lessees have postponed it for this year as they have just taken in another 700 head of cattle from drought affected areas and need time for them to become accustomed to their new surroundings before they are comfortable with people driving vehicles and hunting with firearms in the same vicinity as them. I believe this is a temporary situation and that we will have opportunities for further trips in the future.

Our next CWM Accreditation Course is being conducted on this Saturday 2nd November.

Graham Blines

South East Queensland Report continued...

Stanthorpe-Amiens Project Report

The latest feral control project was conducted with a total of six members in attendance. A project briefing was conducted with the attendees and covered the following points;

- Project overview
- Operations
- Code of Conduct

Over the two and a half days (Friday to Sunday) sunny days and clear nights made for cold conditions with daily highs of 14 degrees and overnight temperatures of zero. Camp conditions were good with an open fire, hot water, toilets and the shelter of the Blacksmith's shed.

The terrain was typically thick low native scrub interspersed by some cleared ground and granite outcrops and clearings. Water is readily available in rock pools and dams.

Australian feral goats (Photo; Phil Johns)



A total of five goats were taken on one of the Amiens group of properties. The herd comprising around 20. 4 Rabbits were taken from another property and several fox sightings were made but no shots were presented. Abundant sign of deer and pig was evident around several of the properties.

The adjoining forest area was traversed twice with no sightings but plenty of transient activity obvious from the prints. Across all properties feral animal sign was abundant with goat, deer, fox, rabbit and dog sign in abundance.

Contact was made with all stakeholders and CWM members helped out with the collection and carting of stone for a dam abutment wall currently under construction on one property. As we now appear to "bring rain with us" the stakeholders were more happy to see us than usual.

Michael McGlenn

PARALYSIS TICK (*Ixodes holocyclus*) - Bush Ticks

With one of our members having had a severe ANAPHYLATIC reaction to a paralysis tick bite, it is appropriate to reproduce this article from an earlier newsletter. The information remains valid.

From the June 2010 Newsletter...

There are four main species of ticks of veterinary/human importance in Queensland. The cattle tick (*Boophilus microplus*) that mainly parasites cattle, buffalo and deer and is a minor worry to some domestic animals. The brown dog tick (*Rhipicephalus sanguineus*) native to East Asia, finds hosts in marsupials, cattle, dogs and also humans. The bush ticks (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*), also introduced, is primarily associated with wild animals and cattle but also bites humans. The paralysis tick (*Ixodes holocyclus*), associated with wetter vegetated habitats and typically hosted by native fauna, is best distinguished by the brown first and fourth pairs of legs, while the middle two are pale.

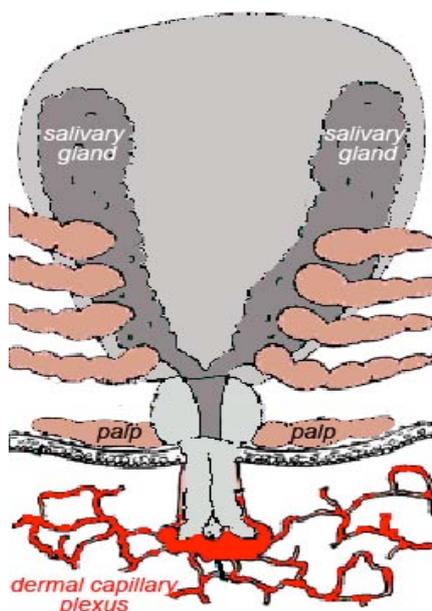


The paralysis tick Ixodes holocyclus before and after feeding.

Source: Wikipedia, Bjørn Christian Tørrissen

Ticks reproduce according to temperature and humidity, with highest fertility being during the warm wet months. After larva and nymph stages (also requiring hosts) adult numbers rise from July to December often associated with wet spells. They have a predominantly coastal distribution in Qld.

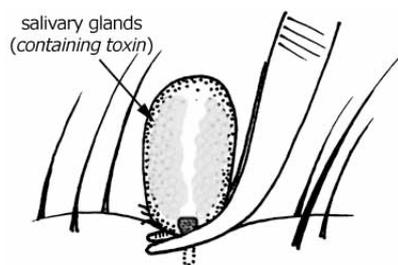
Ticks transmit several diseases of veterinary significance including cattle tick fever, which is produced by parasites that live in the blood. Ticks can even cause anaemia when animals are exposed to very high parasite loads. But probably the impact that we are most aware of, is the effect of the neurotoxin that is released by the paralysis tick. The toxin is constantly released in the saliva of the attached tick, which can cause paralysis, severe illness and even death.



The tick's feeding process.
Source: Wikipedia

It appears that native and feral animals in the wild develop immunity to the toxin due to

regular exposure. Domestic pets that are unexposed to ticks can fall ill to the toxin requiring veterinary treatment, which could be very costly due to the care involved and the price of the antiserum. A word of advice here, if tick poisoning is suspected don't delay seeking veterinary attention for your pet. In humans the neurotoxic effect of the paralysis tick is identical to animals but the disease is uncommon as ticks are usually found and removed during the early stages. Ticks also carry significant human diseases including Lyme Disease and spotted fevers. Lyme Disease has not been confirmed in Australia. The Queensland Tick Typhus characterised by a rash, pains and fever is the variety of spotted fever present in North-eastern Australia. Insect repellents and tucking in clothes may prevent tick bites, but the best thing to do when finding a tick attached seems to be to remove it ASAP.



Removing the tick
Source: Wikipedia

The recommended procedure is to use tweezers or similar to grasp the tick near the mouth parts, as close to skin as possible, and then pull gently while avoiding squeezing the body of the tick. We have removed lots of ticks from our bodies using a tick-twister that we found at the local vet.

Shaped like a jimmy-bar it allows a good grip and easy removal. It is generally recommended not to use chemicals or matches to remove them. After removal disinfect the bite with soap and water or alcohol, and record the date and location of the tick bite, which would be valuable information when you contact your health care provider if a rash or flu-like symptoms appear

- Dr. Louisa Poutsma and Francisco Bravo

A 2013 Update...

Tick removal remains controversial. Using the special forceps as shown or the use of the tick twister is a practical method for use in the field. The removal of tiny larval stage ticks (the so called "seed" or "grass" tick) is more difficult. Information from the Queensland Museum is to kill larval ticks with anti-scabies cream or by swabbing with several applications of rubbing alcohol.

ANAPHYLAXIS can be a serious and potentially life threatening allergic reaction to proteins in the tick saliva. It is a shock like state, characterised by rapid onset of swelling, particularly of face, tongue, and or airways, as well as skin rash, urticaria and severe generalized itching. **This is an emergency requiring prompt medical treatment.**

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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.

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Upcoming Activity Dates –2013

Be sure to mark the dates below in your diary and plan to come along. You never know – you might just be free on that date.

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

November			
16th - 17 th	Training Week end	Southern	Brett Marais
16 th - 17 th	Blackwater Project	Central	Rod Costin
25th - 29 th	Calliope Pigs	Central	Greg de Koning
December			
30 Nov – 7 Dec	Moonie Pigs	Southern	Damien Ferguson
14 th	Townsville Training/Range Day - Thuringowa	Northern	Randle Irvin
21st - 22 nd	Stewartdale Feral Control	Southern	Owen McIntyre
30th - 7 th	Gladstone Pigs	Central	Greg de Koning
Projects - Dates to be confirmed			
TBA	Stanthorpe 'Amiens' Project	Southern	Peter Keith
TBA	Gympie Dogs	Southern	Glen Neville
TBA	Mundubbera Dogs and Pigs	Southern	Peter Ferguson

TBA - 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.

TBA¹ - 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