



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 2014

Message from the Committee Chairman

Hi Everyone

Don't wait for an email for an invitation to one of our projects. Get in early to plan your trips for 2015.

All our project coordinators are working hard with our landholder partners to finalise dates to go into the 2015 calendar.

Please refer to the **2015 calendar** here - <http://cwm.ssaaqld.org.au/2013/index.php/calendar/2015-calendar>

We have some long-standing projects that many of our newer members haven't attended yet, namely Gladstone & Calliope pig projects. I can vouch for the beautiful scenery and awesome experiences that these projects provide. Not to mention using and honing our specific skill set to carry out feral animal control.

Training weekends

While you are in the calendar, please put the training day/s in your region in your diaries. These days are vital for your involvement in CWM and you need to get to as many as you can to make yourself known to all of our trip leaders.

Various committee members get asked, why doesn't CWM have a booking system whereby members can book trips as it suits them. The answer to this is that it's not what our landowner partners want. They prefer to have a small group of known and trusted CWM members leading each project. Our partners have expressly asked for this model as opposed to other models in other states of Aust. There is also much more work involved for CWM trip leader volunteers in coordinating ad hoc project visits.

Remember, every member of CWM is a volunteer and many put a lot of effort into the group.

Code of Conduct rule 20 states:

Any person using their status as a member of CWM for personal gain, access to public or private lands, financial reward or any other purpose not directly relating to the objectives of CWM and specifically sanctioned by a Team Leader or State Operations Group will be subject to disciplinary action. All CWM activities will be coordinated through the State Operations Group and written authorisation issued prior to the commencement of all CWM activities.

This rule includes where any member of CWM organises, or seeks to organise a 'private' trip to any CWM projects. The member runs a very high risk of being asked to show cause as to why they should remain a member of CWM. There are many very important reasons why this rule exists, and any member of the committee will be happy to explain it to you.

Please have a very good read of the full Code of conduct here:

<http://cwm.ssaqld.org.au/2013/index.php/membership-main/code-of-conduct>

Damien Ferguson
Committee Chairman
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Members answer the call for Calliope Pig project

Recently an email was sent out to members about the need to boost numbers of participants for the Calliope pig project. A number of trips were cancelled due to a lack of minimum required numbers and the December trip was also at risk of cancellation.

Your response has been fantastic. Over 30 members answered the email and have expressed interest in this project.

It seems that the urgent "call to action" did the trick and nudged members to put their hand up. Sometimes we don't realise the opportunity that is being offered until there is a threat that it won't be available.

Your response has allowed this project to keep going and the people who attend will be richly rewarded by the experience of hunting in great country with a group of like-minded people.

Team Leader Training a Big Success

Increases in the number of projects has provided greater opportunity for members to participate in CWM Projects. This, in turn, has increased the need for more Trip Leaders to lead operating teams.

We saw the need to create a greater level of consistency in how projects are conducted to ensure that our growth doesn't compromise our good reputation. It is CWM's relationships and good reputation that has driven the growth of our project work.

In a first for CWM (Qld), a specialised accreditation for Trip Leaders was delivered to the first group of eight members at the SSAA Millmerran Facility in October.

The session was facilitated by several CWM Committee Members. Participants got to meet new people, and renew prior friendships. Importantly a consistent message and approach was repeated regarding CWM's 'brand' and what that means.

Topics covered included; small team leadership, communication, animal ecology and behaviour, hunting versus shooting, reporting and documentation and the SOP Challenge. Whilst it was a pilot program, there was good feedback and opportunities for improvement.



Trainees hard at work

Participants were chosen because they had led project trips in the past and were based in South-East Queensland.

The second group of 14 will be attending the training on the weekend of the 22nd and 23rd of November and we will then be taking the program to CWM regional groups.

Peter Keith



SSAA National President Geoff Jones addresses the group

Amiens Trip Report

I have just returned from my first CWM project and wish to share my experience.

When we arrived at the project base camp, we were introduced to each other, had a briefing about the area, target species, what was expected from the project members, safety and the procedures that were in place.

We set up the tents and had some lunch, then headed out for a scout to learn the area and to meet the stake-holders. The Amiens project is made up of a many different properties all bordering on each other. Some are natural bush, some are used for cultivation and farming and part of the area is Government owned. Some acreages are owned by people who want to live in the bush, but don't want the pests eating their gardens and destroying the land.

All landholders that we spoke to were very amenable to our



Another goat removed from this fragile landscape

presence, and all had a chat about what needed to be done.

In the five days that we were there we tried many different styles of hunting, from sitting in wait in the early morning feeding time, looking out over crops, to doing the same in the pitch black (no moon light) with the thermal imaging equipment and spotlighting. We got two deer that way.

We stalked, line abreast, across cleared paddocks with fallen trees made into windrows. We got several goats this way. We were up at

one a.m. with thermal gear, searching for pigs that were rooting up one of the stakeholders gardens. We did the same on a different day, in the pre-dawn hours

The most successful was stalking a goat herd through the bush both in the daylight and at night with the thermal gear. The stalking was hard work and once the goats were sighted, we had to get close enough for a good shot through the thick scrub and trees, as well as keeping each other in sight (for obvious reasons). Our team got seven goats in two minutes in a flurry of activity on one night.

I personally got three goats on the project. One of these was in a herd that we tracked for several kilometres through the bush and game trails

When we left we accounted for 19 goats, two deer, one fox and some rabbits. One bunny committed suicide on the front of Benn's car. We are still counting it.

Not only am I going on more CWM projects, but in future I am going with my son, as the experience, the learning and camaraderie are all fantastic.

Bob Large



Our accommodation - the Blacksmiths Shed

Amiens Thank You

My name is Dan Large. I am 15 years old. As a member of CWM I recently went on my first proper hunting trip at Amiens. I got one fox and a few rabbits. I would like to say thanks to all the team for the skills, friendship, fun and stories we shared.

I had great fun and I want to go back there and continue to help out the farmers and the surrounding property owners who are struggling with feral animals that keep destroying their property. See you guys in the near future.

Dan Large

Townsville – North Queensland Report

We in the north have been busy and are looking at a very good year in 2015. The Burdekin River Wetland Project (aka BRWL) will be one of the principle projects closer to home. We will be starting earlier than usual with a few short quick trips to the BRWL through the summer period, access permitting.

Any members interested in BRWL short order trips should contact myself and we will work out some dates. The project will have 6 main trips through the 2015 winter / dry season. These dates will be listed in the calendar shortly. The use of Quad bikes and Side by Sides is permitted and access to the whole project area is possible. This project is quickly earning a reputation as a good place to spend a week or so through winter. Temperature ranges from as low as 5 degrees overnight to as high as 25 on the clear cloud free days.



One of the 45 water sites on the Burdekin River Wetland Project

The membership in the Townsville region has steadily increased over 2014. Quite a few of our new members are friends of existing members. We will be needing quite a few hunters to put their hand up for projects in 2015 and beyond. With the numbers we have now we will still be short on some projects. If we all add one new member for 2015 then we will be getting close to the numbers needed.

Note - The Townsville projects rely heavily on hand held GPS configured to UTM. If you are looking to attend a project up North you need to know how to use your GPS.

Randle Irvin
0411040010

South East Queensland Report

Stewartdale has been going through a few changes since our last newsletter. SSAA (Qld Inc.) has appointed a full time "live in" care taker for the property and there have been

new fences and gates installed at the property. As you travel about the property please leave the gates as you find them. Also in 2015 will see the start of planting of over 113,000 tree species that are native of the local area. This is part of the commitment made for the Koala nature refuge agreement that was signed this year with the Qld Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.

Don't forget to come to the training weekend on 15th - 16th of November at Stewartdale.

This is a key way for members to meet fellow members and learn about our activities and expectations. Attending training weekends is an important first step before attending our projects.

Owen McIntyre
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Q- Fever Alert

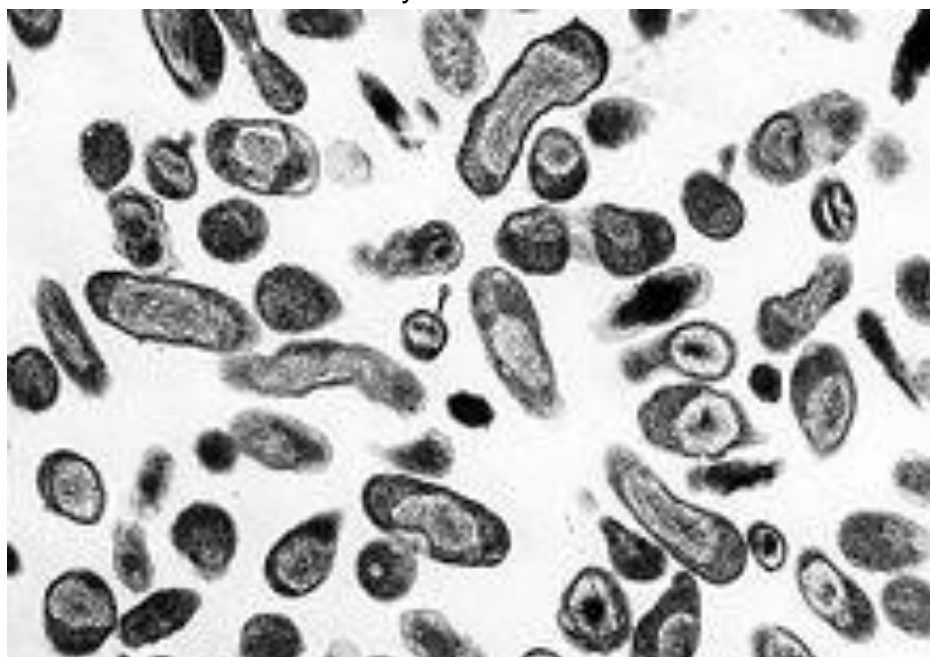
The article below has its origins in a contact from a SSAA member who contracted Q – Fever and spent 3 weeks in hospital. The article is written by CWM member Graham Blines who previously worked as a Commonwealth Government Livestock and Meat Inspector and has tertiary qualifications in that field - Ed

Q-Fever is quite a nasty and unfortunately quite common zoonoses (disease transmitted from animals to humans) and occupational hazard among property owners/workers, veterinarians and abattoir workers (and now CWM volunteers) in Qld and the rest of Australia. The disease was often referred to as the Abattoir Workers Disease in the past. It is caused by the Rickettsia, *Coxiella burnetii*, a type of bacterium. An infection in humans is almost always associated with direct or indirect contact with animals such as cattle, sheep and goats, although a number of other animals including cats, dogs and kangaroos may carry the infection. Infected animals usually show no signs of being ill and in Australia the bandicoot is often regarded as being a major reservoir of the infection.

The organism may pass into the milk, urine and faeces of infected animals and when giving birth large numbers of the organism are shed in the birth products e.g.; placenta, amniotic fluid etc. (This is the main reason why I will stay well clear of “opening up” an obviously pregnant animal). The Q-Fever organism is

resistant to heat, desiccation and many common disinfectants which allows it to survive for long periods in our Australian climate.

Human infections usually occur by inhalation of the organism in air carrying dust contaminated by dried placental material, birth fluids, urine or faeces from infected animals. This is why



C. burnetii, the Q fever-causing agent

the comment that the disease could have been picked up from a livestock transporter at a roadhouse is quite valid. It can also be picked up around cattleyards and watering points. (where many animals congregate and where there is much dust in the air). The disease can also be contracted from the bite of a tick.

Person-to-person spread is extremely unlikely. It is thought that only about half of all people infected by the disease will show clinical signs of the illness, but onset of the symptoms is usually sudden with common symptoms such as fever (may last for up to 4

weeks), severe headaches, sweats and chills, chronic fatigue, muscle aches, confusion, sore throat, chest pain when breathing, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea and abdominal pains. Most generally healthy people will recover within a few months. It is thought that 1-2% of people with acute Q-Fever will die from the illness.

Although it is quite rare, some people will develop a chronic form of Q-Fever which is much more difficult to diagnose and can have much more serious complications such as endocarditis and infection of the heart valves. (I can attest to this as after 12 months of tests and 5 different doctors my wife was finally diagnosed with Chronic Q-Fever in 1980. She had been working on the slaughter floor of an abattoir at the time of infection). There would seem to be very few doctors who understand or who are experienced with zoonotic diseases.

The onset of the illness or incubation period is usually 2-4

weeks from being exposed to the organism. Effective antibiotic treatment is available with early diagnosis. A Q-Fever vaccine has been developed in Australia and is considered to be over 90% effective in preventing the disease. Vaccination should not be given to those already exposed to Q-Fever as serious reactions can occur. Doctors will test to see if a person has previously been exposed by a series of blood tests. (Proper diagnosis can only be confirmed by a series of blood tests. One test alone does not always test positive). If a previous exposure is confirmed, a vaccination will not be given. (I have also had Q-Fever and cannot be vaccinated and the Blood Bank will no longer collect whole blood from me even though I am "O-neg" or what is known as a universal donor).

Vaccination will also not protect someone who has already been infected but is still within the incubation period of the illness.

What can our members do?

- Vaccination may be an option but members will need to discuss with their GP.
- Protect themselves from breathing in dust on properties as much as possible, especially around cattleyards and watering points.
- Avoid the temptation to "open up" obviously pregnant animals and in particular avoid contact with amniotic fluid, placentas and still-borns (abortions).
- Do not drink unpasteurised milk.
- Always think, hygiene, hygiene, hygiene in the field and keep hands and all

equipment as clean as possible. (It is thought that meatworkers rolling their own cigarettes during their breaks was a common way in which the disease was contracted in the past).

- Always wash and preferably disinfect hands before eating.
- If members present to their GP with symptoms make sure that they tell him/her of their possible exposure to the disease and ask for the Q-Fever test to be undertaken. (I would also ask that other zoonotic disease such as Brucellosis and Leptospirosis should also be excluded in the testing process).

Graham Blines

PARALYSIS TICK (ixodes holocyclus)

Ticks are an on-going threat for CWM members in the field. One of our members sent in these photos of ticks.

There can be confusion about which ticks are which. Here are two examples the photos - the grey/light green one is a Paralysis Tick. The other one is a cattle tick.

You can see the difference in the placement of the legs on these examples: the Paralysis Tick always has the legs at the front in that 'V' shape, and other ticks such as Brown Dog Ticks & Cattle Ticks have the legs quite spaced out around the body.

Photos courtesy of the [Old Mill Vet Surgery](#) Facebook page – used with permission

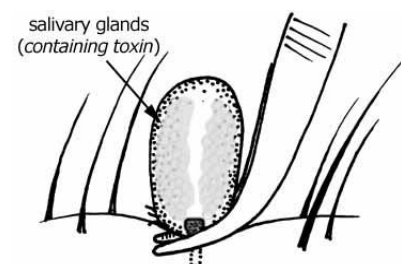


Cattle tick



Paralysis tick

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. You can use a simple little plastic tool to remove the tick called a tick-twister. They can often be found at the local vet clinic.

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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 –2014

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

<http://cwm.ssaqld.org.au/2013/index.php/calendar/2015-calendar>