



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

September 2012 Edition

Message from the Committee Chairman

Last newsletter I said based on our reputation and good work that our major state government project host would likely ask us to carry out feral animal management on a further 5 to 8 new properties. They have actually added a further 13 new properties!

This combined with other new and existing projects means that we will have well over 30 projects spread across Queensland on state government, local government, conservation group and private land. There are some very exciting places to go to and great conservation work to be done by removing feral pests.

This means that we are gearing up to greatly increase our number of accredited members and our systems to coordinate them and our projects. The first tool we are releasing is the following brochure in order to build our membership:



SSAA Conservation & Wildlife Management Qld wants YOU

- Participate in various feral control projects each month in some magnificent parts of Queensland, enjoying mateship and camaraderie with like-minded individuals
- Use your skills and time to help protect our native wildlife and the environment
- Regular ongoing training includes bushcraft, first aid, conservation and animal welfare, map reading and use, ethical hunting practices, GPS use, marksmanship, 4WD use, remote communications and more.

Be part of the solution.



We have projects throughout much of Queensland.

As at July 2012, we conduct pest animal management activities on over 30 properties owned by governments, private landowners and conservation groups.



cwm.ssaaqld.org.au

Your local contact is:

GET INVOLVED!

We have noticed that CWM is one of the best kept secrets around, even amongst SSAA members! Therefore, we would greatly appreciate if all members could work hard to bring new members in and most importantly to get involved and active in CWM. Now is the time to put up your hand to help out in a few areas.

You can:

- Get your CWM accreditation done and get out on a project
- Take on team leader or other project support role
- Help with some member recruitment activity
- Assist with marketing, compiling website material, writing stories or articles for the newsletter, training weekends, social shoots, accreditation courses, etc

Please call your local CWM contact (see back of the newsletter) to ask how you can get involved.

Damien Ferguson
Committee Chairman
Mobile - 0402 424 424
damien.ferguson@hotmail.com

Can you help design or fabricate a Ute shooting frame?

One project we need to complete is the design and fabrication of a number of "strap on" shooting frames that can be attached to different tray back utes. Project teams can share these frames around based on which vehicles will be used on the different projects.

If you have metal fabrication or design/drawing skills please contact Marks Woods.
markwoods2@bigpond.com
0438 098 469

SE Queensland Report

The Southern Region has been quite active in the past three months. Our June training weekend was excellent and was attended by 45 members over the two days. Many thanks to Brad Cooper for his extensive training session and demonstration of knives, sharpening, field dressing & butchery skills.

With the help of our parent body (SSAA Qld), CWM had a stand at the annual Australian Deer Association Expo held at Morayfield on the 4-5 August. I would like to thank members who gave their time over the weekend to man our stand. We got the CWM message to many regular shooters that knew little or nothing about us and to the general public that came along and had a look at the show. I would like to welcome the new members that have joined from the ADA Expo weekend.

Our monthly feral control weekend at the 'Stewartdale' property (near Ipswich) is a great way for new members to start learning about CWM field activities. With plenty of fresh pig sign around the paddocks and with the warmer weather coming the foxes may be out so we may get lucky. Go to:
<http://cwm.ssaqld.org.au/projects/project-stewartdale.html>

CWM will also be out at Ripley Range for a social shoot on the Sunday of the third weekend of each month. If you have some free time come and shoot.

If you haven't yet done your written theory accreditation course drop me an email and I can add your name to the next course list.

Finally, the up-coming Southern training weekend will be a great program. All members should try to get there on 15th – 16th September at 'Stewartdale', via Ripley.

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

SEQ Training weekend

With 45 members and guests attending the June training weekend was one of the biggest we have had. We did the usual training activities including rimfire at various distances using limited time shots, shot gun with hand thrown clays and centrefire using time limited shots.



Rim fire practice/training



Shot gun with a hand thrown clays

The highlight of the weekend was Brad Cooper's training lecture and demonstration of field butchery. Brad is a CWM member, a fully qualified butcher who has worked in wild game processing facilities as well as, operating as a butcher in rural Queensland for the last 17 years. Additionally, he is a professional, licensed and accredited, macropod and wild game harvester for both human consumption and pet food for the last 14 years.



The classroom

On Saturday Brad talked through some of the practical safety, animal choice and field issues including:

- The importance of using protective gear including, rubber and cut resistant gloves, face mask and disinfecting gels
- Nurture your relationship with landowner
- Select the right animals for consumption eg healthy young wild deer/goats
- Look for signs of parasites and disease. Discard any suspect animal/meat.
- Practice your field butchery techniques on small animals first eg rabbits, small goats

Brad's session on knife selection and demonstration of sharpening advised that:

- A plain drop point knife is the best hunting knife for

skinning, gutting and initial field dressing

- A sharp knife is a good one. Learn to sharpen your knives.
- Buy a number of plain butchers "trade knives" to practice sharpening skills.



Skinning demonstration

Brad brought two goats and the last part of Saturday afternoon and then Sunday was devoted to an interactive demonstration of:

- Dispatching and bleeding of the animals
- Evisceration of the animal (Gutting)
- Skin on Skin off
- Carcass storage and care
- Description of the various cuts that can be taken from the animal
- Carcass breakdown
- The uses of the many cuts of meat

Brad is an excellent trainer; his session was both informative and entertaining. We certainly have some talent within CWM.

Central Eastern Queensland Report

The Calliope project this July was unseasonably wet with 180mm falling in the week prior to the trip. This meant the roads were quiet wet and some

areas inaccessible for the first part of the trip.

Two CWM members braved the rain for the trip with a third attending for 2 days at the end of the trip.

For the first 3 days there was a lot of misty rain and low clouds over the mountains. This made use of the ATV not very pleasant. However, a clever CWM member used an industrial roll of cling wrap to make a temporary windscreen, which worked surprisingly well! The rest of the week was sunny though the temperature was a little on the chilly side.

The fire place at the camp got an extremely good work out due to the rain and cold. It was very welcome after a long walk in the bush to warm up, dry out and remove any unwanted leeches.



One of 18 pigs taken

The project area showed large amounts of activity with the pigs putting their snouts to the ground and digging. Five traps were set for the week but no activity was found in or around them during the week. 18 pigs ranging in size and sex were dispatched this trip. All were field shot. 6 other pigs were sighted but were just too quick.

Greg De Koning

Central Western Queensland Report

Hello from the Central Western Queensland.

Another wet couple of months. This has to have been the wettest winter we've had in a number of years! *But*, that didn't stop us from opening up a new project with Bush Heritage namely "EDGBASTON".

WOW what a place!

Edgbaston is 30km north of Aramac. This opportunity actually came about by default when another trip was suddenly cancelled when we were on the road to it. A call was made to Bush Heritage Regional Operations Manager, Steve Heggie who suggested that he could really use some help at *Edgbaston*. So off we went. Rod Costin, Brad Hughes, Blake Rowley and Dan Heathcote for 4 days.



One of the springs

With the assistance of Dave (Caretaker) and Adam (Freshwater Ecologist) to show us around, the project was kicked off on the Saturday. The first ride out on the quads at lunch time we quickly discovered MUD then BULLDUST then MUD then more DUST, unreal. Although

we managed to get round a lot of the property there was still heaps we couldn't get to because of the water, next trip we hope will be a fair bit dryer.



When I said mud, I meant slop

This is a very diverse piece of country and has "the lot" including: escarpment, desert, clay pans, salt flats, downs, timber. *Edgbaston* is home to what scientists have called the most significant natural springs for global biodiversity in the entire Great Artesian Basin. This is certainly quad and bike country, although there is some good walking to be had up the creeks and escarpment areas.

This is a very exciting place to visit.



View from the pilot's seat in the Nth West corner of the property

Accommodation was quite comfortable, great to have 240v on hand. There is a good BBQ plate on site, with heaps of fire wood (gidgee) which makes great coals. We camped in the shearing shed but the dam in the Nth Western corner would make a fantastic bush camp site.



Our digs for a few days

We are kitted out with a HF Radio, so checking in on one of the sheds with VKS was a regular each afternoon. With this setup we also have direct access to RFDS and Emergency Services. One thing required for effective communication on the ground on these larger properties is a quality 5 watt hand held radio. With more projects on the cards in more remote areas and even larger properties to cover we feel this should be the bare minimum.



Dan with one of his porkers

We took 5 pigs, 4 cats, 4 rabbits all on the downs country. Only 1 was taken under spot light the rest were at various times of day. We saw about 9 cats but shots did not present.



Dan again (show off)

It was really great to see some country we hadn't been in before and can't wait to head up another trip out there. "Edgbaston" will be on the calendar but with no set dates. We would like to get out there at least every 4-5 weeks.

Adam and Dave couldn't have been more helpful, great blokes, and we are looking forward to working with them more. Well I could go on and on but ... you'll have to come and experience *Edgbaston* for yourself.

For a full run down on *Edgbaston* go to the Bush Heritage web site, very informative.

http://www.bushheritage.org.au/our_reserves/state_queensland/edgbaston

Rod Costin - Central Co-ordinator and Training Officer
Phone: 0417 747 063
coscarp@hotmail.com

Team Avocet

Hello everyone! Coming up at the end of this month (21st to 30th September) is the next

week long trip for the Avocet project.

On this trip we will have a lot to do, both for the hunter and non hunter. Apart from the normal feral animal control over the four properties we will also do some cat trapping on the Minerva Mine site.



Cats are a major pest species (Photo by Mark Woods)

Due to all the rain earlier this year there has been little opportunity for on ground feral control and Hugo has advised the dog numbers are starting to become a concern.

Additionally, a couple of cats have shown up on the cameras. These ones are within the heartland of the reserve and therefore are extremely important to remove.



The bridled nail-tail wallaby Photo by Mark Woods)

Now for something for the rest of the family to do on the Avocet project. We will have the famous wallaby wrangler Janelle Lowry, and two of her apprentices, setting wallaby

traps. They still have 7 GPS collars to fit to some flashjack wallabies. It sounds simple, just trap 7 wallaby's and all is done! Well, it's not quite that easy I am afraid. We need wallabies that are of a certain weight, and size. That's the hard part. Also the excellent weather conditions of late have created an abundance of natural food for the wallabies. This makes trapping wallabies in baited traps more of a challenge.



This is a great trip for the family (Photo by Mark Woods)

With all this activity happening it will make for quite a rewarding trip for the whole family.



We see wild life like this. (Photo by Mark Woods)

Please call either Brad Hughes or myself to book a seat on what will be an awesome trip.

See you out there Mark Woods

North Queensland Report

Townsville report

Townsville is experiencing the calm before the storm. We have a number of prospective new projects, a steady stream of new members and enquiries from interested conservation hunters.

I have received quite a bit of interest from the Far North Queensland members, and people interested in joining CWM. We in the "Lower Far North" would like to get the "Far Northerners" to gather so we can assist in developing your group and projects. Contact Randle and we will assist in putting a plan together.

Congratulations to Justin Boseley and the new group forming around Bowen.

The weather around Townsville has been very unusual and access to existing projects has been difficult. However, the Collinsville project looks a goer for the last half of this year. I recommend the project as a good experience and worth the drive for a few days camping in some rugged Queensland bush.

The Townsville members are looking to acquire an Electric Vehicle and combine it with night vision equipment. We are looking for information and expertise in order to add to our existing night vision gear and to acquire electric vehicles. Any information would be most welcome. Also, if anyone has a broken/cheap 4x4 quad that we could repower to electric, please give me a call.

Randle Irvin 0411 040 010

Whitsundays Report

It seems we now have a Whitsundays branch that will continue to grow and be able to participate in future projects state wide. At present we have 8 members, some who are fully accredited and some yet to sit their practical test. There are 8 more candidates who are awaiting accreditation courses.

Due to a large number of interested candidates and distance required to travel to either Mackay or Townsville I have arranged with Randle Irvin to assist and oversee me to train up future members. Both Randle and Graham Blines from Mackay have been very supportive with help and advice.

Many thanks to SSAA Bowen Branch have helped get our group going by making their facilities available to us.

Justin Boseley

Trip Report - Blackwater Cat & Dog Project (August)

While not on the calendar of events, this trip was to cover the cancelled July trip. Three of us travelled on Friday leaving Mackay at 0730 and arriving just before midday.

The weather was fine throughout the trip. Temperatures dropped down to below 0°C at night and hovered around that figure until around 0700 each day which made spotlighting very cold and during the day got to a maximum of 20°C. This was ideal conditions to do a bit of walking around.

It is very dusty there and after copping some stick, Paul continued to wear his shemagh and suffered very little from dust and wind burn.



Paul wearing his Shemagh scarf for effective wind and sun protection

Paul went out early both days and was rewarded with a small dog on the eastern boundary, two got away. The three dogs had been attacking stray cattle on the park judging by the evidence at the fence and looked to be no more than three sets of dog prints. A few rabbits were shot during spotlighting along the main park road up near the steel yards.

We had a great time and were able to identify areas on which to focus in future. We have become more familiar with the property and the habits of the targeted species. Also provided the opportunity to try out new gear (the shemagh and harness webbing worked great)

Pig and Dog sign while evident, were not in great numbers though fairly active. We saw no recent cat movements. While the trip was relaxing, perhaps it was undertaken too close to the baiting program to be worthwhile from a recoil perspective. It does appear that the baiting is working. There were more Bridle Nail Tailed wallabies seen this trip than other times.

Paul Thompson

Mackay Report

Things have been a bit quiet in this part of Qld so far this year. We held another Accreditation Course in Mackay on 4th August with 3 new members attending.

I have managed to rekindle the Collinsville Project with the traditional owners of the property and will organise dates in the near future. I anticipate that the trips will be during the period from early Sept to early November and probably for around a week in duration. The traditional owners are likely to pay us a visit at some stage while we're camped there.

The property is very large (65,500ha), very rugged and quite remote but at the same time very beautiful country with Broken River running through the middle of it.



Broken River is in the property

Accessibility is by 4WD vehicles, ATVs or Shanks' pony (on foot) and members will need to be completely self-sufficient. There are several suitable campsites (a couple with a long-drop toilet and lean-to shelter) while the others are just sites. No power but generators are allowed.

From an environmental point of view the property is home to a couple of saltwater crocodiles, the endangered Irwin's Turtle and a Koala population. Dogs

and Pigs are the main objectives but there are other ferals there as well. Anyone interested can contact myself, Randle or Justin.

Graham Blines

My first CWM project

Five of us travelled from the south east corner and met up for the Gladstone pig project. We arrived just as the weather fined up on the June long week end. Travelling into the property we appreciated the beauty of the area with its thousands of birds and other wildlife. The hustle and bustle of working life soon started to wash away.



Pig's wallows

We took a good size sow on the first morning and my companions who had been here before said that the areas of feral pig damage were small compared to what the area was like several years ago.



Sow taken on the trip

There were many different terrains for hunting including tea tree swamps, thick scrub, open plains and sand dunes.



Swampy ground

Another new experience for me was sitting in the dark using night vision goggles. This approach allowed us to remove 2 good boars and a very healthy fox.

The camaraderie of people with similar interests and lots of stories and experiences to tell made it a great week away and I am looking forward to my next one about the time this is published.

Ken Payne

Member Tips

Good links for quad & bike parts



- "Caltric" in USA on Ebay
<http://stores.ebay.com.au/CALTRIC>
- In Australia
<http://www.aussiepowersports.com.au/>

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We are ready do a deal for Conservation & Wildlife Members (Must show membership)

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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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.

September			
All Month	Gympie Wild Dog Project	Southern	Damien Ferguson
Booked out	Eidsvold Properties	North Burnett	Peter Ferguson
1 st – 7 th	Calliope Pig Project	Central	Greg de Koning
15 th – 16 th	Southern Training Weekend	Southern	Brett Marais
16 th	Southern Social Shoot	Southern	John Bayless
15 th – 16 th	Blackwater Cat & Dog Project	Central	Rod Costin
22 nd – 30 th	Avocet: Week Long	Central	Brad Hughes & Mark Woods
28 th – 6 th Oct	Moonie Pig, Fox & feral Cat	Southern	Damien Ferguson
TBA	Townsville Pig Project	Northern	Randle Irvin
TBA	Pinnacles Pig Project	Northern	Randle Irvin
TBA	Serpentine Pig Project	Northern	Randle Irvin
October			
All Month	Gympie Wild Dog Project	Southern	Damien Ferguson
13 th – 20 th	Gladstone Pig Project	Central	Greg de Koning
13 th – 14 th	Blackwater Cat & Dog Project	Central	Rod Costin
20 th – 21 st	Stewartdale – Ripley	Southern	Owen McIntyre
21 st	Southern Social Shoot	Southern	John Bayliss
TBA	Townsville Pig Project	Northern	Randle Irvin
TBA	Pinnacles Pig Project	Northern	Randle Irvin
TBA	Serpentine Pig Project	Northern	Randle Irvin
November 2011			
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
8 th – 9 th	Avocet: Emerald	Central	Brad Hughes
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

Collinsville - Primary – Pigs

Gympie – Primary – Wild Dogs. Secondary – Feral Pigs, Foxes, Feral Cats and European Hares

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

Townsville – Primary - Pigs
