



## Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (Qld) Inc. Conservation and Wildlife Management Division

*"Preserving Australia's Heritage"*

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# CONSERVATION & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT (Qld) NEWS

## September 2014

### Message from the Committee Chairman

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Hi Everyone

CWM continues to grow and we are currently around 500 strong across Qld.

We've also had extensive growth in the numbers of properties that we carry out feral animal control to an extent that one of our project trips has had to be cancelled due to lack of members available. Therefore we are stepping up our drive for more good conservation hunters via the following:

### Stories from members for Australian Shooter magazine

We're looking for members to write a story, or stories, about their involvement in CWM including their experiences on our various projects. You don't need to be an experienced writer and any photos that you (or other CWM members have) will really add to your stories. Please call or email me with your story or to discuss. You

will receive all credit for the stories. And if it's good enough you could get paid for it.

### 'Everyone bring one'

The various branches of CWM hold regular training weekends, range days, projects and other activities. There are many people in the community that are very interested to get back into hunting or to try shooting out. Don't be afraid to bring a friend to these activities. Can we ask that everyone bring at least one person to the next activity in your region.

### Mentors for new members

As mentioned, we have many new members and we've found that if a new person can team up with another member who can assist them getting out on a project, we have another committed and very happy CWM member. We are looking for existing members to mentor or team up with our new people.

### Accreditation Officers

We have some very committed members that have been running our accreditation workshops for many years and the upsurge in new members now requires us to call for additional accreditation officers in each region. Please get in touch with your local regional coordinator or in the South East Owen McIntyre. All their contact details are on the website.

### SE Training Weekend

The SE training weekend coming up on the 20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> of September at Stewartdale is a great way to 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.

Damien Ferguson  
Committee Chairman  
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## ***Moonie Trip Report***

### **What an awesome weekend hunting.**

I would like to tell you the story of my first CWM trip.

We were staying at a Moonie project property and I was very fortunate to have 2 experienced hunters Ken and Adrian guiding me. When we headed out on our first walk I was in the middle of our line formation. Ken kept telling me "be ready and keep your eyes and hand on the rifle".

I am an experienced and keen conservation shooter but have no experience with pigs in this type of terrain. So this was going to be a learning experience for me.

I was walking through the bush, not really knowing what to expect, when suddenly I looked up and saw 5 pigs sitting under a tree. I looked at them and they looked at me, then they took off running to my left. I didn't really have the time to get



**One of my pigs**

my rifle ready as I was still in shock seeing my first feral pigs. I quickly called Ken on the radio and said "pigs coming your way!" Ken's experience in this

type of hunting showed as he despatched one as they came his way.

Off we went and again we saw pigs. This time both Ken and Adrian were able to dispatch a couple of pigs.

We regrouped and off we went again, but this time I was prepared and ready, or so I thought. We came across another mob of pigs and my inexperience showed again.

After a short break we headed off again, this time I looked up and I thought I could see a pig sitting under a bush. I was about to fire and the sow took off. I followed her and took a shot while she was running. Finally my first pig. I walked over and checked her out. Ken said she probably weighed about 60kg. Wow I was excited.



**Pigs were the target**





### **Walking back to camp**

I had shot my first pig and nothing could be better. My adrenalin was racing.

We headed back to base camp and I was able to tell my story to the other guys on the trip. We had lunch and headed out again in the afternoon. I was with Ken and Adrian again but on the outside walking through the shrubs and trees. Pigs were running everywhere, I took a shot and another one went down. I was starting to get the hang of it. We headed off again and walked several kilometres and again we saw pigs but the opportunity for a clean shot was not there.

Next day we headed back to the same area. Ken and Adrian were successful in taking a few pigs. Everything was

happening and I was having a great time.

We stopped for lunch and decided to have another crack. As I looked to my left a boar was sitting under a bush. I looked at this boar and thought to myself, "is that a pig? Nah can't be". He quickly took off so I aimed and took a quick shot. I got him and Ken assisted by finished him off. I had shot 2 sows and 1 boar. I used all my senses in a new hunting environment for me. I was hooked.

In closing, I would tell any new CWM member when out hunting for pigs for the first time, be ready and expect to miss the first few as you learn the ropes. But stay focussed and listen to your fellow

members. CWM provides guidance for new members and I was lucky to have had 2 experienced hunters with me. They kept telling me what to do and to stay in correct formation as we walked.

I would like to thank Ken and Adrian, as their guidance and help got me across the line and I was able to dispatched 3 pigs for my first trip.

For the new hunter pig shooting is about patience, being quiet and alert, and most of all, ready to take aim and fire with little or no time. Plenty of range practice is a must.

Glenn Johnston



**Collinsville Project – August 2014**

Often a hunting trip is rated on the basis of the number of feral animals taken within a certain period of time. Whilst this is certainly “the name of the game”, I have come to realise that I can actually enjoy a hunt without even a shot being fired.

Recently 8 of our members including myself participated on the Collinsville Project for four days. Only one other, apart from myself had been on the property. For two of the participants it was their first CWM trip and it was certainly the first time these 8 people had been thrown together as a hunting group.

So what happened?

Day 1 saw us arrive at the property around 9.00am literally within minutes of each other although only some of us had travelled together. Everyone was present for a briefing by the property Manager, Gerard, and we were on our way to the camp site, almost an hour from the homestead.

After a setting up camp and a quick bite to eat it was time to explore this magnificent property and get everyone orientated with their surroundings. Four teams of two set out full of enthusiasm, two Hilux utes, a Can-Am buggy and a Honda Quad.

Nightfall saw us all return to camp with no sightings of any feral animals but full of

expectations. Each group selected an area to hunt for the next day and it was early to bed that night.

We awoke in the pre-dawn on day 2 to the sound of light rain which was to continue on and off during the day. After a hurried breakfast Glenn and I were off (it takes a long time to get anywhere on this property). We drove, we walked, we rested, we drove, we walked, we rested and still no sign of anything remotely resembling a feral animal. We felt sure that the other three groups had read the lay of the land much better than us and it was with some disappointment that we returned to camp that night. Once everyone was back in camp it became obvious that no-one had fired a shot that day



**Wide open views at the Collinsville project**

and we were all very tired and a little dejected. Blocking out the disappointment of day 2 we all assured each other that the next day would bring better results. I started to become really impressed at this stage with the commitment that everyone was showing.

The next morning dawned bright and clear which helped to booster everyone's optimism. Off we all went feeling confident that our prospects would be much brighter now that the sun was shining. Nobody wanted to come home empty handed again. The plan for the day was for the buggy and the quad to explore some of the far flung reaches of the property which were inaccessible to the 4WD vehicles and the rest of us to climb mountains and walk creeks and gullies until we found where they were hiding.

By the time we arrived back at camp that night we were all "stuffed". Finally though, there had been some results, Ray and Russell in one of the Hiluxes had accounted for two pigs and Dave and Ian in the buggy had accounted for another pig. The rest of us had not seen a thing. The prize for persistence and dedication though must go to Rachael who travelled 127km as pillion on the quad with her husband that day.

Next morning we broke camp and hunted our way back to the homestead for a quick debriefing with the manager's wife, Regan, before the 3-4 hour trip home.

Would we go again? You bet we would. This property is BIG, the roads are VERY ROUGH, the hills are VERY HIGH and the amenities are VERY



**Finally, success**

BASIC, but the location and the River are MAGNIFICENT.

What went wrong? We believe that recent culling effort by the property managers plus heavy frosts have hit the creek flats hard this winter and along with the recently completed muster have combined to push the pigs and the remaining feral horses into the mountains where it is warmer and where many natural springs are still running. This makes hunting extremely difficult.

Was this trip a success? Yes it was. We have identified the sections of the property where the dogs are most active and have counted the number of cattle seen in various areas and have conveyed this information to the managers. One of our members, Ray, has produced an excellent property map with accurate roads and tracks compiled from GPS data

collected on this trip. Eight of our members have worked tirelessly as a team in the field without any complaints, problems or derision and a couple of potential new Trip Leaders have been identified in the process.

What do you need to participate on this Project? There is some very serious 4WD country on this property so a very capable 4WD vehicle, buggy or quad is a necessity. You need to be quite fit and prepared to walk, climb high hills and trudge up gullies and along creeks. Amenities are very basic so you need to be well prepared and largely self-sufficient.

Most of all, you need to be a hunter who can appreciate all the challenges that this property will throw at you and not just a shooter.

Graham Blines 0417 762 161



## Being Quiet in the bush

*Here is an article by Ken Payne on the serious topic of being quiet in the bush. Ed.*

While having a quiet break and talking quietly Adrian, John and I decided to take a few happy snaps. It was good being back in the bush with friends, this being one of several CWM trips that we have been able to hunt together. While John and I were in conversation Adrian walked less than 20 meters away and as we watched Adrian raised his rifle while checking some sparse bushes and shot one of 3 pigs asleep under those bushes.

Days before Adrian, a new member Glen and I were having a water and Muesli bar in the shade for 15 min. We had walked less than 20 meters when Glen went to step past some grass and a 60 Kg boar seemed to come from under his feet. We dropped him and discussed the fact that even during breaks if you keep your voices down the wildlife won't be disturbed - personally I have had this happen a number of times over the years.

Ken



**The two Amigos - Ken and Adrian**

### ***The Hunting Buddies Response***

*Here are the comic email responses from his hunting buddies on the day*

*Reply from Adrian...*

On both occasions I don't think we were being that quiet - we were talking normally and crackling chocolate bar wrappers etc. Still, I was able to stalk to within about 15m (soft sand) and the pig was fast asleep - I didn't see the other

two sleeping on the far side of the pig I shot. Some of us were talking more than others though and if it wasn't for my exceptionally keen eyesight and honed African hunting skills the pig would have got away!

*Reply from John...*

Reluctantly, I must agree. Those honed African hunting skills are exceptional, however I tend to think the snake skin drum, bone shakers, and leopard skin loin cloth take things a little too far for Moonie!

Shooting game as they sleep is not the skill devoid task we are all led to believe. First one has to break off the conservation, put away camera and muesli bars and load the firearm all whilst within the lair of the beasts. Keeping in mind these quarry are in such fear of the hunters' ability they lay around in slumber in broad daylight!

**Picture to left  
The sleeping pig**

## **CWM Contacts**

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## Our Supporters

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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 –2014

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Our calendar of activity dates is now published on our web site. Please go to:  
<http://cwm.ssaaqld.org.au/2013/index.php/calendar>