



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 2015**

#### **Message from the CWM President**

The **Shot Expo** held in mid Aug over 2 levels of an exhibition hall at the EKKA grounds in Brisbane. Going by the very large number of people that attended each day it was a huge success. CWM had around 15 volunteers man a display in the SSAA stand for the 2 days. We had new members join at the expo and plenty of interest from others. On behalf of the committee, I'd like to thank Tim Shalders for all his hard work in coordinating our members who gave up their time to man our display.

At a recent **CWM** committee meeting we signed off on our Discrimination & Harassment policy. This will be circulated in the near future and I suggest everyone read it and abide by it. Our Code of Conduct will also be updated to include adherence to this policy.

#### **Drone Trials**

I recently attended the trial of a military grade drone (UAV – Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) out near Moonie.

This drone can definitely pick up feral pigs, wild dogs, kangaroos

and stock in the landscape, even in dense foliage by utilising thermal vision (which senses heat). We found 2 mobs of pigs, one mob in medium scattered foliage and another in very dense foliage where they could be seen through the trees with thermal but not by hi def camera. 2 wild dogs were also found in the same area.

ABC website story about the Moonie area trials –  
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-07-22/drones-to-help-manage-invasive-pest-animal-species-in-australia/6639204>

This is a very good short video

taken while they were trialling the drones out near Charleville last week -

<http://mashable.com/2015/07/22/drones-australia-pests/>

There are likely many other uses for this technology which people will no doubt think of as time goes by.

Keep an eye on our **projects calendar** and be sure to get along to a training/range day in your area - [2015 CWM Calendar](#)

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Ninox drone trials were conducted at our Moonie project site



## **Collinsville 2015**

With July upon us it was time to head out to the Collinsville Project. We wanted to get in before the muster and after the wet and we couldn't have timed it any better, the weather was perfect. On the Monday, day one, Geoff, Crockett and myself got to the Main Homestead at around 9:30 am.

Chock had come in the afternoon before and camped at the main yards overnight. We caught up with the Manager Gerard, at the yards, as he was drafting cattle. He told us where he'd seen pigs, dogs etc. and where his cattle and stock horses were. Then it was off to the campsite another hour and a half into the middle of the property, as the tracks are fairly rough. Once there we hurriedly made camp and got the quads, buggy and rifles ready to go on an afternoon recon.

We weren't expecting to see any live targets, but we had spotted plenty of dog tracks around so we set one dog trap in a gully on the edge of the



**Main camp**



**Looks pretty comfy**



**Crockett's pig**

Main River and then moved on. Coming down into a major Creek a couple of kms north of camp we came across a mob of 8 or so pigs, so with a quick stalk and a chase on foot there was six small to medium sized pigs dispatched in the creek.

With some daylight left we went a little further up the creek and got another sow and a sucker. Happy with the afternoon's events we made our way back to camp to finish setting up and cook some dinner.

Tuesday, Day two, saw an early start and after hearing dogs howling half the night



thought we would go and have a look around. We found a bullock carcass near some old yards across the river, so we set up three more traps and then made our way up to the Eastern end of the property. With the sighting of three brumbies in the foothills on the eastern side of a substantial Creek, we moved on and kept going towards the northeast and finally got to the old mustering hut that we'd heard about.

A bite to eat, a look about and some photos but nothing to shoot, we started to make our way back and came across a mob of pigs in a creek. With Crocket dispatching one sow and the rest getting away we had a quick look around in the creek and made our way back to camp to find out Chock and Geoff had also got a small boar at the back of the old Homestead on the Eastern end of the property.

Early on Wednesday morning, day three, Geoff went back to



Two dogs taken off a carcass

the carcass that we had found at the old yards the day before and sat there just before daylight to see what was moving about and shot a bitch dog trotting down the track towards the carcass. We also had a male dog caught in one of the traps. That day only produced one more sucker and some sightseeing.

Thursday, day four, saw more hunting but no kills. Paul and Ben came in early that afternoon. A quick trip back up the major creek produced nothing.

Early on Friday, day five, Chock and Geoff went up to the carcass again before daylight and got another bitch and Paul and Ben did a run down to the Eastern end of the property to



Creek country





**Main river**

There was no more animal activity that day.

Monday, day seven, saw Michiel head home. Phil and Jim got a good sized boar to the west of the Old Homestead and due to some trouble with Phil's Quad and no more animal activity presenting itself, Phil and Jim decided to pack up camp and come home Tuesday morning, which brought the project to a successful end.

I'd like to sincerely thank the Property Managers for letting us into their back yard to do what we so thoroughly enjoy, Hunting and Camping. I'd also like to thank the members who participated, got on well and got the job done with no gripes.

The tally for the 8 days was.

- 13 pigs including 2 good boars.
- 5 Dogs - 2 male, 3 female.
- The sighting of 3 Brumbies.

Until next year.  
Ian Radley - Mackay CWM.

look about. It was then time for Crocket and myself to pack up camp and make our way out as Carl, Greg, Reg and Michiel were coming in to take over. Chock got a good size boar in a major creek that afternoon and Carl and Greg trapped another dog at the carcass that night.

Saturday, day six, Carl and Greg went and set some more traps up a substantial creek at the Eastern end of the property,

and although dog tracks were everywhere no dogs were trapped. Reg saw a good size boar in a major creek but it got away. Paul and Ben headed home.

Sunday, day seven, saw Michiel shoot another bitch in a dry gully to the East of the camp, and that afternoon saw Phil and Jim come in to the project and campsite, and Carl, Greg and Reg head home.



**Chock's boar**



## ***Burdekin River Wetlands – Trip Report***

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The BRW project covers an area of approximately 76500 ha located 55 km northwest of Ingham as the crow flies. Previously the property was a cattle station and has recently been taken over by the State Government.

The property is a patchwork of lakes, swamps and billabongs all surrounding the Burdekin River, which divides the project conveniently into northern and southern sections.

The primary target animals are pigs and cats, although there are likely to be a range of other pest species present. As important as the hunting, are field observations and reporting undertaken by CWM members on the project. Each trip, teams record observations of the wildlife and any pest plant species. This valuable information is the foundation of the great relationship northern CWM has built with the Queensland government.

A recent trip in August over three days netted seven sows



and one large boar. Credit to the team for demonstrating excellent stalking techniques. The wind direction is hard to gauge in some locations and liable to change without notice as it whips around the small hills and large escarpments. One boar was spooked at a distance of 700 plus metres when he caught a sniff after a sudden change in wind direction.

The most successful stalk resulted in seven pigs, five of which are shown in the picture here.

The pigs taken during the short August trip were all located feeding at the water's edge. As

the dry season continues, water sources are shrinking. One of the issues this presents is that cattle and horses are often present and can make shooting difficult or give away your position as they are easily spooked.

Although the number of pigs taken per trip is relatively low, the sustained pressure that the North Queensland team continues to apply, demonstrates the effectiveness of the techniques being applied. A combination of trail cameras, feed stations and monitoring and reporting is having the required outcome.

**Nicholas Baker**



**Water sources were shrinking**



## ***Project Grandchester***

A recently established CWM project on a property of nearly twelve thousand acres close to Grandchester, about ninety kilometres west of Brisbane is proving convenient, demanding and enjoyable. The focus is on wild dogs.

The property is a nature refuge (predominantly for Koalas) contains a five star resort, an extensive mountain bike track network, and a small number of almost domesticated deer, alpacas and camels. The latter are for the enjoyment of paying resort guests and so of course are off limits to us.

We have been entrusted to operate even when various resort activities are underway so, of course, we are extra cautious regarding target identification day or night, backdrops to trap projectiles, the locations of activities or



**Some of the terrain at Grandchester**

dwelling and member presentation, as the chance of encountering paying guests unexpectedly in the scrub is high.

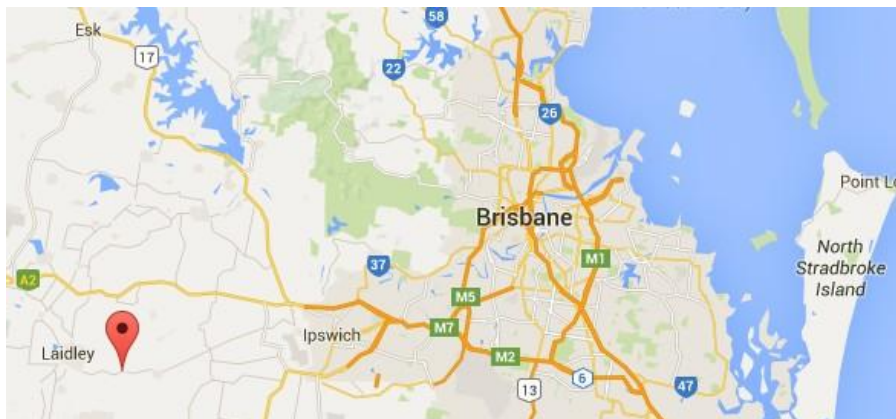
Also, perhaps surprisingly, given the media's demonization of firearms and hunting, we have been invited to introduce

ourselves to guests encountered in the bush so as to explain what we are about. However, we do not openly flaunt our activities and strive to not be noticed as we get on with the task of dealing with the elusive wild dog.



**Elusive dogs are the focus**





**Grandchester is 90 Kms west of Brisbane**

Alastair Rogerson is the current Trip Leader and enabling details for CWM members to become involved are on the CWM web site.

Peter Ferguson  
Grandchester Project  
Coordinator

### **Whitsunday/Bowen Report**

Well the last period has been good with a great relationship being forged with a couple of local land owners. Urannah station was visited again with Phil Welsby taking a large pig. I dispatched a few 100kg plus pigs on my yearly Cape York trip and enjoyed it as usual.

Bowen has a CWM course in September. Our CWM badges arrived from uniform solutions "thanks Blinsie".

I hope the next month gets off to a flying start with plenty of action

Peter Hannah

A dedicated core of regular CWM members has emerged during the half dozen trips we have conducted such that all have upped their bush skills including, stealth, trapping knowledge, and patience and thermal vision device target identification.

We have identified a dozen or so dogs and one pig, from our track cameras and consequently have also located 'hot spots' where repeated dog activity is certain.

Our tally so far is not high, however with wild dogs being an opportunity target we have undoubtedly ratcheted up our dog skills, and higher levels of success are certain if we continue this rate of experience and skill improvement. In essence we have proven that static ambush at identified locations is the most likely for success rather than day or night patrols, whether foot or vehicle mounted. Traps are also regularly used.

We have access to an unused creek side house on the eastern boundary which offers suitable shelter, easy access and ideal self-contained camping. There are no other facilities so all members must be fully self-contained. A real advantage for members from the Brisbane general area is

the proximity of the property. Unlike many project locations, a couple of hours can see members depart Brisbane after work and be established and hunt ready at about dusk, usually on a Friday evening.

If you are keen to hunt as opposed to just shoot, are patient and enjoy the company of fellow hunters in interesting bush not too far from Brisbane, this project might be just what you need to satisfy your urge to do what can be done to help our struggling native wild life. A reasonable level of physical fitness, a medium calibre rifle and a willingness to just join in is the way to get the most from Grandchester.



**Peter Hannah's boar**

## **Help us to help you**

I have been a part of CWM for over 14 years now and have it seen it grow from a few keen conservation hunters to some 500 plus keen conservation hunters. One of the factors that has helped us to achieve this growth is the diversity of our members and their work backgrounds. Over our history many people have put up their hand to help and as a result CWM has slowly grown to what it is today.

Recently, you would have seen some emails asking for your help at training days across the State. This time we were asking you to come and help us where you think you can help.

It is at times like this I am quite humbled by the generosity of people both within our organisation and outside of it.

To give an example, a new member recently offered to help with supplying some metal discs and silhouettes of scrap metal left over from their plasma cutting jobs. Another member informed me that his neighbour might be interested in helping with making more silhouettes. Both of these companies have now donated material that would have cost



**Jonathan Ditchburn (right) State Manager Total Steel and Beau Wood**

CWM 8 to 10 thousand dollars to have purchase. Both companies have indicated they are willing to make more as scrap metal and time allows.

I would like to thank Cameron Lawn, GM of the GCI Group of companies at Yatala, and Jonathan Ditchburn, State Manager of Total Steel of Australia at Wacol, for their support in helping to improve our training days. Between both companies they have donated \$5,000 worth of steel cut outs for targets. It would cost over that much again to get the feet welded on them. These targets will be sent out across the State as we build up the stock.

Donations from these two companies and the people that have helped with welding are of a great cost saving will help bring our training weekends up to the same level across the whole state.

If you are in need of steel products or laser/plasma cutting please look up either of these two company's based at Yatala and Wacol and while you are there say thank you to them for helping CWM members have better field training.

If you know someone or a business who can help, or you have an idea or two for the training days please let us know. So come on help us to help you.

Happy Hunting Mark Woods



**This is about one third of the targets that we have to weld.**

These will get their maiden run at the southern training weekend (12<sup>th</sup> of September) so come along and have a go and get some very valuable practice in on these reactive targets.



**Cameron Lawn, GM of GCI Group**



## ***South East Queensland Report***

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A reminder that the 12th/13th of September is the Southern Training week end.

The training week end is open to all as it is the best way to learn how we operate, enhance your skills and network with other members.

On the training weekend we are under the direction of a range officer so you do not have to be accredited to attend. Just turn up and join in.



**View towards Daly Lagoon**

Here is a link to some training weekend info and once on the link there is a mud map link to the camp site

<http://cwm.ssaaqld.org.au/2013/index.php/41-news/top-headlines/136-seq-stewartdale-via-ripley-training-weekends-details>

Owen McIntyre  
Southern Qld Coordinator  
Stewartdale Project Office  
Phone :0417 615 505



**Fig Tree Hill camping area**



## **Hydatid Disease Alert**

Hydatid Disease is a zoonotic disease caused by infection from a small tapeworm parasite called *Echinococcus granulosus* which produces eggs that form cysts in the vital organs of various animals and sometimes humans.

The Adult Tapeworm lives in the intestines of canines and produces eggs that pass out of the dog in its faeces. These eggs are most often ingested by an intermediate grass eating host such as sheep, pigs and cattle. The eggs hatch in the animal's gut into small embryos which then penetrate the walls

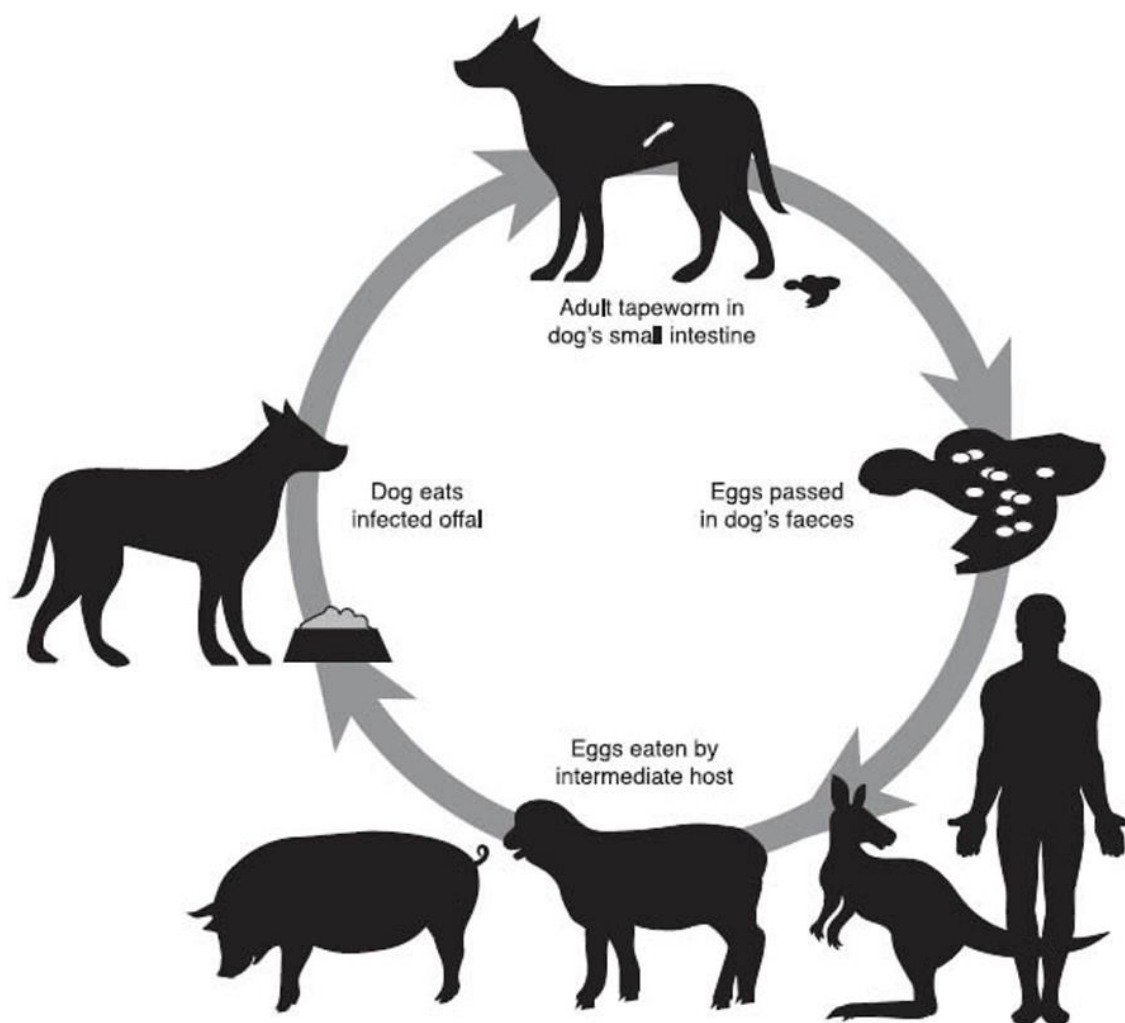
of the intestine and are then carried in the bloodstream to vital organs of the body such as liver, lungs, kidneys or brain where they develop into fluid filled sacs known as Hydatid Cysts.

To complete the life cycle these Hydatid Cysts are then consumed by dogs, dingoes or foxes when they eat infected carcasses. The swallowed cysts burst inside the dog and new tapeworm travel to the gut and attach themselves to the dog's intestines. Each Tapeworm is only 5-6mm long and has a segmented body. Each mature worm grows and sheds the last segment of its

body about every fortnight. This last segment contains immature eggs which are then excreted in faeces where they may stick to the animal's hair or contaminate other surfaces.

The eggs are highly resistant to weather conditions and must be eaten by an intermediate host animal for the life cycle to continue.

Human infection does not occur from eating infected offal and the disease cannot be contracted by person-to-person contact. Humans are infected by ingesting (eating) the eggs of the parasite usually when there has been direct hand-to-mouth transfer of eggs from the coats of infected dogs or faeces



**Hydatid Life Cycle**



contaminated soil or plants.

The symptoms of Hydatid Disease depend upon which organs of the body may be affected. The most commonly infected organs are the liver and lungs but the cysts may also establish in other organs such as the kidney and brain. Successful treatment of the disease in humans involves the surgical removal of cysts.

What can be done to minimise the risk of infection?

- Always wash hands after handling dogs (domestic & feral) especially before eating or handling food.



- Regularly worm all domestic dogs making sure the treatment is effective against the Hydatid Tapeworm.
- Never allow your dog to eat raw offal or carcasses.
- Don't allow dogs to lick your face.
- Never allow dog faeces to contaminate areas where children play.
- Fence vegetable gardens to exclude dogs from the area.
- Avoid direct contact with all dog faeces.

Graham Blines

## **Tips for Shooting**

### **Tip 1**

For quick target acquisition as you are either lifting the rifle or going down onto the rifle on a rest keep both eyes open and focused on your target (as if you are catching a ball) and as your rifle comes into position your shooting (dominant) eye should be looking through your scope or open sights and the target should be right there in your field of view.

### **Tip 2**

When out shooting in the field be it daytime walking or night time spotlighting and you are using a variable powered scope.

Try and remember as you are moving through light covered open country wind up your power to midrange and when you move into heavy cover wind it back to low power if you do this as you move through the field in the course of hunting you should be ready for each situation as it pops up.

### **Tip 3**

The more points of stability or the more stable a rest that you can get when shooting from a vehicle the better your ability is to deliver a humane one shot kill leave the showing off for when you are the pub with your mates.

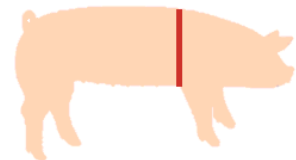
Mark Woods

## **Weighing a Pig without a Scale**

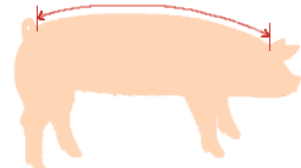
Ever wondered how to weigh a pig without a scale? Obtain a good estimate of a pig's weight using only a measuring tape and a calculator.

1. Obtain a fabric measuring tape or a piece of string to use as a measure. If using string mark the dimensions on the string and then measure the dimensions using a steel tape measure.
2. Place the tape/string under the pig just behind the front legs and measure the circumference of the pig's girth in metres. This measurement is known as the Heart Girth (see graphic)
3. Then measure the Length of the pig along its back from the base of its ears to the base of its tail, again in metres. (see graphic)
4. To calculate the pig's weight, first square the Heart Girth to get the Girth Result.
5. Now Multiply the Girth Result by the Length and MULTIPLY by 69.3
6. You now have the weight of your pig in Kg.

**HEART GIRTH**  
Measure the circumference just behind the forelegs



**LENGTH**  
Measure from the base of the ear to the base of the tail



*Credit for the live weight formula goes to the Old Farmer's Almanac.*



## **SSAA/ADA Shoot**

On the recent yearly SSAA/ADA (Australian Deer Association) shoot we put out the call and 7 CWM members turned up to compete as part of the SSAA team.

There are 5 shots each at a variety of targets at 50, 100, 200 and 300. They took the top 10 scores from SSAA and ADA added them up and the trophy was awarded to the winning team which was the SSAA. We had 3 current members as part of the winning team as well as Brett Marais taking out top score on the Rabbit 100 meter shoot.

A total of 20 shots were taken for the day but the real fun was

mingling behind the line when we get to discuss what's been happening and what's coming up. I have met some great people within CWM and their friends. How many people go to the range, do their shots and go home mainly because they don't know anyone. I now find it hard to go to the range without catching up with someone.

Personally when I joined CWM I would not have contemplated 300 Meters and 200 would have been about my limit. Our training weekend push us outside our comfort zones and many members are pleasantly surprised at the results.

On one training day we had some 20 mm thick A4 size steel plate set up at 300 meters.

Some of the newer members were surprised that they could repeatedly hit the target with a few helpful suggestions. Members give each other practical advice on ways to achieve the result.

Brett Marais runs our training weekends and he gets us away from the benches shooting from a variety of positions such as sitting on the ground with elbows on our knees to simulate field shooting. The outcome of all this is confidence in our own shooting ability so the practice becomes second nature when we go into the field.

**Ken Payne**



**Some of the competitors at the SSAA/ADA Annual Shoot**



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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.

### **Barclay Transport**

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## ***Upcoming Activity Dates –2015***

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

**<http://cwm.ssaagld.org.au/2013/index.php/calendar>**