



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 2016

Message from the CWM President

Sustainable use of Wildlife Conference

This conference was held in Brisbane in the final days of August and was a truly great congregation of worldwide wildlife experts and other stakeholders. The resounding consensus was that we need to have the next conference within 10 years....not 20 years since the last one.

There were so many fantastic presentations given over 3 days by true leaders in wildlife management from countries right around the globe. The range of animals, birds and topics covered was very diverse.

A big tick for CWM is our successful program of accreditation and training where the highest levels of humane destruction of pest species is integral to our work. There are many organisations that are watching hunting and hunters and our continued adherence to the highest

standards is not negotiable.

CWM's efforts and practices have been noticed and applauded by many groups, including some that are very publicly opposed to using the various specialised hunting skillsets. Many opposed to ground shooting ignore the fact that it is proven to be the most humane method of culling unwanted pest species in most cases.

The fact that some of our members are skilled wildlife professionals and scientists with a career in wildlife management and choose to volunteer with us speaks volumes for our reputation. In fact many of our members who have successful businesses and jobs would happily make a career in pest animal and wildlife management, if they could just make a living doing it.

Social Licence to Operate is a term that is being used more often and we've seen what happens when regulators decree that you have lost your 'SLO'. They will legislate to outlaw an industry, pasttime or

practice as they have with greyhound racing in NSW.

So, to all our CWM members keep up the great work and let's continue to be the example that other groups and programs are based on.

Ravenshoe Project Admin

Our project partner has implemented some additional admin requirements for any members attending this project. The additional requirements are that the property manager is to sight your firearms and drivers licences. To allay any security fears, no photocopies of either licence will be taken. As is the case with all our projects we do not allow the copying of our members personal details including their home address to be collected by third parties. This is to protect our members and the community.

Damien Ferguson
President (Mob - 0402 424 424)
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Cairns/Ravenshoe Report

Helen Poulos Ravenshoe

One of our corporate partners asked a group of CWM members to do an introductory talk to university students who were doing volunteer work on the Ravenshoe project. Brian, Helen and Chantal Poulos with Chris Hunt spent half a day with the students and discussed what CWM does and how the processes we use benefit wildlife and the habitats of our native animals. Over the period of the morning we discussed the damage that feral animals such as cats, pigs, wild dogs have on the habitats of native species as well as the impacts on crops and farms. Chris explained that not only do the feral pig population damage native wildlife and habitats but also impact waterways, dams and young fruit trees. Brian spoke from the point of view of

a cattleman about the introduction of diseases and weeds that can be brought into any ecosystem by feral animals. He discussed the impacts they have on native wildlife and live-stock and the destruction of ecosystems. Chantal spoke as a qualified Veterinary nurse on the issues of handling feral animals especially cats and the damage they can cause to wildlife and the prolific breeding habits of the cats if left unchecked. She also spoke about feral dogs, rabbits and pigs and the damage that can occur to ecosystems and habitats. Chantal explained that handling feral animals can be quite dangerous to both humans and other species of wildlife. Her belief in controlling feral animal numbers is paramount in efforts to protect our native wildlife.

Helen discussed the procedures and the accreditation that CWM members need to undertake to become an accredited

volunteer, and answered questions regarding the paperwork, targets, safety and communication in the field. She then went on to discuss the issue of detection dogs. Brian and Helen had brought their three dogs that are trained to locate feral cats and which ultimately may be trained to locate native wildlife and their habitats.

After time spent discussing these issues, they took the dogs and the university students into the field where a scent trail was set up using cat scent markers. Nero, the oldest of the three dogs took just a couple of minutes to travel over 500m and found the marker hidden behind a tree. They then went on to track a human quarry, once again Nero succeeded, the two younger dogs (only 10 months old) need more training, although they are proving to be quite adapt at finding and seeking out scent markers. Once these tasks were completed, Helen asked



the students to give their thoughts about what had been said and done during the morning and asked if they would write a few words. This is what was they noted:

CWM is a very organised and comprehensive group using and training dogs for tracking feral animals which will prove to be a great improvement to current feral animal control—Kody

It's really great to see CWM giving rescue dogs a second chance and a new purpose where they can make a positive difference across Australia for native animals and humans alike—Matt.

It was good to see a group of people who enjoy hunting and using their passion to help protect Australia's wildlife—Nick

CWM's organisation impressed me, you can tell they are dedicated and have put their lives into trying to save Australia's native wildlife whilst humanely killing those that threaten it—Megan

It is a pleasure to see people who are passionate about native wildlife, contributing their time and skills into practical solutions to the invasive pest problems—Mark

*It was wonderful to witness a passionate group of people working hard to help Australia's amazing native animals whilst utilising rescue dogs and giving them a purpose—Georgie
Thank you for the insight into the values of feral animal control. Its eye opening to see the practices first hand and know the mindset of the shooters—Kira*

The students kindly let us take a few photographs of them with the three handlers and the dogs, Nero, Pistol and Magnum.

The Manager of the Ravenshoe Project also gave his thanks and was happy to have us back again if the occasion arises.

South East Report

SE Skills development days
18 & 19 June

Stewartdale is a 1200 hectare property 40 minutes south west of Brisbane, owned by S.S.A.A. (QLD) Inc. The property is highly bio-diverse, containing three threatened ecosystems (2 Endangered & one Of Concern) and several rare and threatened species.



Stewartdale is adjacent to a large nature reserve owned and managed by Ipswich City Council, and the management of both these properties adds significantly to the ecological values of the area.

Management of Stewartdale is complex. Several interest groups, including S.S.A.A., use Stewartdale for a number of activities, and they are

balanced with the ecological management requirements, in particular where rare and threatened species and ecosystems occur. Interest groups include Birds Australia, who conducts regular monthly surveys of Bundamba Wetlands, and Landcare Australia, who have implemented programs for regeneration of the wetland edges. A detailed management plan exists for the property, and CWM Qld are responsible for the pest species management component of this plan.

Stewartdale is also used for training CWM Qld members, particularly in some of the complimentary activities undertaken in the field such as fauna surveys, GPS training, field crafts and weed

management. It is also used to train new and existing members in the skills required to participate in projects further afield. Facilities for training include a toilet, storage shed, water tank and a covered area with a sink and water supply all on a hill overlooking the Bundamba Lagoon. Training weekends are run several times during a year.

On the weekend 18-19 June, 32 new and existing members turned up for training. A few trainees arrived on the Friday evening before the weekend, while the rest arrived on Saturday morning and most stayed for the whole weekend.

After registration procedures were carried out, Brett gave a

quick shots on targets without removing the rifle butts from their shoulders.

During the lunch period, Brett gave a comprehensive talk on reloading. He began with the process of smelting lead to make his own projectiles for pistol and some of the more exotic calibres. He then moved

maintaining the integrity of the line so no one got ahead or behind the line. The second group were at a mechanical thrower that had the clay disc running along the ground. Both these exercises gave people an opportunity to practise shooting at a moving target.

The evening session was for the use of spotlights and torches on or with larger calibre rifles on the open range. Paper targets of rabbit or fox were set at 50 and 100m. A variety of torches were demonstrated and the difficulties of using torches at night discussed and experienced in practice. Unfortunately, a number of new or prospective members had left early thus missing out on the experience. The skills development weekends are designed to expedite the transfer of knowledge to the inexperienced and to standardise our operations in the field.
Editor

Rockhampton Report

What started as a simple question has now grown to something the Rockhampton working group and I are truly proud of.

It doesn't seem that long ago that I was searching the net looking for the CWM website.

I had decided that I wanted to expand my efforts to assist native animals through my hunting skills but was also looking for a group of like minded people to share my stories. I joined online and started the process to finalize my membership. I soon found myself in Mackay under the supervision of Graham Blines completing my practical assessment.



safety brief and outlined the program and procedures to be followed over the weekend. The first activity was a .22 shoot at swinging targets at one of the ranges on the property. Once the targets were set up, people were separated into 3 groups that would shoot in rotation. The first activity was to hit targets at 25m by standing unsupported (offhand). Five single shots were taken at the command of the range officer controlled by whistle blasts. The next five shots were to be taken within 20 seconds. All three groups went through this procedure. This process was repeated by shooting at targets at 50m while kneeling. The third activity involved hitting targets at 70m while lying on the ground. The objective of these exercises was to train people to consistently place multiple

on to resizing brass cases and the intricacies of measuring and trimming the length of the cases and adjusting the overall length of the round to fit a particular firearm. The talk finished up with a demonstration of practical reloading and the use of three different reloading presses from a simple single shell reloading press to a more complex staged system. This was a good introduction for anyone interested in getting into reloading.

The afternoon session was taken up with the use of shotguns. One group formed into a line and clay targets were thrown ahead by Mark as the line moved forward thus simulating a sweep across scrubby country. Members were briefed on their individual arc of fire and the importance of

While staying on after the accreditation course, Graham, Justin and I from Rockhampton, began talking. It was some hours later that Justin and I were heading back down the coast. A few days later, Justin and I met again at the local range and came up with the idea to establish the CWM in Rockhampton. From that day on, the Rockhampton area working group has grown and expanded.

With the support of the CWM committee, the Rockhampton area group is now operating and providing accreditation for members and is a point of contact in the region. We are also working towards providing further opportunities for members and potential members by offering dedicated CWM range days and activities in the near future.

For anyone looking to go further with the CWM, I cannot tell you it is easy. It certainly takes a little effort and a lot of commitment. However the rewards of seeing your hard work to fruition are well worth the effort.

I look forward to working with you all and perhaps getting the opportunity to share a story or two at the next project.
Andrew McMaster

Townsville Report

The Townsville region CWM has picked up momentum through 2016 with new members joining each month. Five years back there were only a handful of members in the Townsville area and as of July 2016 we are over 150. We will be looking to make available range time for our members at the Townsville SSAA Ranges. The

Thuringowa SSAA complex out at Woodstock is scheduled for use at the beginning of each month. The Hervey Range SSAA Complex will be utilised at the end of each month. These range days are for general range time and a few specific disciplines from time to time. Watch for emails with dates and times.

The special CWM range events are focused around fast smooth hunting accuracy. It is all good fun and valuable training to hone the skills needed for humane hunting. These range days offer a great opportunity to get to know each other and share information.

The Burdekin River Wetland project is progressing well but like all the northern projects it has vacancies. There will be a few new projects that are expected to be on line later this year or early next year as well. These projects will be mentioned in emails so keep an eye out.

There are special requirements for CWM members when participating up north. Up here we require each member to have their own hand held GPS and be good with it. Spend some time becoming very familiar with your GPS. When you do participate up north you

will be tested.

Randle Irvin

Burdekin River Wetlands Project

Sometimes a trip is most enjoyable, not only because you eliminate feral animals, but because of all the interesting native animals which you see. The BRWL with all its lakes and forest attracts the usual macropods, ducks, swans and waders but some days you see the unusual.

Cliff and I arrived at the site campsite about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The campsite overlooks several picturesque lakes about two hundred meters below on the green plain. The first thing I do on arrival is to grab my binoculars and search the plain for pigs.

I saw cattle running everywhere and a mob of about ten pigs heading for the long grass. It was not our arrival which disturbed them because we were too far away. But something had spooked the pigs. This set the scene for the rest of the trip. A third hunter, Graham, arrived the next day.

We saw plenty of pigs at all times of the daylight hours because the weather was cool.



After two days we had shot only two pigs. The problems were quick changes in wind direction and native birds giving alarm calls. It did not take much to panic the pigs and send them fleeing towards the bush. On the third day we decided to explore the southern side of the project where we expected to find water holes along an otherwise dry creek bed. Not far from camp we were coming around a bend when Cliff brought the vehicle to a sudden stop. The Cruiser stopped millimetres from the largest Black Headed Python I had ever seen. It was over two meters long and about a hundred millimetres at its thickest point. I have never seen a python move that fast as it made its escape!

Further down the track we were moving slowly when Cliff noticed a wild dog following the vehicle. It was a good looking healthy animal. Cliff then drove the vehicle slowly and stopped several times. Each time we stopped the dog would climb up on a termite mound and curiously stare at us from about fifty meters away. (Note that wild dogs are not on the hit list at the BRWL project.) As we continued along the track we passed a mob of kangaroos that looked up as we approached and continued grazing, unconcerned, as we passed. The waterholes in the creek bed had all but dried up. We were driving along the barbed wire fence which marked the southern boundary of the old cattle station. No vehicle had passed this way for a long time so we had to pick our way through the regrowth and do a bit of scrub bashing as well. Suddenly we came across an area sparse in trees,



but with a large ironbark tree on the other side of, but beside the fence. On the wire at the base of the tree was this furry animal which did not try to flee as we approached. On closer examination it turned out to be a gliding possum. (Greater Glider) Being a nocturnal animal and out in the open, it would have been easy prey for any carnivore especially the Powerful Owl which is its main predator. This may indicate it had not been there for a long time.

The Glider had launched itself from high up in a nearby tree and while attempting to land in the tree beside the wire, had caught the fur of its tail in a barb of the top strand of the barbed wire fence. It was clinging to the middle wire. Stuck fast! Cliff freed the glider by cutting the fur with a sharp knife. It made no attempt to escape which gave me the impression it was in a bad way. Cliff

gave it some water from a bottle and placed it on the tree. His handling of the glider also gave me the impression it was in a bad way, most likely dehydrated. Wild animals, reasonably, assume you are a larger animal who is going to eat them so they bite, scratch and fight for survival. However, on the positive side, when it was placed on the tree,



it urinated then made its way further up the tree. The Greater Glider has a conservation status of vulnerable to threatened. The main threat to its long term survival is land clearing and it being caught on barb wire fences is not unknown. Such encounters with animals in the forest and seeing all the birdlife on the lakes remind us of the reason why we are on this project.

Bill Burgher

Townsville Islands

After a less than favourable trip, we unloaded Jim and Jake on the beach. Nikki and I (who were camping on the boat) slowly motored out into deeper water and around the point. Nikki spotted a goat standing on top of an exposed boulder on the point, "Look at that cheeky bugger" she said. We spotted another, and another. They were moving out of the rocks and down onto the beach, straight towards Jim and Jake's camp. I turned the boat around and managed to alert Jim, who was already well into digging a long drop. Jim headed back to camp to find his rifle, which was still packed with his other gear. Jake, on the other hand, was nearly set up and the young fellow was on the job very quickly. Nikki and I had ring side seats, still on the boat, little more than fifty meters off shore. There were now a dozen goats strolling down the beach heading towards Jake, who was now on the move followed by Jim. Our anticipation was building rapidly. You don't get a show like this every day. Jake moved higher up the beach and disappeared into the grass. Jim stayed on the beach keeping a



low profile. Eventually, after what felt like an eternity, Jim knelt down and steadied himself. Both started firing together. "Quick Jim, that one is getting away down the beach!!" we yelled at each other on the boat. The

one stumbled around the point right beside us. Nikki took the liberty, and I the meat. Wouldn't it be nice if more trips started as successful as this one had.

Greg Calder.



desire to do a good job was too much.

A little less than an hour after arriving at the island, the tally was six, what a start. Nikki and I eventually anchored the boat and went about recovering some goat meat, when another

General articles, stories, tips

The CWM's adjustable shooting frame.

I attended a project recently that required a good deal of spot light shooting. Having just replaced my old ute and yet to decide on how to adapt the replacement, I applied to borrow the CWM's adjustable shooting frame.

I am sure you have seen the elaborate shooting arrangements some of our members have fashioned to the family car. I had the pleasure on one trip to shoot with four others on the back of what could be described as an ingeniously designed gun ship complete with rests, lights, night vision and arm chair for the comfort of the rear tray occupants.

The CWM's frame is a simpler affair. It adjusts to both drop side and style side vehicles and with minor adjustments and a few ratchet ties offers a steady platform to shoot from and provides a safe, sturdy containment for those riding on the back. This simple inclusion offers a team of four: driver and thermal operator in the cab and light holder and shooter on the tray a high vantage point and unrestricted vision and arc of fire to seek out nocturnal pests.

The frame constructed and provided by the generosity of one of our members is available for loan. Applicants must refer to and comply with the CWM Project Induction Checklist – 'Vehicles Procedure Spotlighting' available on request.

John Swift

Save the Bilby Fund

is seeking expressions of interest to tour Currawinya National Park as an initial trial to form a model for developing

ongoing trips to assist the management of Bilby projects. For more information go to : <http://savethebilbyfund.com/index.php/save-the-bilby-fund-projects/citizen-science>



Guideline for Conditionally Registered Vehicles in Queensland.

I recently applied for permits to take a side by side into a national park for a CWM project. The process was fairly straight forward. However, I wanted to share the following codes applicable to most applications. The full rules and regulations can be located on the Transport and Main Roads website (form 17).

In addition to the conditions imposed by the requirements of conditional registration, I was also requested to comply with SL 1, a rotating beacon to be fitted and SP 20, the vehicle to be operated at maximum speed of 20km/h. See Guidelines for Conditionally Registered Vehicles in Queensland Form 17 Version 3.5 May 2016 for details.

Andrew McMaster

Conditional registration is registration for non-standard vehicles that do not comply

with the standard regulations for registration and have a genuine need for limited access to the road network.

Conditional registration;

1. gives you limited access to Queensland roads,
2. gives you the protection of compulsory third party (CTP) insurance in the event of a crash occurring on a road causing personal injury, and
3. determines the conditions for use to ensure safe operation of the vehicle while on a road.

Story by Ken Payne

Wildlife and Shooting

Ripley Rifle range in the south east corner of Qld is where CWM shares a camping area with several other clubs. It is 1200 Hectares in size and has



<http://ab.co/2a7n9y7>

been a declared wildlife refuge since it was first bought by SSAA. It is now also a koala Nature Refuge where about 120,000 tree seedlings have recently been planted.

<http://ssaa.org.au/news-resources/hunting/shooting-range-a-rare-koala-habitat-haven> .

Whenever we attend the property a number of different animal species are seen ranging from the wetlands to the hills. Feral control on the property is carried out once a month by our CWM members controlling, Hares, Foxes, Cats, Pigs and Wild Dogs. We have observed Wedge tail Eagles, Wood Ducks and several types of Marsupials and sometimes have trouble going to sleep due to the noise of the channel bill cuckoos roosting in the large fig tree in our camp.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Channel-billed_cuckoo .

Some of our detractors talk about the effect of shooting around wildlife. Many times I have seen the range closed in order to move the various wildlife animals off the range. The photos show that while we conducted our shoot, Grey Kangaroos were out feeding and did not appear concerned. We have conducted clay target shotgun training while about 30 wild wood ducks were feeding on the grass nearby.

Col Giddings sent in this note about his younger sister.

Known as the "granny from the bush", bench-rest rimfire shooter Joy Harrison is a frequent traveler in pursuit of her 'hole-punching' habit.

Watch Joy in action as she prepares for the second World Rimfire Championship in Lisbon, Portugal this week. ABC OPEN:

Ravenshoe Invitational Shoot

On 27th August 2016 we held the Ravenshoe Invitational Shoot. We thank all the competitors and visitors who attended as the focus was on Feral cats and the damage they cause. A great day was had by all! We would like to also thank all the members and people who donated prizes and their time to make the day wonderful.

Results are as follows:
Feral Cat Target Shoot 100m Rimfire;

C Sanders 93, J Norman 92, R Ranclaud 82, M Lennon 75, C Hunt 58, H Poulos 57, J Campbell 54, J Delacey 50, N Raoch 35, D Browning 24, C Poulos 16, J Mclellan, G Gentle.



Feral Cat Target Shoot 100m Centrefire;

G Gentle (Silver badge) 100, H Poulos 98, J Delacey 98, N Roach 95, M Lennon 94, M Roach 94, D Browning 91, J Anderson 89, G Fuller 88, A Murray 87, J McLellan 78, R Ranclaud 68, J Norman 62. Helen Poulos

ADA vs SSAA Fun Shoot 2016

The annual friendly 'shoot off' between ADA and SSAA (the Bernie Mascord Shield) was held on the last Sunday of July. As usual CWM was well represented with most members shooting for SSAA. Sadly, only a few people took advantage of the opportunity to come on Saturday afternoon for a quick shoot and an overnight stay. However, the Range's well stocked kitchen/dining room was put to good use preparing meals and providing sleeping quarters. A nice hot

meal and drinks along with a few tall stories around a warm fire before bedding down for the night made an excellent precursor to the Sunday shoot. Although it was quite cold over night and foggy in the early morning the day cleared and warmed up to provide an excellent day for thirty shooting enthusiasts from ADA and SSAA.

Repeating their success of the last few years SSAA defeated ADA 698.3 to 628.2 (final scores for the Team result is based on the top ten scoring shooters representing each side). CWM members made up half the winning side for SSAA. Congratulation to the following CWM members for placing in the Top 10 for SSAA: 1 Shane Fox (80); 3 Wil Ferguson (73); 8 Damien Ferguson (66.1); 9 Mark Woods (65.1); 10 Adrian Bulley (56). Shane Fox also received a medal for Top Deer with a score of 21 out of a possible 25.

Wil Ferguson was one of only two Junior competitors on the day, scoring Top Junior with a score of 73 out of a possible 100. Although medals are no longer awarded, Wil also scored highest Junior Fox (22/25) and highest Junior Rabbit (21/25). Congratulations Wil – keep up the good shooting and keep on showing Dad how it is done.

Other CWM participants include Ken Payne, Craig du Preez, Fred Kalsbeek, Owen McIntyre and myself. It is hoped that next year we will have enough people attending and staying over on the Saturday afternoon/evening to have a friendly clay shoot up to dark followed by a BBQ/social night. This is a fantastic, fun day of shooting. Please mark it in your diary to be there next year and keep up SSAA's winning streak. Not to mention CWM's contribution to the win! Glenys-Julie Harris



CWM in North Qld are looking for expressions of interest from members in all their projects. They are offering multiple projects within a few hours drive of each other. You can go from one project to another.

Principle Projects that offer extended availability are:

- Burdekin River Wetland (BRWL - 80,000 Hectares) focused on Pigs, Cats and Rabbits
- Ravenshoe (43,000 Hectares) with a focus on Cats and Pigs.

Among these principle projects are other projects with specific access dates. This is a unique opportunity for those looking to travel up North. You can stay for a day or for a month on any of the North's Projects.

Graham Hanbridge recently returned home after an adventurous and rewarding

road trip to the Tip of Cape York. He took advantage of his CWM membership by making contact with Randle Irvin in Townsville and Helen Poulos in Ravenshoe, both Northern Coordinators. He spent a week, firstly with Cliff Kemp, Bill Burgher and then Greg Calder and family on the (BRWL) project.

In an email to CWM (QLD) Graham stated the following:

The opportunity to spend a week on the Burdekin River Wetlands (BRWL) project was very worthwhile and rewarding in all aspects, something for everybody. Photography, fauna & wildlife, challenging hunting, lots of pigs, good CWM comradeship and an 80,000 hectare project for like minded CWM members.

I highly recommend a CWM Northern experience and the (BRWL) project, and other such projects available and on offer for accredited CWM

members.

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www.nanoprotech.com.au & PROMO CODE = SSAA2016.



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Upcoming Activity Dates

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

<http://cwm.ssaaqld.org.au/2013/index.php/calendar/2016-calendar>

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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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