



## ***CONSERVATION & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT (Qld)***

### **September 2017 Newsletter**

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

##### **Brisbane Shot Expo 2017**

I would like to again extend our sincere appreciation and thanks to Tim Shalders for organising the CWM team that manned the SSAA stand at the Shot Expo in August.

The expo was a great success with over 13,000 attending over 2 days. CWM gained some new members as a result of our volunteers answering questions about who we are and what we do.

There are many shooters and hunters out there who still don't know that CWM exists! So please let everyone you know, who is an ethical, responsible and self-reliant shooter, that we need more good people to service the projects that we have on our books plus the ones in the pipeline that will be added in the near future.

##### **Help Wanted: Skills Development in SEQ**

In the South East of the state

we run a skills development weekend every 3 months at the 'Stewartdale' property range in Ripley Valley outside of Ipswich. Brett Marais is our regular trainer who is ably assisted by other members and guest trainers.

If you would like to give something back to the group by assisting on a regular or casual basis, please contact Brett Marais on 0417 708 568 or [brettmaraais717@gmail.com](mailto:brettmaraais717@gmail.com)

##### **Help Wanted: Accreditation Courses SEQ**

Owen McIntyre has been doing a fantastic job at running our accreditation courses in SEQ for many years. As more new members are joining he is now holding a course every 4-6 weeks. Owen has a number of CWM members that attend to lend a hand when they can who we also greatly appreciate.

To ease the workload on these few volunteers we are looking to grow our

training/accreditation team.

If you would like to help with the accreditation days, please contact Owen on 0417 615 505 or [owenmcintyre@optusnet.com.au](mailto:owenmcintyre@optusnet.com.au)

##### **Some numbers:**

We were recently asked to provide numbers of pest & feral animals that we controlled over the last couple of years. The numbers relate only to some of our projects that we operate on in partnership with 2 government departments. In conjunction with their aerial shooting, baiting and trapping programs, we assisted by ground shooting or trapping over 1600 pest animals.

Our role and where we are most effective is due to our regular attendance to maintain pest animal numbers at a low level.

Damien Ferguson  
President (Mob - 0402 424 424)  
[damien.ferguson@hotmail.com](mailto:damien.ferguson@hotmail.com)

## South East Report

Whilst the feral pests may have been relatively scarce during the Moonie June 2017 project, there was much happening behind the scenes to improve the shearer's quarters. Smoke detectors, additional lighting and a new fireplace added to the comfort, safety and enjoyment of CWM members who braved the chilly conditions.

Ian's thermal and night vision IR accessories in the form of vehicle mounted thermal/IR cameras for feral critter detection and vehicle dash mounted controls for switching between thermal and IR methods and a sizable viewing screen, turned a few die hard spot-lighter hunters into born again thermalisers. The set up was great and comparatively inexpensive when compared to equivalent commercial

appreciated and thoroughly tested in the field on all properties of the project.

Recent helicopter shooting, poison baits and quad bike hunters with dogs did limit our final tally of feral pests disposed of, but the challenge



of working hard, reinforcing trust and honing skills in the field more than compensated for the modest outcomes. A

new property which is now available for hunting activities.

The strangest event of the trip was when an owl swooped down and seized a recently departed hare – the set of glowing eyes descending from the heavens via thermal

imaging was a sight to behold and will be long remembered and talked about.

The comradery shared, networking with stakeholders and the satisfaction gained in having expended energy and effort in a worthy cause will no doubt have participants nominating to return and encourage first timers to participate in the Moonie Project, not to mention the improving creature comforts at the shearer's quarters!

Peter Assfalg

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## Mackay Report

We arrived at the homestead on Monday morning at around 7:45 am after travelling out a bit over half way the day before. We had camped at the little Bowen River the afternoon



Team members sweeping a sorghum crop for pigs

offerings, excluding the time taken by Ian to experiment and perfect the set-up. The new CWM thermal monocular viewers were also greatly

number of other significant occurrences during the June trip were the visit and discussion with one of the land owners and the addition of a





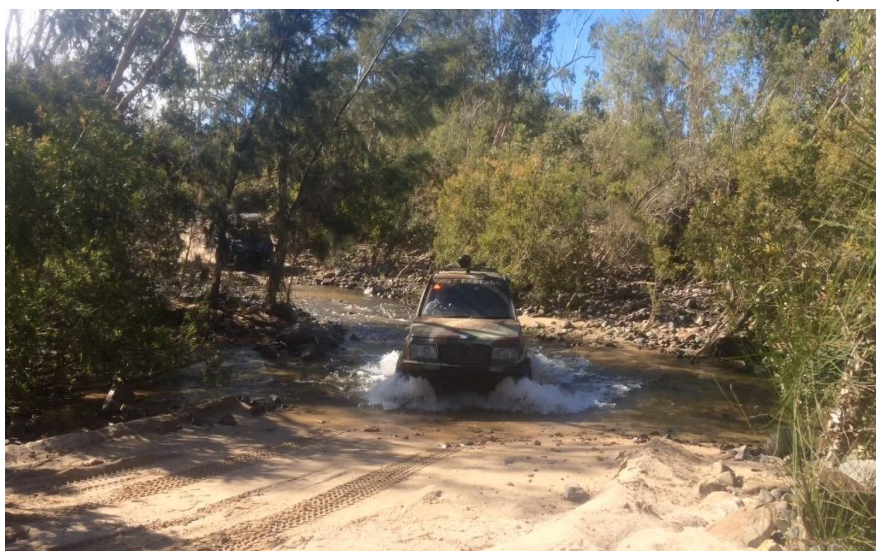
before and stayed there for the night - 8 members in all. We met with the station manager at his house for a briefing on the road conditions, feral animal sightings, camping area and the area in which they were mustering scrub cattle and doing road repairs. A lot of the roads were washed out after cyclone Debbie came through earlier in the year. It was then another 2 hours hard slog over some pretty rough roads into near the old homestead ruins where we made camp. Everybody tucked in with chainsaws, axes, cars, chains and rakes and we soon had a very comfortable camp site. With everyone set up to a point, we went off up the main river or over to the old cattle yards to look for signs of pigs or dogs to shoot or trap. With nothing obvious sighted, everyone was soon back in camp collecting fire wood and getting dinner

ready. After dinner Kevin and I went for a spotlight across the main river and over to the camp site that was used in previous years. We then went up the old track on the southern side of the river where, on losing the track due to re-growth, we turned around and went back to camp to call it a day.

On Tuesday Kevin and I did some scouting about and put in a dog trap. Tonsey found another spot to set in more dog traps. Geoff, Brian and Glen had gone stalking the main river to the west and Jim and Wayne had gone for a look off to the East. It wasn't long before we heard over the radio that Brian had shot a pig out of a mob that Geoff had

spooked in the river undergrowth. We dragged the carcass up to the old yards and out in the open to try and attract some dogs. That evening Daryl arrived.

Wednesday, although a lot of fresh pig diggings and droppings were located, nothing was shot. We just couldn't locate the mob. Kevin and Glen went home.



On Thursday, Tonsey, Brian, Daryl and I went on a hike up a creek to look for feral animals with none spotted, but some sign was found. We headed back to camp with sore legs and shoulders after a 10 hour hike up hill and down dale, across creeks and through scrub. It was time for a beer, the water in the creek was very nice but it just wasn't hitting the spot anymore.

Friday was an easy day in camp doing some house work, getting firewood and checking over the gear. About 4 o'clock we all went down to the eastern end of the property to visit the station workers and to give some of the new comers a look at that end of the place, as we hadn't been able to get down there due to the mustering.

Saturday morning, Tonsey went home and the rest of us went up to some high country on the northern side of the property to look for feral animals and this time we found four, but they were about 500 yards into the adjoining property to the north. At this point Daryl announced that he was heading home, as it had been his plan to have a look at the high country and then head home. The rest of us, disappointed at missing the feral animals we had seen,





made our way back to camp. We began packing up, as some of us had to be back in town early, the rest decided to head out as well.

Sunday morning we left early, and after a quick chat with the station managers wife, we were off the place by mid morning and on our way home.

There are still a lot of feral animals on the place that need culling, so hopefully with some better timing ie no mustering, we will have better access to the high country and approach it from the east. There were a fair number of pigs on the place - just a little hard to find unless you put in a few late nights and early mornings, with timing and luck.

Although we didn't cull many pest animals, I had a great time camping, hunting, hiking and just being out in the bush with a great bunch of like minded blokes and can't wait to do it again next year.

I would also like to thank Gerard and Reagan for letting us onto their little patch of paradise.

Thanks to all who participated.

Ian Radley. Mackay CWM.

### **General articles, stories, tips**

#### **An accurate assessment**

I was approached recently by a fellow from work who informed he was newly licensed and would appreciate some guidance on two centre fire rifle brands he had been researching and was considering as a first purchase. One, a newly released Australian made the other with a reasonably priced stainless heavy barrel, manufactured in Japan.

Thankfully he had settled on a preferred caliber, so that kept the lid on that can. How I wished I had asked for guidance when I was starting out!

I can truthfully state that I have owned a rifle model from practically every popular brand of rifle being advertised in current shooting magazines and some that are no longer. My moto, clean out the gun

safe regularly. Perhaps with the exception of brands stamped, Brno, Parker Hale, FN and some brands manufactured in USA prior to the millennium bug scare.

My first centre fire was a Sportco model 33 .222 Rem bolt action made in South Australia. It had a grip like a tennis racket and a swing like a golf club! The metal work was lack lustre, the stock made from a gum tree but by comparison to the .22 single shots I learned to shoot with, it was relentlessly devastating on small game. By the time I had become its owner, the elevation adjustment on the Kahles six power had frozen to four inches below point of impact at 100 meters, so until I could afford a Tasco replacement, I adapted to hold over.

The thought of buying something new wasn't considered back then, nor was the ability to browse the web site of every distributor in country, view YouTube reviews or flick through online articles for comparison. I obtained the model 33 when the man down the road entered a nursing home and the family didn't know what to do with his prize possession. I offered a reasonable price and they were glad to be shod of it.

Now, being most particular to remain unbiased and not to mention one brand over another I thoughtfully provided two pointers to my young colleague, earned from my lengthy shooting experience.

First, select a make and model that best suits your shooting discipline and budget. Next, fill out a membership application form for CWM.



By the way, did you hear about the fellow wishing to have his pump action centre fire made more accurate? Apparently if you visit the major firearms distributors, offer to hand over the Remington squeeze mop and \$1000, wait out the prescribed duration, it will be replaced with a Browning BLR!

John Swift

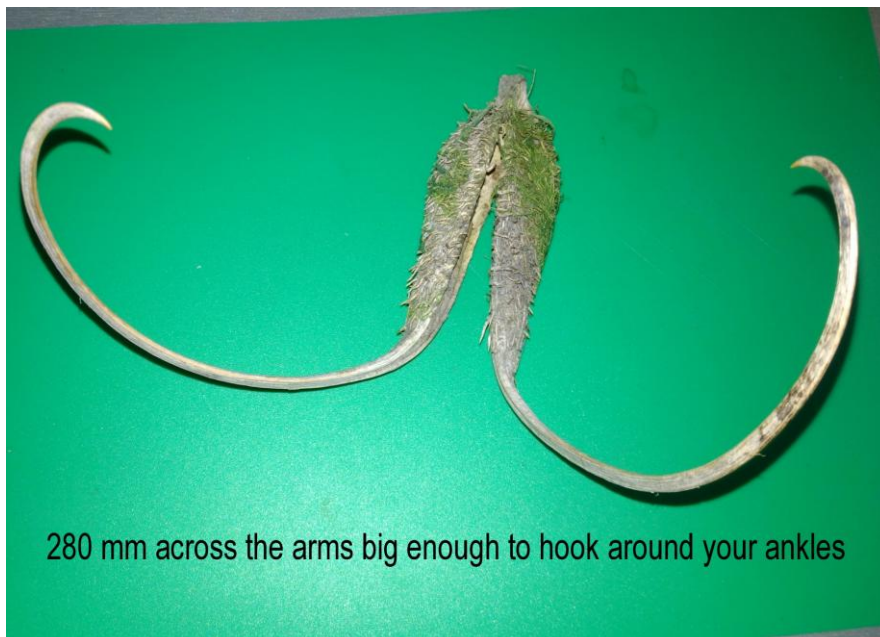
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### **Devil's claw - (*Ibicella lutea*)**

On a recent Moonie trip, while transiting from one property to an adjacent one, at night, one of our members was attacked around the ankles by a 'fierce object'. This item was later identified by one of the property owners as a 'Devils Claw' weed seed pod.

Yellow-flowered devil's claw is a low-growing annual plant to 50 centimeters high and spreading to 1.5 metres wide. It has large round or kidney-shaped leaves and yellow trumpet-shaped flowers with purple spots inside the throat. The woody seed capsules open into pairs of curved horns (10 centimeters long). The weed is spread when the clawed seed capsule attaches to livestock, particularly the feet and heads of sheep (consequently causing injuries). Infestations occur in isolated patches, often on roadsides and around stock camps. The leaves have an unpleasant odor and are not eaten by stock. Plants will compete with summer crops. Yellow-flowered devil's claw is native to America.

This brings up the issue of Biosecurity when moving between properties. Always ensure that, we as CWM members, do not transmit pest weeds with our vehicles.



280 mm across the arms big enough to hook around your ankles

[www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/publications/strategies/pubs/weed-strategy.pdf](http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/publications/strategies/pubs/weed-strategy.pdf)

Editor

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### **5 Watt Radios**

If you are after a good quality 5W UHF radio. Give Peter at FDP a call for a good price <\$200. 0407769548. See the add below. A good deal for CWM members.

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### **Ken Payne story**

#### **Never Assume**

On a recent project, I was out with a new hunting partner. On about the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, and in talks around a nice night time campfire, he mentioned the amount of hunting he had done around his home state of South Australia.

What I had not picked up on was that he had done almost no hunting on pigs, which was





our main target species, but had done lots on goats instead. So when I started pointing out the pig's feeding and bedding sites he was an avid learner. As my experience in goats was very small, he passed on some interesting and useful information to me.

Due to our many varied experiences, we can learn a lot from our hunting mates enabling all our skills to be enhanced. It is always a good idea to ask about the other persons hunting experience and not be afraid to say 'I still have a lot to learn', because the other person will then not assume he does not have to impart some of his experience.

An example of this was when I was hunting with Adrian. A 50 kg Boar came out from under a pile of grass at Adrian's feet. The grass had been chewed off and pushed up into a pile and the pig was totally hidden underneath the pile, warm and asleep, until I spooked him out.



I showed a photo of this nest to some other people who said they had never seen a nest like this before.

Ken

For an opportunity to hunt there, give **Randle Irvin** a call in Townsville,  
Phone: 0411 040 010  
[randle.irvin@me.com](mailto:randle.irvin@me.com)

### Burdekin Wetlands

If you visit the Burdekin wetlands- this is what you are likely to see and hunt on!



## **Upcoming Activity Dates**

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

<http://cwm.ssaqld.org.au/2013/index.php/calendar/2017-calendar>

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## **CWM Contacts**

### **CWM QLD Office**

PO Box 2443 North  
Ipswich, Qld 4305  
[cwm@ssaaqld.org.au](mailto:cwm@ssaaqld.org.au)

---

### **Damien Ferguson**

Govt. liaison and Ag groups  
Phone: 0402 424 424  
[Damien.ferguson@hotmail.com](mailto:Damien.ferguson@hotmail.com)

---

### **Mark Woods**

Operations Coordinator  
Phone: 0438 098 469 or  
3804 0338  
[markwoods2@bigpond.com](mailto:markwoods2@bigpond.com)

---

### **Owen McIntyre**

Southern QLD Activity  
Coordinator and  
Stewartdale Projects  
Phone: 0417 615 505  
[owenmcintyre@optusnet.com.au](mailto:owenmcintyre@optusnet.com.au)

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### **Brett Marais**

Southern QLD Training  
Phone: 0417 708 568  
[brettmaraiss717@gmail.com](mailto:brettmaraiss717@gmail.com)

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### **Ted Wassenberg**

Newsletter Editor  
Phone: 0428 753 297.  
[twassenberg@optusnet.com.au](mailto:twassenberg@optusnet.com.au)

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### **Blake Rowley**

Avocet/Goondaroo Project  
Phone: 0439 673 464  
[blake@tripletorque.com.au](mailto:blake@tripletorque.com.au)

---

### **Wayne Bowker**

Mackay  
Phone: 0417 762 161  
[wbowker68@bigpond.com](mailto:wbowker68@bigpond.com)

---

### **Helen Poulos**

Ravenshoe  
Phone 0499 151 873  
[hpoulos71@gmail.com](mailto:hpoulos71@gmail.com)

---

### **Ian Handley**

Mt Isa  
Phone 0409 666 464  
[ian.h.4825@gmail.com](mailto:ian.h.4825@gmail.com)

---

### **Gordon Uechtritz**

Cairns Coordinator  
Phone: 0428253399  
[gcr77@gmail.com](mailto:gcr77@gmail.com)

---

### **Lionel Dowse**

Cairns Trainer  
0417 760 920  
[lioneldowse@bigpond.com](mailto:lioneldowse@bigpond.com)

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### **Randle Irvin**

Townsville  
Phone: 0411 040 010  
[randle.irvin@me.com](mailto:randle.irvin@me.com)

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### **Glen Mckinnon**

Whitsundays  
Phone: 0419275710  
[glenmckinnon12@gmail.com](mailto:glenmckinnon12@gmail.com)

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### **Alastair Rogerson**

Liverpool Range (dogs and pigs)  
Phone: 0403 245 068  
[1hotshot.67@gmail.com](mailto:1hotshot.67@gmail.com)

---

### **Michael Mc Glinn**

Stanthorpe 'Amiens' Project  
Phone: 0421 080 347  
[cwm.amiens@inet.net.au](mailto:cwm.amiens@inet.net.au)

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### **Andrew McMaster**

Rockhampton & Gladstone  
Phone 0448 155 017  
[A\\_mcmaster@bigpond.com](mailto:A_mcmaster@bigpond.com)

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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.

When purchasing items from these businesses please be sure to mention you are a Conservation and Wildlife Member (CWM) for discounts where applicable.

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