



## "Preserving Australia's Heritage"

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# CONSERVATION & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT (Qld)

## March 2019 Newsletter

### Message from the CWM President

#### VERY IMPORTANT

#### National Recreational Hunting and Sports Shooting Survey

The SSAA needs your help to map out the future of recreational hunting and sports shooting in Australia. The National Recreational Hunting and Sports Shooting Survey is open now and we need as many members as possible to participate.

The survey, commissioned by the Federal Government Department of Health, is a chance to show the wider Australian community our economic worth as well as how important hunting and sports shooting activities are to our physical and mental wellbeing.

**Make no doubt about it, this survey and its results are vitally important. You have**

**an opportunity to participate in something that has never been done before on this scale and possibly never will be again. The results will be used for years to come to develop and shape policy. We need as many hunters and/or sports shooters to complete the survey to provide the best data possible.**

In short, the survey asks questions relating to:

- Your spending associated with recreational hunting and shooting;
- The impact of recreational hunting and shooting on your physical health;
- The social benefits of recreational hunting and shooting in general.

The survey is anonymous with no identifying questions and, being such a comprehensive study, contains 38 questions. Please set aside 15 minutes so you can complete it in full.

Count everything that you spend and outline the many benefits that our pastimes

provide. There are many thoughts that we are a multi billion dollar industry/pastime ....here's our chance to see if that's true.

The survey can be found at: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/PLMQKZ5](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PLMQKZ5) or by clicking [here](#).

This very important survey needs to be shared far and wide...details are below and on the SSAA National [Facebook](#) page and [website](#).

It is only open for 4 weeks so we need everyone to complete the survey and share it with your friends and family.

I've just completed it. Don't forget to include fixed costs of vehicles and other often not thought of expenses.

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## South East Report

### Wild Dogs

Wild dogs create a lot of problems for properties with damage to both cattle and sheep to the tune of \$89 million a year

<https://www.queenslandcountrylife.com.au/story/5008346/australias-staggering-89m-wild-dog-problem/>.



It is well documented the high cost they inflict.

Years ago on a sheep property at Tara a single wild dog would harass the flock each night, kill a sheep and leave at least 10 hamstringed struggling to keep up with the flock. The farmer put them down each day and had to resort to sleeping in the back of the Ute to protect his flock. If a cow is bitten on the rump or back leg and gets away it is left with a hard lump – when it gets to the abattoir the value of the whole beast can be halved severely

impacting the profits especially if there is a number of them.

On the last few Moonie trips wild dogs have been spotted by thermal but were not within range. On the last trip the manager commented seeing 2 dogs in the middle of the day, of course he did not have his rifle with him. On the last day John and I were doing a trip around the back paddocks and on approaching the last water tank trough, a dog came trotting into view from behind the tank, wet from having a cool off in the water. Luckily we were able to take him, making the manager very happy.

Ken

### General articles, stories, tips

#### Indian Myna magement.

In 1858 Von Mueller released 60 Indian Mynas in Sydney, 60 in Melbourne and 60 in Cairns – within 5 years there were 10,000 on the wing in each area competing with our native birds for food, territory and nesting hollows.

This bird is seriously destructive of our native birds. They gang up against our native birds, eat their chicks, destroy their nests and even let the native birds bring up their chicks. Flocks of young Indian Mynas will move looking for new unoccupied territory. Don't

let them settle. The traps they are normally caught in have different chambers and can be expensive and complicated. I have borrowed them from the local council and they do work well.

However I have discovered this simple Rat trap from Bunnings called The Big Cheese Rat Cage Trap for under \$35, it works a treat. I catch heaps. They simply cannot resist because they are by nature so inquisitive. Place a plastic container on the top over the trigger mechanism otherwise the birds will set it off early. Just use Lucky Dog Pellets by Purina – Minis in Minced Beef, Vegetable & Pasta flavour.

I purchase Wild Bird Seed by the bag as it is best value and creates a safe feeding area. I leave my trap set in this area – with all the birds feeding, it attracts the Indian Mynas.

Remember to euthanise trapped birds after dark when their flock mates have gone home to roost.

If we all do our little bit to help our native birds it will make a difference. For more information use Face book or Google 'Indian Myna' – there is plenty of advice on how to trap them successfully.

Danny Holder

#### Waging war against the Indian myna bird

A far north Queensland community alliance is waging war against the Indian myna bird and believes it may have trapped and euthenised nearly 40,000 birds since 2011.

Earlier in 2015 the Cairns Remove Indian Mynas (RIM) group, in conjunction with the Cairns Men's Shed, began collecting information on the numbers of Myna birds captured by the owners of bird traps in far north Queensland.

RIM president, Peter Goulding said the group had contacted less than half of the people on their database of trap owners, but the number of birds euthanised already exceeded



23,000.

"We're saying if it's 23,000 for that group, we're probably quite reasonable in saying that we've caught somewhere near 40,000 since we started," Mr Goulding said.

The man who designed the bulk of the traps being used in far north Queensland, Ron Moon, said the program's success in far north Queensland was largely thanks to the amount of support it had received from the community.

"People just got behind it and it's really taken off," he said.

"Over 1,500 traps have been built and they're out there in the community."

The design of Mr Moon's trap tricks the birds into moving away from the bait and into a separate compartment of the trap — the collection box.

"I reverted back to how I used to make crab pots years ago," Mr Moon said.

"They get in there, they find out they're caught, and then they find the entrance to the collection box and think

they're getting out."

(extract from ABC Far North: Mark Rigby)

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2016-09-08/indian-myna-birds-pest-species/7819394>

## What is being done to reduce feral cats?

The Australian Government has a target to cull 2 million feral cats by 2020. Action is happening now across Australia to reduce the number of feral cats and their impacts. We are removing feral cats, in targeted areas which are important to the protection and recovery of threatened species,

in a way that is humane, effective and justifiable.

In Kosciusko National Park, Dottie the feral cat detector dog has helped to remove 92 feral cats and 139 foxes, sniffing them out, her handler then humanely removing them from critical mountain pygmy-possum habitat. More juvenile possums are being located where this feral cat removal is occurring and more bandicoots and koonoom populations are also being found.

In South Australia's Flinders Ranges, over 100 feral cats have been removed to support re-establishment of a Western Quoll population in Wilpena Pound. As many as 160 threatened Western Quolls are now surviving and thriving in the feral-cat-free environment.

In Western Australia, emergency feral cat baiting and other recovery efforts are being carried out over almost 150,000 ha to protect the critically endangered Gilbert's Potoroos and the western ground parrots after recent wildfires made it nearly impossible for them to hide from feral cats.

Since 2014, over \$30 million has been mobilised by the Australian Government to tackle feral cats. An additional \$4.4 million has been invested in the development of the Curiosity® bait. This includes over 105 Green Army projects have been approved that are tackling feral cats.

We all have a role to play in fighting extinction. The Office of the Threatened Species Commissioner is working with regional NRM bodies, local Landcare groups, local councils and other partners to escalate

actions that remove feral cats from the environment.

Extract from

<http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/bb591b82-1699-4660-8e75-6f5612b21d5f/files/factsheet-tackling-feral-cats-and-their-impacts-faqs.pdf> by Annette Rypolski. This article is worth reading in full.

## Shooting uphill or down

Shooting up hill or down reduces the effective distance of your shot and you may end up hitting the target higher than you intended unless you compensate. See:

[https://youtu.be/kbd\\_r3k84oY?list=PL3KxM9c3T7K\\_aZlyJ5QPzAvo1oqyOJwtu&t=1732](https://youtu.be/kbd_r3k84oY?list=PL3KxM9c3T7K_aZlyJ5QPzAvo1oqyOJwtu&t=1732)

## Burriss eliminator scope.

I let a shot pass with my 30:06 on a casual trip because of an indeterminate range. Happy, but disappointed to let a fine deer get away. I decided to smarten up a bit and purchased a new Burriss eliminator scope 4-14x. Its laser ranges to 1200 metres. A bipod or other steady rest is essential. The scope has the facility to input a calibre, say 30.06. This ballistic is held, and the rifle sighted to be point blank through the bullseye at 100 m.

When a target is spotted, you press a button on the body of the scope. This does two things; it gives the range and the bullet drop over that range. The aiming point shows as a red dot below the crosshair.

You then adjust your hold to put the red dot on a vital area of the target.

At round \$2000, it's a bit expensive; with a trophy at distance though, worth the price.

Paul Millist

## The how to for snake bite treatment and why

I have asked many people for a "how to" with regards to treating snake bites. This article (below) has made it extremely clear and easy for me to remember, so much so that I feel I would be able to apply these principals accurately in an emergency. Whilst on CWM projects, I have come across many snakes - from Red Bellies to Inland Taipans - as we walk into places that not even a quad can get into and covered many Km's and have come uncomfortably close on many occasions.

Allan.

This article was written by Rob Timmings a medical educator see (#ECT4Health).

'With the summer heat come snakes. There have been 3000 bites reported annually, with 300 – 500 hospitalisations and 2 – 3 deaths annually. The average time to death is 12 h.

While not new, the management of snake bite should be refreshed regularly. There are five genera of snakes that will harm us; Browns, Blacks, Adders, Tigers and Taipan.

All snake venom is made of huge proteins (like egg white).

When a snake bites, it injects some venom into the meat of your limb (Not into your blood). This venom cannot be absorbed into your blood stream from the bite site. Instead, it travels in a fluid transport system in your body called the Lymphatic System. This fluid (Lymph) is moved differently to blood. Your heart pumps blood around the body, so even if you are lying still your blood still circulates the body. Lymph fluid is different. It moves around with physical muscle movement, like bending your arm, knees, wriggling fingers, toes or walking around.

The Lymphatic System eventually connects to your blood. This happens where the lymph vessels converge to form one of two large vessels (Lymphatic Trunks) which are connected to veins at the base of the neck.

The only way that the venom can get into your blood stream is for it to be moved from the bite site in the Lymphatic vessels. The only way to do this is to physically move the limbs that were bitten. So, stay still !!. Venom cannot move if the victim does not move.

In the 1980's a technique called Pressure Immobilisation bandaging was developed to further retard venom movement. It completely stops venom-lymph transport towards the blood stream. A firm roll bandage is applied directly over the bite site (DO NOT Wash the area.).

The technique has three steps: keep the victim still.

Step 1. Apply a bandage over the bite site, to an area about 10cm above and below the bite.

Step 2. Using another elastic roller bandage apply a firm wrap from fingers/toes all the way to the armpit/groin. The bandage needs to be firm, but not so tight that it causes fingers or toes to turn purple or white - about the tension of a sprain bandage.

Step 3. Splint the limb so the patient cannot walk or bend the limb.

Do NOT cut, incise or suck the venom. Do NOT use a tourniquet. Do NOT remove clothes, just bandage over the top of the clothing. Do NOT try to catch or kill the snake.

Hospitals NO LONGER NEED to know the type of snake that bit the patient; it does not change the treatment. Now there is a new type of anti-venom which neutralises the venom of all the different snake genera. So it does not matter what snake species bit the victim. One anti-venom for all snakes – Polyvalent - is the one shot wonder stocked in all hospitals.

Australian snakes tend to have 3 main effects in differing degrees. Bleeding - internally and bruising; Muscles paralysed causing difficulty talking, breathing and moving; Pain.

Not all bitten people are envenomated and only those showing symptoms are given the anti-venom.'

## Ken Payne story

### Shooting Cats at Moonie

I like most hunters focus on pig control due to the visual damage they do, while taking cats if you see them. On our CWM November trip to Moonie the stubble had been cut short



and turned into bales of hay for future use. This made it easier to pick up anything moving using the Pulsar thermal monocular, particularly cats, that were slinking along.

I had read about so started mimicking the cat's meow which made them stop or in several instances come to the vehicle. I was hunting with Adrian and Rob the first 2 nights and Daniel the third night and we managed to take 9 cats (most were female) and only one got away.

Female cats can breed from 10 months old and yearly can have 3 litters of 4 kittens each time.

With the advantage of a thermal on the third night, we shot some cats and

foxes on one side of the crop. We then drove around a bit further and there was a mob of pigs feeding on the other side of the paddock where Daniel took a nice boar and sow – the advantage of no spotlight flashing around.

A quick count through our CWM records for 2018 indicated that we took out 121 cats across the Moonie group of properties. Data from <http://www.australianwildlife.org/field-programs/feral-cat-research.aspx> states that 4 - 30 animals a night may be saved for every cat taken – quite a number when you think of it.

Several times while walking through the open melon holes country I have come across native species like shingle back lizards.

<https://australianmuseum.net.au/learn/animals/reptiles/shingle-back-lizard/> .

They have a fat tail which can fool a feral into being confused on where the head is – these are the type of things seen when foxes and cat numbers are reduced. On the down side we regularly find clumps of parrot feathers under overhanging trees indicating cat activity.



## **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/2019-calendar>

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<http://cwm.ssaqld.org.au/2013/index.php/contacts>

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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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