



Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (Qld) Inc. Hunting and Conservation Division

"Preserving Australia's Heritage"

SSAA (Qld) Inc Hunting & Conservation Division
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HUNTING & CONSERVATION NEWS ***August 2005 Edition***

Welcome to the latest edition of the Hunting and Conservation Newsletter for AUGUST. **Just remember all H&C members that this is your newsletter and if you have any photographs, articles, or information (educational, humorous or otherwise) you wish to see published in the newsletter please forward it to the office.**

Qld State Co-Coordinator's Note

Welcome to all H&C Members. It seems like only yesterday that we did the last newsletter to the division. For those of you who have been attending the various activities in South East Queensland, I want to say a big thank you for not only attending the various hunting activities but also for supporting the group leaders who have been working hard to keep the weekends going. As a volunteer organisation it is up to all of us to lend a hand when we can to make the division grow. Our members in North Queensland have also been busy developing a number of projects which will keep them busy over the coming months.

Remember we have a continuing need to support the Avocet project near Emerald so once again please see if you can spare a week of your annual leave or time to support it. We have the usual hunting of feral cats and dogs to worry out but also some other jobs to do with Janelle the Qld

Parks Ranger who looks after the Avocet Project. Some of this may involve catch and release of flashjacks as well as tracking using radio collars. There is a variety of things to do so please see if you can spare some time. If you need any information regarding any of the activities please contact us.

Once again let me reinforce that this is your newsletter and any articles on hunting or conservation are always welcome.

That's all for now, happy hunting.

Brett Robertson
QLD State H&C Co-ordinator

State Training Officer Report

There were mixed feelings about the need to cancel the last Training Weekend at Chinchilla. While it was disappointing for us to not have a training weekend the much needed rain was vital to the region. With this range being a very sensitive fossil and flora site it would not have been able to handle the additional traffic at the time.

My spies tell me that a quite of few of you have been sighted on various ranges practicing, testing loads, trying to squeeze that little extra out of that pet load. Boy am I jealous!!

Don't forget that Sporting Shooters ranges have many different types of disciplines that would be excellent practice for our type of field shooting. As those who have shot at Kilcoy will tell you, their offhand skills have been called upon many times with excellent results.

As you will see below, our next two training weekends at Bundaberg and Ripley will be the last two for the year. Having missed the Chinchilla weekend it would be great to see you all out at Bundaberg.

Bundaberg will have on range camping area with power available if needed. Camping is a minimal \$2.00 camping fee.

To the Brisbane and surrounding area members – I know Bundaberg is a fair trip but I know there are also members from Mackay and further afield who are keen to make the journey. It would be a great opportunity for us all to get together and develop a team spirit across the State.

See you all at the next Training Weekend. Keep up the practice at the range. Don't forget to contact the Team Leaders to participate in the various activities listed – we can't let all that practice go to waste can we?!!

Mark Woods
Qld State H&C Training Officer.

Upcoming Dates

Hunting Activities

Attendance at activities must be arranged with the team leader as most activities will have a safe operating limit.

Stewartdale Wetlands Preservation

Mostly an afternoon/evening activity, 5th Nov will be an all nighter with a BYO BBQ
Location: Ripley Rifle Range
Species: Dogs,foxes,cats, (hares maybe)

Calibres: 17HMR to 22-250

Dates: 1st Oct
5th Nov
3rd Dec

Team Leader: David Gottschalk 3849 8869

Kilcoy Deer and Hare Control

A weekend activity – Friday evening to Sunday lunch

Location: 24 km from Kilcoy

Species: Dogs,foxes,hares, rabbits

Calibres: 17HMR upwards

Species: Deer

Calibres: 25-06 upwards

Dates: 9th – 11th Sept
30th Sept - 2nd Oct
7th – 9th Oct
28th – 30th Oct
11th – 13th Nov

Team Leader: Owen McIntyre - 0417 615 505

Avocet Project Flashjack

A week activity

Location: Avocet – Emerald

Species: Cats,dogs,foxes

Calibres: 17HMR upwards

Dates: 8th – 16th Oct

Team Leader: Mark Woods
0438 098 469, 3808 4881

Injune Feral Control

Assessment is in progress

Contact team leader after 26th Sept

Team Leader: Mark Woods
0438 098469, 3808 4881

Training Activities

Southern Region

17th – 19th Sept - Bundaberg Rifle Range

18th – 20th Nov - Ripley Range

Christmas party Sat night

17th – 19th March 2006 - Ripley Range

16th – 18th June 2006 - Ripley Range

Northern Region

1st – 2nd October - Mt Surprise

Training dates will not be altered unless there is sufficient notice sent to all members.

Any members wishing to do the theory part of the accreditation course should contact Marks Woods on 0438 098469 or 3808 4881.

From time to time we will also have other activities such as working bees for work around H&C Hill at Ripley Range.

Welcome to New Members

I would like to take this time to welcome on board all our newly accredited members, some of whom have already attended one or more hunting activities.

Avocet Report

During our next trip to Avocet, Janelle Lawry from Parks and Wildlife – Rockhampton will be joining us to give us an insight into the tracking and trapping of the flashjacks. We will be actively participating in this and recording the findings for future reference.

She hopes to introduce us to various aspects of the conservation work, including recognition of habitats, recognition of various animal tracks we may encounter in our travels.

In addition to this we will be running our usual foray on the wild dogs and feral cats on the property.

For those of you have not been to Avocet it will be a major test of your hunting and stalking skills. These would have to be some of the smartest cats and dogs encountered.

If you who can make it out this time, it would be a fantastic opportunity to improve your skills and learn more about the amazing Australian Bushland we are so keen to protect for future generations.

North Queensland Report

Hello Everyone. We are currently assessing three properties for various types of feral control as well as working

with different government and catchment groups within the region.

If you haven't completed your theoretical and practical accreditation yet, our next accreditation course will be held on 24th and 25th of September at Mareeba. Please contact Joe Pezzotti. (See contact details below.)

Stewartdale Report

At the last hunt we accounted for a dingo cross in the late afternoon. Two groups went out and used predator callers to attract likely ferals. When a dingo responded to the calling and came to investigate one of the new members spotted it and was able to direct a shooter onto the target leading to a successful outcome. Teamwork was paramount in the dingos demise.

A large pack of feral dogs has been seen on the property and we need to account for these to help protect the local wildlife which includes the migratory birds.

Kilcoy Report

The Kilcoy operation has opened our eyes to the extent of the deer problem in the area. Areas of the property have suffered up to 30% tree loss due to deer and hare predation.

Six hares were taken on the weekend giving a total of approximately 140 plus since we started. This indicates that we have made an impact on the hare population.

We have taken a large number of deer and the hunting pressure we have applied has changed the behaviour of the deer making them a little more flighty however there is still a significant number of deer on the property.

It is nothing to see a herd of 30 deer at a time and to then see a group of a similar number not too far distant. As an example on the last weekend 17 deer were eradicated with another 60-80 spotted.

Injune Report

We are currently assessing two properties in the Injune area. These cover a large area of softwood bushland which has significant conservational value to the area. There are several feral species causing quite severe environmental damage.

A quick word from the Kilcoy and Stewartdale Team Leaders

The willingness and enthusiasm of new and existing members to pitch in and help in all aspects of the weekend is greatly appreciated. This covers the setting up of camps to the dressing of meat to take home for private consumption. Every ones involvement has made for a very efficient team.

We also appreciate that many have had to change from operating as individual shooters to working as part of an organized group.

For many of you this may have involved the adoption of additional safety practices to those which you normally use but we feel they are necessary when working in larger groups.

We recognize that this may not have been easy but it has led to a **safer** and more positive time for all concerned.

Hot Tips

Don't leave your scope shade on at night.

When you apply for a Permit to Acquire don't leave it with the local constabulary to send it through their efficient channels.

Either send it by express post to Weapons Branch or fax it to them on 33643683.

Progress of the application can be checked by phoning Weapons Branch on 33644416.

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