



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 ***June 2007 Edition***

Old State Co-ordinator's Note

Dear Members,

It was very pleasing to see a good number of members and their families attending Avocet at Easter. I would personally like to thank the wives and junior members (who almost outnumbered the men) for all the hard work they put in helping with the wallaby trapping and data collection, particularly crawling out of bed at 5:00 a.m. to check the traps.

We are pleased to advise that H & C projects continue to expand. You are encouraged to register your interest in and availability for these activities as they are advertised. Your attendance at the project training days is also encouraged.

Also, in this newsletter is two first-time accounts from members experience while attending a project.

Finally, it is exciting to announce that at last the Bridled Naitail Trust has been established. The Trust was founded by Jack Kearney and is administered by SSAA. To have a look at the website go to: www.bntwallaby.org.au.

Regards
Mark Woods
Qld State Co-ordinator

Welcome to New Members

We look forward to seeing you out at our Training and Development weekends and on the various activities in the coming months.

News from Central Region

It is fantastic to see other projects starting to happen in this region. In addition, has come quite a number of new member enquiries whose involvement will be important for us to ensure these activities are successful.

The first new project is now up and running involving the control of a high density population of feral cats in the Emerald District, with reasonable numbers taken so far. Any members wishing to participate should contact me for further activity dates as this is an ongoing project.

I am running a theory accreditation session in Emerald shortly. If you are interested in attending, please contact me to confirm your attendance and the dates.

In closing, I would just like to pass on to all the team who travelled from Brisbane to Avocet how impressed I was with the dedication all of you displayed while at Avocet. A lot of people would not realise the amount of sheer hard work which goes into making an event like that successful and after being a part of the process for a few short days it really opened my eyes to all the hard work you guys (meaning girls as well) put in while you were there. It was a huge

effort and a lot of plain hard work which we will hopefully all see the benefits of in a few years time. WELL DONE to all of you!!

Bill Sandeman
Central Region

Membership Renewal

Just a little reminder membership fees were due on March 31st if it has slipped through the cracks send it in so we can process it.

Advertising

We are trialling an advertisements page at the end of the newsletter, for anything members have to sell. These items do not have to be firearms related.

However, if you are listing any firearms related items, you need to include your Firearms Licence Number and the Serial Number (if applicable).

At this stage there will be zero cost, but if you are wishing to make a small donation towards the running costs of putting out the newsletter it would be appreciated.

The Committee

Conservation Matters

White-throated Nightjar *(Eurostopodus Mystacalis)*



As the name suggests, the White-throated nightjar is a nocturnal bird. It is also the largest and darkest of the nightjar family. They are typically grey-brown in colour with a finely and beautifully mottled greyish stripe over their large eyes. In addition, they display two white crescent marks on the throat, not easily visible despite the name,

and small inconspicuous white tips on the middle primaries.

The disruptive plumage patterns and colours of this nightjar provide excellent camouflage and make it almost impossible to detect on the ground among leaves twigs and rocks. Their colouring is well suited to their preferred habitat of forest, woodlands, heathlands and the more open, drier ridges among rocks and fallen timber.

They feed largely on insects, catching most of them in mid flight.

The nightjar is supposedly heard but not often seen, however those who have been involved in feral control on various projects have seen many. In headlights or spotlight beams their eyes return a fiery red reflection which can be easily be mistaken for a fox or cat, particularly when the bird is perched on low stumps or fallen branches. This emphasises the importance of 100% identification of target, especially when using low-magnification scopes at night.

Their voice is described as laughing, an accelerating series of "kook" calls, rising in pitch.

References:

Flegg, Jim. *Photographic Field Guide Birds of Australia*. Reed New Holland, Australia, 2003, p.210.

Morcombe, Michael. *Field Guide to Australian Birds*. Steve Parish Publishing, Australia, 2003, pp.202-203

www.epa.qld.gov.au/nature_conservation/wildlife/az_of_animals/

From Janelle Lowry

Bush Banana *(Marsdenia australis)*

Other common names: Silky pear, native pear, Austral doubah, doubah, cogola..

*During the last trip to Avocet in April, some H&C members asked me about a woody, winding vine with a large green fruit, known commonly as the **bush banana**. Here's*

some more information about this interesting plant...



Photo of the Bush Banana from the book "Plants of Western New South Wales"

The bush banana is a woody, winding vine which climbs up trees, shrubs, logs and fences often 2m or more in height. The bush banana vine is often difficult to see amongst the leaves of the supporting plant. The flowers of the bush banana are creamy but sometimes greenish. The slender, green leaves grow opposite each other along the vine's stem and are 4 to 10cm long. The bush banana exudes a white milky sap when it is bruised or cut. The fruit is a thick-walled, broad, tapering pod 4-10cm long that is green and finely hairy. The mature fruit or "banana" open to release numerous flat seeds with white whiskers attached to one end (similar to a dandelion) which can be carried long distances by wind. The bush banana grows quickly after rain and the fruit ripens about a month later (especially from November to April). According to the bush tucker man, Les Hiddens, the fruit has a moisture content of over 70 percent

Distribution and Habitat: The bush banana is usually found as an isolated plant and is widely distributed throughout mainland Australia, particularly in the drier regions. In these areas, it has been recorded in most habitats with sandy soils.

Uses: When accessible, the foliage is sparingly grazed by stock. Some reports indicate that the sweet flowers, young fruits and young leaves are eaten raw by aboriginal people. When eaten raw, the young fruit tastes similar to fresh green peas (Hiddens). Mature fruits (mainly seeds

and plumes) are either cooked in hot ashes or eaten whole, or the seeds are discarded and the thick outer rind is eaten raw. Older leaves are steamed and roots are apparently only eaten in times of hardship.

References:

- Hiddens, L.J. (1999) *Explore wild Australia with the bush tucker man*. Penguin Books Australia Ltd, Ringwood, Victoria.
- Latz, P.K. (1999) *Pocket bushtucker: a field guide to the plants of Central Australia and their traditional uses*. IAD Press, Alice Springs.
- Cunningham, G.M., Mulham, W.E. Milthorpe, P.L. and Leigh, J.H. (1981) *Plants of western New South Wales*. NSW Government Publishing Office. Australia.

A Conservation Reminder

As we all seem to come from a vast array of working backgrounds, we are looking for anyone who has a degree or sound working knowledge in the many aspects of the conservation field to help us in an advisory capacity on our various projects. If you are interested in helping in this way please feel free to contact me. Alternatively, if you know someone who might be interested, but does not belong to H&C then feel free to give them my contact details (Available at the end of the newsletter.)

Remember we can collect samples from foxes we have shot, trapped or found as roadkill. Fox samples should be no older than three to four days before being put in the specimen bottle. **The kits are available from Mark Woods.** The samples should be returned to me at my home address: 22 Celosia Street, Daisy Hill, 4127.

P.S Please remember to return the vials. Don't wait for the next fox.

For more information please go to the website: www.foxDNA.animals.uwa.edu.au.

Mark Woods
Old State H&C Training Officer.

Thoughts and hints

Lanolin (wool fat) has multi-purpose uses ie rust prevention water proofing on boots, stocks, gators, etc. but it is not suitable for actions as it will harden when cold.

When spotlighting it is important to sort out who is responsible for the vehicle control, e.g. speed, stopping and direction. Generally this will be the person using the spotlight. They can discuss with the driver the language/symbols to be used. eg "slow 3 o'clock" can mean reduce vehicle speed and head in 3 o'clock direction (12 o'clock is straight ahead)

Special Offer for members

I am please to announce that Wildlife Animal Captures, owned and run by Tony Searle in Queensland, has offered all current H&C members a 5% discount on any of the soft jaw traps he carries.

Tony has quite a large range of both soft jaw and cage traps. The latter can be made specifically to your specifications, if required. He also carries dog and fox lures and a variety of handling equipment.

Tony can be contacted on ph: 4661 7066
(You can call Mark Woods for a copy of Tony's flyer as soon as we get our scanner working!!!)

Training focus

When spotlighting we have found a great need for a shotgun to be carried. This is not limited to cats or foxes, pigs, dogs and most other feral animals can appear at close quarters in heavy cover, sometimes making a rifle shot impossible. This became quite apparent on our recent Avocet trip where one vehicle carried a shotgun all the time, picking up two cats by shotgun and only one by rifle – all cats seen at close quarters were able to be taken. On the other hand, the second vehicle only carried a shotgun a couple of times. The times when they didn't carry it resulted in three lost opportunities where

cats were seen at close quarters and could have been taken by shotgun but weren't.

This is why it is important for all members to attempt to become proficient in shotgunning. Not only does it carry on to rifle shooting in the form of taking running shots but when on a vehicle spotlighting it is then easy for anyone to pick up the shotgun and use it!

This also makes for more fun, by all taking it in turns.

Project Training– why would we need this?

We will trial running a project skills training morning on 1st Sunday of every month, at H & C Hill. This will usually follow on from the Stewartdale Feral Control activity.

The purpose of these sessions will be to address the particular requirements of the projects with the purpose to improve and expand on particular infield hunting techniques under various conditions.

This is particularly beneficial because some of our projects may involve very strict shooting templates due to the restrictions of housing proximity or endangered species or other aspects.

It has been our experience over the last couple of years that on some of our projects either specialised hunting or shooting techniques have been required for them to be successful.

Happy Hunting
The Committee

To the members of the Northern region.

Don't forget - if you think you might have a possible lead or contact for Ross Harvey, Bill Sandeman or Geoff Sloman to follow up don't hesitate to pass it on. Also, if you have some spare time to help them organise things up there please give them a call - as the southern region found out, it takes quite a few people to make it all happen. Some put a little in, some put a lot in but in the end that's what makes it all happen!

Mark Woods
Qld State Co-ordinator.

Cooks Corner

This quarter's recipe has been brought to you by Phil Brooks.

Jugged hare

The hare is divided into joints. These are well rubbed with salt and pepper and lightly browned in butter. Fry 2 ounces of onions in butter, sprinkle with 2 ounces of flour, then add pint of stock, cook for a little, stirring well, and strain this sauce over the pieces of hare. Add 6 tablespoons of vinegar, a pinch of salt, a little paprika nutmeg and a bayleaf. Bring to the boil and simmer for 1 hour or a little longer. Before serving, add 1 tablespoon of Worcester sauce.

Happy Cooking,
Marks Woods

Avocet Report

Yet another successful Avocet Trip, with four dogs, three cats, a pig and a few rabbits and hares taken. Considering the rains had generated high grasses and plenty of feed this was a highly profitable trip.

Unfortunately, this also resulted in only a handful of wallabies being trapped. There were however 3 young joeys all able to microchipped to help us keep track of them in the future.

Most significant for this trip was the welcome return of our QPWS Ranger – Janelle. It was good to have her expertise and friendship on hand again.

The Avocet Team

AVOCET EXPERIENCE 1

Easter 2007 was my first experience being involved with the Nailtail Wallaby Program.

My time spent at Avocet was a learning curve - learning about Nailtail Wallabies, and shooting in general. This was an experience I thoroughly enjoyed.

A lot of time was spent each morning checking traps. If wallabies were caught it was time to weigh, taking the different measurements, and microchipping the animals if not already done. By the time these procedures were done and depending on how many were caught, the team would return to camp around 11am.

In respect to hunting, Dave and I put a lot of time in walking the creeks and tracks looking for where pigs were bedding down or watering. A mob of pigs (15) were seen on our first night at the dam whilst setting wallaby traps. To our delight we found a number of places where pigs had been bedding down and watering regularly. This meant a lot of walking so a good supply of water and nibblies was essential.

The walk that Dave and Collin did from one dam to another paid off with 2 dogs taken. This was because there was no vehicle noise and the dogs strolled into the dam as if nothing was out of order.

An effort was put into spotlighting the Brigalow paddock. The paddock was overgrown with Brigalow leaving only the track visible. On these tracks there was evidence of pig and dog activity. In order to capture these animals, one would need to walk in teams of 2 or 3 to flush them out.

During the week we spotlighted into the early hours, usually until 3 or 4am. Then back to camp for quick rest to resume our activities

at 6am to check the traps. This made extra long days, but thoroughly rewarding and worth the effort.

Hope to be on next trip and see more members there.

Bob Pardon.

AVOCET EXPERIENCE 2

My first impressions "in the daylight" were of a living, breathing, healthy country with abundance of bird life and evidence of other animals of different kinds.

Hi, my name is Maureen and I would like to take some time to tell you about my first trip to Avocet.

Easter 2007 was my first, but won't be my last visit to Avocet. My husband David, our son Michael and myself drove from Brisbane and arrived at Avocet at 11.30 at night, we put up a tent and caught some sleep before the day started.

The day started at 5.30-6.00 am (after a quick cup of coffee). Anybody that was interested came along to check the traps that had been set the evening before.

This trip can take 2-4 hours depending on the number of wallabies in the traps. Sometimes the trip can take as long as 6 hours, so it is a good idea to take some snacks (apples, bananas, muesli bars and some water - a camera is also a good idea!)

When we got back to camp for breakfast/lunch, plans were made for the rest of the day. (These plans are usually subject to change and are not set in concrete.)

A variety of activities happened after lunch: sleeping, bush walking, having a shower, going to town for supplies, mending wallaby traps, cleaning cat traps.

The setting and checking of traps was made interesting and fun by Janelle (National Parks and Wildlife officer).

The setting of wallaby traps starts about 3-4 p.m. and takes about 2 hours depending on how many traps there are and how far between traps. Lucerne, sweet potato, a sprinkling of rolled oats and a small dish of water are placed in the traps as "bait". (By the end of the week we could set a trap in just under a minute.)

Due to recent rain the food was plentiful so we didn't catch many wallabies. The ones that we did catch were healthy and in good condition.

After tea the night activity is spotlighting off the back of a 4WD for those people that are interested, and haven't been up since 5.00am. The spotlighting usually goes till 4.00am and is aimed at reducing the feral dogs, cats, pigs, rabbits and hares. These animals threaten the wallabies and their environment.

By the end of the week I found that I had tried to cram too much into the first couple of days, so next time I will pace myself better.

This is not your run of the mill camping holiday, this is a camping holiday with a specific purpose. I have made new friends and learnt new things. And I encourage other families to come and enjoy the Avocet experience.

Maureen Gottschalk

Stewartdale Report

Due to Easter and the Black Powder Rendezvous the April and May feral control nights had to be cancelled. Therefore it will be important to put some more pressure on the ferals out there so if you have some spare time on the listed dates please give me a call.

We now have cattle on the front paddock for a limited time to reduce possible fire hazards.

For those of you who have not been up for a while, the Bundamba Lagoon is now dry!

David Gottschalk

Northern Regions (Townsville) Report

Our operations have been a bit quiet over the last few months, with local members committed to work demands and holidays, but this should turn around with several new members, including family members, about to be accredited.

Suitable projects are proving to be elusive, but follow up meetings with previous contacts and some new contacts in the wind, could lead to some interesting projects.

Our next accreditation course is planned for 22 September, with training days on the fourth Saturday of each month at the Townsville Club Range, Herveys Range Road. If you want to find out more about the local activities, contact me on 4723 8852

Geoff Sloman
Townsville Training Officer

Southern Training Weekends

Again, the June training weekend is shaping up to be another fun filled and informative event. We will have three guest speakers attending over the weekend and the topics covered will include SEQ Catchments presentation by Liz Gould, A 4x4 safety talk by Kevin Williams Aust 4x4 driver training & tours and Steven Beale 4WD Megastore.

We will not have any of the firearms reps in attendance this time as they have prior commitments.

The shooting side of the weekend will be full on as always with many things to test and improve your shooting ability and have some fun as well some of the shooting will be done under spotlight. So if you have a spotlight bring it along as well to help out. Yes, it might be a little cold by then so it will give you a chance to try out some of your new winter gear before you go bush.

Upcoming Dates

Be sure to mark these dates in your diary and plan to come along. You never know – you might just be free on that date.

Hunting Activities

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

Avocet - Project Flashjack

Location: Avocet – Emerald

Species: Cats, dogs, foxes

Calibres: 17HMR upwards

Dates: 22nd-30th Sept 2007

Team Leader: Mark Woods

0438 098 469, 3808 4881

Stewartdale Wetlands Preservation

Mostly an afternoon/evening activity

Location: Ripley Rifle Range

Species: Dogs, foxes, cats, (hares maybe)

Calibres: centrefires to 22-250 or .22mag or 17HMR only

Dates - 2007: 2nd June

7th July

4th Aug

1st Sept

6th Oct

3rd Nov

1st Dec

Team Leader: David Gottschalk 3849 8869

Training Activities

Southern Region

16th – 17th June 2007 – Ripley Range
15th – 16th September 2007 – Ripley Range
17th – 18th November 2007 – Ripley Range
Project training; 1st Sunday of the Month
 3th June
 1st July
 5th Aug
 2nd Sep
 7th Oct
 4th Nov

Northern Region

Townsville
23rd June 2007
28st July 2007
25th August 2007
22nd September 2007
27th October 2007
24th November 2007

Accreditation Courses

Members of the northern region you can do your shooting qualification targets at any range as long as you are observed by a range operator or range officer and that they sign it as so

Any members wishing to do the theory part of the accreditation course should contact their Regional Training Officer as listed below

Northern Region

Townsville and surrounding area

Geoff Sloman on 4723 8852.

Cairns and surrounding area

Ross Harvey on 4057 8868 or 0418 199 505

Central Region

Emerald and surrounding area

Bill Sandeman on 4987 7855 or 0429 877 855

Southern Region

Mark Woods on 0438 098 469 or 3808 4881.

H&C Contacts

H&C QLD Office

Office: 266 Brisbane Street,
West Ipswich, Qld 4305

Phone: (07) 3202 2111

Email: handc@ssaqlld.org.au

Mark Woods

State Coordinator

Phone: 0438 098 469 or 3808 4881

Email: markwoods2@bigpond.com

Jack Kearney

Conservation Biologist

Email: wildbird@aapt.net.au

Mark Woods

Interim State Training and Logistics Co-ordinator

Phone: 0438 098 469 or 3808 4881

Email: markwoods2@bigpond.com

Owen McIntyre

State Activity Coordinator

Phone: 0417 615 505

Email: owenmcintyre@optusnet.com.au

David Gottschalk

SE QLD Activity Coordinator

Phone: 3849 8869

Email: dgottschalk@optushome.com.au

Bill Sandeman

H&C Emerald Training Officer

Phone: 49877855 or 0429 877 855

Email: bjsandeman@inet.net.au

Geoff Sloman

H&C Townsville Training Officer

Phone: (07) 4723 8852

Email: geoffms@yourhub.com.au

Ross Harvey

H&C North QLD Co-ordinator

Phone: (07) 4057 8868 or 0418 199 505

Email: ross.harvey@originenergy.com.au

Doug Harvey

Phone: (07) 4057 8868

Email: ross.harvey@originenergy.com.au

Joe Pezzotti

H&C North QLD Training Officer

Phone: (07) 4062 5404

Email: joemauser98@bigpond.com

Did you receive this newsletter via Australia Post? Do you have an email address? To receive your newsletter faster and to be kept up to date with what is going on make sure that we have your email address on our mailing list! (Keep in mind there needs to be room in your mailbox to receive mail.)

ADVERTISING PAGES

FOR SALE (Gary)

Factory Ammo		Hogue rubber grips fit Ruger Redhawk	\$10.00
.45 ACP		Pistol Rest-sighting in etc	\$25.00
20 Win RN 230 gn	\$15.00		
10 Shotshells x 2 boxes	\$10.00	Rifle Stocks	
		Genuine Ruger plastic stock from M77 MK II	
Mixed box approx. 50 rounds	\$15.00	short action	\$40.00
		Ramline stock for Ruger M77 MK I short action	
9 mm.		(New)	\$50.00
50 NORMA 118gn RN	\$20.00	Full military wood for 6.5 x 55 Swedish Mauser-	
		includes all hardware	\$50.00
100 mixed 147gn SWC	\$20.00	Sporter stock suit 6.5x55 Swede (from military	
35 Win. 115gn FMJ	\$12.00	original-Acraglas Bedded, oil finish, recoil pad)	\$35.00
15 mixed shot shells	\$5.00		
		Rifle and Pistol scopes	
.38 S&W		Tasco 4-16 x 40 Silver--as new	\$200.00
29 145gn lead cartridges	\$10.00	Tasco 3-9 x 40 Black	\$85.00
21 cases		Tasco 4 x 32 fixed-Black	\$35.00
		Tasco 1.5 x 20 Pistol Scope- Black	\$35.00
Projectiles-.45 ACP:-		Simmons 3-9 x 32 Black	\$25.00
330 CBM 175gr SWC Lead	\$30.00		
200 Ranier 230gr RN "Lead Safe"	\$25.00	Reloading equipment	
		Hornady .223 full length rifle die set	\$20.00
Pistol "stuff"		Lee .45 ACP pistol die set	\$20.00
Pistol case-soft zippered	\$10.00	Lee .45 ACP Factory crimp die	\$15.00
Cabela's "Sack-ups" pistol sack	\$5.00	Lee 9mm Factory crimp die	\$15.00
Original hard case Ruger P85	\$2.00	Lee .308 Factory crimp die	\$15.00
Original hard case Para P14	\$2.00	Lee Load-all 12ga reloader	\$30.00
Leather holster suit 1911	\$15.00	Lee Load-all 12ga Primer Feed	\$10.00
Cordura holster suit .44 Mag.	\$10.00		
Speed loader Ruger Redhawk	\$5.00	All located at Gold Coast	

Call Gary 0416 833 866 any time

FOR SALE (Phil – 3816 1538)

Spotlight 100w projector bulb type aussie made	\$55.00
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FOR SALE (Bryan – 0419 676 305)

Steyr Scout .223 (S/No: SC 1032849). Includes Leupold VX-II 6-18x40 Long range target in Leupold QR-w mounts. This rifle has 1in8" twist barrel ,built in tripod, spare magazine onboard and consistently shoots 55gn ballistic tips into 0.5 MOA. It has logged 358rounds fired since new. Cost well over \$3000.00 Lic no: 10078407.	\$2100.00 firm
Steyr Scout .376Steyr (S/No: SC 1004984). Includes Leupold VX-II 2-7x33 in Leupold QR-w mounts. This rifle is in as-new condition and has fired 28 rounds since new. Included are nearly 200 cases, mostly unfired. Cost around \$3000 Lic no: 10078407	\$2000.00 firm.
Mauser 98 (FN Belgium manufacture) 30-06,(S/No 2206). New matt blued varmint weight barrel (fired approx 390 rds), mag-na-ported, timney adjustable trigger, bridge mount w/1inch rings, Piers synthetic stock w/recoil pad. Rifle delivered w/200 once-fired WIN cases. Lic no: 10078407.	\$700.00 firm.
Leupold VX-III 3.5-10x40 Adjustable Objective, Gloss Black. VGC	\$500.00