



# 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 2008 Edition***

### ***Old State Co-ordinator's Note***

Dear Members,

My time flies! Well first up, have you **remembered** to renew your membership???

We will be doing a phone survey over the next few weeks to see how we can do things better or smarter so if you get a call from one of the team please take the time to put in some constructive idea's as it is for your own benefit.

As a matter of concern for us to take on any more projects we first must be able to service our existing projects therefore we encourage you to make every effort to participate.

The latest project has provided team participants with some unique experiences making their effort very rewarding.

It is great to see some very good results from the projects over the last three months with good numbers of ferals taken.

Regards  
Mark Woods  
Qld State Co-ordinator

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### ***News from Central Region***

Well once again Easter time saw the bi-annual pilgrimage of southern members up to Avocet for feral control. Two of us from

Emerald arrived early on Thursday morning and started to set up camp to make things a little easier for the travellers later on that night. The following day we were out and about looking for sign and also which roads could and could not be traversed. The heavy rains earlier in the year had had a big impact on Avocet in more ways than one, the grass was generally over the bonnet in most places and some roads had all but disappeared.

Saturday morning saw 3 of us doing a walk/stalk along a creek system, which showed some good recent pig activity, so recent in fact Chock nearly had to tackle a couple of very fat pigs as they literally jumped out from under him. He was Johnny on the spot and picked up one good sized pig and as the mob disappeared behind me I picked up a second good sized one before the rest were lost in the timber.

More time on Sunday was spent walking, looking and listening to what was happening on the place. Sunday night and we were out on the neighbours cultivation with the cats being in very short supply, we managed to shoot one but unfortunately we were unable to locate the animal, the tabbies have terrific camouflage on the bare dirt.

Monday and it was time for the two of us to pack up and head home and back to work on Tuesday morning. We really enjoyed our 5 days on site and it was great to catch up with everyone again.

From the 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> May a small team attended our cat and fox control program in the Dingo area. As usual the facilities were five star which allowed us to maximize our time in the field. Game was very light on but the property has just graded the boundary tracks, as well as some internal ones. Judging by the number of dog tracks there appears to be a major presence of dingos yet with the stakeholder trialling a behavioural management study on dingos, no dogs were targeted. In addition to this, there were still both tracks and sightings that suggested the presence of cat activity in certain areas.

Although no target species were taken the team spent considerable time in the field both day and night.

We would like to extend our thanks to both stakeholders for their ongoing support and commitment of these projects

Bill Sandeman  
Central Region Co-ordinator

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## ***Avocet Report***

A small group of members attended the March trip.

The conditions were challenging with the grass being very high and some wet weather. This made the culling of cats difficult. The ferals that were taken was 2 large pigs and 2 wild dogs.

The wallaby trap setting team set a new record of 40 min to set 50 wallaby traps with team moral egged on by our very own BNT Trust chairman, Fiachra Kearney.

The University of Queensland is funding Lisa Kingsley to conduct a research study into population dynamics of the Bridled Nailtail wallaby. These types of programs are vital for the survival of the Bridled Nailtail wallaby.

This means that we will not be involved in trapping for the near future and the next few

trips will be primarily focussed on feral control.

Lisa has already started on an intensive trapping program. The results, to date, are that 30 new animals have been microchipped. One unidentified species of wallaby has also been trapped. It is not a new discovery however simply one that she has not been able to identify. Additionally an average of 6 to 8 bettongs per night have also been trapped.

A disturbing amount of feral activity in cat, wild dog and pigs has also been noted, so it will be very important that we put a heavy shooting and trapping pressure on the reserve.

The Committee

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## ***Phone Survey***

We will be conducting a phone survey to get members views on a range of issues. Expect a call from one of your committee members in the near future.

The Committee

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## ***Training focus***

### **Night time familiarity of your Firearm**

An area of safety concern is not being familiar with how your rifle works in the dark. In the day at a range you only load one round at a time but at night you need to load multiple rounds. One way to over come this is to sit in a dark room using dummy rounds only and under no circumstances use live rounds. By loading, cycling and unloading your rifle in the dark you will become a lot more familiar with how your rifle works at night.

Remember practice, practice, practice

The Committee

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## **Conservation Matters**

### **Yellow Chat(Dawson)**

(Epthianura crocia macgregori)

It has been mentioned on several occasions that Hunting and Conservation (Qld) membership grants you many opportunities to come in contact with rare and endangered animals. The Central Queensland Pig Project was again the focus of another such opportunity when the team went out in May.

As most of you know the purpose of the project is to assist in the recovery of the marine plains through feral pig control. The marine plains are essential to the survival of the Yellow Chat a subspecies of the mainland bird of the same name.

In 2007, the EPA noted that a survey previously taken on location at our Central Queensland Pig Project found only 14 birds. Eight mainland sites located both north and south of Rockhampton have also been documented. According to Birds Australia, with a population of only, at least 300 birds, they are listed as vulnerable.

The Yellow Chat is only a small bird measuring approximately 12cm, and one of the few small birds which actually walk rather than hop. Its home is in the coastal grassy swamps such as the marine plains and in the reed beds of lagoons.

They have a brush-tipped tongue which has lead to the suggestion they are part of the honeyeater family.

The male will court his partner in the reed tops with low undulating flights and then build their nest in the bottom of the reeds.

As our May team discovered, their breeding season is approximately March to June. For the first time since the 2000 survey several breeding pairs were found with young.

If we can keep the pig numbers down and allow their reedy homes to continue to thrive it is hoped we will find even more of these little birds have survived. So next time you see the Central Pig Project listed in the Upcoming activities please consider putting up your hand to ensure we don't loose the

battle to restore the marine plains but also to recover the Yellow Chat itself.

### **References:**

Morecombe, M. (2004) *Field Guide to Australian Birds*. Steve Parish Publishing.  
Simpson & Day.(1993) *Field Guide to the Birds of Australia*. Penguin Books.  
<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/dawson-yellow-chat.html>  
<http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/our-projects/yellow-chat-management.html>

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### **Thoughts and hints**

We found out something most people tend to overlook is to wind down your spare tyre carrier before you go away on a trip, to ensure that it is working correctly. This is especially important if you have been anywhere near the saltwater as even the smallest amount of corrosion can cause them to become sticky.

Always check that your dual battery system is working properly and that both batteries are in good condition. Other items to check are your fridges, GPS, torches and UHF radios. Generators should always be checked, serviced and pre run. This should be done prior to each trip.

If you have blood left on your tray antiseptic hand wash makes it easy to wash off.

Always have respect for other people vehicle. Ask where they want you to put items such as backpacks coats or spare rifles. It is also courteous to offer to assist with fuel costs - even if the offer is declined, it is important that the offer was made.

Regards  
The Committee

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### **North Queensland Report**

I can confidently say that the wet is over, and we are on the move again.

We have gained a few more members and a few enquiries, not only from prospective members, but from a property owner with feral pests causing environment problems. Over the ANZAC long weekend five of our members travelled to the Hughenden project, although we only saw one dog that saw us first. The group accounted for a pig, a black cat and two rabbits.

The dogs are proving elusive. Despite all efforts sitting on water points in the evening and early morning, spotlighting at night and travelling station tracks during the day it was disheartening to see fresh tracks over our own.

In our spare time we helped the property owner with some cattle work, with members gaining a valuable insight into the running of a cattle and sheep property.



The project team with the land owner, outside their camp

Contacts for potential projects can come out of the blue, so if you come across one, contact your local co ordinator for advice and help with follow up

Geoff Sloman  
NQ Co ordinator and Townsville Trainer

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## ***Southern Region Report***

### **Stewartdale Report**

Steve Chantrill the Stewartdale caretaker has been kept very busy slashing weeds and

improving the access around the property. That and the efforts of our members has resulted in 32 hares, 3 foxes and 1 cat since the last newsletter which is an excellent result. The cat and one hare was taken opportunistically during a training weekend.

We have, and will be, running extra activities Friday nights on an adhoc basis. If you want to be notified when these come up let me know.

Remember that when we have a Saturday night activity there is special project training on the Sunday. Why not come out for the evening control program and camp on the property for the next days the training?

These activities are a great way for interested people to see how we work. As with all our activities only fully accredited H&C members may shoot but any SSAA member can be an observer.

Some building materials have been donated to us. Once we have finalised our plans we will organise some working bees to construct shelters on the hill. These will be of great use on training weekends.

David Gottschalk  
Southern Qld Co-ordinator and Activities Co-ordinator

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## ***Southern Training Weekends***

The next training weekend will be held on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> of June. Sign in is on Saturday at 7:30 am so it is a good idea to set up camp Friday night. Saturdays activities will commence at 8:00 which will include rimfire, shotgun and centrefire as well as. Sunday's activities will include a talk on feral dog trapping by retired trapper John Wilson.

With more projects in the pipeline it is a good time to brush up on your skills, it's also a good social occasion.

Brett Marais  
Southern Region Training Co-ordinator

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## **Accreditation Courses**

Shooting accreditations - 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**

Lindsay Rogers on 07 40533307  
parkerhale58@yahoo.com.au

### **Central Region**

#### **Emerald and surrounding area**

Bill Sandeman on 4987 7855 or 0429 877 855

### **Southern Region**

Colin Penfold 0438 457 452  
[sallycolin@virginbroadband.com.au](mailto:sallycolin@virginbroadband.com.au)

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## **H&C Contacts**

### **H&C QLD Office**

Office: 266 Brisbane Street,  
West Ipswich, Qld 4305  
Phone: (07) 3202 2111  
Email: [handc@ssaaqld.org.au](mailto:handc@ssaaqld.org.au)

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### **Mark Woods**

State Coordinator and Acting State Training and Logistics Co-ordinator

Phone: 0438 098 469 or 3808 4881  
Email: [markwoods2@bigpond.com](mailto:markwoods2@bigpond.com)

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### **Owen McIntyre**

State Activity Coordinator

Phone: 0417 615 505  
Email: [owenmcintyre@optusnet.com.au](mailto:owenmcintyre@optusnet.com.au)

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### **David Gottschalk**

Southern QLD Activity Coordinator

Phone: 0416 899 587  
Email: [dgottschalk@internode.on.net](mailto:dgottschalk@internode.on.net)

### **Brett Marais**

Southern QLD Training

Phone: 0417 708 568  
Email: [bdmarais@iprimus.com.au](mailto:bdmarais@iprimus.com.au)

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### **Colin Penfold**

Southern QLD Accreditation Officer

Phone: 0438 457 452  
Email: [sallycolin@virginbroadband.com.au](mailto:sallycolin@virginbroadband.com.au)

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### **Bill Sandeman**

Central Co-ordinator and Training Officer

Phone: 49877855 or 0429 877 855  
Email: [bj sandeman@inet.net.au](mailto:bj sandeman@inet.net.au)

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### **Geoff Sloman**

Northern Co-ordinator and Townsville Training Officer

Phone: (07) 4723 8852  
Email: [geoffms@yourhub.com.au](mailto:geoffms@yourhub.com.au)

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### **Doug Harvey**

Phone: (07) 4057 8868  
Email: [ross.harvey@originenergy.com.au](mailto:ross.harvey@originenergy.com.au)

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### **Joe Pezzotti**

North QLD Training Officer

Phone: (07) 4062 5404  
Email: [joemauser98@bigpond.com](mailto:joemauser98@bigpond.com)

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### **Gordon McGowan**

Phone: 0438 175 833  
Email: [parkerhale58@yahoo.com.au](mailto:parkerhale58@yahoo.com.au)

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### **Lindsay Rogers**

Cairns Training Officer  
Phone: (07) 4053 3307

## ADVERTISING PAGES

### FOR SALE (Colin –0438 457 452)

Garmin 72 with instruction manual and carry case	\$120.00
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### FOR SALE (Phil – 3816 1538)

Spotlight 100w projector bulb type aussie made	\$55.00
Honda E220 Generator	\$550.00

### FOR SALE (Joy - 3806 4748 or 0414 516 225)

Simpson Esprit 750. 7.5Kg heavy duty washing machine	\$250.00 ono
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### FOR SALE Mark (Ph 07 3808 4881 or 0438 098 469)

1 x set of Lee F L 222 die set plus 56 mixed Factory, (loaded) 217 hand loaded shells and about 300 mixed empty shells.	<b>Make an Offer</b>
1 x Bluetrek-G2 blue tooth ear piece kit unused and 1 x Kyocera blue tooth ear piece and charger	<b>Make an Offer</b>

## *Upcoming Activity Dates*

Be sure to mark the dates on the following page in your diary and plan to come along. You never know – you might just be free on that date. We have kept the page separate so you can put it up on the fridge too!

## **Hunting Activities**

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

## *Upcoming Activity Dates*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>June</b>			
6 <sup>th</sup>	Stewartdale	Southern	David Gottschalk
6 <sup>th</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup>	Hughenden Dog Project	Northern	Geoff Sloman
13 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup>	Training Weekend	Southern	Brett Marais
15 <sup>th</sup>	Accreditation Course	Northern	Geoff Sloman
14 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup>	Pig Project	Central	Mark Woods
<b>July</b>			
12 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup>	Feral Cat Control Project	Central	Bill Sandeman
18 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup>	Hughenden Dog Project	Northern	Geoff Sloman
19 <sup>th</sup>	Stewartdale	Southern	David Gottschalk
20 <sup>th</sup>	Project training	Southern	Owen McIntyre
<b>August</b>			
16 <sup>th</sup>	Stewartdale	Southern	David Gottschalk
17 <sup>th</sup>	Project training	Southern	Owen McIntyre
<b>September</b>			
6 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup>	Pig Project	Central	Mark Woods
12 <sup>th</sup>	Stewartdale	Southern	David Gottschalk
20 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup>	Training Weekend	Southern	Brett Marais
27 <sup>th</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Avocet project	Central	Bill Sandeman
<b>October</b>			
18 <sup>th</sup>	Stewartdale	Southern	David Gottschalk
19 <sup>th</sup>	Project training	Southern	Owen McIntyre
25 <sup>th</sup> - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	Feral Cat Control Project	Central	Bill Sandeman
<b>November</b>			
7 <sup>th</sup>	Stewartdale	Southern	David Gottschalk
15 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup>	Training Weekend	Southern	Brett Marais
22 <sup>nd</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup>	Pig Project	Central	Mark Woods
<b>December</b>			
12 <sup>th</sup>	Stewartdale	Southern	David Gottschalk
13 <sup>th</sup>	Project training	Southern	Owen McIntyre
<b>January 2009</b>			
17 <sup>th</sup>	Stewartdale	Southern	David Gottschalk
18 <sup>th</sup>	Project training	Southern	Owen McIntyre
<b>February</b>			
21 <sup>st</sup>	Stewartdale	Southern	David Gottschalk
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Project training	Southern	Owen McIntyre
<b>March</b>			
6 <sup>th</sup>	Stewartdale	Southern	David Gottschalk
7 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup>	Pig Project	Central	Mark Woods
<b>April</b>			
18 <sup>th</sup>	Stewartdale	Southern	David Gottschalk
19 <sup>th</sup>	Project training	Southern	Owen McIntyre
<b>May</b>			
16 <sup>th</sup>	Stewartdale	Southern	David Gottschalk
17 <sup>th</sup>	Project training	Southern	Owen McIntyre
<b>June</b>			
13 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup>	Pig Project	Central	Mark Woods