



# Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (Qld) Inc.

## Hunting and Conservation Division

*"Preserving Australia's Heritage"*

SSAA (Qld) Inc Hunting & Conservation Division  
Office: Queensland Indoor Range  
Postal Address: Office: 266 Brisbane Street, West Ipswich, Qld 4305  
Phone: (07) 3202 2111 Email: handc@ssaaqld.org.au



# ***HUNTING & CONSERVATION NEWS***

## ***March 2008 Edition***

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

Dear Members,

I trust that everyone had a great Christmas and New Year and that Santa has looked after you all.

Well, this is looking to be quite an interesting year ahead. Geoff Sloman and I have just returned from a trip to Cairns. On invitation we promoted our organisation to the regions LGA's (Local Government Associations). We have had very positive feedback with ongoing contact and enquiries.

I also met with some of the members in Cairns to bring them up to date on a more personal level. It was good to put some faces to the voices and names. The main point coming out of the meeting was the need to increase memberships and establish more projects. With this in mind they have formed a sub-committee to help organise practical training and run accreditation courses. The committee is headed up by Lindsay Rogers and Gordon McGowan, and will report to both Geoff Sloman and myself. Anyone else in the Cairns or Mareeba area that would like to help, please feel free to contact Lindsay or Gordon.

It is also that time of year for membership renewal, please remember to fill out a renewal notice (which you will find attached to this news letter) for **each** member.

Currently we have 7 field projects up and running with more likely to come on line this year and need your **SUPPORT** to keep them operational.

Regards  
Mark Woods  
Qld State Co-ordinator

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### ***Northern Regions Reports***

#### ***Townsville***

Trevor Mack and his wife Marie- France, hosted a very enjoyable Christmas social. We were treated to a beautiful meal of rabbit, cooked to a traditional French recipe and lots of other goodies, after which, members and prospective members swapped many good yarns.

Since then, with the festive season followed by the onset of the wet season and the associated rain and floods, field activities have been curtailed. The road to the Hughenden wild dog project has been closed and property tracks were impassable.

Behind the scenes, much has been happening. We have had several enquiries from prospective members in the Townsville and Cairns areas, plus a few from other areas. Lindsay Rodgers and Gordon McGowan from Cairns will be helping with the training of these new members and their efforts will be very much appreciated.

We have a few prospective projects and with the help of fellow members we may have some up and running in the not too distant future. If you know of anyone interested in joining the H&C or are aware of any land managers that have a pest animal problem feel free to contact me.

Until we get the projects up and running, keep up the practice and camaraderie ensuring good team work.

Geoff Sloman  
Northern Co-ordinator and training Officer

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### ***Tropical Northern Queensland***

We are in the process of putting a larger working committee together to help spread the workload a bit more, so if you have some ideas or some spare time to help please call myself or Gordon McGowan.

We are also working on a regular, once a month range practice, training day.

To anyone not yet accredited yet please give me or Gordon a call to organize it.

Lindsay Rogers

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

The last 3 months have been anything but normal for the central region members, with some of the wettest weather any of us can remember in this part of the world.

To say the wet weather interrupted our activities would be an understatement. All of our planned dates for January and February were blown out of the water (or should I say "into the water") with the floods which affected our part of the world. A lot of the bitumen roads were closed and impassable let alone getting onto dirt roads and accessing shooting areas. The rain just doesn't seem to want to stop for long enough to let the country dry out.

The result of all this....zero shooting activity, but a very full Fairburn Dam which ensures

the water supply for this region for the next 2-5 years.

If the weather stays away (at the moment it hasn't rained for 2 days) we may be able to venture onto one of our local stakeholders property's and engage a few feral cats within the next 2-3 weeks.....heres hoping!

With the next major engagement up here being Avocet, we can only hope that the ground dries out in time for the bi-annual migration of members from throughout the state.

Bill Sandeman  
Central Region Co-ordinator

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### ***Avocet Report***

The Avocet trip is almost upon us with Easter being early this year (21<sup>st</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> March).

As always it is very important to keep the pressure on the ferals especially after the September 2007 trip taking the highest number of ferals to date. With the Bridled Nailtail right on the brink of being genetically extinct, we can help lift the numbers by the use of constant feral control. It is extremely important for all members to support this program even if only for a few days, the accumulated resources and effort will continue to make a big difference to their survival and future expansion.

The Committee

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### ***Training focus***

#### **Key points for setting dog and cat traps**

- Keep a pair of gloves for handling and setting traps only.
- Try to keep them in one box or container to stop the transfer of human scent.
- Boil all traps and associated items before setting or if contaminated with human or dog/cat scent.
- "Location location" is not just a real estate slogan it is just as important as good preparation of the trap area.

- Traps need to be set close to thoroughfare's but not on them.
- A scent attractant should be used to lure them to the trap, then placing it somewhere where it has no alternative but to go over the trap to get to the scent attractant (eg under bushes or logs or log piles). Keeping in mind you need to be able to view the trap from a reasonable distance unseen so as not to leave your scent in the area and not to unduly stress a trapped animal.

Happy Trapping  
The Committee

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## ***Animal Welfare***

I recently attended a meeting where a presentation was given on Animal Welfare with regard to pest control.

As an organisation we have rules and ethics covering animal welfare but it is an area that always needs to be at the forefront of our minds.

One of our ethics is that in the rare event of the first shot not rendering an animal instantaneously insensible it must be dispatched as quickly as possible.

Traps must be checked regularly and if possible traps should be set with shade in mind

Make sure the calibre is adequate to dispatch the animal humanely.

Regards  
Mark Woods  
Qld State Co-ordinator

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## ***Conservation Matters***

### **The Loggerhead Turtle** (Caretta Caretta)

One of the advantages of belonging to an organisation such as Hunting and Conservation is that on occasions we get the opportunity, and the privilege, to get up close

and personal with many creatures others, either never will, or, pay a fortune to do so.

For a team involved in one of our projects just such an opportunity arose when they came across a female loggerhead turtle laying her eggs.

The females tend to return to where they were born. The mating season starts around late October to December. They breed with a few partners to make sure they are successful and will then lay up to 120 "ping pong" sized eggs in a nest cavity measuring 45-55cm deep. The incubation time of the eggs is 55-65 days.

The hatchlings measure approximately 5cm and are reddish-brown on top and darkish brown below. As they grow to adulthood they turn to dark brown on top and white, cream or yellowish on the underside and can measure up to 1.5m, and weigh between 100-150kg.

The loggerhead turtle lives in warm waters round the World (16-20°C) particularly in coral reefs, bays and estuaries where shellfish, crabs, sea urchins, and assorted fish are more abundant.

While they are still found in significant numbers around the coast of Florida, USA, the loggerhead is actually listed as the most endangered turtle in the World. They are also listed as endangered on both the Queensland and national registers. (In Queensland, it is estimated the loggerhead turtle has lost 50-80% of its annual nesting population in the last decade.)

Of particular concern to us is the control of feral animals who target the nesting sites to dig up the eggs. This includes feral pigs, foxes and even dogs.

Other turtles found in the vicinity of our pig project include the flatback and green turtles.

### **References:**

<http://www.turtletime.org/>  
[http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/nature\\_conservation/wildlife/native\\_animals/loggerhead\\_turtle/](http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/nature_conservation/wildlife/native_animals/loggerhead_turtle/)

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## ***Thoughts and hints***

In general, hunters only look at needing higher power scopes for long distance shooting. Animal identification though should be an equal factor in scope selection. Smaller animals will need a larger power scope to be able to positively identify them, especially at night. Night though presents the obvious added difficulty of poorer light which is where the quality of the lenses and the tube and objective size need to be considered.

With this in mind a 6-20x50 power scope on a 223 is not uncommon among our members.

As an example, a member was unable to positively identify a cat in stubble at 80 meters with a 3-9 power scope. After swapping to a rifle with a 6-20 power scope the cat was easily and positively identified. The shot would have been possible with the rifle with the 3-9 but the identification was not.

You should spend as much time if not more in your scope selection as you do on your rifle selection and take the opportunity to talk to existing members about what they have and why.

Regards  
The Committee

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## **Family weekend**

On the weekend of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of February the southern region had its annual family weekend, It was held at Maroochy Palms Holiday Village.

The members that attended greatly enjoyed themselves with a variety of activities that ranged from visiting the local Eumundi Markets to swimming and fishing. Due to the unusual wet season the kids took great delight in playing in an afternoon monsoonal downpour. Another significant event of the weekend involved a certain member running his pride and joy aground on a river sandbank- no-one was harmed.

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We would also add that during the course of the weekend **no fish** were harmed either!!

Regards  
The Committee

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## ***Southern Region Report***

### **Stewartdale Report**

With the wet, January's project was cancelled so as not to chop the tracks up. But after recent sightings of feral cats on the hill and dogs in the area the boys gave it a go in February. We arrived at the property just in time to give Steve Chantrill a hand to get a tractor out of a bog. A walk in the daylight did not flush the cats out and the wet restricted our movements at night but we removed 6 hares. This will help the survival of the trees that will be planted soon.

Please remember to check your calendar for the control night dates as some have been moved to the Friday night.

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> and 16<sup>th</sup> of March. 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 first aid. Sundays activities will include the basics to solar power.

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

The mossies are out in strength so make sure you are protected.

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@ssa QLD.org.au](mailto:handc@ssa QLD.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@optushome.com.au](mailto:dgottschalk@optushome.com.au)

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### **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

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## ADVERTISING PAGES

### FOR SALE (Gary - 0416 833 866)

#### Factory Ammo

##### .45 ACP

20 Win RN 230 gn \$15.00  
 10 Shot shells x 2 boxes \$10.00

Mixed box approx. 50 rounds \$15.00

##### 9 mm.

50 NORMA 118gn RN \$20.00

100 mixed 147gn SWC \$20.00

35 Win. 115gn FMJ \$12.00

15 mixed shot shells \$5.00

##### .38 S&W

29 145gn lead cartridges \$10.00

21 cases

#### Projectiles-.45 ACP:-

330 CBM 175gr SWC Lead \$30.00

200 Ranier 230gr RN "Lead Safe" \$25.00

#### Pistol "stuff"

Pistol case-soft zippered \$10.00

Cabela's "Sack-ups" pistol sack \$5.00

Original hard case Ruger P85 \$2.00

Original hard case Para P14 \$2.00

Leather holster suit 1911 \$15.00

Cordura holster suit .44 Mag. \$10.00

Speed loader Ruger Redhawk \$5.00

Hogue rubber grips fit Ruger Redhawk \$10.00

Pistol Rest-sighting in etc \$25.00

#### Rifle Stocks

Genuine Ruger plastic stock from M77 MK II short action \$40.00

Full military wood for 6.5 x 55 Swedish Mauser- includes all hardware \$50.00

Sporter stock suit 6.5x55 Swede (from military original-Acraglas Bedded, oil finish, recoil pad) \$35.00

#### Rifle and Pistol scopes

Tasco 3-9 x 40 Black \$85.00

Tasco 4 x 32 fixed-Black \$35.00

Tasco 1.5 x 20 Pistol Scope- Black \$35.00

Simmons 3-9 x 32 Black \$25.00

#### Reloading equipment

Hornady .223 full length rifle die set \$20.00

Lee .45 ACP pistol die set \$20.00

Lee .45 ACP Factory crimp die \$15.00

Lee 9mm Factory crimp die \$15.00

Lee .308 Factory crimp die \$15.00

Lee Load-all 12ga reloader \$30.00

Lee Load-all 12ga Primer Feed \$10.00

**All located at Gold Coast**

### FOR SALE (Bryan – 0419 676 305)

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 scope mount w/1" rings, Piers synthetic stock w/recoil pad. Lic no: 10078407.	\$600.00 firm.
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### FOR SALE (Phil – 3816 1538)

Spotlight 100w projector bulb type aussie made	\$55.00
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### 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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## *Upcoming Activity 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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>March</b>			
7 <sup>th</sup>	Stewartdale	Southern	David Gottschalk
14 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup>	Training Weekend	Southern	Mark Woods
21 <sup>st</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup>	Avocet	Central	Mark Woods
<b>April</b>			
19 <sup>th</sup> - 26 <sup>th</sup>	Pig Project	Central	Mark Woods
19 <sup>th</sup>	Stewartdale	Southern	David Gottschalk
20 <sup>th</sup>	Special Project Training	Southern	Mark Woods
<b>May</b>			
3 <sup>rd</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup>	Feral Cat Control Project	Central	Bill Sandeman
17 <sup>th</sup>	Stewartdale	Southern	David Gottschalk
18 <sup>th</sup>	Special Project Training	Southern	Mark Woods
<b>June</b>			
6 <sup>th</sup>	Stewartdale	Southern	David Gottschalk
13 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup>	Training Weekend	Southern	Brett Marais
14 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup>	Pig Project	Central	Mark Woods
<b>July</b>			
19 <sup>th</sup>	Stewartdale	Southern	David Gottschalk
<b>August</b>			
15 <sup>th</sup>	Stewartdale	Southern	David Gottschalk
<b>September</b>			
12 <sup>th</sup>	Stewartdale	Southern	David Gottschalk
20 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup>	Training Weekend	Southern	Brett Marais
<b>October</b>			
18 <sup>th</sup>	Stewartdale	Southern	David Gottschalk
<b>November</b>			
7 <sup>th</sup>	Stewartdale	Southern	David Gottschalk
15 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup>	Training Weekend	Southern	Brett Marais
<b>December</b>			
12 <sup>th</sup>	Stewartdale	Southern	David Gottschalk