



# 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](mailto:handc@ssaaqld.org.au)

## ***HUNTING & CONSERVATION NEWS*** ***November 2005 Edition***

Welcome to the latest edition of the Hunting and Conservation Newsletter for NOVEMBER.

---

### ***Qld State Co-Coordinator's Note***

Welcome to all H&C Members.

Recently Mark Woods and I went to Adelaide for the National Hunting and Conservation AGM. It was interesting to hear how each state is going with respect to H&C membership and the type of operations that they undertake. There are many differences between the types of game that members in other states hunt as well as the rules and regulations that govern the way they can operate.

One speaker that we listened to was a Senior Director for the South Australian Parks and Wildlife Service. The statistics he gave on the various operations that H&C has undertaken and their effect on the National Parks that the members have shot in proves the worth of not only the concept of Hunting & Conservation but also the value of shooters as a whole. In the Gawler Ranges National Park some 29,000 or more goats have been taken by H&C members over the last 12 years. This has had the effect of stabilizing vegetation and allowing sections of remnant native bush to re-establish in an environment where the goats were slowly eating everything in sight. In terms of monetary

value, what value do we put on the re-establishment of native flora that may have been lost to future generations?

Even in our own back yard our endeavours to help save the Bridle Nail Tailed Wallaby at Avocet has a monetary value that is hard to value fully when put against the loss of an entire species from the planet. Our operation at Kilcoy has yielded around 120 deer (red deer), 170 hares and a feral cat. While we maybe protecting a commercial native tree plantation we should also pause to think about how much effect these introduced animals may have had on native animals and flora on surrounding properties.

As we found when talking to the H&C Members from other states in Adelaide, H&C Queensland is moving ahead successfully and it is at this time I would like to remind members that as a volunteer association we can only continue to grow with the help and input from you all. If you want to contribute or know more about upcoming shooting activities don't be shy in coming forward and contacting us.

That's all for now, happy hunting.

Brett Robertson  
QLD State H&C Co-ordinator

---

## State Training Officer Report

Since we spoke last we have had a Training and Development weekend at Bundaberg's SSAA range - a very nicely set up range. It catered to our training needs very well.

It was attended by a small group from the Bundaberg area and included a member who traveled from Barcaldine (top effort to attend a training weekend!).

Another small group from the lower South East Region also came up to join in the weekend's activities.

Types of activities included a timed shooting event involving animal identification from an unseen target grouping and shooting under spotlight, under pressure. Due to the strong winds on Saturday the members also experienced the joys of shooting free standing at various distances under these conditions.

The upcoming weekend at Ripley (19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November) will include: a presentation by Kathleen MacDonald, the Weed and Pest Animal Technical Officer from Queensland Murray-Darling Committee - Roma; shotgun and rifle practice will be at the top of the shooting agenda - in forms that will lend themselves to the types of shooting encountered at Kilcoy and the upcoming Injune projects; and navigation with GPS awareness.

To those people attending the weekend please make sure you bring your GPS's along if you have one.

Again I encourage all that can make it, to attend as this training is a valuable part of field operations, particularly in the sense of working as a team.

It is at training weekends like this that you will become familiar with the processes used and people you may be working with in the field in Hunting and Conservation activities. Too often I hear the comment: "I don't want to shoot with someone I don't know!" This makes attending these weekends essential to overcome this and allow you to develop as part of a team.

Hope to see you all at Ripley for our final Training and Development weekend. (Don't forget our Christmas party on the Saturday night.)

Mark Woods  
Qld State H&C Training Officer.

---

## Upcoming Dates

Mark these dates in your diary and plan to come along. You never know - you might just be free on that date.

### Family Activities

**11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Feb** - New Year's Get Together and Fish Off at Somerset Dam, Kirkleigh Camping area.  
Please contact Owen McIntyre or Mark Woods for further details.

Note: even if you don't fish this is a great fun weekend for all the family.

### Hunting Activities

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

### Avocet Project Flashjack

#### A week activity

**Location:** Avocet - Emerald

**Species:** Cats, dogs, foxes

**Calibres:** 17HMR upwards

**Dates: Proposed trip Easter  
(14-23 Apr 2006)**

**Team Leader:** Mark Woods

0438 098 469, 3808 4881

## **Injune Feral Control**

Assessment is finalized. We are waiting for mitigation paperwork to come through (approx. 2-3 weeks). First trip planned for before Christmas. Contact team leader early December.

**Team Leader:** Mark Woods  
0438 098 469, 3808 4881

## **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:** TO BE ADVISED

**Team Leader:** Owen McIntyre - 0417 615 505

## **Stewartdale Wetlands Preservation**

**Mostly an afternoon/evening activity**

**Location:** Ripley Rifle Range

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

**Calibres:** 17HMR to 22-250

**Dates -2005:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec

**2006:** 14<sup>th</sup> Jan

11 Feb

4<sup>th</sup> Mar

8<sup>th</sup> Apr

6<sup>th</sup> May

3<sup>rd</sup> June

1<sup>st</sup> Jul

5<sup>th</sup> Aug

2<sup>nd</sup> Sep

7<sup>th</sup> Oct

4<sup>th</sup> Nov

2<sup>nd</sup> Dec

Due to the breeding patterns of birds on the lake, additional dates will be scheduled between now and January. Please contact your Team leader for updates.

**Team Leader:** David Gottschalk 3849 8869

## **Training Activities**

**Southern Region**

**18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Nov - Ripley Range**

**Christmas party Sat night**

**17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2006 - Ripley Range**

**16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2006 - Ripley Range**

**15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> September – Ripley Range**

***Any members wishing to do the theory part of the accreditation course should contact Marks Woods on 0438 098 469 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***

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

---

## ***Articles***

Remember this is your newsletter and if you have any articles or information you wish to see published in the newsletter please forward it to Mark Woods via email. Please limit your articles to no more than 1 x A4 page.

---

## ***Weed Profile***

Each newsletter we hope to bring you a profile of a particular problem weed you may encounter on the various projects.

So without further ado, direct to you from Tropical North and South America:

## **Parthenium Wonder Weed.**

The weed which spends a lot of time on everybody's lips is 'Parthenium hysterophorus' affectionately known as 'Parthenium'. For the past 4 decades, this marvel survivor has set up camp throughout Central Queensland and has established pocket colonies in Southern

Queensland, Northern NSW and parts of the Northern Territory. Parthenium has led a career as vivacious and astounding as any current movie star!



The weed comes to you with the following virtues in its portfolio:-

- Leaches soil of nutrients.
- Expensive and difficult to contain.
- Bad for health (of man and beast).
- Spreads like a charm.
- Cause of shame and heartache to landholders who have it.
- Very competitive against other vegetative species.

### **Why would Hunting & Conservation enthusiasts be interested in Parthenium?**

Clearly, Parthenium poses a huge threat to landholders, who will experience losses in productivity and personal health; as well as environmentalists who might find it offensive, tactless and intrusive.

The good work of H&C has connections and responsibilities to those landholders

and the environment, not to mention to their own health. Perhaps of most concern to members is that Parthenium is highly attracted to operators like us.

Parthenium seed loves to hitch a ride with any mobile object, including:

- Cars and vehicles.
- Equipment and machinery.
- Clothes and Boots.
- Mud on the move.

Parthenium send forth their seed on the wind, waterways and road systems. Because we are highly mobile, we can help Parthenium on its way to new frontiers. We need to be aware and concerned because of the distances we cover and the implications to H&C if we are seen to be in cahoots with the dreaded Parthenium.

### **And would you know it if you saw it?**

Despite the high profile as a weed Parthenium blends in well with its surroundings and can be hard to spot on the brightest of days. Just take these photos for example.



Baby Parthenium looks like any green herb or daisy. Important to note is how deeply lobed (indented) the leaves are. The leaves are covered in allergenic hairs. These are the reason people can develop:-

- Dermatitis: contact and phytophoto (aggravated by sunlight)
- Hayfever (contact rhinitis)
- Asthma (contact bronchitis)

- Tiredness and fatigue.

At night, noticing these symptoms may be the only way of realizing Parthenium is nearby.

Mature Parthenium is bright green and branching, growing more woody with age.

Kathleen MacDonald  
QMDC – Roma

---

### ***Avocet Report***

(through the eyes of a Wallaby Wrangler)

For me, our most recent trip to Avocet saw the fruits of my principle motivation for joining Hunting and Conservation.

First of all, we found very little feral activity with only the signs of one dog and one cat passing through - all good news for our wallaby population.

In addition, Queensland Parks and Wildlife ranger, Janelle Lawry joined us for the week to participate in the hunting activities and check on the progress of the wallabies.

Each evening Janelle and I set traps with a bait of Lucerne and sweet potato, while the guys would go out at some stage to spotlight or still hunt making sure they returned in time to help with the data collection in the morning.

We also swept off the sandplots to check for signs of animal activity, both feral and native. Each time any of the vehicles drove through, the plots were checked and re-swept as necessary.

By morning many of the traps were full and the important work of recording the necessary data began - the wallabies were weighed and measured; eyes, ears and teeth checked with ticks and mites removed; hydration and body condition

recorded; and as required, DNA samples taken.

DNA samples were taken from all females with young and all males over 5.6kg. (Yes, size does matter in the wallaby world. The females won't look at males weighing anything less!!)

Females were checked for joeys. The gender and length of the hindfoot of the joey were recorded.

It was fantastic to see that every female we trapped had a joey in the pouch, with some even showing signs of having one still at foot or recently at foot.

To me this is why we travel so far and spend so many hours out hunting down feral cats and dogs in the area.

If this is your motivation too, then join us on the next Avocet trip at Easter and become one of Janelle's fully qualified wallaby wranglers.

Glenys-Julie Harris

---

### ***Kilcoy Report***

Our last three trips to Kilcoy were very productive with 15 -17 deer culled each trip. Not to be forgotten - one pussy cat!!

A cross-section of new and existing members participated in what has become a very fulfilling combined hunting and harvesting of game meat, reinforcing the importance of team involvement and reward.

Heavy spraying activities conducted by East Coast Tree Farms are being delayed by the recent rains. Future dates for this activity will be advised. All enquiries to Owen McIntyre (details below).

---

### **Hot Tips**

Go to Owen M for earpiercing services!!!  
(See deer for references)

Importance of staying together.

When going out in two-man teams it is vital that team members stick to the plan and stay together within sight and sound (by radio) even if the opportunity to take your quarry seems to pass you by.

---

### **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)

---

#### **Brett Robertson**

State Coordinator

Phone: 0428 982 466  
Email: [aeromedic2002@yahoo.com.au](mailto:aeromedic2002@yahoo.com.au)

---

#### **Jack Kearney**

Conservation Biologist

Email: [wildbird@aapt.net.au](mailto:wildbird@aapt.net.au)

---

#### **Mark Woods**

State H&C Trainer

Phone: 0438 098 469 or 3808 4881  
Email: [markwood2@bigpond.com](mailto:markwood2@bigpond.com)

---

#### **Owen McIntyre**

State Operations Coordinator

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

---

#### **David Gottschalk**

SE QLD Operations Coordinator

Phone: 3849 8869  
Email: [dgottschalk@optushome.com.au](mailto:dgottschalk@optushome.com.au)

---

#### **Spike Buhmann**

H&C North QLD Co-ordinator

Phone: 0409 954 645  
Email: [mauser@bigpond.net.au](mailto:mauser@bigpond.net.au)

---

#### **Joe Pezzotti**

H&C North QLD Training Officer

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

---

#### **Doug Harvey**

H&C North QLD Administration Officer

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

---