



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 ***November 2006 Edition***

Old State Co-ordinator's Note

Welcome everyone to our fourth newsletter for the year.

David Gottschalk and myself attended the S.S.A.A. Queensland Annual General Meeting between the 9th and 10th of September at Millmerran. This was a great opportunity to network with the various club representatives and to promote awareness of Hunting & Conservation. It was also an opportunity for us to get some feedback on how we are performing.

We learnt that a few members felt they were not able to participate in field operations unless invited. To clarify this, projects advertised within the newsletter are open to all accredited members but it is up to you to contact the project team leader to organise your attendance.

For many the words Hunting and Conservation in the same sentence appear to be a contradiction and just as new project sponsors need to get used to the idea so do the general public. Also for many people firearms are no longer a normal part of life and they are not used to being around them, hence for sponsors, operating with a group of unfamiliar people with firearms may initially be daunting.

For the above reasons sponsors of new projects may want to keep a project low profile and very tightly controlled until they are used to the concept / procedures of Hunting and Conservation. Consequently there may be projects that in the beginning

will not be advertised and in which we can only involve those who have demonstrated an ability to work within more demanding guidelines. Please know that attending advertised activities is your means to demonstrating your ability to work on these more demanding projects.

Another concern raised was that personal hunting properties would become the domain of Hunting and Conservation. I would like to assure you that any property that a member has gained access to, without using reference to H & C, remains their own. For clarification please read Code of Conduct Rules 20 and 21.

It was great to see another good result from our September Avocet trip both in members attending and wallabies surveyed and data collected.

Hunting & Conservation has purchased the night vision goggles that Andrew Donaldson trialed and did a review on in the Australian Shooter. We would like to thank Industek for giving us a good price on the system. Industek not only sells night vision gear, it also sells firearms and accessories. We see these as being a big asset in future projects and we are looking buying an Infrared filter to suit the Lightforce 240 blitz lights to use with it.

Mark Woods
Acting 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.

Thoughts and hints on Firearm Safety

The following points are the essential basics. It doesn't hurt to have a refresher of firearm safety and for good habits to be maintained.

- If the bolt is closed, the bolt handle should always be in the 'up' position. This not only shows other people around that your firearm is safe, but also shows you are conscious about safety all the time.
- Firearms should be stored muzzle down in the footwell of the cabin when used in a vehicle.
- Firearms in camp should be unloaded and stored in the same fashion as in a dwelling. Bolt open or removed, and ammunition and firearm stored separately and securely. Remember not all people in the camp have a firearms licence.
- Always be 110% sure of your target, especially when spotlighting. If in doubt do not take the shot.
- Be conscious of what is behind your target. Be aware of the location of stock, roads, houses, camps, other people, etc. If in doubt do not take the shot.
- Do not shoot at the crest of or over a ridgeline.
- Maintain radio contact, and be aware of where other teams are operating. If in doubt do not take the shot.

From Andrew Donaldson

Training focus Fire Safety

With a large part of the country in a drought declared state and an extreme fire risk it is important that we take time to stop and think about the humble camp fire. I know many will think that a camp is not a camp without a fire but consideration should be given to whether it is necessary or legal. It should not be assumed that you can light a fire to cook so in your camp kitchen you should have an alternative means of cooking ie gas, shellite, hexamine.

If you decide that it is both legal and safe to light a campfire you should

- Dig a shallow hole for the fire (soil removed from the hole can be used to put the fire out)
- Clear an area around the fire of all fuel sources
- Make sure there are no overhanging bushes
- Do not make the fire larger than needed. Large fires create excessive sparks and can spread beyond the cleared area.
- Collect wood before dark. In the dark you cannot see what bities the wood contains.
- Ensure that you have a means of putting the fire out
- Do not use wood that native wildlife may be living in
- In some areas you may not be able to use the local wood especially Parks
- Be careful when dousing fires with water as some coals retain extreme amounts of heat but can look dead. Throw the water away from you, don't stand over the fire and tip the water out.
- Be careful of loose clothing and flammable fabrics near fires

Happy cooking

From the State Training and Logistics Officer

To the members of the Northern region.

Don't forget - if you think you might have a possible lead or contact for Ross Harvey 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
Old State Training and Logistics Coordinator.

Camp Oven Tips

When purchasing a camp oven, look for one with a snug fitting lid, and a lip to hold the coals on the lid. Inspect the walls of the oven for consistent thickness to avoid hotspots. Some people prefer legs however they can get in the way and they are not necessary as an oven sitting directly on coals prevents a breeze getting underneath, flaring the coals up and burning your food due to the increased heat.

A new Camp oven needs to be properly cleaned and seasoned. To do this first boil water vigorously for about 10 minutes in your camp oven to draw out the wax sealing coat (this wax was put in the inside and outside to protect the oven prior to sale). Empty the water out and put back on the heat until the oven is dry, then remove and grease the inside of the camp oven and lid with oil or fat. Replace the lid and sit the oven next to a hot fire for 10-15 minutes, turning so both sides get equal heat. Don't try it in your oven at home, as the fat will run and catch fire. A light application of cooking oil will also keep it in top shape during storage and prevent rusting.

Never pour cold water on your hot camp oven as along with dropping it, this will cause cracks or breakage. Over rough roads they should be secured in a cardboard box, with a barrier between the oven and the lid, to prevent bouncing and cracking. Alternatively

conventional camp oven bags can be purchased from most camping stores.

Happy Cooking,
Andrew Donaldson

Cooks Corner

Simple Beer Damper

½ kg of Self Raising Flour
Teaspoon Baking powder
Pinch Salt
Stubby or Can of beer (of your choice)

Mix all dry ingredients in a plastic or stainless dish, and add the stubby of beer.

Mix until a doughy consistency. If the mix is too wet add additional flour to dry the mix out.

Add to a pre-heated camp oven (spread a little flour in the base first) and bake using coals on the base and lid for approx 15-20 minutes.

Rabbit Stew

Rabbits can be cooked in the camp oven in ways only limited by your imagination. Think of the camp oven as a big stew pot, or alternatively a simple baking oven. Once this psychological hurdle is overcome, with a little practise a seasoned camp oven and hot coals will turn out meals better than at home. All you need are the rabbits.....

1-2 rabbits
2 onions
Gravy mix or stock (pre-purchased from supermarket is easiest)
2 tomatoes
1 carrot
1 cup peas
salt/pepper as req

Happy Cooking,
Andrew Donaldson

A Conservation update

Well guys hasn't anyone been shooting in the last three months? The Fox DNA sample kits have arrived in bulk and it is now time for us to ante up and produce the goods or in this case the fox DNA samples.

The only one we have to date is one taken on the last Avocet trip. If you are going to be somewhere that foxes may be taken ask for some kits now so that you will have them with you and not need to use the esky.

It is important for us to be a part of this project as the research being conducted will prove I think to be quite beneficial in the future. So let's get behind this research get some samples in.

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 him at his home address: 22 Celosia Street, Daisy Hill, 4127.

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

Mark Woods
Qld State H&C Training Officer.

Avocet Report

Well we missed out on seeing any pigs again mainly due to the fact that two of the local farmers cleaned up big time. We believe 40+ were taken in one trap one night with more trying to get in and yes it is a fairly large trap. In another session the local boys ran out of ammunition after bagging 27. As we all know this amount of pigs can do an extreme amount of damage to the environment. There appeared to be a couple of smaller groups moving through the Avocet reserve a couple of weeks prior to our arrival but no recent sign. These were excellent results as we don't want to see pigs become established in the area especially in the reserve.

Five members attended for the full period and three attended the last five days. Between the two vehicles we travelled approximately 1400 km on Avocet and the two neighbouring properties.

On Avocet we got 2 dogs, 1 cat (both of these we have been after for the last 1-2 years especially the larger of the two dogs), 1 hare and 35 rabbits (which compete with the wallabies for food). On the two neighbouring properties we removed 1 fox, 3 cats 6 hares and 2 rabbits.

We did not see anywhere near the amount of ferals as we saw last time so it appears that others have not taken their place yet. Also the number of wallabies seen was greater this trip too so it would appear that we are having a beneficial effect on the breeding program.

We were invited to Hugo Spooner's home for tea Friday night and we were honoured to have Hugo and his daughter Sarah play the banjo and guitar and sing for us (another two stars in the making).

The Avocet Team

Stewartdale Report

We are still doing a light control on the hares at Stewartdale and have seen some fox prints around one of the dams indicating there is still at least one elusive reynard out there.

We used the night vision goggles on the last trip and we are looking forward to using the infrared filter as well the next trip.

In the past we have seen pig sign in the back area of the property but disturbingly we have seen some pig rootings down through the lower valleys lately.

We continue to see more and more young saplings coming up across the property in areas where they have not been seen before mainly due to grazing pressure.

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

Northern Regions (Townsville) Report

The Townsville section is one the move.

Our first accreditation course was run in September, with two members passing the course with flying colours and interest from several other club members and some keen people from the Burdekin, who want to get involved. The next accreditation course will be run on 2 December 2006.

In the meantime, one of our 200m ranges has been reserved for our use on the 4th Saturday afternoon of each month for practice shoots, followed by a short educational session and some social interaction

Over the last few months I have had a few leads on potential projects but nothing has eventuated, I guess it is time to revise my salesman techniques and try again.

My job sometimes involves a lot of walking through the bush with teams of up to six people. Their uniform consists of green trousers and khaki shirts and it was not until contractors, wearing orange shirts came out with us, that I realised just how much easier it was to see where the contractors were (for safety reasons not supervision).

When participating in a shoot that involves walking through the bush, we keep the next shooter to each side in view, so wear highly visible clothes if possible, to make our projects safer. Many animals are colour blind, so they will most likely see you by movement first. If your hunting involves stalking or hides, flame orange camouflage is available, it may be expensive but still cheaper than an accident

If you are visiting Townsville on holidays or work, come up to the range to see us.

Geoff Sloman
Townsville Training Officer

Southern Training Weekends

The last training weekend was threatened by bad weather and we did have a minor rainfall but we kept dry and we completed all our activities with relative ease. It appears that the threat of rain may have kept some away which is disappointing as training weekends are an excellent trial for your gear in the wet weather. Remember there will be times on a project when it does actually rain (for those of us who are old enough to remember what rain is) and you need to know how well your gear and processes work in the wet weather. It was good to see a few new faces attending and we hope to see you again.

Our next training weekend on the 18th-19th of November will be the last for 2006. It will have a slight Christmas theme (since Christmas will only be 6 weeks away) with a few prizes in the **mystery shoot**.

We will have Brad from Raytrade attending with some equipment for us to have a look at. Georg Bernat from SharpEdge Knives (<http://www.sharpedge.net.au>) will also be there. Georg supplies macropod and wildgame harvesters, butchers, abattoirs, fish mongers and hairdressers among others, is very knowledgable and his prices are way below standard retail prices. Georg will have an array of knives and equipment for sale on the day so don't forget to bring some dollars if you want to get some bargains.

Please look at the attached Training Schedule for more details about the training weekend.

P.S. Please try and have your firearms sighted in before the training weekend.

Mark Woods
Old State H&C Training Officer.

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: 6th– 14th April 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 17HMR only

Dates - 2006: 4th Nov

2nd Dec

6th Jan 2007

3rd Feb 2007

3rd Mar 2007

Team Leader: David Gottschalk 3849 8869

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.)

Working Bees

Ripley Range

29th October 2006

31st December 2006

H&C Hill

To be scheduled.

Training Activities

Southern Region

17th – 18th November 2006 – Ripley Range

17th – 18th March 2007 – Ripley Range

16th – 17th June 2007 – Ripley Range

15th – 16th September 2007 – Ripley Range

17th – 18th November 2007 – Ripley Range

Northern Region

Townsville

25th November 2006

27th January 2007

24th February 2007

24th March 2007

21st April 2007

26th May 2007

23rd June 2007

21st 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

Northern Region

Townsville and surrounding area

2nd December

Any members wishing to do the theory part of the accreditation course should contact Geoff Sloman on 4723 8852.

Mareeba and surrounding area

TBA

please contact Ross Harvey on 4057 8868 or 0418 199 505

Southern Region

Any members wishing to do the theory part of the accreditation course should contact Marks Woods on 0438 098 469 or 3808 4881.

H&C Contacts

H&C QLD Office

Office: 266 Brisbane Street,
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Brett Robertson

State Coordinator (on leave of absence)

Contact Mark Woods

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