



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 2008 Edition

Qld State Co-ordinator's Note

Hello everyone,

It has been a fast and furious couple of months for us with many things on the go.

Members have been involved in on-the-ground projects including Avocet, a pig project in Central Qld, the training weekend, and most importantly networking with other agencies, like minded organisations, and our own organisation's business (SSAA State AGM).

The September training weekend's numbers were down due to the predicted rain, that didn't eventuate!! Those that did attend had a very interesting weekend with talks from Margaret Cameron on bird watching and Alan Murray on shooting skills, plus various shooting activities. GPS 101 on Sunday was very beneficial - how often do you spend 3 or 4 hours just playing with your GPS and trying other brands as well.

Margaret took the group for a walk to look at the large variety of birds within the area with two of her more important points being; walk slowly and see more, and secondly to have the best quality binoculars you can afford. The benefits of the art of bird watching included, observation skills and being aware of what is going on in the bush by listening to what the birds are saying.

Alan Murray had mountains of invaluable advice. Points included the importance of a

positive attitude. Thinking about your best shot reinforces a positive outcome in your mind rather than focusing on the shot that missed. Read more about this in Thoughts and Hints in this newsletter.

What's coming up? As the newsletter goes out, our next cat and fox project is underway. The northern region has two projects coming up including Collinsville feral cattle project and Hughendon where feral dogs are a problem. These and a number of other upcoming projects need member's active support. We can't do it without you. Other activities around the corner include, the next southern training weekend on the 15/16 Nov with more great activities including the annual Christmas shoot and prizes. Don't forget the members and family social weekend in the Imbil region in February - planning for this is to be finalised by Christmas.

Information on projects is only a phone call away to the project leader. However at anytime you're welcome to contact me about any aspect of H&C's activities. See contact page for my details.

Also details of all future activities can be found on the events calendar.

Regards
Mark Woods
Qld State Co-ordinator

News from Central Region

This last quarter has been relatively slow for the central region, with most of our members operating on tight business and work schedules. One trip to a local project had to be postponed due to circumstances beyond our control, so instead we scoped out another project close by, which is moving closer and closer to operational status. The diehards from Brisbane once again made the pilgrimage to Avocet in September, picking up a reasonable number of ferals for their efforts. Contact has been re initiated with a local landholder for a feral cat project which dropped off the radar after the January floods, so everyone is looking forward to controlling a few of these pests. A few more members are starting to come our way, with an accreditation course planned for the 8th of November. That's it from the Central Region.

Avocet Report

Avocet was attended by a small but well equipped group with 3 vehicles especially setup for spotlighting.

The wind was up for most of the trip and stopped the predators from moving about and with the crops not being harvested visibility was low. Once the wind dropped we started seeing animals and eyes.

In spite of these setbacks we managed to take three cats on the neighbour's property, and one cat on Avocet. One dog was taken near the neighbour's cattleyards and a boar in the feed yard (about 120kg). We used the night vision gear to lie in wait for the boar and also spotted a cat but a broken spotlight wire stopped us getting the cat.

We put a stronger focus on dam sitting in the evenings this trip which proved quite successful with 2 pigs taken, one seen and 4 dogs seen.

In total we got 1 dog, 5 pigs, 4 cats, 5 hares, and 7 rabbits.

We had a Friday night BBQ at Hugo's where we learnt the Cryptic crossword method of naming dams.

We got waypoints for some more dams and made sure that we used Hugo's names for the dams.

On two separate occasions we rescued a Little Red Flying fox from being entangled in barbed wire. A note of caution when doing this is you should wrap them up well as there are a number of fatal communicable diseases that they can transmit to us.

We have started working with Bush Heritage on Goonderoo with feral control. During the formalisation tour of the property boundary and tracks we found prints of at least two cats, some dogs and some pigs. From the tracks the pigs appeared to be very transient but for the dogs it seemed to part of their home range.

The further efforts of spotlighting gave little reward due to the extremely high grass. On the next trip if grass levels are still high we will put a much stronger focus on sit and wait style measures however a higher participation level will be needed to support this.

One vehicle was reserved specifically for Goonderoo due to the presence of Parthenium.

Now that we have Goonderoo to cover we have over 20,000 hectares in the area so a higher participation rate would greatly improve our effectiveness (nudge, nudge).

Mark Woods

Stewartdale Report

Hares

Our control efforts on the hares have been effective in helping to protect the planted trees although there are still hares to be removed. Further mowing by Steve Chantril has increased the areas in which hares can be seen.

Broadwings Raptor Training and Conservation Centre on the Gold Coast are also now using the hares to feed their birds of prey.

Foxes

There are still some foxes working on the property but you need to be quick and good at distances to get them. As always, only shoot if the target is positively identified AND you are confident of the shot. We don't want educated predators on the property.

Pigs

With the recent rain the pigs have either returned to the hills at the back of the property or they have vacated the area. Some members have volunteered to setup a feed station to see if they are still on the property.

David Gottschalk

Risk Management

This term comes primarily from the needs of organisations, primarily companies, to be able to defend themselves from events that may cause serious harm to their operations.

How would this have any relevance to H&C?

Perhaps a case study based in fact would help:

I was a member of a fishing club that specialised in deep sea fishing.

The club owned a boat and had enthusiastic support with high levels of participation.

The return leg of a club trip involved crossing a coastal bar that had been navigated hundreds of times before and the boat was well proven.

Therefore there was little concern as the bar was approached with the assistant skipper at the helm, the very experienced main skipper at his side and a total crew of 8 on board.

The boat struck a large wave which flooded the main deck. Normally the water would drain away but the boat was struck by another wave which turned it over.

The crew on the fly bridge were flung away from the boat and made land after spending the night in shark infested waters.

The remainder clung to the upturned hull but two people drowned.

You can imagine the trauma. As members of a club it could have been viewed as a tragedy and left at that.

However terms like duty of care and negligence became involved. Lawyers were involved and the club sued.

A simple "accident" could result in you, H&C and the SSAA being sued. If negligence was proved substantial damages awarded, then insurers may refuse to cover SSAA.

Where would that leave H&C?

How would property owners react to an accident on their property?

Bad news travels fast. The "bush telegraph", lawyers and authorities may not spare our organisation.

In an instant any incident risks the loss of all the credibility we have worked so hard to establish.

We must manage the risks regarding

- Vehicle based spotlighting
- Vehicle loading
- Rough terrain
- Vehicle speed
- Fatigue
- Unfamiliar equipment
- Unfamiliar properties
- Weather
- Etc etc.

Our duty of care makes us responsible for our team members' safety and above anything else this must be our primary concern.

Phil Brooks

Training focus

A vital component of a successful hunt is the correct estimation of distance between yourself and the target. This is important because projectiles don't travel in a straight line. Gravity has an effect on bullet travel the moment it leaves the muzzle. This causes the projectile to travel in an arc (unless of course

you were aiming at your feet) as the projectile starts dropping as soon as it leaves the barrel. The path that the projectile takes is called its trajectory.

In scientific terms, the motion of an object under the influence of gravity is determined by the acceleration of gravity, its launch speed, launch angle and its resistance to air.

In shooting terms the launch speed is the muzzle velocity, the launch angle is the angle of the barrel to horizontal and the measurement of a projectile's ability to overcome air resistance is its Ballistic Coefficient.

The effect of gravity is less apparent on faster moving objects hence the use of hyper velocity cartridges in order to minimise the drop.

The higher the Ballistic Coefficient the less the projectile will be slowed by air. Ballistic coefficients are determined from the projectile's sectional density and form factor and are published by the manufacturers.

As we are shooting at varying distances knowing a load's trajectory is important to know what the bullet drop will be. Trajectories and methods of calculating trajectories are published in various places but they depend on knowing what your muzzle velocity is and what the actual ballistic coefficient is (not the hoped for number published by the manufacturer). So you may as well forget this process and just get on the range and see what your loads do at various known distances. Put out targets at 25 meters, 50 metres, 100 metres, 200 meters and more if the range and your calibre can go that far. Write down the results and keep the targets so that you can refer back to them.

When in the field though remember that shooting uphill and downhill will also have an effect on trajectory. The projectile will drop more shooting uphill and less shooting downhill.

Regards

Brett Marais

Conservation Matters

DUSTWATCH

If you were asked, what is Australia's largest export, what would you answer? Coal?, sugar?, wheat?....

It might surprise you to learn that our largest export is actually our soil, carried away on the winds as very fine dust particles. It has even been known to turn the snowfields of New Zealand pink!

Now this may appear to be a strange topic for ***Conservation Matters***, but let me explain....

Dust storms are not uncommon, but in an arid continent such as Australia, their effects are significant as they erode soils, removing nutrient-rich silts, clays and organic matter. These silts, clays and organic matter are a significant part of our topsoil.

Dust storms are associated with the passage of cold fronts from west to east across the continent. When the wind picks up the larger soil particles begin to roll, bounce, or hop across the ground. Impact of these grains on the soil initiates movement of other particles. Finer particles of soil and organic material released during this impact are carried higher into the airstream. The smaller the particles the higher and further they travel.

Wind erosion contributes to a range of community issues including loss of soil fertility, downwind enrichment of habitats, urban pollution, public health and various global climate issues. While dust storms are a natural process, the erosion rate has been accelerated by processes of cultivation and overgrazing which has led to soil degradation.

The problem of increased erosion rate, is, probably best summed up in this cartoon...



Without good quality soil, not only will our native plants and animals not survive, but neither will the introduced crops we need to sustain our own existence.

It is important that these dust events are monitored to help us get a better understanding of wind erosion and its effects on our soils. This information will help in developing better land management processes to reduce the impacts of wind erosion and soil loss.

Until now, researchers at Griffith University have been using Bureau of Meteorology data to understand how different areas of the continent are susceptible to wind erosion. This has been possible because several of the phenomenological codes combined with the eyewitness descriptions provided the necessary information to document the event. With the Bureau of Meteorology being automated the codes will no longer be as useful as they will not be able to distinguish between fog and a dust storm!

As a result **DustWatch** needs more local eyes to make observations of dust events. Participating in **DustWatch** is incredibly easy and contributes significantly to the national understanding of wind erosion. So if you would like to get involved, or know someone who can help (perhaps even some of the local schools) then check out the **DustWatch**

website: www.dustwatch.edu.au, or contact Dr Craig Strong (07) 3735 3509.

References

McTainsh, G. and Strong, C. 2008. Soils and Geomorphology Lectures. Griffith University.

McTainsh, G and Strong, C. 2008. Topic in Environmental Science – Dustwatch. Griffith University.

www.dustwatch.edu.au

Glenys-Julie Harris

Thoughts and hints

How often have you had a bad night where you can't hit a thing, yet the next day on a target you find your rifle is accurate. So was your rifle out the night before and has miraculously come good again? No – you fell foul of the mental side of shooting. You probably missed a sitter of a shot and then the doubts set in. You may doubt your rifle, the distance and worst of all – your ability.

If you believe your rifle is out – check it on a target in the field. If it is good then you need to address the mental side.

Don't let yourself have any doubts when you take a shot. A negative thought will always overrule positive thoughts. When you have doubts your follow through will suffer or you will snatch the trigger and cause yourself to miss.

Once you are set for a shot be confident that you will hit the target. Picture hitting the target in your mind's eye and remember other similar good shots that you have made (it is good practice to GPS these shots to know their distances). Keep that positive mental picture as you go through the basics of a shot and expect to hit your target.

If you miss a shot work out what you did wrong but don't dwell on the fact that you have missed. If you think the distance was

wrong chalk it up to experience but whatever else be confident on your next shot.

Cairns Region Report

Eleven new members have passed their accreditation course with flying colours and are in the process of completing the required practical shooting test. All participants did well in the theory test and we are pleased with the results that have been achieved with our local membership drive.

Our training day attracted nine members, some of whom partially completed their practical shooting test whilst at Wangetti Range.

We are well placed to soon move forward to approach suitable organisations with the view to arranging some field operations.

An additional eight or so individuals have expressed an interest to complete the accreditation course in our next intake. Building up our membership numbers in the region is a high priority as it is the foundation for successful projects.

We are well pleased to report that Cairns region is definitely taking some steps forward.

Lindsay Rogers

North Queensland Report

Life has been excellent in the North Region over the last few months, our winters are ideal for outdoor activity and our regular monthly practices have been enjoyed by all who participated.

We are still getting enquiries about membership and a few of these are very keen on joining

There has been some winter rain out West so the feral dogs on the Hughenden project are still being elusive as they have plenty of water holes in the creeks as well as the 15 permanent water points spread over

approximately 100 square kilometres of the property

The first trip to the Collinsville project was a success with 9 of the target species being taken. The country there is very rough and hilly, needing good 4wd skills and hard foot logging to get the results. The property owner is regrading the station tracks, so we should be able to get access to more areas next time. This project requires camping out and it was good to relax and swap yarns around the camp fire while the billy boiled and the camp oven simmered

Until next time, keep those pest animals in your sights

Geoff Sloman
Nth Qld Co-ordinator and Townsville Training Officer

Upcoming Dates (Tentative only)

Hughenden 6th -10th November
Collinsville 8th -12th December

Social Night Barbeque 29th November

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

H&C Contacts

H&C QLD Office

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

Mark Woods

State Coordinator and Acting 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

Southern QLD Activity Coordinator

Phone: 0416 899 587
Email: dgottschalk@internode.on.net

Brett Marais

Southern QLD Training

Phone: 0417 708 568
Email: bdmarais@iprimus.com.au

Colin Penfold

Southern QLD Accreditation Officer

Phone: 0438 457 452
Email: sallycolin@virginbroadband.com.au

Bill Sandeman

Central Co-ordinator and Training Officer

Phone: 49877855 or 0429 877 855
Email: bjsandeman@iinet.net.au

Geoff Sloman

Northern Co-ordinator and Townsville
Training Officer

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

Joe Pezzotti

North QLD Training Officer

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

Gordon McGowan

Phone: 0438 175 833
Email: parkerhale58@yahoo.com.au

Lindsay Rogers

Cairns Training Officer
Phone: (07) 4053 3307

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

Date	Activity	Region	Contact
November 2008			
6 th – 10 th	Hughenden	Northern	Geoff Sloman
7 th	Stewartdale	Southern	David Gottschalk
15 th - 16 th	Training Weekend	Southern	Brett Marais
ATTENTION: THE FOLLOWING DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED!			
15 th - 23 rd	Pig Project	Central	Mark Woods
29 th	Social Night BBQ	Northern	Geoff Sloman
December 2008			
8 th – 12 th	Collinsville	Northern	Geoff Sloman
13 th	Stewartdale	Southern	David Gottschalk
14 th	Project training	Southern	Owen McIntyre
January 2009			
17 th	Stewartdale	Southern	David Gottschalk
18 th	Project training	Southern	Owen McIntyre
February 2009			
21 st	Stewartdale	Southern	David Gottschalk
22 nd	Project training	Southern	Owen McIntyre
TBA	Social Weekend	Southern	David Gottschalk
March 2009			
6 th	Stewartdale	Southern	David Gottschalk
7 th - 13 th	Pig Project	Central	Mark Woods
April 2009			
10 th -18 th	Avocet Project	Central	Bill Sandeman
18 th	Stewartdale	Southern	David Gottschalk
19 th	Project training	Southern	Owen McIntyre
May 2009			
16 th	Stewartdale	Southern	David Gottschalk
17 th	Project training	Southern	Owen McIntyre
June 2009			
13 th - 20 th	Pig Project	Central	Mark Woods
September 2009			
26 – 4 th Oct	Avocet Project	Central	Mark Woods

Our Supporters

The businesses listed below support us in different ways, whether it is through direct discounts to members, donations to the Christmas Shoot, or items loaned for field use.

When purchasing items from these businesses please be sure to mention you are a Hunting & Conservation member for discounts where applicable.

Rebel Gun Works

Ph: 3391 6744
Fax: 3391 8835

Queensland Gun Exchange

Ph: 3393 0933
Fax: 3393 0711

Email: sales@qldgunexchange.com.au
www.qldgunexchange.com.au

Ron Gooley's***

Radiators	Air Conditioning
Mechanical	Auto electrics
Electronic Tuning	Alternators
Fuel injection	Starter motors
Brake & Clutch	Log Book Servicing

Ph: 3209 1033
Moss Street, Slacks Creek

Queensland Shooters Supplies

Ph: 3202 2111
Fax: 3812 8071

Emails: sales@qss.org.au
Or for the indoor range: sales@qir.org.au

Mercury Marine

www.mercurymarine.com.au

Go to the Dealer Locator for your nearest dealer.

Creek Marine

Ph: 3354 1475
Fax: 3354 1455

Barclay Transport

Ph: 0412 764 000
Fax: (07) 5533 9079

Emails: btranspt@bigpond.net.au

*****Ron Gooley's specialise in high output alternators and electronic fitouts.**

If anyone has time to spare please consider getting involved in this very worthwhile activity.

From H&C Management

HELP US TO SAVE AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

Project Kial: A Bridled Nailtail Recovery Program based in Marlborough, Central Queensland, is embarking on an unprecedented captive breeding program run by a community group under the auspices of Queensland's EPA. We are in need of volunteers to do a wide variety of work including fencing, shade sails, maintenance, animal husbandry and monitoring.



Anyone interested in endangered species conservation, macropods, or wildlife management in general is encouraged to visit www.aace.org.au and click on "Project Kial". Fill out the volunteer application form or ring Tina Janssen 0408613914.

You are guaranteed an experience of a lifetime!!