



# THE C&WM NEWS

## March 2016

General Meeting Wednesday 16th March 2016, 7.00 pm at  
GAZA Sports & Community Club, Corner of Main North  
East Rd and Wellington St Klemzig.

### SSAA-CWM - ACTIVITY PROGRAM-2016 (DRAFT VERSION – 15/02/16)

Please note: some DEWNR activities are still subject to approval.

DATE	ACTIVITY	COORDINATOR
13/03/16	NESSCI Range Day	Tony N
15/03/16	CWM Council (meeting 7.00pm CWA)	Council
16/03/16	CWM General Meeting 7pm at Gaza Comm Club	Council
25 - 29/3/16	Hiltaba – Spotlighting & cull	Rick F
09/04/16	Range Day at Monarto – 10am – 3 pm	Council
12/04/16	CWM Council (meeting 7.00pm CWA)	Council
01- 07/05/16	Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges RNP - cull	Gil H
04/05/16	Roo Accreditation – Monarto Range (after sunset)	Chris C
07/05/16	SSAA State Council (10.30am at CWA)	Council
09 - 13/05/16	Bimbowrie CR & Boolcoomatta - cull	Phil J
10/05/16	CWM Council (meeting 7.00pm CWA)	Council
13 - 16/05/16	Bunkers CR – baiting, cull & S/L	Kaz H
17 - 20/05/16	Witchelina (NFSA) Project – S/L & cull	Kaz H
01/06/16	Range Day - Monarto (* mid-week) – 10am-3pm	Council
03 - 07/06/16	Hiltaba – Spotlighting & Survey	Rick F
05 -10/06/16	Brookfield	Ali W
05/06/16	NESSCI Range Day	Tony N
11/06/16	Accreditation Course (theory)	Gil H
21/06/16	CWM Council (meeting 7.00pm CWA)	Council
29/06/16	CWM General Meeting 7pm at Gaza Comm Club	Council
10/07/16	Range Day at Monarto – 10am – 3pm	Council
19/07/16	CWM Council (meeting 7.00pm CWA)	Council
06 -12/08/16	Gawler RNP – cull	Rick F
14/08/16	NESSCI Range Day	Tony N
17/08/16	Roo Accreditation – Monarto Range (after sunset)	Chris C
23/08/16	CWM Council (meeting 7.00pm CWA)	Council
27/08/16	SSAA State Council (10.30am at CWA)	Council



## Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia

CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT (SA) Inc

PO Box 188 Kent Town SA 5071

[www.conservation-wildlife.asn.au](http://www.conservation-wildlife.asn.au)



02 - 06/09/16	Hiltaba – Spotighting & cull	Rick F
02 - 08/09/16	Dutchman Stern – cull	Kaz H
02 - 08/09/16	Mt Brown – cull	Rob & Sue S
20/09/16	CWM Council (meeting 7.00pm CWA)	Council
21/09/16	Range Day – Monarto (*mid-week) – 10am-3pm	Council
23 - 29/09/16	South Flinders – Telowie, Napperby ..... cull	Shane F
28/09/16	CWM AGM 7pm at Gaza Comm Club	Council
08/10/16	Accreditation Course (theory)	Gil H
09/10/16	NESSCI Range Day	Tony N
10 - 15/10/16	Bimbowrie/Boolcoommatta cull	Phil J
18/10/16	CWM Council (meeting 7.00pm CWA)	Council
21/10/16	Vets Training Day at Monarto	Andy D
22/10/16	Range Day – Monarto – 10am - 3pm	Council
28/10-03/11/16	Dutchman Stern – cull	Nick N
28/10-03/11/16	Mt Brown – cull	Rob & Sue S
30/10-05/11/16	Vulkathunha-Gammon RNP – cull	Gil H
05/11/16	SSAA State Council AGM (10.30am at CWA)	Council
15/11/16	CWM Council (meeting 7.00pm CWA)	Council
18 - 21/11/16	Bunkers CR Bait, cull & S/L	Kaz H
22 - 25/11/16	Witchelina (NFSA) Project – S/L & cull	Kaz H
24/11-01/12/16	South Flinders – Telowie, Napperby ..... cull	Shane F
02 - 06 /12/16	Hiltaba – Spotighting & survey	Rick F
13/12/16	CWM Council (meeting 7.00pm CWA)	Council
14/12/16	CWM General Meeting 7pm at Gaza Comm Club	Council

NB: - All cull dates cover shooting from first sunrise to last sunset excepting spotighting activities which are from first sunset to last sunrise.

NESSCI Range Days – please contact Tony Nizzola 82636928 or Steve loakim 0412584711.

OFF PROGRAM (IRREGULAR) ACTIVITIES – please check with Activity Coordinator for details before registering.

Fleurieu – Forestry SA	Jim A 8390 1882
Telowie/Burra/Redbanks	Shane F 8634 4362
Buckaringa	Mark P 8380 5336
Yookamurra	Ali W 0412786281
Midweek Range (Monarto) – if in addition to above	Chris C 0415890075
Gluepot, Pualco, Pandappa	Phil J 0408431750
Southern Mallee	Evan R 8764 2169
Gum Creek Station cat, fox, rabbit control	Dennis D 0409 098 68

Every effort will be made not to make changes, but PLEASE CHECK ACTIVITY PROGRAM FOR UPDATES ON WEBSITE ([www.conservation-wildlife.asn.au](http://www.conservation-wildlife.asn.au)) and/or Activity Coordinator.



### Message of Appreciation

The message, above, from the manager of Brookfield was left on the chalkboard at Brookfield in recognition of C&WM's efforts in reducing feral goat destruction of a fragile habitat.

#### THIS "AGE" THING

A long term friend, when told of my X0th birthday, commented that it was inconsiderate of me, as it made him realise that he too must be old.

Entering the "senior years" does bring its challenges, and having had to face a few, I would offer some ideas that have worked for me. I have to qualify here that I have no medical qualifications, and, point out that those of you in your "youth (i.e. indestructible) phase" may decide to not read further.

- Fitness – one more reminder, that this is even more important – so, do continue walking (with a few ups and downs) regularly, always with sensitivity to signs of any discomfort or stress – do it slowly and stop to rest.
- Temperature – remember that your body normally operates at about 36.6 0C – so, if the ambient temperature is above that, your only cooling is by surface/skin evaporation. If outside temperature is above (say) 33 0C - exercise caution (sit in shade?). This brings up the following.
- "Hydration" – a very "in" word, which covers the need to drink so that you can "perspire" – cool by evaporation and keep your internals working – current studies indicate that you do not need to overdo it, and please note that beer does not produce endothermic reaction in your metabolism.
- Weight – may be part of fitness, and I have found the **2** (fast<1600 calories) **day-5**(eat) **day** "diet" to work for me – I lost 6kg and lowered my blood pressure slightly. Try lifting 6 litres of water! Don't overdo the weight loss – have regular meals to maintain your blood sugar levels or you will run out of "puff".
- Accept your limits – your mind may still be in your "youth state" – so do take care and use all the guile, wisdom, knowledge, .... acquired over all these years of life's experience to keep yourself going.

The above is very brief and limited – additions, suggestions, comments will be most welcome.

Kaz Herbst

### **PIRSA request for news of pigeon die-offs.**

If you notice any unexpected die-offs in pigeons PIRSA would be interested, although more likely to occur in domesticated/captive populations.

Official media release:

[http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/alerts\\_news\\_events/news/biosecurity/animal\\_health/pigeon\\_disease\\_detected\\_in\\_south\\_australia](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/alerts_news_events/news/biosecurity/animal_health/pigeon_disease_detected_in_south_australia)

### **SSAA 25 Year Membership Pin.**

Congratulations to Ronald Botten, Brian Faulds on being awarded SSAA 25 year membership pins.

### **C&WM member appointed to top Canberra position.**

Congratulations to our long time member Jeanine Baker who has recently been appointed to the post of Director / Discovery Program at Australian Research Council

The Australian Research Council (ARC) is one of the Australian government's two main agencies for allocating research funding to academics and researchers at Australian universities. Its mission is to deliver policy and programs that advance Australian research and innovation globally and benefit the community.

### **Got a view on cockatoos?**

Large flocks of little corellas – a common Australian cockatoo – can cause problems in urban and rural areas during the warmer months.

The most common problems are damage to trees, taking grain, and disturbing residents with their noise. They can also cause damage to wooden structures, shade sails, crops and buildings – particularly when they chew flashing or wiring.

You're invited to contribute to a research project designed to help us better understand the behaviour of little corellas.

You can get involved by:

- completing the online survey
- attending a workshop
- helping to collect data from the field.

The research project is a collaborative project between the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources and UniSA's Discovery Circle to inform a new Little Corella Management Plan for South Australia.

For more information and to complete the survey visit the Discovery Circle website. [www.discoverycircle.org.au/projects/little-corellas/](http://www.discoverycircle.org.au/projects/little-corellas/)

Excerpted from Natural Resources Northern and Yorke "Volunteers in Action" newsletter

### **Member Mail Facility on C&WM Website**

We are experiencing a little difficulty with Member Mail.

Hopefully all will be operational soon but to be certain of contacting Club Instructor Gil Hartwig re chits or firearms transfer use [hargil@senet.com.au](mailto:hargil@senet.com.au).

### **Position Vacant**

C&WM Council of Management (COM) expresses its thanks to Chris Carroll for the heart, time and effort he has put into the Honourable Secretary's role these last few years.

Chris has resigned from the position but is preparing the ground for the new secretary whom he will mentor into the role.

Please give thought to joining COM in the role of Secretary.

### **NESSCI Range Days Back On Timetable.**

NESSCI Range days have been re-instated in calendar of activities.

The first range day will be March 13th, then 5th June, 14th August, 9th October.

There will be a range fee of \$5.00 for each participant ( except for ROs) and there will be a sausage sizzle and raffle to help offset the range hire fee.

Contact Tony Nizzola 8263 6928 for further details.



### **Goats as carrion and the pyramid of life in the Flinders.**

Part of my thinking and observing when out hunting focuses on the ecosystem.

The ecosystem I know best and observe most, noting its changes, is that of the Flinders Ranges.

Some of the changes make sense: recovery of plants near water when sheep, goats and rabbits are removed; regrowth of tree suckers when grazing pressure is reduced; reduction in track erosion when cloven hoofs are fewer; more eagles where there are dead goats and kangaroos to eat; more cats where the rabbit density is greater.

Much of what we see changing is governed by rainfall; "bust or boom" ecology.

Having seen so much recovery during half a decade of average rainfall years (I use Hawker BOM historical weather statistics) I wonder if the ecosystem is more controlled by the drought years when annual rainfall is around 120 mm rather than by the "boom" times when 500+mm rain falls in a year producing the visually impressive germination of native pines, many wild flowers and other vegetation. (Drought is defined as rainfall below 120mm per year.)

Could removal of herbivores do more for the environment than good rainfall?

My indicators are mainly insect eating birds. They can choose where they live and breed.

They appear to favour living where we have culled a lot of goats.

The reptile population has increased as well.

One of the most plausible links between goats as carrion and small birds and reptiles is maggots.

Maggots colonise goat carcasses and small creatures feed on maggots.

In the case I have studied most closely, the weight of carrion laid down every month is huge relative to the total weight of all the small insectivorous birds, mainly thornbills and babblers but at least ten other similar sized species too.

Per bird, as a fraction of body weight, it is equivalent to a human of average weight having access to 20 kg of meat per day.

The amount of carrion left on the ground is far more than the birds can eat but competition for the goat carcass is pretty intense: bacteria, ants other insects, carrion eating birds/lizards/foxes/cats come around for a feed but flies and their maggots seem to compete well. And to provide sustenance for the next level of existence.

Small birds and reptiles are an important component of the pyramid of Flinders life.

The insects they consume are a great indication that the base of the pyramid (soil bacteria and the like) and the next level (plants) are doing well.

The small creatures provide food for higher levels of the pyramid and by consuming insects they provide some natural control of populations.

If goat carrion can boost these populations that help moderate the ecosystem, then a healthier system capable of supporting a greater diversity and density of species could evolve more quickly.

I wrote this article to ask for help from C&WM members.

I need more observations. I'd like more observations of behaviour by small birds, especially Thornbills and Babblers around carcasses, and changes in their populations over the time since organised C&WM goat culls began, and those of small reptiles.

I'm after observations of behaviour of small creatures around goat carrion at different times of year and in different locations; in different plant communities and differing geographic areas.

I need ideas about how to deal with a goat carcass so birds have greatest access to maggots: open the goat from stem to stern as is our practice to hasten decomposition or to make smaller cuts to create a better environment for maggots to breed but be accessible to their predators? Our practice is to leave them where they lie except in watercourse and near public roads and I don't believe we have any standard practice to select where they are when they are dropped? I anticipate in a few years time reporting to you on insectivorous birds and reptiles frequenting carcasses which are lain in their favoured habitats. Just like below where our eagles favour certain goats.

From February to May our local (5) eagles come to our fresh goat immediately and by day two have up to 14 of their brethren at the feast. The pictures show one of our local pairs. The trailcam captured them and the crows but no small birds on the open westerly hillside. The zoom lens photo shows them looking a bit tense, I was 20m away

I'd like to turn this into a scientific study so if you can inform me how long, in your experience, it takes a goat to decompose, and in what conditions they decompose the most rapidly and what parts of the ecosystem benefit from goat carrion, I will add your information to my folder titled "Goats as carrion and how this affects the ecosystem"

Tim Steele email: [ytoftim@compuserve.com](mailto:ytoftim@compuserve.com)

### **Gluepot Bird Sanctuary**

*Gluepot Bird Sanctuary is familiar to some C&WM members who conduct bird surveys and feral animal control there but after reading the Gluepot newsletter [www.gluepot.org](http://www.gluepot.org) with its news of bird population growth and photos of the wildlife to be seen, others may be tempted to camp in one of the campgrounds on the property and see some of the things the Gluepot Newsletter shows.*

Birdlife Australia's Gluepot Reserve is located approximately 60 km north of Waikerie and the River Murray, in the Riverland region of South Australia. It comprises approx. 64,000 hectares, or 540 sq. km., and is part of the largest block of intact Mallee remaining in eastern Australia, the Riverland Biosphere Reserve.

The land was purchased by Birdlife Australia in 1997, with the assistance of donations from over 2,400 people and organisations. Prior to becoming a conservation reserve, the land had a long and interesting history, principally as a marginal sheep grazing property.

Open to visitors on most days of the year, visitors have three campsites to choose from. And with over 200 species of birds observed on the Reserve, it is a wonderful place for birdwatching. And much more.....





### C&WM Activity Report Summary

Bendleby: 9-11/11/15

Activity Coordinator: Dennis Donovan

Members: 2

Animals taken: 4 foxes, 9 rabbits, 1 mouse

Quoll Protection Program -FRNP:

13-15/11/15

Activity Coordinator: Nick Nunn

Members: 3

Animals taken: 2 feral cats

Buckaringa CR: 20-22/11/15

Activity Coordinator: Mark Purdie

Members: 2

Animals taken: 44 feral goats, 2 rabbits

Yookamurra & Moorundie: 26-29/11/15

Activity Coordinator: Ali Wilkie

Members: 3

Animals taken: Nil

Pualco CP: 27-30/11/15

Activity Coordinator: Phil Johns

Members: 4

Animals taken: 41 feral goats

Second Valley: 1/12/15

Activity Coordinator: Jim Ayliffe

Members: 4

Animals taken: 4 feral deer, 1 fox, 2 rabbits

Wingfield: 12/2015

Activity Coordinator: Chris Carroll

Members: 2

Animals taken: 7 feral pigeons

Port Pirie: 7/12/15

Activity Coordinator: Alan Zubrinich

Members: 4

Animals taken: 62 feral pigeons

Hiltaba: 11-14/12/15

Activity Coordinator: Rick Fisher

Members: 6

Animals taken: 63 feral goats, 2 feral cats, 7 rabbits

Northern Areas: 14/12/15-29/12/15 (2 visits)

Activity Coordinator: Alan Zubrinich

Members: 4

Animals taken: 90 feral pigeons

Port Pirie (Wetlands): 20/12/15 - 17/01/16 (3 visits)

Activity Coordinator: Alan Zubrinich

Members: 6

Animals taken: 509 feral pigeons, 14 feral cats

Pandappa CP: 6-10/01/16

Activity Coordinator: Phil Johns

Members: 2

Animals taken: 20 feral goats

Hiltaba: 15-19/01/16

Activity Coordinator: Rick Fisher

Members: 2

Animals taken: 115 feral goats, 3 feral cats

Quoll Protection Program -FRNP:

16-19/01/16

Activity Coordinator: Nick Nunn

Members: 3

Animals taken: 10 feral cats

Brookfield CP & Bush Blocks: 17-22/01/16

Activity Coordinator: Ali Wilkie

Members: 10

Animals taken: 54 feral goats, 4 rabbits

Moorundie: 21/01/16

Activity Coordinator: Ali Wilkie

Members: 3

Animals taken: Nil

Yankalilla: 20/01/16

Activity Coordinator: Kym McKenney

Members: 2

Animals taken: 9 Western grey kangaroos

Second Valley: 9/02/16

Activity Coordinator: Jim Ayliffe

Members: 4

Animals taken: 2 feral deer, 1 fox, 5 rabbits

Gawler Ranges NP: 6-12/02/16

Activity Coordinator: Rick Fisher

Members: 5

Animals taken: 27 feral goats, 6 feral cats



Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia

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Stopped on the way to the office, to help an old mate across the road. - **Marcus Agaciak**

