



Invasive Animals CRC

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NRM Liaison Officer Jessica Marsh

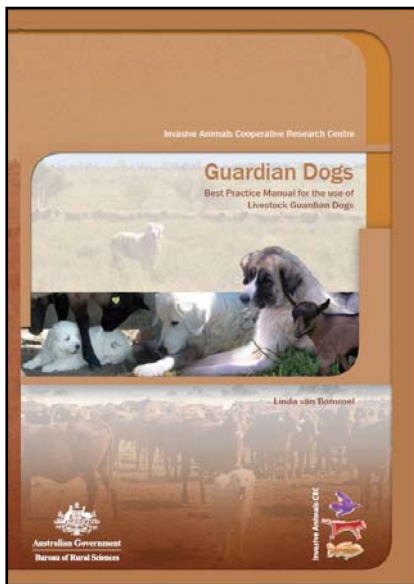
NRM Notes

Issue 4 ~ December 2010

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It has been a whole year since the first issue of NRM Notes was published, and this 4th issue is full of recent research, developments and publications focusing on the management of pest animals. Many areas of our country have been experiencing extreme weather conditions over the last few months which have no doubt made on ground pest management even more challenging. It's really the time to coordinate management of pest animals and if you need assistance in doing so, let me know and I can provide assistance where possible.

Please send any information about what you are up to and thanks for your support, Jessica



Guardian Dogs: Best practice manual for the use of livestock guardian dogs

Linda van Bommel

“In order to get the maximum benefit from guardian dog protection, proper training and management are crucial for the dog’s effectiveness and, as with any animal, producers thinking about using guardian dogs need to devote time to ensure it receives the right care and training”

(Greg Mifsud, IA CRC National Wild Dog Management Facilitator)

The use of guardian dogs for protecting livestock and managing the losses associated with predator attacks has been proven as a cost effective measure in the ongoing battle against wild dogs and foxes in rural Australia.

This is an easy to read, comprehensive manual that covers topics such as guard dog breeds, obtaining and training dogs and dog management once on farm.

The manual also features in depth case studies from different regions across Australia.

The Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre (IA CRC) has released this best practice guide for managing guardian dogs. The *Best Practice Manual for the use of Guardian Dogs* is designed to equip land managers with the knowledge to be self-reliant in livestock and property protection against wild dogs, foxes and other predators.

The manual provides landholders with another option — beyond fencing, baiting, shooting and trapping — to assist them to protect livestock from predation.

The manual and media release can be downloaded from the invasive animals CRC website at the link below.

Link: <http://www.invasiveanimals.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Guardian-Dogs-web.pdf>
Contact: Greg Mifsud, National Wild Dog Facilitator Greg.Mifsud@deedi.qld.gov.au



Diploma of Conservation and Land Management (Vertebrate Pests)

2010 Student Jason Wishart

I recently completed the Diploma of Conservation and Land Management (specialising in vertebrate pest management) run by the University of Canberra. Initially I wondered about the value of the course because I already had a degree Environmental Management. However, I found it to be highly beneficial. So if you are in the same position as me, don't be hesitant, I can highly recommend it.

The course is part-time and runs for approximately one year. During this time, you are required to attend three residentials and the remainder of the work can be completed via correspondence, which is great if you are employed full time or based interstate. I spent about 4 hours a week on the exercises.

Pest management is typically a small component of many non-specialist courses in which key management aspects are delivered with limited depth. In contrast, the Diploma course is entirely focused on pest management (based on decades of experience). The primary objective is to ensure that you understand the fundamentals of strategic pest management and can apply that knowledge to a real pest problem.



L to R: Mike Braysher, Clint Taylor, Tom Ralph, David Croake, Jason Wishart, Jessica Marsh & Murray Aston

Graduates can apply what they have learned to real life scenarios regardless of the pest species or the size of the problem. Additionally, they will be able to create a suitable monitoring and evaluation component to ensure the project achieves the desired objectives. As part of the course I am developing a large-scale plan to manage the damage that feral pigs cause to native wildlife and to crops in the upper Murray River of South Australia.

After completing the course, I will approach pest management from a different perspective, one in which I believe will be the way of the future.

Link: <http://www.invasiveanimals.com/education/industry/>
Contact: Mike Braysher, University of Canberra Mike.Braysher@canberra.edu.au



www.feral.org.au has been updated
check out the new site!

The new [feral.org.au](http://www.feral.org.au) website is easy to use, filled with useful and relevant information, photographs for download and has a brand new layout! Check it out for yourselves at www.feral.org.au when you need the most up-to-date invasive animal information.



Border Rivers- Gwydir CMA benefits from Invasive Species Plan

Jessica Marsh, NRM & Invasive Species Liaison Officer

Jessica Marsh has developed a new invasive species management plan for the Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authority (CMA) and the plan has been welcomed by weed and pest animal managers in the region.

The Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre and Industry & Investment (I&I) NSW brought together landholders, community groups, state and local government agencies, CMA staff and Livestock Health and Pest Authority rangers to develop a collaborative approach across the entire catchment.

I&I NSW natural resource management liaison officer, Jessica Marsh, said the plan would help ensure regional infrastructure, knowledge and resources could be effectively used to better manage weeds and pest animals.

“This is a flexible and practical plan which takes into account existing infrastructure and local knowledge and ties that to the latest research and recommendations on managing invasive species,” Mrs Marsh said.



The invasive species plan is available to view on-line at www.feral.org.au. If you are part of an NRM, CMA or natural resource management group and would like to create a strategic plan of your own, please contact Jessica Marsh on the details below- strategic and coordinated planning is an essential part of managing our invasive species into the future.

Link: <http://www.feral.org.au/invasive-species-managment-plan-brg/>

Contact: Jessica Marsh: (02) 6391 3907, NRM & Invasive Species Liaison Officer, Invasive Animals CRC, I&I NSW

Successful Community Action Grants 2010- 2011 – [The importance of community and volunteers](#)

The Australian Government has recently announced this years Community Action Grants to 453 community groups to support conservation of the Australian landscape. Minister Burke said

“the health of the Australian landscape depends on the work of volunteers and community groups, including improving farm practices, carrying out revegetation, controlling pest animals, weed removal and tree planting,”

453 community groups will share more than \$7.9 million through the Government’s Caring for our Country initiative. The Community Action Grant funding includes:

- 137 projects in New South Wales
- 117 projects in Queensland
- 80 projects in Victoria
- 48 projects in South Australia
- 46 projects in Western Australia
- 14 projects in Tasmania
- 9 projects in the Northern Territory
- 2 projects in the Australian Capital Territory

From these projects, there are **31 pest animal specific projects** that cover wild dogs, rabbits, foxes, feral goats, feral pigs, feral cats, cane toads, and hares. Well done to all those that submitted an application and to those that were successful, congratulations! If you are a successful applicant and would like any assistance with planning, implementing or monitoring your project, don’t hesitate to contact me (Jessica Marsh), Invasive Species / NRM Liaison Officer and together we can develop a strategy or project plan to suit your needs. I can also provide you with the most useful resources and services possible.

A complete list of successful 2010-11 Community Action Grants projects is available at www.nrm.gov.au

Link: <http://www.nrm.gov.au/cag/cag-projects/2010-11/index.html>

Contact: Jessica Marsh: (02) 6391 3907, NRM Liaison Officer, Invasive Animals CRC



Hog Hopper™ available in 2011

There is another tool available to help manage feral pig impacts. The HogHopper™ has been developed by Steve Lapidge and Jason Wishart of the Invasive Animals CRC with assistance from the Australia Pest Animal Management Program. It is a feral pig specific bait delivery system and will be on sale through Animal Control Technologies Pty Ltd and ready for delivery in early 2011. The unit offers peace-of-mind feral pig baiting, with stock and other wildlife prevented from accessing toxic bait, and also helps to maintain bait freshness and palatability. The HogHopper™ was launched at the Australasian Wildlife Management Conference in Torquay, Victoria in early December and there was a lot of interest in the unit from a good range of



Currently, the packaging design and arrangements for the HogHopper™ are being finalised to try and minimise delivery costs. Animal Control Technologies Australia are hoping to be distributing units by the end of January.

If you are curious or interested in purchasing one or more units, it is best to contact Phil Morrow, Sales & Marketing manager who is handling orders and purchases- his details are contained below. I will also notify you all on any new developments as they arise so you can get the Hoppers out on the ground as quickly as possible- don't hesitate to contact me either if you would like more information- my details are on the front page of this newsletter.

Remember- this is a new and innovative tool to help combat the impacts of feral pigs in all types of terrain and can be used with any bait type.

Contact: Phil Morrow, Sales & Marketing manager, Animal Control Technologies Pty Ltd
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Fax 03 9308 9622
Mobile: 0408 97 55 22
Email: pmorrow@animalcontrol.com.au
Web: www.animalcontrol.com.au

Missed an issue of NRM Notes?
All issues are available on-line at:

<http://www.invasiveanimals.com/research/goals/goal-11/nti/>



Calling for Abstracts NOW!

For more information visit the
website: www.avpc.net.au



Thank you again for your contributions to NRM Notes throughout 2010. In 2011, NRM Notes will be distributed 4 times throughout the year, instead of 3. This will provide you all with more chance to report on the happenings in your area and I can inform you more regularly about what is happening with invasive animals, their impacts and management solutions.

Remember – it is always valuable to learn from others so get in the habit of letting us know what you are doing- NRM Notes is the perfect place!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Research in review...

This section of NRM Notes is dedicated to the scientific papers that have recently been published and don't readily find their way out to on-ground managers and members of NRM agencies. Below are two summaries of recent journal publications that cover modern and relevant issues regarding pest animal management- enjoy

Modern approaches for the biological control of vertebrate pests: An Australia perspective

Glen Saunders, Brian Cooke, Ken McColl, Richard Shine, & Tony Peacock

From: Biological Control 52 (2010) 288-295.

Journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ybcon

Journal Abstract:

Vertebrate pests cost Australia at least \$1 billion annually in lost agricultural production and environmental damage. The spectacular success of myxomatosis in the 1950s and more recently, rabbit hemorrhagic disease, in the biological control of European rabbits has led to ongoing research into similar solutions for other vertebrate pests. There are significant barriers to the successful employment of biological control options including the obvious technological ones, such as host-specificity, as well as the investment required, public concerns and regulatory requirements. The role of biological control in vertebrate pest management and the attempts to develop such strategies in Australia is reviewed with emphasis on species specific case studies for rabbits, cane toads and carp, and the generic approaches of immunocontraception and daughterless genes.

*Implications of wild dog ecology on the sylvatic and domestic life cycle of *Neospora caninum* in Australia*

Jessica King, David Jenkins, John Ellis, Peter Fleming, Peter Windsor, Jan Šlapeta

From: The Veterinary Journal 2010-12-13

Journal homepage: [journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/tvj](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/tvj)

Journal Abstract:

Neospora caninum is transmitted either transplacentally or horizontally by ingestion of tissue cysts present in tissues or oocysts shed by dogs. Neosporosis is a significant disease, causing cattle abortion at 5-7 months of pregnancy. Infected cows may remain infective for life transmitting the infection in several consecutive or non-consecutive pregnancies. A great deal is known about the epidemiology of neosporosis, although only limited information is available on the main routes of horizontal transmission. In Australia, the presence of the dingo as the top-order predator suggests a potential sylvatic route of transmission between dingoes and as yet unknown native wildlife in addition to the domestic route via dogs with access to infected tissue on farms.

This review article critically evaluates the overlap between the domestic and sylvatic routes, taking into account canine ecology, and summarises current understanding of the transmission of *N. caninum* to provide a foundation for epidemiologists, farmers and conservation biologists dealing with neosporosis and wild dog control programs.

If you would like any of these scientific papers supplied in full, please don't hesitate to contact me and I can arrange to email or post you a copy.

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