



# SSAA Conservation & Wildlife Management

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## Success Stories

### New South Wales

The 'Buy Back the Bush' program in New South Wales began in 1993 and involved the purchase of a property where hunting and rehabilitation activities would restore the land back to its former glory. Tilterwiera Station, an 80,000-acre property in the north-west of the state, was the first acquisition of this program. Overgrazing issues and abundant feral pig and goat populations made this the perfect site for SSAA NSW to purchase and manage. Much work has been done to create a balance in biodiversity and to create wildlife and habitat linkages with the Nocolche Nature Reserve, which is home to 171 bird, 13 mammal and 37 reptile species.

### South Australia

In 2001, the SA Conservation & Wildlife Management branch assisted in the purchase of the Bunkers Conservation Block in the Flinders Ranges National Park, which has opened the door for more opportunities. The 142 sq km block allowed the group to show commitment to not only problem animal control, but also wildlife monitoring, revegetation and actions to protect the local yellow-footed rock wallaby population. The SA branch began culling operations in the Flinders Ranges in 1991 and the group's work in the region has been in close cooperation with SA State Government agencies.

### Queensland

The floods that ravaged parts of Queensland in early 2011 created a headache for environmental groups across the state as the long process of cleaning up began. The Queensland Conservation & Wildlife Management branch stepped in to lend a hand after learning that hundreds of tonnes of black irrigation tubing had littered waterways and bushland in the south of the state. The group was keen to help clean up the mess to protect the wildlife and waterways in the area from any dangers associated with the large clumps of tubing. While, not directly a hunting-related activity, the group believed that this activity was worthwhile, as the members were keen to see their region recover to its original state.

### Victoria

In 2006, Victoria's Mt Mittamatite Regional Park was overrun with feral goats and any vegetation that was within reach of a goat was heavily grazed. Hillsides were literally grazed back to bare dirt. Members of the Victorian Conservation & Wildlife Management branch began hunting and culling feral goats on behalf of State Government agencies and the change in habitat quality was remarkable following just two years of effort. Vegetation on the hillsides was regenerating and by the third year, the feral goat population had decreased so much that the Victorian branch members could only account for three feral goats in four trips to the area. SSAA Victoria had to work quite hard to be allowed to hunt in certain national parks in the first place when culling operations began; today, they are usually the first point of call for help in controlling problem animals in a coordinated way.

Members of SSAA Conservation & Wildlife Management branches across the country dedicate their time and resources to the preservation of native Australian flora and fauna. These specialised groups operate in each state and territory to help conserve wildlife and assist in the management of problem species on both public and private land.

These hunting groups provide services that help maintain the balance of Australia's fragile ecosystems. Members perform a variety of tasks including feral animal control, data collection (assisting with wildlife surveys and counts), assisting landholders (by checking fences, dams and stock), undertaking vegetation management, and maintaining ecological communities.

The SSAA Conservation & Wildlife Management branches are involved in ongoing problem species control campaigns in national parks for the benefit of all wildlife and plants. These activities are carried out in conjunction with government agencies, local governments and like-minded conservation groups.

## Be Part of the Solution

Going out to dinner tonight? He is!

# SAVE OUR WILDLIFE

Join us and be part of the solution

[ssaa.org.au](http://ssaa.org.au)



The majority of the SSAA's 130,000 members participate in some form of hunting activities. We know they voluntarily put their own time, money and resources into managing introduced species such as rabbits, foxes, feral cats, goats, dogs and pigs. All of these species have been reported to cause significant levels of environmental, economic and social damage across Australia. Hunters are certainly part of the solution to

managing the impacts of Australia's most damaging problem species. We believe that all management tools should be considered when attempting to reduce the reported \$270 million per year impact these species have on our economy and the environment.

Visit [www.ssaa.org.au](http://www.ssaa.org.au) to find out how you can Be Part of the Solution.

### Membership

All SSAA members can become a member of a local SSAA Conservation & Wildlife Management branch by fulfilling a simple accreditation program. The accreditation program covers the following components:

- Map reading
- Navigation
- Firearm safety and handling
- Wildlife appreciation and management
- Ethical hunting
- First-aid course
- 'Living in the field' course
- Shooting accuracy test

SSAA Conservation & Wildlife Management members, like all members of the SSAA, are covered by the SSAA National \$20 million Public Liability Insurance Policy and Group Personal Accident Policy. Members are required to buy and use their own equipment and fund their own personal expenses.

### Objectives

SSAA Conservation & Wildlife Management branches have the following objectives:

- To identify, maintain, protect and restore biotic communities.
- To work with private and government departments and land managers to identify causes of degradation and imbalances.
- To define specific program goals.
- To create plans for effective removal of problem animal species.
- To monitor responses to organised culls and record appropriate data.
- To establish maintenance programs.
- To provide members with additional hunting opportunities through problem animal control projects.
- To introduce new members to hunting through wildlife control programs under the guidance of experienced hunters.