



' BIDGEE BULLDUST SUMMER 2019

EDITOR: CATHY CROFT



MANAGER'S REPORT (12TH FEB 2019)

PETER SCHOFIELD

PROPERTY CONDITIONS

Property conditions are extremely dry at the moment with several days reaching well into the mid-40s. Toopuntul has received a few Summer storms in the last few weeks, but our annual total is still low. We have only received 157ml of rain this year.

The Murrumbidgee is flowing more than this time last year, but it has not been enough to keep away the green algae tinge. When the water flow stops, the water becomes stagnant in the river.

Due to this it is recommended we don't use it for swimming for the time being, and for health reasons do not eat any fish caught whilst fishing. Please only catch and release. When watering the garden, there is a distinct smell about it. Please do not attempt to drink from the river or our taps. It will be harmful to your health.

The Lachlan has been low with no water in the lake system up until the 29th of January. But as of the 30th of January, a large head of water came through, which was pre-planned as an environmental flow into the area.

The lake system has begun to fill at a rapid rate with Nooran Lake filling out past the Air Boat Landing leaving the area looking great again. We have another flow coming on top of this one, which we were advised about, in another 2 weeks or so. With that in mind, and with a bit of luck, this should fill dry lake at the end of it all. Which for us will probably mean sewing a crop on it for agistment and/or dorper's.

STOCK

The dorper's are doing well considering the season we are experiencing (hot, dry and windy). We sold our first lot of lambs mid-January, but didn't do as

Page 1 | 12

TOOPUNTUL HOLDINGS LIMITED

ACN 005 585 964

Oxley, via Hay NSW 2711

+61 2 6993 6751 | manager@toopuntul.com.au | www.toopuntul.com.au

well as we had planned. Improvement all round for our next sale, with hopefully cooler conditions and heavier weights.

We sold 218 lambs, all wethers (male lambs). We retained the other 200 (odd) ewes for our breeding flock. We plan to build this up to a number that can justify doing our own B double load each time we sell to the abattoirs. You will have noticed that our dorper's are lambing again so full steam ahead!

We currently have:

- 500 Adult Ewes
- 230 Lamb Ewes
- 10 Rams
- Approx. 250 new lambs (not sure of sex yet)

We currently have 281 head of assorted agistment cattle from Owen Waller on the property grazing in Nooran on the crop and reed beds.

The Clear Lake crop was a success reaching roughly head height, but you wouldn't be able to tell that now. Our agistee Owen Waller paid Toopuntul for the use of the crop for his cattle to make them fatter. It proved to be a great opportunity for us, and we will take this opportunity again in the future when the conditions are right.

INFRASTRUCTURE

We have had an extensive fencing program running since my last report with the Nooran and Boyong fence now being complete all the way down to the river. The fence sits on a large levy bank out of the water with culvert pipes along it, so the water can flow from one side to the other.

We have also replaced the northern boundary fence between North Airstrip – North Skeleton. Also, Tupra fence, along with 4km of fence on the Nap Nap Boundary. We have added 3 barb wires to the bottom of our internal fences N.S Airstrip, N.S Skeleton and along the driveway. We will still have approximately 2050 lightning droppers to put in place and some Riverina mesh in the channel and drain crossing to complete.

I'd like to thank Nicolas Pratt's crew and Ben and Tori for helping with the first lot of droppers. When

complete our dorper's will be able to graze those paddocks securely.

I'd also like to thank Jim Gowty and crew for their work on the new shareholder garage where shareholder cars and boats are stored. We still have 2 spots available in the garage. Please see myself or Robert if you wish to take up the opportunity to store your car or boat.

Wood cutting has halted in the 'Bidgee country at the moment, but we still have James Cameron Cutting and clearing in Nooran on the west side of the channel. Please be aware of this if you are shooting up in Nooran.

Can I also make you aware that last weekend, we had some items (work lights) go missing from the workshop shed. There was no one in camp at the time, but my dog Princess was barking at something. I went down to the campground to check but saw nothing. When I came back to the house, she was still barking. I thought I heard a faint boat motor, but wasn't sure. It wasn't until the next day that I noticed some work lights missing from the shed. It has been reported to the police. Please just be aware and make sure all your valuables are securely locked up in the campground.

PESTS

For those of you who weren't aware we had a Local Lands Service chopper shoot in November and they were very happy with the way we are handling our pig numbers. They only got 12 pigs and 1 fox for the two hour shoot over Toopuntul. This is a great result considering next door got in excess of 2,900 pigs. This means we are all doing a great job keeping them under control within our boundaries.

Pig numbers to date (28/3/18 – 7/2/19)

- Trapped - 168 / Shot – 548 = **Total 716**

VISITORS

Visitors to the farm have been in great numbers considering the heat:

- Shareholders - 43
- Spouse & U16 - 21
- Guests – 27

2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A gathering of shareholders at the Community Shed on Saturday 24th November saw the 2018 AGM carried off in fine style.

Chairman Clint Comelli ruled the meeting with an iron fist (in a velvet glove) and made mention in his address of some highlights including:

- Noting that Toopuntul made a small profit again this financial year.
 - The main inputs for the year being agistment and firewood.
- Thanking all involved in the property and those who have helped out over the year.
 - Acknowledging shareholders contribution in ensuring that Toopuntul is in a great position financially.
- Although the Dorper's have not yet made a profit, they are likely to in the coming months.
 - The diversification of farming is working very well as we cannot solely rely on one thing.
- Our investments performed well last year and continued to add another source of diversified income to the Profit & Loss.
- Toopuntul over the last few weeks had some much needed rain, which should green things up and provide some feed for the dorpers and agistment cattle.
- If anyone would like to be involved moving forward in any capacity please make yourself known to the board.

In other business Jim Gowty and Simon Pratt were re-elected as directors and Peter Schofield and Andy Turner were appointed as associate directors.

A lively discussion was held and when questions had been answered and viewpoints aired the meeting was adjourned.

Meetings of the Toopuntul Camping & Recreation Club Inc. and Oxley Angling Club Inc. followed.

Refreshments were made available and attendees were given a stubby holder with the new Toopuntul logo.

Rohan Stone took over as catering manager in charge of salads and the spit roast. This year we had a suckling pig (thanks to Paul Schofield), and an orphaned dorper lamb that was found wandering around.

Jim Gowty oversaw the spit roast and Jason Aubrey sliced and diced. The results were magnificent! To top this off Sue Aiken supplied and prepared strawberries and cream - also magnificent!

Thanks to those who helped put together a wonderful feast for the meeting.

ROBERT STURZAKER



Dust storm AGM weekend

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR COMPANY SECRETARY

Our Company Secretary is retiring from the position in 2020 so now is a great time for someone to step forward to take on the role.

Duties include:

- Taking minutes for Toopuntul Board & AGM meetings
- Executing share transfers
- Correspondence between the Board and shareholders and others from time to time.

If you are interested and want to know more about the position contact Robert Sturzaker on 0416 302 301 or rsturzaker@bigpond.com."

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Visitors to Toopuntul will notice two new additions put in place by JAAG Professional Builders early in December.

We now have a grid at the campground entrance - so there won't be a need to get out to open and close the gate with the added bonus that your tyres will get a free clean out as you cross the grid!



There is also a new garage shed near the workshop for shareholder vehicles. The garage was financed by a core group of shareholders who have vehicles stored at Toopuntul, fronting up with three year's rent in order to get the ball rolling.



*Garage under construction
(Geoff Gowty in charge!)*

One spot remains available for rent at \$200 pa (increasing at CPI). In this way it is anticipated that the building will pay for itself over 10 – 15 years and then generate a modest profit for Toopuntul.

EMERGENCY SHED

As Toopuntul is evolving constantly, we are conscious about the safety of our shareholders and their property, to reinforce this we have recently built an Emergency Shed. You may have already noticed it, as it is painted bright RED and is located to the south west of the Toilet block.



The Emergency Shed contains: a variety of fire extinguishers, a first aid kit, the firefighting trailer and a defibrillator for those that have had a big night or have become overwhelmed after claiming a trophy Pig/fish/bag of ducks!

So next visit to the farm call over and familiarize yourself with the new shed and its contents in readiness for the next emergency!

JIM GOWTY

Page 4 | 12

TOOPUNTUL HOLDINGS LIMITED

ACN 005 585 964

Oxley, via Hay NSW 2711

+61 2 6993 6751 | manager@toopuntul.com.au | www.toopuntul.com.au

HISTORY OF TOOPUNTUL TITLES & LEASES



In the aftermath of the first and second World Wars around 40,000 returned servicemen and women took up an offer of farming land made possible by Soldier Settlement schemes in all states of the Commonwealth. They were soon to discover that the land was no gift and life was hard. As testament to this, less than half remained on the land fifteen years later.

Some of these settlements were along the Lachlan River – and what soldier would not have been happy with 100 acres bordering this river in 1919?

As we know there are no soldier settlements left on Toopuntul Station today, but as a result the “property” remains the aggregation of smaller parcels of land (some of which may have originally been soldier settlements....)

The map (above) shows the pieces of the puzzle ranging from 60 acres up, some of which were granted as long ago as 1883.

In addition to this, there are reserves for roads and travelling stock. Travelling Stock Reserves (TSRs) are parcels of Crown land reserved under legislation for use by travelling stock. Local Land Services is responsible for the care, control and maintenance of almost 500,000ha of TSRs in NSW.

TSRs located along the rivers made sense when stock movement was mostly by foot or hoof. Accordingly, the TSRs on Toopuntul are located along the Murrumbidgee frontage, with the largest runs from the Boyong boundary to the upstream end of the campground. Further historical portions of TSRs located along the Murrumbidgee frontage are no longer contiguous, so stock movement is no longer possible along these routes without crossing private property (ie Toopuntul Station).

A road reserve (that roughly follows the track to the pump house) can be seen at the bottom right hand corner of the property.

Although Toopuntul Holdings Ltd has a pastoral lease for the TSRs, in theory the Local Land services or Crown Lands could exercise their rights over these portions of the property. This one of the reasons that shareholders who build in the campground are encouraged to opt for demountable accommodation (just in case they have to be relocated). Toopuntul presently has a twenty year lease on the portion of the campground where the toilet and shower block is located, which is due for renewal in 2026.

Allocation of “sites” within the campground is a matter for discussion with the Manager, as no legal right of title exists. In addition, new camps need to be relocatable and approved by the Board.

Previous Manager, Mick Callanan investigated the possibility of amalgamating titles into one single holding, but it was determined that the expense would not be justified as there was no real gain. The property therefore seems destined to remain a mixture of titles, reserves and leases.

In practice no one has bothered Toopuntul for 40 years, and that is how we hope things will stay!

ROBERT STURZAKER

HISTORY OF SHARES IN TOOPUNTUL HOLDINGS

BACKGROUND

In 1979 thirty two shareholders took up the original stock offering in Toopuntul, many purchasing a number of shares. Issues of new capital followed, a total of 41 in the early 1980s and 9 in 1987.

Of these shareholders who provided the original capital for the purchase and management of the property, 22 (20%) remain on the register. Since then shares have changed hands at a rate of 7 or 8 per year. We now have 110 shareholders holding 122 shares.

CURRENT SITUATION

Although there are a number of shareholders with multiple shares this confers on them no additional voting power as the *Memorandum and Articles of Association* allow only one vote per shareholding.

Over the years as the property fortunes waxed and waned demand for shares has fluctuated. This is typical of privately held companies and while the Board understands that a steady trade in shares is good for the company (providing those that wish to move on an opportunity to sell and providing newcomers who are interested to become shareholders), there is little that can be done to directly stimulate the market.

In the early noughties as the millennial drought sunk its teeth into Toopuntul we had 14 sellers and no buyers. This situation passed and now with the property doing well through diversified sources of income and a new farming strategy, any available shares are now being snapped up. This is also a natural outcome as families grow and shares are purchased for younger family members.

There currently exists an opportunity for shareholders who may be considering selling to do so while prices are high. Timing is good as we appear to be entering another dry spell. **Sales in the past three years have averaged \$22,500 per share.**

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Rod Jouning (jouning56@optusnet.com.au)

SALE OF BOYONG/JUANBUNG

The neighbouring properties of Boyong/Juanbung recently sold for an estimated \$55 million.

The Nature Conservancy a charitable organization which focuses on environmental protection - bought Juanbung and Boyong stations near Oxley in a joint venture with Tiverton Agriculture.

<https://www.natureaustralia.org.au/>

The two properties include 33,000 hectares of prime grazing land and the Great Cumbung Swamp wetlands.

Tiverton Ag is a subsidiary of Orana Agriculture, which last year spent almost \$20 million buying one of the country's biggest privately owned fruit growing operations, Sunland Fresh Fruit.

It also owns the 10,654-hectare Picardy cattle station, near Dysart in Central Queensland, which it acquired just over a year ago for \$27 million.

The agribusiness group, which now has more than \$100 million of assets under management, is led by Nigel Sharp, a director at water-focused rural fund manager Kilter Rural and Harry Youngman. He is also a director at Melbourne-based investment firm Lyons Capital, and runs beef producer Ardgartan Pastoral Company.

Tiverton will operate the property with the dual objectives of conservation and sustainable agriculture.

"We look forward to managing this outstanding property and exploring future sustainable land use options such as carbon, biodiversity offsets and stewardship, and ecotourism," said Mr Sharp.

The Great Cumbung will be managed in conjunction with the 87,000-hectare Gayini Nimmie Caira property, which was purchased for conservation by the NSW Government in 2012 and is now managed by TNC and Nari Nari Tribal Council.

ROBERT STURZAKER



WATERBIRDS IN THE LACHLAN

Written by Carmen Amos,
Jennifer Spencer, Emma Wilson
and Joanne Lenehan from NSW

Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH)

The Lachlan wetlands play an important role in providing habitat for waterbirds. Knowing what species and how many there are helps us to understand the health of waterbird populations and the wetland areas they live in.



*White-necked heron;
Regularly spotted at Nooran Lake*

As the weather begins to warm up in spring, waterbirds travel to the Lachlan wetlands from near and far to eat, refuel and if the conditions are right, they will breed.

This makes it the best time of year to learn about the waterbird species that are in the Lachlan catchment.

Early this month scientists Carmen and Jennifer visited Dry, Clear and Nooran lakes to count the types and number of waterbirds. This involved early starts being up before the sun as many birds are most active at dawn and dusk while being less active in the middle of the day.

Using a telescope and listening carefully to bird calls Carmen and Jennifer recorded all the waterbirds they could hear and see at Dry Lake, Clear Lake and Nooran Lake.

The number of birds was less than the last two years which isn't surprising given the dry conditions and the Dry Lake survey area was completely dry. The photos (above right) taken by Jennifer Spencer show the difference in habitat at Nooran Lake compared to the same time in 2016 post-flooding.

However, Clear Lake and Nooran Lake were a hub of activity providing an important haven for 13 waterbirds species this Spring and Summer. Nooran Lake was partially full with water for the environment, and although a drying lake might not be considered picturesque to some, the mudflats provide important habitat for shorebirds and other waders that like to hang out on the water's edge.



Two species you might find on the mudflats are the yellow-billed spoonbill (above) and if you are very lucky the migratory common greenshank.

Sharp-tailed sandpipers



Did you know?

- the **common greenshank** observed on the edges of Nooran Lake this year is a migratory bird that travels all the way from Siberia over 13,000 kilometres away. The birds come to Australia to eat and rest before returning to the northern hemisphere to breed. That's one fit bird!
- the **yellow-billed spoonbill** like the name suggests has a spoon shaped bill which they use to eat insects. Their bills have vibration detectors called papillae which helps them to find food moving in murky waters.

End-of-system operational flows saw water arriving at Nooran in mid-September 2018, closely followed in mid-October by Commonwealth Environmental Water (CEW). The CEW whole-of-system 'Run of the River' watering event had begun in the upper Lachlan with releases from Wyangala Dam starting on 24 August 2018. The water has made its way to the lower part of the Lachlan helping to provide important habitat for the waterbirds at Toopuntul and other foraging grounds in the Great Cumbung Swamp.

Whilst Carmen and Jennifer surveyed on ground, staff from the University of NSW and NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) hopped in a plane and headed to the Lachlan River where it flows into the Great Cumbung Swamp. Using a plane is a great way to get a 'birds eye view' to see what species are about.

Types of Waterbirds seen at Nooran & Clear Lakes in 2018



Most of the wetlands in the lower part of the Lachlan were completely dry or had only shallow pools of water. From the plane carp could be seen with their backs out of the water reflecting in the sunlight and swimming quickly through the water. There were not many waterbirds to see compared to Nooran and Clear lakes, a few of the usual suspects like grey teal, great cormorants and pacific black duck. There were also a few small flocks of glossy ibis in the small areas of water.

All the beautiful bird pictures have been supplied by Mal Carnegie, Lake Cowal Foundation. We acknowledge

the wonderful contributions and support of Toopuntul shareholders, staff and visitors. This makes the scientists work easier and we thank you.

For further information contact Carmen Amos at carmen.amos@environment.nsw.gov.au



OEH WATERBIRD SPECIES LISTINGS FOR TOOPUNTUL HOLDINGS 2016-2018

Species List Nooran Lake 2018

Australian Pelican
Black-winged Stilt
Common Greenshank
Great Cormorant
Great Egret
Grey Teal
Pacific Black Duck
Red-necked Avocet
Sacred Kingfisher
Whistling Kite
White-faced Heron
White-necked Heron
Yellow-billed Spoonbill

Species List Clear Lake 2016-2018

Australasian Darter
Australian Pelican
Australian Reed-Warbler
Black-fronted Dotterel
Dusky Moorhen
Eurasian Coot
Great Crested Grebe
Grey Teal
Little Black Cormorant
Little Pied Cormorant
Pacific Black Duck
Sacred Kingfisher
Straw-necked Ibis
Whistling Kite
White-faced Heron
White-necked Heron

Species List Clear Lake 2018

Australian Pelican
Grey Teal
Pacific Black Duck
Sacred Kingfisher

Species List Dry Lake 2016-2018

Australian Pelican
Australian Reed-Warbler
Australian Shelduck
Australian Wood Duck
Black Swan
Black-tailed Native-hen
Black-winged Stilt
Eurasian Coot
Golden-headed Cisticola
Grey Teal
Hardhead
Hoary-headed Grebe
Intermediate Egret
Little Black Cormorant
Little Grassbird
Little Pied Cormorant
Masked Lapwing
Pacific Black Duck
Plumed Whistling-Duck
Straw-necked Ibis
Whistling Kite
White-faced Heron
White-necked Heron

Species List Nooran Lake 2016-2018

Australasian Darter
Australasian Shoveler
Australian Pelican
Australian Shelduck
Australian White Ibis
Australian Wood Duck
Black Swan
Black-winged Stilt
Common Greenshank*
Eurasian Coot
Great Cormorant
Great Crested Grebe
Great Egret
Grey Teal
Hardhead
Little Black Cormorant
Little Pied Cormorant
Marsh Sandpiper*
Masked Lapwing
Nankeen Kestrel
Pacific Black Duck
Pied Cormorant
Pink-eared Duck
Red-necked Avocet
Sacred Kingfisher
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper*
Straw-necked Ibis
Swamp Harrier
Whistling Kite
White-faced Heron
White-necked Heron
Yellow-billed Spoonbill

**Indicates migratory species*



EASTER PROGRAM 2019 (19TH - 22ND APRIL)

The Easter program will again be the usual format:

GOOD FRIDAY

The Callanan Memorial Easter Shoot followed by Good Friday (Fish) BBQ at the Community Shed

EASTER SATURDAY

Brian Jouning Memorial Trophy Fishing Competition followed by evening fireworks at the airstrip

EASTER SUNDAY

Children's program: Easter Egg Hunt, Activities & Duck Race



The Easter BBQ and activities are put on for the participation and enjoyment of shareholders and their guests. All profits are put back into purchasing items for catering purposes, with the money raised from the Duck Race being donated to the Toopuntul Historical Society. The prizes for the Sunday Children's Program are donated by the Board and shareholders.

Toopuntul is all about community spirit particularly at such a busy time of year, so we are once again seeking support from shareholders to volunteer their assistance with running the program of events. If you are able to help please let Manager Peter Schofield know ASAP.

SHOOTING REMINDER:

For the safety of shareholders and their guests no game shooting is permitted on the property during the Easter program.

This year we are very fortunate to again have the capabilities of long time shareholder Colin Quick from *Quick as a Flash Pyrotechnics*



(www.quickasaflashpyrotechnics.com.au)

to conduct our exclusive fireworks display out on the airstrip. Although always happy to donate a substantial amount to putting on this spectacular which is the highlight of the weekends program, we again encourage contributions from shareholders and their guests.

EFT donations should include "FWyourname" in the *To Account* description of the payment.

Toopuntul EFT details are:

Toopuntul Holdings Ltd
BSB 062-554
A/C 10073012

CAMPING FEES REMINDER

SHAREHOLDER

Including partner & own children under 21
AND own grandchildren under 16
*\$90 camping (weekly or part thereof)

GUEST

(Includes Shareholder children 21+)
Including own children under 21 years -
*\$90 camping per person (weekly or part thereof)

(*Includes \$50 for fireworks)

To ensure that all events are suitably catered for please email Peter Schofield with your numbers by **Friday 12rd April**. (Any further info will be sent closer to the date).

We look forward to seeing you there!

MY FIRST DEER

I have been going to Toopuntul since I was a very young boy. My first few trips involved camping with my family. As a youngster my parents made me wear a life jacket around the campsite in case I came to grief near the river.

As I grew bigger my father let us shoot cans and other targets with a slug gun. Eventually I progressed to the .22 rifle and now to the .223 rifle. It should be noted that Dad has always taught me about how important gun safety is and to treat a gun as loaded at all times.

Several times a year Dad takes my brother and I to Toopuntul and I sit in the front seat of the ute with



the rifle and my brother mans the spotlight. While sitting in the front seat Dad can keep a close eye me using the rifle.

Initially I started shooting rabbits and feral cats. Once I gained some

experience I worked up to shooting my first pig about 2 years ago. I remember this like it was yesterday. The pig was about 50 kgs and the distance was approximately 60-70 metres.

On 10th October dad and I left Echuca for Toopuntul straight after school finished. We got to our hut about 7pm, as the sun was setting. After dining with other shareholders and guests Dad and I left for a quick spotlight up in Nooran. As we drove down the track on this Thursday night I thought it would be no different to any other night spotlighting. I was wrong.....

As Dad and I drove up to Clear Lake I spotted a Kangaroo with four legs which I then realised was a deer. We drove around to it and it started trotting away but I took the shot and knocked it down. We

then loaded the deer up and took it back to camp to hang for the night.

All Dad could say was that he had never shot a deer ever and here I was at 14 years of age bagging my first



deer. Then I realised that this was the first deer anyone in my family had shot. This puts me at #1 hunter deer in the family. Dad said I was lucky but clearly I am better shot than Dad is!

NICK STONE

THE JOURNAL

SUMMER AT TOOPUNTUL (PART 2)

Wednesday 27th December 2000

Quiet day. Slept in and washed clothes and gun. Rebaited set lines. No fish but lots of yabbies gone and I caught the large tortoise again. Took him down river for a couple of kms and chucked him out. If he gets back he can have the bait!

Listened to the cricket: Aust 1st Inns 364 WI 165 all out. Did some computer work.

10.30pm 20 ducks tonight in 10 mins. Unbelievable! Mark was spotlighting them and explained that what I thought was the old rice field was in fact sown one week ago. Timing could not be better. Pinky will go apeshit when he hears about this. Only shot big birds tonight - blacks, woods and hardhead. Also saw a cat near Xmas Bridge (no bell!). If Pinky wants to spotlight ducks he could shoot his 100 in one night. Mark offered to let me on the ute but I declined. Duck count to date 75!

Thursday 28th December 2000

I heard it was 15 deg in Melbourne. Up at 4.30am and out to Cumbungi Lake. Walked as far towards Charlie's Point as I could. No pigs. Shot 10 rabbits and 4 were crook but did not look like mixo - maybe

Page 11 | 12

TOOPUNTUL HOLDINGS LIMITED

ACN 005 585 964

Oxley, via Hay NSW 2711

+61 2 6993 6751 | manager@toopuntul.com.au | www.toopuntul.com.au

calicivirus? Shot a roo on the way back. Saw 3 pigs and shot 2. Rifle firing very high. I will take it back to the range.

Checked lines - yabbies gone, no fish, no tortoise. Fillet steak and mash potatoes and onions followed by golden syrup pudding and King Island cream. What a hard life. Looked at both freezers and chucked them both in the tip. Listened to the cricket and the WI are in deep shit.

10.50pm Shot 31 ducks in 10-15 mins. 60 shells. Unbelievable! Cumulative total 106. As I do not shoot well when I have had a stubby or two imagine how many a crack shot like Pinky would get. But where is Pinky when the rice needs protecting? At the beach!

Hint:- When it gets dark and they are swishing around your head - do not lead them, just swing with them.

Les' knife has been in pigs, roos, hare and rabbits and now dog. I sliced a chunk off Kate removing a burr - she is not very pleased.

Friday 29th December 2000

Cold morning 9 deg at 6.00am. Now 20 and windy. 9.45am "Great day in the Mawnin" Having a celebratory beer as I write. I know it is early but wait till you read this. 8.6 pigs. “.6?” you say - read on.

Drove along the river early (up at 4.30am) and saw two about 100lbs 1/2 km past gate. As they ran into the lignum, I shot 1. About another 1/2 km *(refer 25.12.00) I smelt something bad. I thought it might be the one I shot at Xmas day. Sure enough there she was and as I walked up out hopped her 2 little ones. I had the rifle and they were too close - no shot fired I will get them tomorrow with SG's. Drove around to the rice and saw 2 over the channel but they got into the dillon bush before I could get a shot. As I drove past the rice, I saw a big yellow and black one grazing just on the other side of the channel. Out of the car and down the road I go. I was worried she would spot me, so I sat and waited till she came to me. I shot her thru the chest and she dropped like a stone into the channel... and sank! Shit!

I drove the car to where she sank and looked up to see a black boar 200yds further down the same bank.



Out of the car and onto the bank. He was not cooperative and swam the channel. I shot him as he crossed the road.

These pigs were around 70kg I would say. I put on my waders and went in after the sow (which is why I have waders on in the photo!)

I tied these two to the car to drag them away. On the river side of the old unused rice paddies, 50 or so crows took off. They had been doing this each day and I thought I should take a look. 3 pigs 45kg+ and 2 tiny ones took off. I shot all 3 big ones. The largest probably 75 kg was a sow with 6 piglets in her. 7 pigs with one shot - beat that! (I have counted them as 0.6)

As I towed the other two to the dam across the levee I saw 4 small ones and shot one. As I drove over the levee at the gates the 3 remaining pigs ran over the mounds around the dam - no shot. As I drove to the dam 4 more small ones came to drink - I shot one. This is all dead set true 24 pigs sighted - 8.6 shot and one recovered from the 25th December.

To add icing to the cake it is cold and wet in Melbourne. WI 3 for 10 with Aust setting them 462 to win.

1.00pm Have painted another panel in roof and run out of goop - need more as 4th panel needs doing. Have Baygoned both boats with outdoor Baygon. Only one redback in Pinky's boat. It did not enjoy the Baygon. Did shed also, but nothing alive in there. WI 8 for at lunch. Can't get near boats without my eyes watering - strong stuff. Got car going, pumped up tyre. Filled with fuel.

10.45pm Saw 2 med and 4 small pigs at dam over levee. Shot 17 ducks on the rice. There were not the numbers of previous nights, and I did start drinking early... Cumulative Total 123 / Pigs 12.6. To be continued....

ROBERT STURZAKER