



GLENRAC's involvement in the Regional Pest Animal Project has included—

- Bait preparation day at Pinkett
- Bait preparation day at Deepwater
- Identifying signs and bait placement day at Strathbogie
- Pest animal field day at Kings Plains

Regional Pest Animal Project concludes

“It’s the best day of it’s kind I’ve ever been to, and I’ve been to a few!” said Bannockburn Landcare Group stalwart and Gwymac member Neville Bryant at the end of a New England North West Landcare Network Chairs (NENWLC) regional pest animal control field day.

“We covered topics we don’t normally get into and I didn’t realise there was such a large range of manufactured baits available,” agreed Sean Ballinger from Delungra, who also attended the event.

In partnership with Northern Tablelands Local Land Services (NT LLS), National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Landcare networks, and the Regional Landcare Facilitator, NENWLC engaged with landholders during 2014 aiming to strengthen community partnerships, and deliver broadscale, coordinated, integrated pest animal control programs across the New England and North west region through the delivery of training and planning events.

All presenters set up extensive displays of practical trapping equipment at each event, demonstrating their construction and use. NT LLS biosecurity officers, NPWS pest management officer Stuart Boyd-Law, and professional dog trapper Mark Lamb teamed up to outline the various types and preparation of grain for feral pig control and the principles of free feeding. Other topics covered explained the types of meat best used for fox and wild dog baiting, preparation techniques, ground delivery options, and bait placement.

Reading the landscape for pest animal signs on a field walk with Mark Lamb and his specially trained dogs was a highlight for many participants.

Many landholders actively sought formation of new control groups during the project period, and old groups were revitalised. So talk to your neighbours and join the planning for this season’s control strategies.

Join or start a coordinated pest animal control group today!

Start planning now for autumn group baiting programs in your local area.

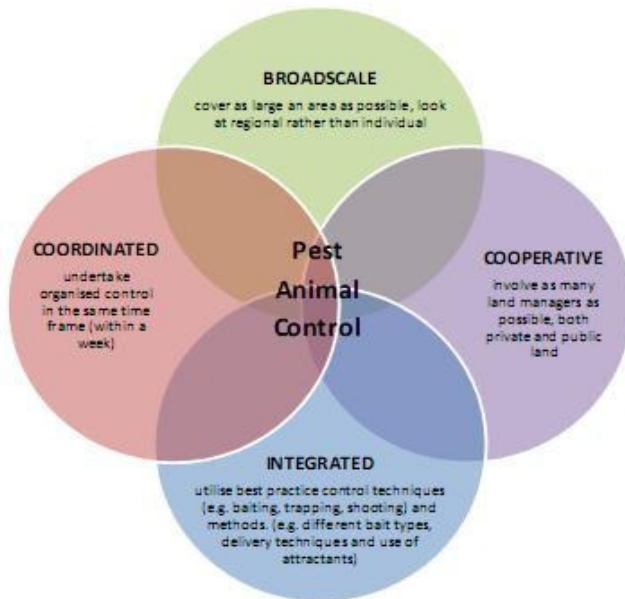
A number of coordinated pest animal control groups are already operating across the New England and North West regions.

If you would like to join one, or start a new control group in your local area, contact the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services or GLENRAC on 02 6732 3443.



Above: Mark Lamb shared his experience with the interpretation of signs and prints left by pest animals across the landscape.

The four key principles for effective pest animal management



Effectiveness of control methods – from most effective to least effective

Predators



Feral Pigs



RIGHT: Project Officer Bec Ballard engaged with students to understand the principles of pest animal management at field events during 2014.



Popular iPhone Apps



Landholders can now use mobile phones to map pest animals and note the damage they cause in their local area into the popular website FeralScan.

Having a good understanding of where pests occur and when damage is being caused is essential to make a pest control program most cost-effective.

Map Feral Pigs

iPhone, Android and iPad users can access FeralPigScan to record feral pig data much more quickly while in the paddock.

The new Mobile Mapping Facility enables you to record the pigs you see by using your mobile phone, and then examine feral pig data throughout your local area.

The application can be used by farmers, NRM groups, community groups, schools and travellers.

Visit www.feralscan.org.au with your mobile phone and start mapping today.

Autumn and Winter are key periods for coordination of pest animal management

Wild Dogs

March: pups are being weaned and are dispersing to find new territories.

May/June: mating is occurring and there is less food available due to colder temperatures and frosts.

Feral Pigs

May/June: piglets are being weaned and there is less food available.

July/August: mating is about to occur. Feral pigs are more likely to be eating grain. Undertake control before grain crops come into head.

Foxes

March: cubs are being weaned and are dispersing to find new territories.

June/July: less food is available due to colder temperatures and frosts.