



# REEL TALK

Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA Inc

July 2018

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## **Acknowledgement of Donors**

The club gratefully acknowledges the support from companies, organisations, club members and families for the donations towards our Presentation night.

### **Club Members:**

Mal Head, Peter Osborne, Gary Parkinson,  
Shane Wignell, Peet Wessels, John Curtis,  
Derek Smith, Alan Jones

### **Company Sponsors:**

Alvey Australia  
Australian Monofil (Platypus lines)  
Belmont City Medical Centre (Dr Sri Srigandan)  
Bladon WA (Martin Wearmouth)  
Central Seafoods  
Halco Tackle  
J M Gillies Agencies  
Western Angler Magazine  
Buildcorp Developments (VictorSchilo)

***Thank you for your valued support.***

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# Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)



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# **Club Committee for 2017/8**

## **President**

Shane Wignell  
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[shane@arach.net.au](mailto:shane@arach.net.au)

## **Vice President**

Sandra Wessels

## **Treasurer**

Victor Schilo  
0413 152 550  
[treasurerscac@iinet.net.au](mailto:treasurerscac@iinet.net.au)

## **Secretary**

George Belin  
0437 489 441  
Club email [surfcast@iinet.net.au](mailto:surfcast@iinet.net.au)

## **Property Officer**

Now part of the Treasurer's duties

## **Reel Talk Editor**

Victor Schilo

## **Dry Casting Officer**

Ron Thomas  
0407 630 053  
[dee.ron@bigpond.com](mailto:dee.ron@bigpond.com)

## **Field Day Officer**

Peet Wessels  
0407 160 795  
[peetwessels@hotmail.com](mailto:peetwessels@hotmail.com)

## **Website Coordinator**

Peet Wessels

## **Social Organiser/Member Coordinator**

Pat McKeown

## **Committee Person**

Vince Tomazin

## **Assistant Field Day Officer**

Martin Wearmouth

## **Recorder**

Justin Rose  
[jwrose81@yahoo.com.au](mailto:jwrose81@yahoo.com.au)

## **Committee Person**

Gary Parkinson

## **Committee Person**

Sri Srigandan

## **AAAWA Delegates**

Victor Schilo, Pat McKeown

All club emails should be sent to [surfcast@iinet.net.au](mailto:surfcast@iinet.net.au) and all correspondence posted by mail should be addressed to:

PO Box 2834, Malaga WA 694

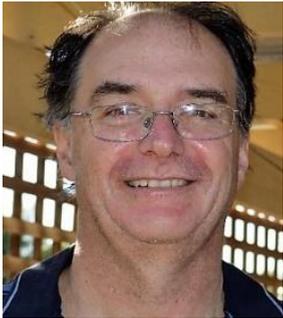
The Website Co-ordinator, Property Officer, AAWA Delegates, Reel Talk Editor, Dry Casting Officer, Assistant Dry Casting Officer, Field Day / Assistant Field Day Officer, Social Organiser and Membership Co-ordinator and Recorder are Committee functions and not extra Committee positions.

## **SCAC Life Members**

George Holman, Eric Parker, Ian Cook, Bob Henderson, Terry Fuller, Mal Head, Peter Osborne

**Deceased life members:** Vic Davis, Doug Edward, Lloyd Dunn, Dudley Brown, Noel Knight, Les Shand, Ron Kildahl, Bob Klein, Jim Strong

## President`s Report July 2018



Our Presentation night has been and gone for another year and in my opinion, it was the best run and most enjoyable I have experienced over my 8 years in the club. The evening was well attended, things ran very smoothly, the food was good but above all those, attending seemed to thoroughly enjoy the night.

Sadly, this was the final Presentation Night [for the time being at least that our Social Organiser Pat McKeown will be organising. Pat has that great skill of being able to run an event smoothly and efficiently, always with great humour and seemingly tolerant of all the annoying things that would frustrate many lesser mortals. Pat, the club owes you a great deal so once again a very warm thank you.

I would also like to thank our Master of Ceremonies John Curtis as well as Peet Wessels for presenting the fishing awards. Peet, Ron Thomas and Justin Rose calculated the various scores for the awards. When she wasn't collecting awards in recognition of a stellar year`s fishing Sandra Wessels was taking the photographs.

We also had several members attend on the morning of the event to help set up the tables. For me one of the changes made in recent years that I think adds much to the atmosphere has been the drawing and presentation of the door prizes. Pat and his side kick Gary Parkinson seemed to have a bit of a routine going and provided many of the laughs.

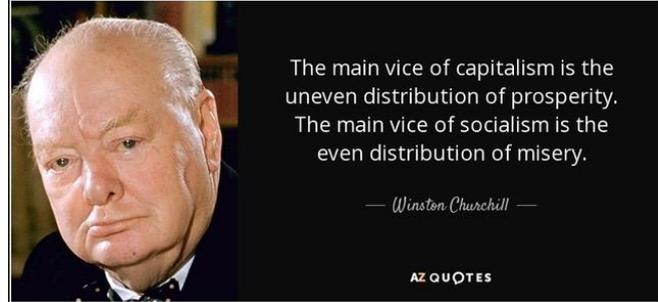
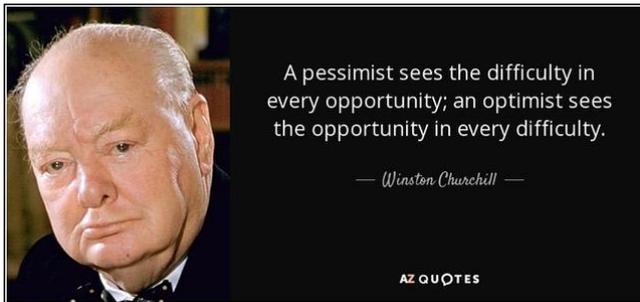
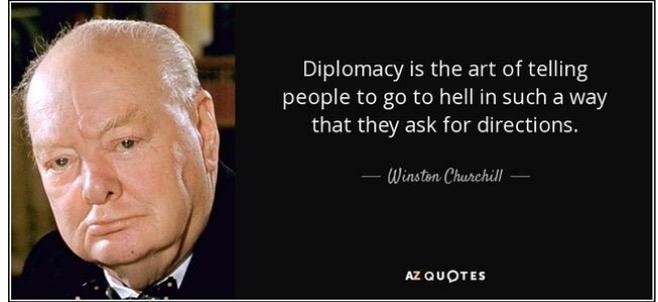
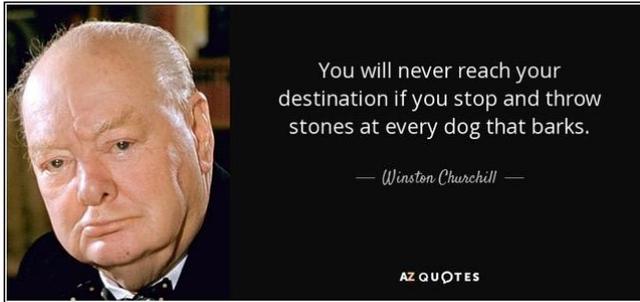
I would also like to collectively thank our corporate sponsors as well as the several members who donated prizes. Finally, the event only works if people turn up. Not only did members support the event but also friends and families of members including some very young ones.

Apart from the Presentation Night things have been fairly quiet. We do however have our AGM fast approaching so I would ask all members to think about how they might be able to commit to the administration of the club and consider nominating for our committee or offering their services to take on one of the various roles available.

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## Quotes for the month:



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## Membership Coordinator's Report



This month we welcome Justin Kelleher and partner Amy Lawrence as potential members of the club.

Other than that, the membership has been rather quiet with happy faces and warm greetings.

Amazing what harmony can do. The club is once more settled and doing what a fishing club does, fishing and Drycasting, plus enjoying themselves.

We are retaining new members which is good to see.

The club raffle is still going strong and with your support will supply good prizes and the occasional pizza supper.

I have been putting some thought into different categories of membership.

We have the basic membership known as Ordinary membership followed by the family membership.

Concession membership for the members over a certain age or on a pension.

The top membership is a Life member who has met with a certain criterion and brings honour and respect to the club.

This should also mean attending meetings and functions with the club as a Life Member if able to. If not, a least an apology should be made via the secretary as all other members do.

If no apology is made, then the Life membership should be looked at regarding their suitability to hold this very distinguished position.

Food for thought?

*Membership Coordinator Pat McKeown.*

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## July General Meeting:

Wednesday 11 July 2018

Coolbinia Sports Clubroom; Wordsworth Avenue, Yokine.

*Agenda: Please notify the Secretary if you have any items for General business.*

## **Social Organiser's July 2018 Report**

Here we go with another report from the desk of the social organiser.



To start with I would like to thank all that attended the presentation night.

Those that attended enjoyed a good event held at the Croatian Club. Once again the food was excellent and all including the Pekaars had their fill. Good to see.

Thank you, Nada and her team, for a great feed.

It was gratifying to have all the sponsors on board when approached. They have been supporting us for many years now so let's support them.

*Halco Tackle (Lures), Australian Monofil Company (Platypus fishing Line)*

*Alvey Reels and fishing Accessories (Assorted Products)*

*JMGillies (Assorted Lures)*

*Western Angler Magazine (Magazine Subscriptions)*

*Central Seafoods (Boxes Fishing Bait)*

*Bladon WA (Cooler Bags)*

*Belmont City Medical Centre (Voucher)*

*Buildcorp Developments (Assorted Electrical Goods)*

The Following Club Members also donated goods for the door prizes.

*Allan Jones, Peet Wessels, Shane Wignell, Garry Parkinson, Derek Smith.*

*John Curtis, Vic Schilo, Sri Srigandan*

**Thank you one and all for your support**



The evening kicked off to a good start with everybody looking for a good time.

We started with calling on the Club President Shane to open the evening. Then onto drawing some door prizes followed by the meal, all looked very happy with plates full of food. It was time to move onto the presentation of awards Peet Wessels, as field day officer, presented the different awards for the fishing sections. This was done very efficiently Sandra taking happy snaps.





Then calling on John Curtis President of AAAWA to present the Drycasting and perpetual trophies.





John also presented 2 x Fishing rods built up by John and presented to Sarah Wignell with her encouragement trophy well done Sarah.

The other Fishing rod was presented to a very embarrassed Slavka for outstanding supper cakes throughout the year. Never know we might get fish patties.

Thanks, Slavka can't give a biscuit away these days.

Then onto more door prizes, making for a very happy room.

Thanks to all our sponsors for making this happen

With all the tickets drawn and everybody had a prize tea and coffee was offered to those that wanted it.

Now that everybody was fed and watered it was time to close the event so a goodnight all round it was time to go home.

On stepping out it was pouring with rain. Could have held off until we were in the car.

I can't close without a special mention to Garry Parkinson (our very own flying postie who now has a brand new ute)

You had a big smile all night followed by your banter when handing out the prizes Thanks Garry.

For the crew that turned up on Saturday morning to help set the room up.

Vic, Slavka, Peet, Sandra, Garry, George, Shane.

Thank you so much

A special mention to Sandra and Peet for making the frame for photographs of all the members. Sandra you once again did a marvellous job throughout the evening recording the presentations and happy snaps.

Thank you

John Curtis for presenting the Drycasting awards and perpetual trophies.

Thanks John.

Last but not least our Clubman of the year is Ron Thomas well deserved Ron

*Well that's a wrap. Tight Lines  
Social Organiser Pat McKeown*

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## More Photos.

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## Field day venues for 2018/19.

Dates	Venue	Boundaries
16-17 June 2018	Rottnest Island	All non protected waters around Island.
16 - 17 June 2018	Open	Go anywhere WA.
14 - 15 July 2018	Open	Go anywhere WA.
11 - 12 August 2018	Rottnest Island	All non protected waters around Island.
22 - 24 September 2018	Bluff Creek	As far as you are willing to walk on both ends of beach.
13 - 14 October 2018	Cervantes to Sandy Cape	South side of Cervantes beach to north end of Sandy cape beach.
17 - 18 November 2018	Cervantes to Sandy Cape	South side of Cervantes beach to north end of Sandy cape beach.
15 - 16 December 2018	Moore River to 3 Mile	From Moore river mouth to north end of 3 Mile beach.
26 - 28 January 2019	Open	Go anywhere WA.
16 - 17 February 2019	Preston / White Hills	From Preston south beach to northern end of White Hills.
1 - 8 March 2019	Esperance Safari.	Around Esperance area. Poison Creek (Sandy Bight) ect.
19 - 22 April 2019	Bluff Creek.	As far as you are willing to walk on both ends of beach.

Local boundaries are from Lancelin in the North to Point Peron in the South

Lines Down for long weekends – Saturday 6.00am

Lines up for long weekends – Monday 9.00am

Lines Down on Standard weekends – Saturday 9.30am

Lines up on standard weekends – Sunday 9.00am

**Sign-on / Weigh-in times, possible fish together spots and locations to be decided at the general meeting prior to the Field Day**

### DRY CASTING DATES FOR 2018

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW VENUE

Guildford Polo Ground

**Competition casting starts at 8:30am**

Held on Sunday of:

**July 1: August 5: September 9: October 7: November 4: December 2:**

*Due to inclement weather conditions June Drycasting was cancelled.*

### Birthdays for July

Peter Osborne 7<sup>th</sup>;

Sean McFarland 8<sup>th</sup>;

Ian Pereira 9<sup>th</sup>;

Glen Wong 15<sup>th</sup>

*We wish you all the best for your special day*

## *ESPERANCE SAFARI 1 – 8 March 2019*

### *Book your holidays*



### **Rottnest Fishing FD report for June 2018.**

You can pick your dates and tides for Rottnest Island fishing, but the weather has always got the final say. Once again, the Rotto May field day coincided with one of the worst weather weeks that you can ever think of. With ferry closures, gale force winds and swells of close to 8 meters it was decided to postpone this weekend to the June FD dates. After hours spent on phones and emails the field day was finally rescheduled between members, bus transport, Rottnest accommodation and ferry bookings.



All we could hope for now was good weather, as we knew the tides would be higher than favourable. For the next few weeks I kept an eye on the weather and when the Friday afternoon for departure finally arrived the weather turned out to be good for the Friday and Saturday. The Sunday's forecast was for stormy weather to return. Everybody turned up and one and all were in good spirits for the Saturday ahead. With bad weather forecasted for the Sunday, more than half of the members booked a ferry back for the Sunday morning.

Saturday morning, we did the usual stop at the bakery. Arriving at West End, Theo van Niekerk, Brad Aknich and Ian Taggart went down to the East to see what the waters around Wilsons were offering. Mark Hansen, Vince Tomazin and Martin Wearmouth went down the short goat track in the direction of Radar Reef and the Tennis Courts.

Paul Terpkos, Walter Lukic, Peter Osborne, Sandra and Peet Wessels took the tarmac route in the direction of Fish Hook Bay and then west down an eroded track to the Tennis Courts. Everybody fishing the Tennis Courts immediately started to get into the fish, with many species being caught in between the plaque of Wrasse. Changing over to a Herring blob most of us managed to catch our bag of Herring.

At around 17H00 most of us were geared up and ready to walk out onto Radar Reef. The water was calm, and the conditions were super good for fishing on the Reef. Everybody got straight into fish. Mark Hanson who fished on my left was the first to hook into a big Yellowtail Kingfish, but unfortunately, he lost his fish due to the 2 bottom hooks of his gang breaking off. Next it was Sandra and myself hooking into some big Yellowtail Kings. She played her fish to the right but after a short fight got her mono fishing line cut off on somebody else's braided line.

I played my fish to the left and around the point. My fish was a very dirty fighter and tried many tricks to bust me off. The fish was unstoppable and finally went in and below some hidden structure. Opening up my bail arm and releasing the pressure on the fish we started to play the waiting game. My patience held out and finally I could see the fish swimming out and off too deeper water. I flicked my bail arm back and the fight was back on. The fish was very energetic and after a hard fight I managed to bring the fish onto the reef. I could not believe that a fish of between 5 and 6 kg could fight like that. After releasing the fish, I stepped back and took a breather. It was so exiting to just stand back and see how everybody else was having fun.

After giving some encouragement and help to Wally who was fighting an even dirtier fighting Yellowtail Kingfish it was time to fish on. In the next half an hour I managed to hook into two big but unstoppable Yellowtail Kings. This time they both won the fight. To the left and right of me you could see bending rods and people trying in vain to get the upper hand. Over at the Tennis Courts I could see Peter Osborne having fun and also holding on for dear life. Peter had a fun day catching some beautiful fish from a very comfortable fishing spot.

As the sun dipped below in the west the Skippy appeared from nowhere. I still had the gang of 5/0 hooks that I use for Yellowtail Kingfish on and decided to keep on fishing with them, believing that I would only catch big Skippy. Theo who was fishing two spots away to my right was unstoppable and had 5 Skippy in the bag before I landed my first one.

With the bus pickup scheduled for 21H00 due to huge number of visitors on the Island we really had a field day. The Skippy just kept on coming and became bigger as the night progressed. Sandra and myself did catch and release for the whole day and we were so exhausted when we finally decided to call it the day. Slowly and happy we climbed out the goat track to where everybody was discussing all the excitement of the day.

Sunday saw only 5 Surfcasters getting on the bus. After buying some of the best pies at the bakery we left with great anticipation for West End. Arriving at West End the wind was strong and the sea looked very choppy with some big swells rolling in from the deep. We all headed down to the Tennis Courts. With the Northerly blowing we had such good protection with the hill to our backs that we hardly felt a breath of wind. For the rest of the day we were having fun flicking small baits around. In the meantime, we all kept an eye out for the conditions on the Reef. At around 17H30 the reef started to look fishable, but every now and then a set of 3 big swells rolled over, stopping us in our tracks.

At 18H15 as the sun disappeared in the West the conditions looked stable enough to give the Reef a go. With water fairly higher than the previous day we managed to get to the Reefs edge as the darkness set in. With headlights on we made the first casts into the dark hole in front of us. Caught by total surprise and caught off guard our baits were attacked with gusto as the big Skippy's fought to get to our hooks first. Never in my life have I seen a fishing frenzy like that.



Just my luck, just when the bite is on something will happen to me. The next moment there was a very loud noise as the PFD exploded and filled the life jacket with so much force that I could hardly move my arms around. First, I thought to drive my knife through the PFD, then quickly I decided against it, deflating it manually until it did not hassle me anymore. I realised what happened, with our old PFD CO2 containers running out of date, I decided to use the clubs new PFD's for the weekend, not realizing that they are of the automatic armed type when they get enough water over them.

I explained to Sandra what happened and told her we should rather go out before hers also get armed. I was still explaining when all of a sudden there was another load bang and she had a PFD fully inflated around her upper body. What a joke, we had a good laugh, I helped her deflate hers and we decided to fish on. Soon everybody had their bag limit of Skippy and we decided to walk back together.

Over to the other side in the Tennis Courts I could see Peter Osborne's light flashing around. It looked like Peter was also hooked up. Later we could not get the grin off his face when he was telling us that he got another sized Dhufish. Well done Peter, you are the Dhufish King.

So came another fantastic Rottnest experience to an end. Our next Rottnest Field Day is scheduled for the 11 - 12 August 2018. I hope to see a few bent fishing rods around for this week end as August normally delivers very good fishing results.

Until the next time, take care and enjoy your fishing, you all deserve it!

Author – Peet Wessels

## Rotto Field Day - June 2018

*Peter O's highlights*

Just a short report from Peter O giving the highlights of my Rotto fishing experience.

As usual we left Northport anticipating great fishing results based on past experience and excellent wind swell and tide conditions over the weekend - the actual event met nearly all of our expectations, and in my case gave me great delight on achieving a similar result to that I had obtained last year.

My strength and ability to climb over rocks, be buffeted by waves, and climb the cliff, both down and up at Radar Reef, is not what it used to be, so I decided to fish only the Tennis Courts. Peet's report will outline successes that the anglers had on Radar Reef late afternoon with some Yellowtail Kingfish and lots of quality Skippy.

I started at the Tennis Courts using a paternoster rig with small hooks and bait as I was targeting Western Rock Blackfish and Tarwhine - however only achieved big numbers Buff Bream and Wrasse and a few small Skippy. Switching mid-afternoon to my heavy rod and a baitcasting rig using mulies wasn't long before I hooked up bigtime to either a large Yellowtail Kingfish or a Samson fish. Hit my mulie hard and headed due west down the channel and after stripping 200 metres of 15 kg line thought I should try and turn the fish. Wrong, the fish turned left and think caught the leader (80 lb) around reef and immediately broke off - 2 minutes of an adrenalin rush. Later in the afternoon I managed to land a small Dhufish, beauty, but on measuring was only 44cm, so I returned it to the water. However, a good sign.

On the Sunday afternoon I basically followed the same plan. I started using my light rod and concentrated on getting my bag of Herring. Fairly easily done, but the Herring were on the small size. Then switched to my heavier outfit with what happened previous afternoon I had an expectation on catching that elusive Dhufish.



*Smiling Peter with his Dhu Fish*

After an hour or so, am on, no not a Buffy, but another Dhufish, but again on measuring was only 46.5 cm, so still short of the magic 50 cm. Kept plugging away and as it got dark saw the team on radar were starting to come in so with no mulies left thought I had better pack up and make my way back up the cliff. Wound in and saw that Wrasse had chewed on the mulie but there was a good half left on the gang of hooks.

So, I had one more cast left before finishing for the weekend. Had the mulie bait halfway in and bang, I am on and feels like a good fish. Yep, after carefully playing it in and in getting it to the edge of the rocks I was standing on and on looking down saw it was another Dhufish. Hooks looked good and set firmly in its mouth, hence I lifted the fish up and dropped it onto the rocks - beauty, on measuring was like 50.1 cm..... Size "You Beauty". Yep a hard climb up the cliff, but with a fish like that in my backpack seemed so much easier. Meeting up with the rest of the team, and right through the weigh-in, could not stop grinning.

Hmmmmmm - wonder if I can improve on this hat trick by getting a fourth one on our August Rotto Field day.

## Field day results for June 2018:

ANGLER		Species Breaksea Cod	Species Herring, Australian	Species Skipjack Trevally	Species Tarwhine	Species Western Rock Blackfish	Species Wrasse (all species) 1 only	Species Yellowtail Kingfish	Species Cod (other than listed)	Species Westralian Dhufish	Total points
Brad Zaknich	Number										
	Total weight										
	Weight of best										
Mark Hansen	Number	1	12	8		1	1	1			177.3
	Total weight	0.50	1.13	5.67		0.23	0.34	1.86			
	Weight of best										
Peter Osborne	Number		12	4			1			1	103.1
	Total weight		1.19	1.14			0.34			1.64	
	Weight of best										
Ian Taggart	Number										20.0
	Total weight										
	Weight of best										
Paul Terpkos	Number			8			1				90.2
	Total weight			5.68			0.34				
	Weight of best										
Vincent Tomazin	Number			5		1	1		1		104.2
	Total weight			3.55		0.23	0.34		0.30		
	Weight of best										
Theo Van Niekerk	Number			8							76.8
	Total weight			5.68							
	Weight of best										
Martin Wearmouth	Number		8	8		2	1				137.2
	Total weight		0.77	6.15		0.46	0.34				
	Weight of best			1.13							
Peet Wessels	Number		12	8	1		1	1	1		203.2
	Total weight		1.16	6.91	0.30		0.34	3.31	0.30		
	Weight of best			1.38							
Sandra Wessels	Number		10	8			1		1		132.8
	Total weight		0.96	5.68			0.34		0.30		
	Weight of best										

## Fishing Field day competition section up to end June 2018:

Field Day Sections up to and including June				
	Section	Angler	Species	Weight
1A	Best scale fish (1st six months)	Peet Wessels	Yellowtail Kingfish	3.31 kg
1B	Best scale fish (2nd six months)			
2	Most meritorious fish			
3	Best shark (4.5kg min)			
4	Best mulloway (2kg min)			
5	Best tailor (1kg min)			
6	Best salmon (3kg min)			
7	Best skipjack trevally (0.5 kg min)	Peet Wessels	Skipjack Trevally	1.31 kg
8	Best mackerel (2kg min)			
9	Best yellowtail kingfish, samson or amberjack (4kg min)			
10	Best scale fish (Other than above)	Peter Osborne	Westralian Dhufish	1.64 kg
11	Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	Mixed bag	12.32 kg
12	Best bag of mulloway (2 fish min)			
13	Best bag of tailor (2 fish min)			
14	Best fish on single handed rod (max 4kg line)			
15	Best fish caught on fly rod			
16	Best fish on single handed rod, soft plastic lure (max 4kg line)			
17	Best fish on single handed rod, hard body lure (max 4kg line)			

Sportsperson of the year sections for June			
	Section	Angler	Weight
	Best scale fish	Peet Wessels	3.31 kg
	Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	12.32 kg
	Best shark		Shark
	Best bag including sharks		Mixed bag

## Top Fishing Field day points up to end June 2018:

Top scores up to June 2018		
Rank	Angler	Total points
1	Peet Wessels	203.2
2	Mark Hansen	177.3
3	Martin Wearmouth	169.2
4	Sandra Wessels	132.8
5	Vincent Tomazin	104.2
6	Peter Osborne	103.1
7	Paul Terpkos	90.2
8	Theo Van Niekerk	76.8
9	Gary Parkinson	32.5
10	Ian Taggart	20

## SOLUNAR PREDICTIONS, SUN RISE / SUNSET TIMES AND TIDES FOR THE WEEKEND 14 & 15 JULY 2018 SOLUNAR PREDICTIONS

These times are suitable for the Perth metropolitan area and Rottnest Island.

DAY / DATE	PREDICTION	PREDICTED PRIME TIMES		MOON PHASE
Sat 14/07	BEST	11:16 – 13:16	=	NEW MOON + 1
Sun 15/07	BEST	12:16 – 14:16	23:47 – 01:37	NEW MOON + 2

These are the predicted MAJOR Solunar periods, adjusted to Perth time. For minor periods add approximately 6 hours 45 minutes

### SUNRISE AND SUNSET TIMES FOR PERTH FOR THIS WEEK:

DAY / DATE	SUNRISE	SUNSET	MOONRISE	MOONSET
Sat 14/07	07:16	17:30	08:05	18:54
Sun 15/07	07:15	17:30	08:58	20:04

**Please Note:** Where a rise time is noted with a 'p', it means that the time listed is for the previous day. Where a set time is noted with an 'f', it means that the time listed is for the following day. This complication is because the Moon rises, transits and sets almost an hour later every night, so every few days there is a 24-hour 'calendar day' in which the Moon either doesn't rise, or doesn't set. These times will be adequate for general purpose use in the Perth metropolitan area. However, corrections must be applied for other locations in Western Australia.

### PREDICTED TIDES FOR FREMANTLE THIS WEEK

DAY / DATE	TIME AND PREDICTED HEIGHT							
Sat 14/07	10:09	1.28	19:38	0.55				
Sun 15/07	11:02	1.23	20:18	0.59				

**NOTE:** These are the predicted tides for Fremantle and there may be some variation due to wind strength and direction.

Support our sponsor and subscribe to:



## Recovery Points and Why You Need Them



Recovery Points are one of those pieces of gear that you don't ever want to have to use, but when you inevitably do, you need to be able to rely on it. Seeing as none of us are perfect (ha!) there's a good chance at some point off-road, you will need to have someone hitch a strap to your car to snatch you out.

There is so much information out there about the importance of appropriate and rated recovery points and yet, every day you still see videos on social media of people conducting recoveries off tow balls, factory tie down points, suspension arms (they're the

funniest), bumper bars etc. In the process, doing their vehicle and sometimes very sadly, themselves serious harm along the way.

The aim of this article is to provide you with the basic knowledge of what a **recovery point** is and why you need to have it. Definitely not a substitute for many of the articles out there in the World Wide Web world or more importantly, nothing like enrolling in a [4X4 Driving Course](#).

### **What exactly is a "Rated" Recovery Point?**

It is a purpose-built point that is chassis-mounted and designed for the sole purpose of being used as attachment points in a recovery situation.

Without going into too much physics on an empty stomach, let's get the basics out of the way.

A "rated" recovery point is a fixture that is mounted to the chassis with bolts, junction welds or both. Its purpose is to be used as an attachment point for recovery with a snatch strap or other similar recovery tool.

They're built to accommodate a shackle which is then subjected, along with the strap, to physical shock and pulling forces; both longitudinal and latitudinal. If you consider it, the force of using a snatch strap is not a constant, it goes from low to large as the strap extends and then contracts, creating the inertia needed to pull the recovered vehicle out.

This unevenness in exerted force is what causes things like tow-balls to sheer off and cause major damage to vehicles and people.

### **The difference between a tie-down point and recovery point?**

Some people consider the factory tie-down points as reasonable for recovery. A tie-down point is designed to hold a car to the ground for transport – not suited to the forces exerted in the recovery of a vehicle whatsoever and is a recipe for disaster.

If your vehicle is not equipped with purpose-designed recovery points, then it is crucial to invest in an **aftermarket set**. One point is good; two points (one of each side) are even better, as it effectively halves the load on each point and reduces the chances of bending your chassis. And don't forget one for the rear!

Remember a strap letting go can be a missile that can kill – don't skimp and ensure you have them installed before you hit the trails.

Happy Touring  
Chantal

Reprinted from Club 4x4 (Insurance for 4x4 enthusiasts)



## THE AUSTRALIAN LURE COMPANY

Halco Tackle Company began business in 1950, when Hal Cooper, an engineer by profession, started making metal lures and fishing rigs in his small premises in Mosman Park, Western Australia. Neil Patrick purchased the company in 1980, taking Halco into the manufacture of a vast range of plastic and wooden lures. In 2001 Neil's son Ben purchased Halco to continue the family tradition of lure innovation and manufacturing on a global scale.



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Checkout the website at: [www.jmgillies.com.au](http://www.jmgillies.com.au)

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## Some tips for finding water in the bush:

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Water can be collected in the bush from natural sources like creeks, rivers, lakes, and soaks. These supplies change with season and rainfall, and some are more reliable than others.

By looking at a topographic map you can usually identify water sources. Dotted blue lines represent season creeks, whereas solid blue lines are more permanent waterways. Small catchments are more likely to be a clean source of water, whereas larger creeks with more sources of input are more likely to be running. If there has been recent rainfall you can usually collect safe drinking water from puddles on rocky outcrops. Where possible you should always collect water from clean sources that flow from natural areas. If you are in doubt or if you have no other options available then you should treat the water. Treatment for water sources includes boiling, filtration or UV treatments. For the purpose of this article, I will talk specifically about filtration.

### How to collect water:

Compared to finding a water source, collecting water is usually the easy part. It is best to avoid stagnant water by aiming to collect from flowing sections. Still water sources like soaks or lakes are also great collection sources, however, if at all possible, avoid using water that's flowing very slowly or is stagnant. Stagnant water is a collection point for toxic runoff and laden with decaying plant and animal matter and associated microorganisms. That said, if the group is out of options, then stagnant water may be better than nothing. It's important to weigh up the risks of dehydration and illness carefully. In these cases, fill water container deep underneath the surface of the water to avoid the nasties on top and treat the water.

### My Experiences:

A few years back I drunk from a scummy pond seasoned with several dead animals out of pure desperation and despite boiling my water, I suffered for my drinking choices for a couple of days after. Since then, one of the first steps I take in planning for my trips in the bush is to identify safe drinking water sources along with my planned route and as a backup, I also like to carry water purification tablets and a filtration device. With this article in mind, I decided to put the [Lifesaver Bottle](#) to the test over the long weekend.

The Lifesaver Bottle is one of the most popular portable water filters/purifiers on the market. They claim that the bottle can remove all bacteria, viruses, cysts, parasites, fungi and all other microbacterium and waterborne pathogens to 0.015 microns – without the use of any foul tasting chemicals like iodine.

During the planning stages of my walk, I had high hopes for the Lifesaver Bottle, especially since I had not been walking in this particular area and I was not convinced on the quality of the drinking water around. And, let's not forget that I was not particularly keen on carrying 8+ litres of water over the weekend along with all my camping gear and food. Oh, Lifesaver Bottle, my back thanks you. Go on, call me soft! My mates asked if this meant that I could classify the weekend as a work trip? Ha! It's a tough job, but somebody has to do it right?



Since a big portion of the walk was on a fire trail, and with rainfall the week before, there were a few muddy puddles of water around where I could use the Lifesaver Bottle; and despite making a promise a few years back to never drink from a scummy looking pond again, I found myself drinking from one once more, this time armed with the Lifesaver Bottle though.

Overall I was rather impressed with the product and I even did a blind taste test to compare the filtered muddy water to Sydney water. I would like to say that the Sydney water tasted better, but to be honest, I could not tell the difference

between the two, so I can vouch for the bottle removing the muddy taste from water found on the ground.

As for bacteria, viruses, cysts, parasites, fungi and all other microbacterium and waterborne pathogens, I can confirm that I have not been sick since drinking the water (phew), and I am almost certain that I would have been without the filtration pump.



Some negatives, the bottle seems a bit fragile and based on my track record for clumsiness, I would hate to accidentally drop it and see it break during a remote trip.

Secondly, the Lifesaver Bottle is on the more expensive side of portable filter pumps, but hey, you get what you pay for; and I don't know about you, but I am certainly willing to pay extra for peace of mind of the water quality.

Thirdly, call me a weight snob if you wish, but coming in at 635 grams I found the filtration bottle to be a bit on the heavy side for a bushwalk. That said if I take into account the fact that I didn't have to carry as much water as I would have otherwise, it's really not that bad.

For comparison, in the past, I have used the Lifestraw (57 grams), but compared to the Lifesaver Bottle the Lifestraw looks like a fun toy. The pores in the Lifesaver Bottle are 13 times smaller than in the Lifestraw, small enough that viruses can't get in.

As a side note, if you are out four-wheel driving you are probably less concerned by a couple of grams in weight and I would recommend checking out the [Lifesaver Cube](#) (5-litre capacity), or the [Lifesaver Jerrycan](#) (18.5-litre capacity), which uses the same technology but has more water capacity. If you are looking at getting your hands on one of these Lifesaver systems, they [can be purchased from Tough Toys](#). Overall the Lifesaver Bottle does what it claims, and it is a pretty handy device for peace of mind. Yes, it's true that the Lifesaver Bottle is bigger, heavier, and more fragile than other filtration systems on the market, but if you want portable virus filtration, the Lifesaver wins.



### **Conclusion:**

Remember, where possible always collect drinking water from clean sources, that flow from natural areas. If you have no other options available then you should treat the water. Always plan your trips with water sources in mind.

Chantal

*PS Not sure who I am? I am the newly appointed Marketing Manager at Club 4X4 and I love everything about the outdoors*

*Reprinted from Club 4x4 Publication*



## Time to cotton on with bait

Published: Thursday, 28 July 2016 21:30

### Baiting up for most shore anglers is a pretty simple deal.

Push the hooks through your chosen bait and throw it out into the ocean. This is normally followed by a brief wait before either you hook your chosen target species or, far more likely, pickers strip your bait from the hooks. No wonder a packet of bait can disappear so quickly.



South African shore-casters have turned bait presentation into an art form and there are lots of tricks and techniques that work just as well along our coast. The key to the South African approach is the use of bait cotton, or ghost cotton as it is sometimes known.

I suspect most shore anglers these days will have at least heard of bait cotton. For those who are not yet in the know, bait cotton is a very fine elasticised cotton thread that is used to reinforce the bait and help hold it to the hooks. This is achieved by wrapping the cotton around the bait many times to create a mummified effect.

The advantages of using bait cotton are numerous. First and foremost whole baitfish like scaly mackerel or mulies can be presented on single or snelled hooks

rather than ganged hooks. As I've covered before, this should result in much better hookup rates on most species we target. Essentially you can position the hooks in or on the bait wherever you like and the cotton stops the bait from coming off the hooks mid-cast.

South African anglers often favour baits made up from more than one species. For example a popular bait presentation might be a whole bait fish accompanied by a strip of squid along each side. The squid could be left longer to create two fluttering tails below the baitfish. This approach would be impossible without the use of bait cotton. Another example could be flesh bait with a shelled prawn laying on top of the fish flesh to add additional scent to the offering.



There are a host of excellent baits that don't get used often due to being very soft and basically too hard to keep on the hook. Examples are most forms of shellfish like mussels. With the use of bait cotton, these baits can be bound onto the outside of firmer bait to really add appeal. Going to the extra trouble of doing things like this can make a difference on quiet days when the fish need some extra reason to start feeding.

Bait cotton comes in various forms. I've experimented with several different types and have a preference for the extra-fine types. I would recommend avoiding the thick white elastic ones and try to get finer cotton which is often more clear in appearance. This is often labelled as 'ghost cotton' rather than bait elastic.

One slightly annoying feature of using bait cotton is the tendency for it to bunch up on your hooks after several spent baits. You inevitably end up with a lot of cotton building up on the rig. The best solution is to trim this away between rebaiting. Small braid scissors are very effective for this little clean-up job.

If you use a decent amount of bait cotton your baits will be much harder for pickers to destroy and will last a lot longer. This has obvious advantages when your target species is not around in numbers. You simply keep good baits in good water longer thus increasing your chances when a decent fish comes along. The best baits with the most scent are usually the softest and most susceptible to damage from pickers.

The technique for using bait cotton is not difficult. It usually comes in a small tube with a hole in one end that the bait cotton is dispensed from. The idea is to hold this tube in the palm of your hand while using your other hand to pull some cotton out and pin it against your bait.



Then you can simply make several passes up and down the length of your bait by wrapping around and around it. When it's time to stop I normally just snap the cotton off. The elastic nature of the cotton will make it bite into itself and there is generally no need to tie it off.

Traditionally shore anglers tend to put their hooks sideways through their baits. This is not symmetrical and probably hinders hookup rates to some extent. Another approach is to make a cut down vertically along the length of your baitfish, about halfway into the fish. You can then lay your single, double or triple-hook rig into the bait so

the hooks protrude out the top. Then use your bait cotton to wrap the baitfish, which will hold your rig very securely.

All these suggestions take more time and effort. But going the extra step is usually what makes one particular angler more successful than the next. Why not experiment with your bait presentations and take advantage of the benefits of using bait cotton.

## The right tool for the job

If you take on board some of the suggestions in this Shore Angles you will be doing a lot of cutting and trimming of baits. This will require an excellent bait knife and even better, a pair of dedicated bait scissors. Mustad's new Heavy Duty Stainless Steel Bait Scissors are tailor-made for shore anglers.



Cutting fillets into strips has never been easier or safer and cutting through bones will no longer be a threat to the sharpness of your knives. I've given these things a good run lately and for such an inexpensive purchase they are worth their weight in gold.

**Caption:** Bait cotton allows for more imaginative bait presentation, as this sequence shows. Don't be afraid to spice things up to create more scent in the water.

*Reprinted from Western Angler*

## For Sale



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