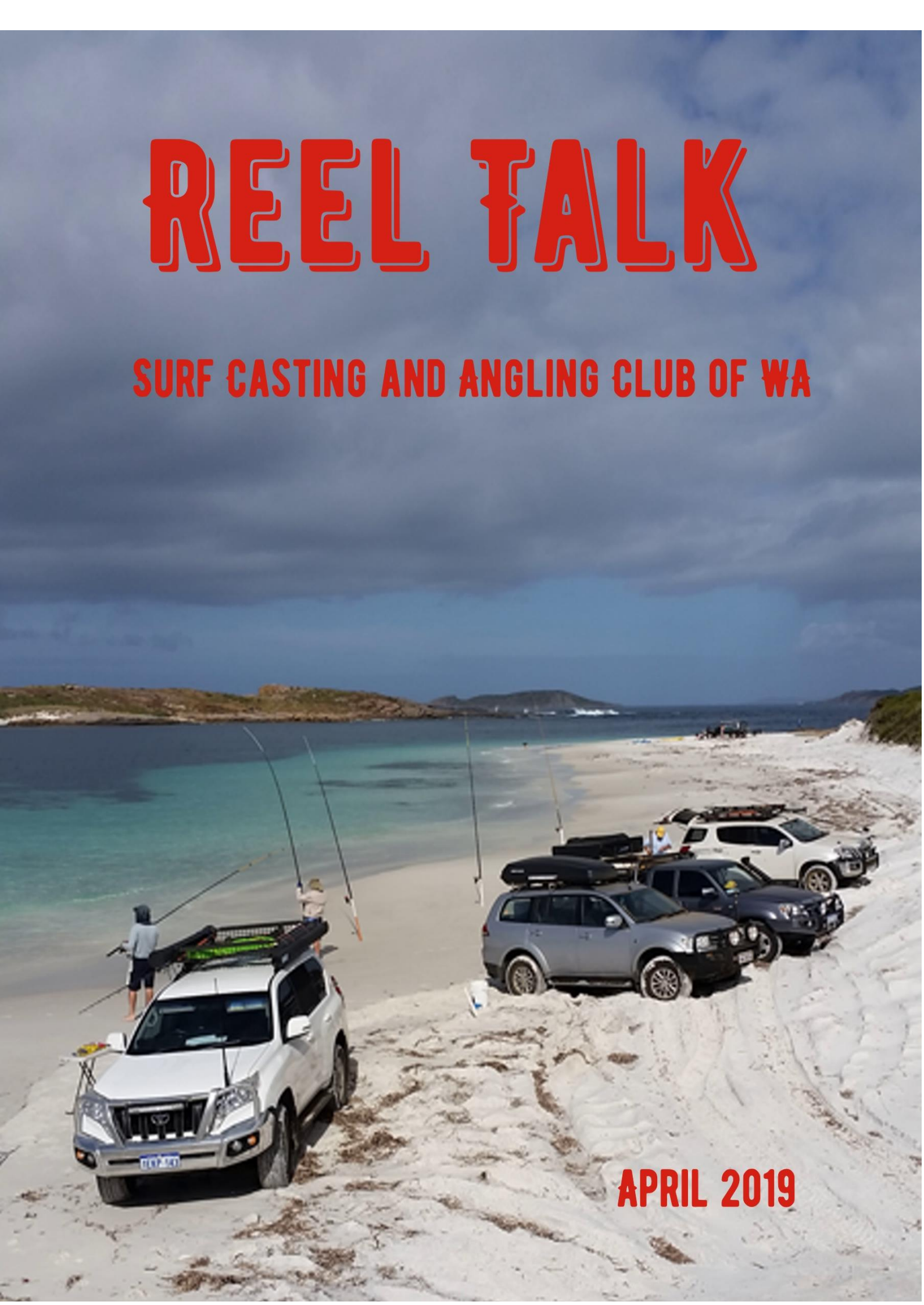


REEL TALK

SURF CASTING AND ANGLING CLUB OF WA

APRIL 2019





Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

PO Box 2834, Malaga WA 6944

ABN 29 925 237 020

Email: surfcast@iinet.net.au

Club Web page: <http://www.surfcasters.iinet.net.au>

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:

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Bladon WA (Martin Wearmouth)

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Halco Tackle

J M Gillies Agencies

Western Angler Magazine

Buildcorp Developments (Victor Schilo)

Thank you for your valued support.

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Club Committee for 2018/9

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Peter Osborne

Treasurer

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Secretary

George Belin
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Club email surfcast@iinet.net.au

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Now part of the Treasurer's duties

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Dry Casting Officer

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Website Coordinator

Peet Wessels

Member Coordinator

George Belin

Committee Person

Gary Parkinson

Assistant Field Day Officer

Vince Tomazin

Recorder

Justin Rose
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Committee Person

Sri Srigandan

AAAWA Delegates

Victor Schilo, Shane Wignell

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

PO Box 2834, Malaga WA 6944

The Website Co-ordinator, Property Officer, AAWA Delegates, Reel Talk Editor, Dry Casting Officer, Assistant Dry Casting Officer, Field Day / Assistant Field Day Officer, Membership Co-ordinator 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 April 2019



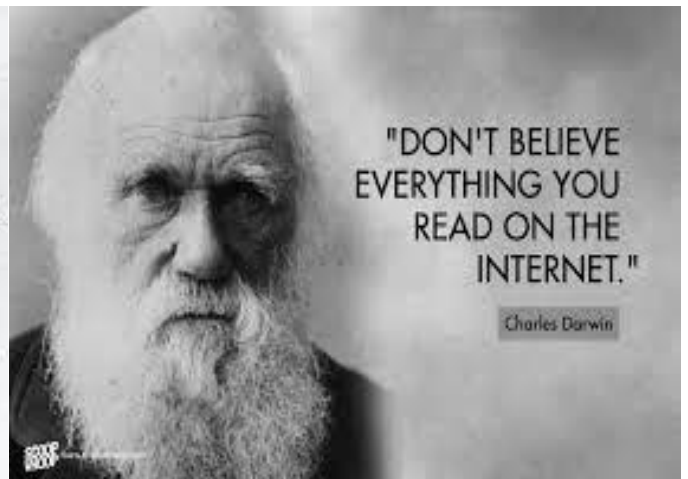
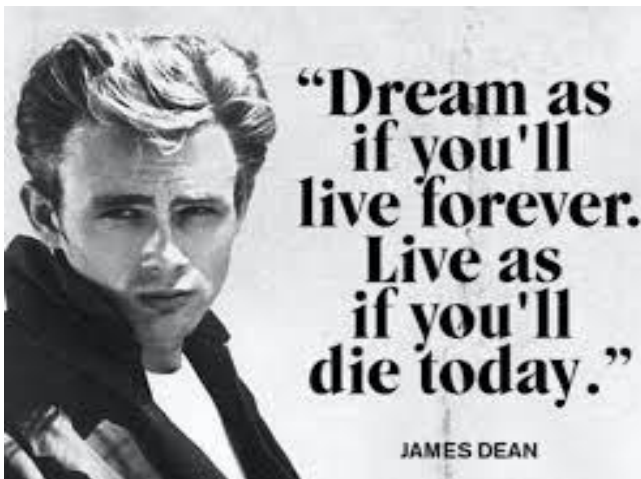
As those who read these reports may recall I noted in last month`s column how fast Februaries seem to pass. Well here I am now, 21 days since I wrote that report, responding to the first and final demand notice from the editor for this month`s offering. I suspect that since treasurer obligations have been substantially reduced, due to the sale of the property, Vic is short of things to do.

Since the very recent previous report, several of us made our way down to Esperance for the much-anticipated safari. I am sure our Field Day Officer Martin will provide details in his report, so I won`t elaborate further on the frustrations we did face. Instead I will give some feedback on what I ate as I have set myself the goal of perfecting field day catering.

Readers will recall that I opted to rely on predominantly canned sustenance in the form of spaghetti with sausages. I packed 6 cans of same. I now have 6 cans, some 1600 plus km later, sitting on the pantry shelf. I confess that I cheated a bit in that the caravan park had fish [evidently not local] and chips on the menu. This worked for lunch and dinner became the healthy option of tinned fruit and yoghurt. This worked well although with Bluff Creek approaching it is not a plan that will work there. I did note that Martin and Gary seemed to find enjoyment in something carnivorous surrounded by bread. They both seemed well at the recent general meeting so maybe my paranoia about keeping meat satisfactorily refrigerated is not justified. Anyway, I will continue to observe others and welcome any suggestions from members.

With regards to proper club matters things are fairly quiet at present. Of course, the presentation night in June is approaching so please make sure you plan to be there. Members may not be aware that the Committee has agreed to subsidise the event and tickets will be \$20 each. So come along, bring your friends and enjoy a great night out.

Quotes for the month:



April 2019 General Meeting

Wednesday 10th April 2019

Coolbinia Sports Clubroom; Wordsworth Avenue, Yokine.

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

Field day venue for April 2019.

Dates	Venue	Boundaries
19 - 22 April 2019 Long weekend	Bluff Creek. Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	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

Field day venues for 2019/2020

Dates	Venue	Boundaries
18 - 19 May 2019	Rottnest Island and standard local Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	All Rottnest and local as below at bottom of page
15 - 16 June 2019	Open Lines down 9.30am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Open anywhere in WA
13 - 14 July 2019	Open Lines down 9.30am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Open anywhere in WA
17 - 18 August 2019	Rottnest Island and standard local Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	All Rottnest and local as below at bottom of page
28 - 30 September 2019 Long weekend	Geraldton to Kalbarri and standard local Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Geraldton to Kalbarri and local as below at bottom of page
12 - 13 October 2019	Wedge Island to Jurien Bay and standard local Lines down 9.30am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Wedge Island to Jurien Bay and local as below at bottom of page
9 – 10 November 2019	Open Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Open anywhere in WA Plan to fish Wagoes full moon is 12 th November
14 – 15 December 2019	Ledge Point to Wedge Island and standard local Lines down 9.30am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Ledge Point to Wedge Island and local as below at bottom of page
25 - 27 January 2020 Long weekend	Open Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Open anywhere in WA
15 – 16 February 2020	Busselton to White Hills and standard local Lines down 9.30am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Busselton to White Hills and local as below at bottom of page
29 February – 2 March 2020 Long weekend	Reef Beach Bremer Bay and standard local Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Reef Beach and local as below at bottom of page
11 April – 13 April 2020 Long weekend	Bluff Creek and standard local Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Cheynes and Bluff Creek area and local as below at bottom of page

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

Lines Down for long weekends and Rottnest – Saturday 6.00am

Lines up for long weekends and Rottnest – 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

DRYCASTING - 12 MARCH 2019

Our second casting day on a Tuesday was not a very successful day with only 6 casters turning up, which is a bit of a disappointment, but there isn't very much we can do about it. Next month we are back to Sundays again, so I am hoping things will pick up just a little.

The day itself was almost perfect with a tail wind that started to drop off as we were finishing our distance events, which was about 10.30. So with everything packed up we were enjoying our usual chat along with the sausage sizzle, which brings to mind, many thanks to Mark for looking after the cooking side of things once again.

The longest casts for the day went to Chas with the following – 56g 148.8m, Art Bait 137.13m and the 112g 167.70m. 139 was the top score in the DHA by myself, followed by Mark Nurse with 120. The SHA was won by myself with 28 followed by Chas with 24. There was one bullseye for the day, that was by Mark Hansen in the DHA.

Mark hansen took out the men's winner for SCAC with 500%, I mean let's face it, he is the only caster in the open section.

The Vet's section was won by myself with 468%, Klaus was runner up with 296%, Tony Ayrey with 294%.

Overall winner for the beachcombers, Ron Thomas 455.61% runner up was Mark Nurse 430.09%.

DCO Ron Thomas

DRYCASTING RESULTS

SURF CASTING & ANGLING CLUB												
Dry casting results - 12th March 2019												
	56 gram				Artificial Bait				112gram			
	Cast	Cast	Total	%	Cast	Cast	Total	%	Cast	Cast	Total	%
Veterans	1	2			1	2			1	2		
RON THOMAS	147.08	148.04	295.12	100.00	133.05	129.60	262.65	100.00	OUT	155.15	155.15	68.12
TONY AYREY	OUT	90.12	90.12	30.54	78.19	74.65	152.84	58.19	88.88	79.90	168.78	74.11
KLAUS SCHONWOLF	119.97	B/O	119.97	40.65	98.69	98.14	196.83	74.94	106.18	121.57	227.75	100.00
Senior												
MARK HANSEN	111.55	95.16	206.71	100.00	100.68	99.13	199.81	100.00	120.66	120.95	241.61	100.00

SURF CASTING & ANGLING CLUB																			
Dry casting results - 12th March 2019																			
	Double Handed Accuracy										Single Handed Accuracy					Total	Attendance	Total	
	Target number										Target distance						D/Casting	Points	
Veterans	3	3	1	1	4	4	2	2	Total	%	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	Total	%	%		
RON THOMAS	21	22	16	20	12	8	23	17	139	100.00	9	8	7	4	28	100	468.12	10	478.12
TONY AYREY	10	15	19	20	14	20	0	16	114	82.01	1	2	6	5	14	50.00	294.85	10	304.85
KLAUS SCHONWOLF	0	0	7	12	0	13	11	0	43	30.94	0	6	3	5	14	50.00	296.53	10	306.53
Seniors																			
MARK HANSEN	21	13	12	8	25	0	21	18	118	100.00	7	0	4	7	18	100.00	500.00	10	510.00

VETERANS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2018 - 2019											
LONGEST 56 GRAM										155.54	RON THOMAS
LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT										139.45	RON THOMAS
LONGEST 112G										168.60	RON THOMAS
HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY										167	RON THOMAS
HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY										34	RON THOMAS
SENIORS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2018 - 2019											
LONGEST 56 GRAM										140.78	ROB PEKAAR
LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT										143.42	ROB PEKAAR
LONGEST 112G										158.76	ROB PEKAAR
HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY										139	MARK HANSON
HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY										30	MARK HANSON

Birthdays for April;

Shane Wignell 14th; Liam Wignell 14th; Sri Srigandan 25th

We wish you all the best for your special day

SATURDAY 22ND JUNE 2019
SAVE THE DATE
SCAC PRESENTATION DINNER
MORE INFORMATION NEXT MONTH



PERTH AIRPORT 1962

SURF CASTERS MARCH 2019 ESPERANCE SAFARI 1ST MARCH 2019 TO 6TH MARCH 2019

After a year of planning and anticipation the safari to Poison creek in Cape Arid National Park was getting close, travel plans finalised and then I got an email from Pat McKeown that Fisheries and Baring road were closed for a month from mid-February to mid-March for road works, these were the roads we needed to take to get to Poison creek, I made a call to Graham Gath in Esperance and he confirmed that the road would be closed but we would be able to get round on Merivale road to the Poison creek road so disaster averted. Vince then had to drop out due to his mum having a fall and needing help at home for a few weeks, Sri also dropped out due to health issues, so it was 7 surf casters going now.

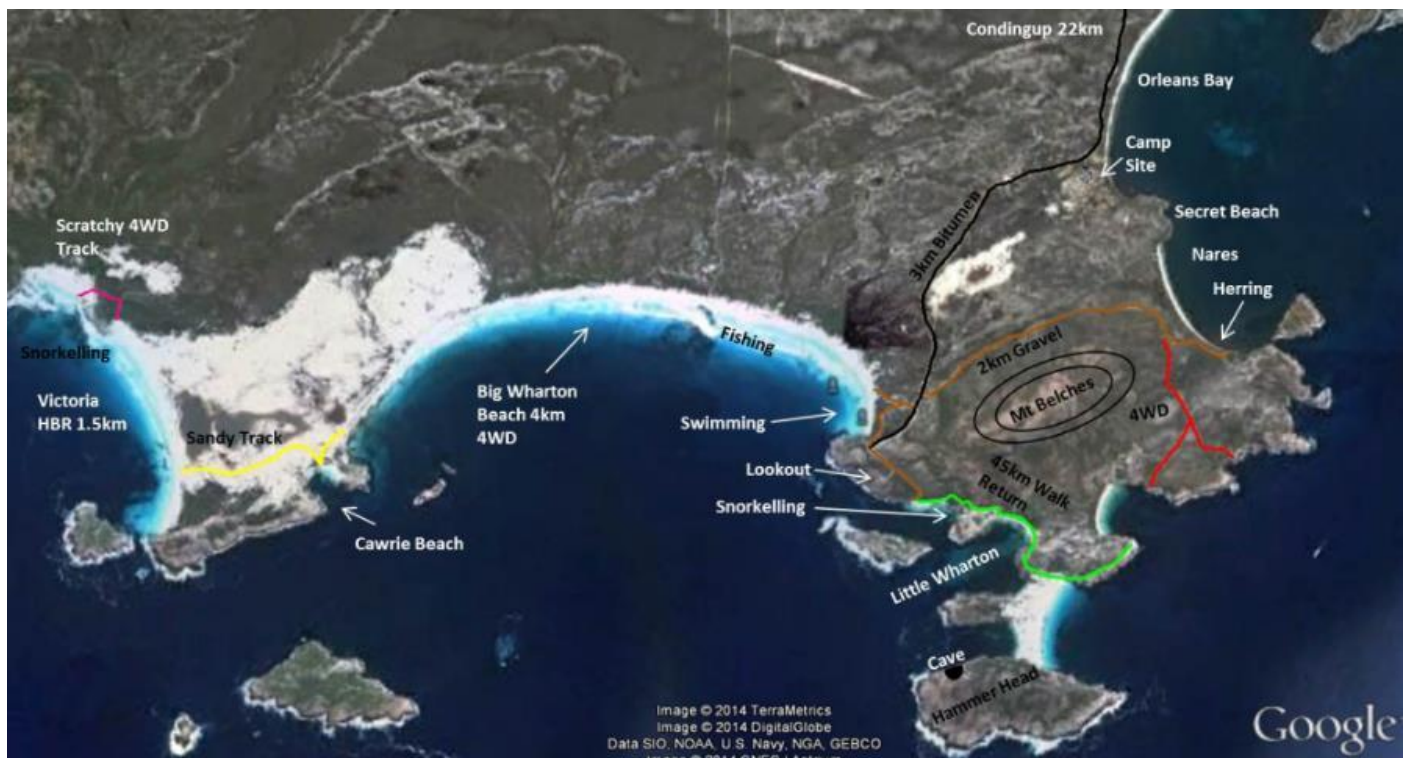
On the Monday before we were due to leave Graham advised that a fire in Cape Arid was burning out of control and Poison Creek was closed, during the next two days the fire got worse and also closed the Thomas river area that we planned to stay at, to say we were disappointed would be an understatement.

On the Wednesday it was clear that the Cape Arid area would not be open when we left on the next day (Thursday 28/2/2019) so after some advice from Graham in Esperance we booked into the Duke of Orleans Bay caravan park for 4 nights, this is about 80km east of Esperance (Poison Creek is about 160km east of Esperance) in the hope that Cape Arid may open in a few days.

It turned out that the fire would keep burning and worsen over the next few days, with strong south west winds blowing the fire towards Esperance meaning we could not visit our chosen locations, the roads stayed closed and at one point even threatened our stay at Duke of Orleans bay.

So down to the trip and fishing, 5 surf casters left early Thursday morning being Peter Osborne, Pat McKeown, Shane Wignel, Gary Parkinson and Myself, the drive down was good with very light traffic and great weather for the trip, we arrived at the Duke of Orleans bay caravan park at 4.30pm and set up camp, after unpacking and a shower (The showers were outstanding with massive shower heads and never ending hot water) we had dinner and relaxed after the long drive of 800km.

After we all went to bed the thunder and lightning started, and I have never seen or heard anything like it, some of the thunder was so loud and close the earth shook, the lightning turned night into day I think it stopped about midnight and then I could finally get to sleep.



The next morning we decided to explore the bays and fishing options in the area, we first drove to Little Wharton beach and what a stunning spot, a small beach with rocks on both sides and protected from the large swell and waves by an offshore island, the water looked deep and an excellent fishing option, next we drove

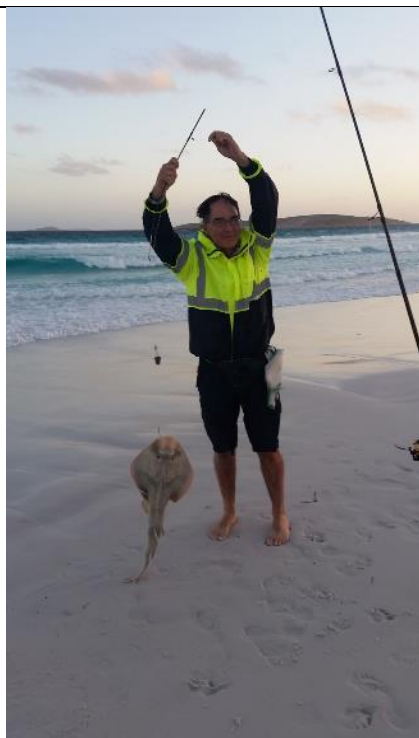
to Big Wharton bay this large beach was typical of the south coast with waves and deep water 150 meters out and then some small gutters running within 50 meters of the beach sand.

After this we decided to drive east along Merivale road to see how far we could get, first we came to Daniels Road which leads down to another small river and large bay, the bay was calm and sheltered with shallow water, the water was crystal clear as were all the bays we had seen so far, we did not think the fishing would be great due to very still and clear water, but the river was deep and wide and would hold some bream, the area behind the dunes had some unmaintained camping spots as did the area near the river, Gary had camped in this spot a few years ago but not caught any fish.

Next we drove further east to Alexander bay, again we found a large protected bay with clear water and just a gentle wave, we broke out the fishing gear and fished for about an hour with no luck, this bay had a fully maintained camping area with long drop toilets and camping fees, we headed home for lunch and planed to fish in the afternoon near the caravan park.



Fishing at Alexander Bay – you can see the smoke from the fire across the bay



Peet and Sandra Wessels arrived about 4pm that day (Friday 1st March) and also set up camp next to us, Shane, Gary and myself headed out to fish Big Wharton bay till sun down, we drove about 3km down the beach till we could see a nice gutter and started to fish, we caught a few herring and Shane landed a small shovel nose ray, as he dragged it in and lifted it his fishing rod broke, not a great start but he had a couple of backups to use, we fished till the sun went down and returned to camp for dinner.



Fishing at Big Wharton bay

The next morning, we headed out to Little Wharton beach with all members fishing for a few hours, this area had a lot of herring and small skippy all about 20cm – 24cm none over 25cm, also a few small underside flathead, but very comfortable fishing and a beautiful spot.



Little Wharton beach fishing

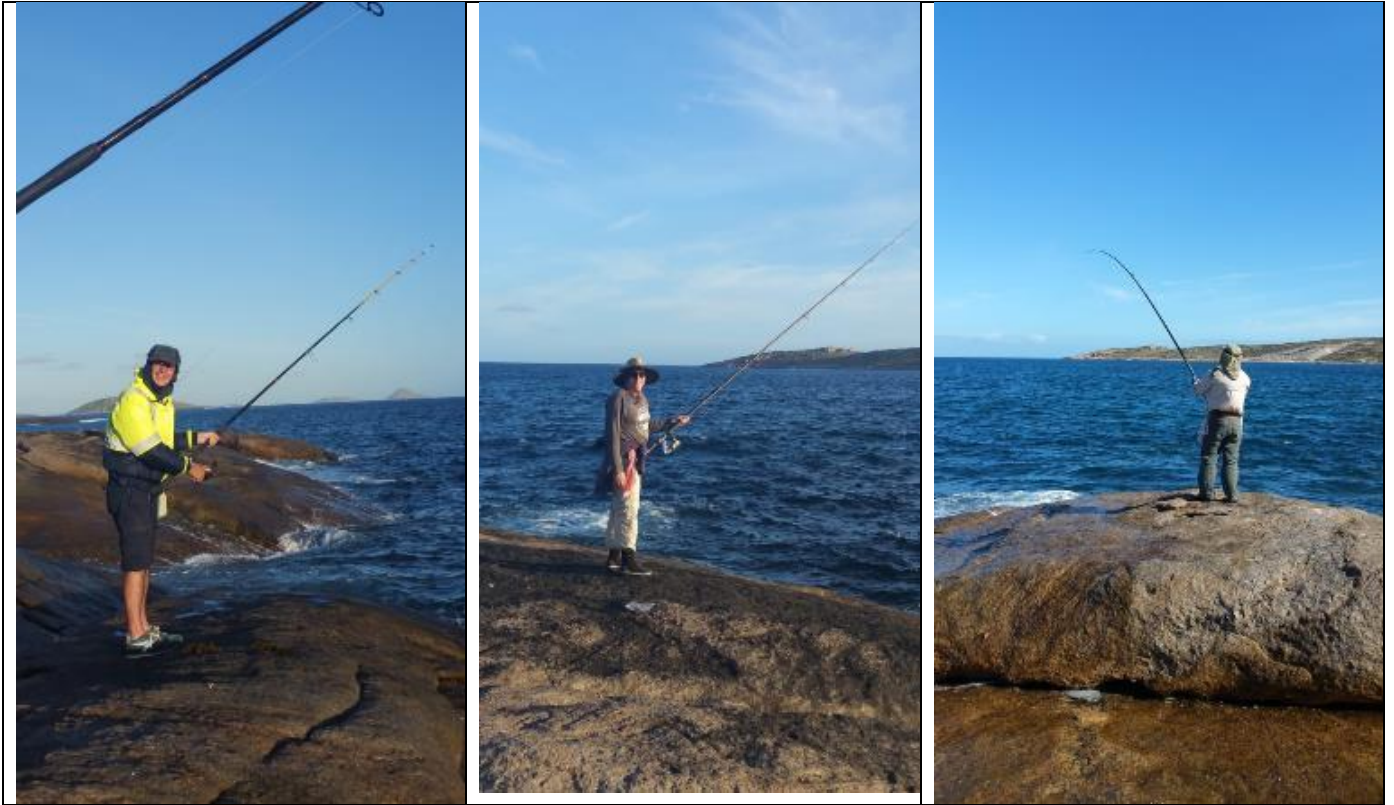
After packing up we headed out to look at a couple of more spots for fishing, we went to Nares beach this had protected and shallow water and rocks on both sides, we walked around the rocks to find a likely fishing spot with some deep water off the rocks.



Nares beach

Next we drove down along Big Wharton bay to go through to Victoria harbour, this beach had more wave action but also had some sea weed and after a short fish did not produce any results we packed up and on the way back had a look at Cawrie beach, this was a small beach with rocks on both sides and had some good rock fishing options we decided to fish this area after lunch.

Peet and Sandra headed out after lunch to fish the rocks at Cawrie beach, the rest of us followed about 4pm, the water off the rocks was very deep when we arrived Peet and Sandra had already had some luck with various species but had caught some Bright Redfish (Nannygai), We all fished for a few hours but the fishing activity seemed to slow down and not much was caught other than wrasse.



Rock fishing at Cawrie beach



Sandra's Bight Redfish

As the field day was to start on the next day we all made our game plans for the next morning start at 6am, we all started at Little Wharton beach apart from Shane who had to return to Perth as his Mum was not well, Some Herring, small Skippy and small Flathead again but nothing else, After lunch Gary and I headed off to the small creek just east of the caravan park, I found a track that came to a large pool and had a small overgrown track that came out at the bank of the creek but was only suitable for 1 person to fish.

I rigged up and after ½ hour had a big bite and was on to a good bream, it put up a great fight taking me from 1 side of the pool to the other, I got him to the bank and lifted him out to find a 38cm black bream, I was very happy with that, this was my biggest bream ever, Gary then had a go but could not catch one.



Martin with a 38cm Bream from the creek



Gary with a Sweep

We then moved to the rocks at Nares to try our luck, this spot proved to be good with easy fishing and we caught Wrasse, Rock Blackfish, Banded Sweep, Herring, Skippy and Sea Perch, we headed back just after sunset for dinner and an early night after a big day of fishing. Next morning Gary and I headed back to the Nares rocks but only got the same species, I managed to hook a stingray that took me on some good runs going from 1 side to the other, I thought I had a good fish till I worked it to the rock edge and saw it was a sting ray, mid-morning we headed to big Wharton bay and I caught my 1st Salmon.

After lunch Gary and I went back to the Nares rocks and caught mostly wrasse but again enjoyed the sun and great weather, after this we went to little Wharton beach to finish the day, we found Peter O and Pat already fishing and Peet and Sandra also arrived soon after, Again we caught mostly herring but Peet caught 2 Port Jackson sharks, one was the biggest any of us had seen.

Next morning I was the only one to go out fishing, It had rained overnight and was cold and overcast, the wind was stronger than the last few days but I headed to Big Wharton bay hoping for some more Salmon, I arrived at the gutter about 6am and cast

out my mulie rig, after a few herring my rod bent over at 7.30am and I was onto a good Salmon, after a 10 minute fight I slid him up the beach, a nice 78cm specimen, I took a quick photo and sent him back, he swan off strong.



Next hit was 8.20am and a 76cm salmon came in after a quick photo he swan off too, I headed back to camp just before 9am to do the weight in at 10am.

We did the weigh in at 10am back at camp, a lot of catch and release which made for a quick weigh in, Pat managed to get his bag limit of 12 herring for the first time, well done Pat, Peet and Sandra's Bight Redfish was a highlight, great fish from the rocks for sure, and my 38cm Bream from a small creek, it will take a while to wipe that smile off my face.

Thanks to everyone that attended, what a great week we had, The scenery around this location is spectacular, each time you drove into a new bay it takes your breath away with the crystal clear water and white sand, the caravan park was great the staff were extremely helpful and amenities were clean and well maintained.

Martin Wearmouth Field Day Officer



Sunset fishing at Little Wharton beach



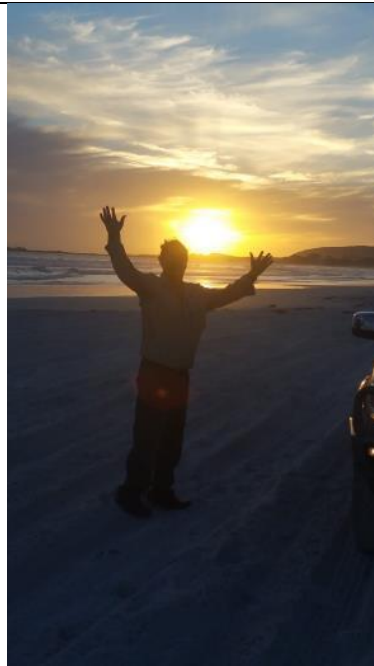
Sandra with a large Salmon, the biggest of the trip



Peet with his Salmon



Peet with a Port Jackson



Peet catching the sun



Pat and his bag of 12 herring

Top scores up to March		
Rank	Angler	Total points
1	Martin Wearmouth	1459.2
2	Peet Wessels	1171.4
3	Peter Osborne	959.1
4	Sandra Wessels	901.6
5	Mark Hansen	753.7
6	Gary Parkinson	465.1
7	Vincent Tomazin	429.0
8	Theo Van Niekerk	261.4
9	Mark Nurse	228.9
10	Paul Terpkos	223.5
11	Shane Wignell	196.9
12	Ron Thomas	172.3
13	Pat McKeown	159.4
14	Sri Srigandan	135.3
15	Chris Stickells	125.0
16	Sabby Pizzolante	118.5
17	Ian Taggart	95.6
18	Geoff Raftis	88.9
19	Ian Cook	69.1
20	Helen Carnell	52.1
21	Sarah Wignell	40.0
22	Oliver Wessels	35.6
23	Jason Bambridge	22.2



After the weigh in, smiles all round after a great stay

ANGLER		Species Salmon Australian	Species Herring, Australian	Species Western Rock Blackfish	Species Wrasse (all species) 1	Species Leather Jackets (all species)	Species Banded Sweep	Species Bream (all species)	Species Skipjack Trevally	Species Sea Perch (all)	Species Cod (other than listed)	Species Bight Redfish (Nannygai)	Total weight	No. of Species	No. of fish	F.D. points	Attendance Field Day	Attendance General Meeting	Total points
Martin Wearmouth	Number	3	12	1	1		2	1	1	1			18.87	8	22	290.7	1	1	310.7
	Total weight	14.85	1.57	0.20	0.31		0.50	0.84	0.30	0.30									
	Weight of best																		
Sandra Wessels	Number	2	8		1	1						1	13.87	5	13	201.7	1	1	221.7
	Total weight	11.79	0.88		0.31	0.32					0.57								
	Weight of best																		
Peet Wessels	Number	1	11		1		1		1		1	2	7.69	7	18	164.9	1	1	184.9
	Total weight	4.32	1.21		0.31		0.25		0.30		0.30	1.00							
	Weight of best																		
Gary Parkinson	Number		4	1	1		1			1			1.60	5	8	74.0	1	1	94.0
	Total weight		0.44	0.30	0.31		0.25			0.30									
	Weight of best																		
Peter Osborne	Number		12										1.36	1	12	35.6	1	1	55.6
	Total weight		1.36																
	Weight of best																		
Pat McKeown	Number		12										1.24	1	12	34.4	1	1	54.4
	Total weight		1.24																
	Weight of best																		

PETER'S STORY – ESPERANCE SAFARI

I picked up Pat at his house about 7:00 am on the Thursday morning - was late as my GPS had failed and spent some 40 minutes wandering around the backstreets looking for Pats street and house. With difficulty, we managed to fit Pats gear into the Isuzu Given my back/leg issues Pat offered to drive and subsequently was my chauffeur for the whole trip.

On arriving at Armadale, I was ribbed by the team in being late for the start of the safari drive. On arriving at Esperance Martin checked with a local contact there and confirmed bushfires east of Esperance' Thus first major decision was not to go to Poison Creek and Thomas River. At night we saw a large orange glow and flames about 89 km east of our caravan park. Hence, we were all disappointed we could not fish these prime spots. Checks throughout the week gave bushfires still out of control. Past history from club members and my own personnel experience of years past gave these venues provide real hotspots for Salmon, Skippy, Tailor and the odd Mulloway.

Martins contact also discussed options and came up with a Caravan Park about 60 km east of Esperance that offered various beaches and rock fishing. The caravan park was ideal, of shade trees, powered sites, with good clean toilets and great showers with lots of hot water. We all cooked our meals and after the long drive and setting up our tents settled down for a good night's sleep. Wrong - a storm rolled in before midnight, lots of lightning and thunder, It woke me up, Pat was sound asleep when this huge flash of lightning illuminated the inside of the tent immediately followed by a huge overhead clap of thunder (sounded as loud as an atomic bomb) . Pat literally twitched two feet off the bed. I felt a pressure wave from the generation of that clap of thunder. That clap of thunder will be imprinted on our minds and come flooding back every time we think of Esperance. *Weather over the week alternated between storm, short burst of rain, hot sunshine, cold nights/mornings, strong winds, and no wind.*

On the Friday we went different ways to explore the area. One venue Pat and I worked had a low level rock platform with deep water in front. . We baited up and after few casts using a bait casting rig with mulie, I hooked up on a large Pike or a small Snook. Unable to tell what species as the hooks pulled right at my feet and the fish rolled back into the water. This was followed by a large beautifully coloured Wrasse, of about 1.5 kg. I should have photographed weighed and measured as it could have been a Club record. Adjacent to the platform we tried, there were some climbable cliffs and rocky headland the others tried this headland with great success with some quality fish landed. Pat and I decided scrambling up and then across large rocks to reach the water, was a bit too ambitious for two old crocks like us

Pat and I fished a few of the local beaches, with one small beach close to camp providing some Herring, with the main beach providing an odd Herring but heaps of juvenile Salmon. I.e. about the size of a Mulie. Pete and Sandra had found a gutter that produced - Sandra's first Salmon which was a beauty. Over the course of the next few days, Pete Sandra and Martin each landed a couple of Salmon from this location. We tried a couple of likely looking gutters further up the beach, but without success. We also tried the Salmon gutter couple of times without success. However on one of the morning tries on this good gutter on looking at the sandbank adjacent to the gutter, a shark swam through. My guess was it was Bronzie of about 2 metres. About 3 minutes after spotting the animal, my rod and reel went off, and on picking it up from the sand spike, felt weight and deducted I had hooked that shark. This battle only lasted about 30 seconds as I was then bitten off. So that was my main excitement for the trip.

A gutter adjacent to Peet and Sandra's spot gave some excitement and fortunately no casualties. This gutter had a strong rip and an English couple decided to swim it, she immediately got into trouble. Her Partner went to help her, and he immediately got into trouble and was swept sea wood. Fortunately, a couple of young fit and strong swimmers arrived and undertook a rescue. I spoke with her a couple of hours later. She admitted she panicked and lost control of her actions and at the time her thought was she was going to drown. All ended well with these two having a better respect and understanding of our beach surf

Although we did not reach our targeted fishing areas, and despite times when weather was against us, a very enjoyable weekend was had by all. Unfortunately, Shane had a family health issue come up, so he returned to Perth, shortly after arriving and setting up camp.

THE ESPERANCE EXPERIENCE 2019 – PAT'S STORY

After much planning the day had finally arrived to depart for Esperance Peter “ O” arrived and we loaded the vehicle with the Engels and food supplies for a week away fishing. Martin had kindly offered to take the Generator Etc in his trailer thank goodness as we were loaded to the gunnels.

The plan was to meet up at Armadale and be on our merry way. Our first stop was to be 3 hours down the track then a lunch break before heading into Esperance. The Wheat silos at Ravensthorpe are fantastic and well worth a visit.

Arriving in Esperance we found out that the area we are heading for is closed and had to quickly come up with a plan ‘B’ luckily Martin was in touch with a local who was able to give solution to our dilemma. We headed away from Esperance travelling east to another location the Duke of Orleans Caravan Park 90km down the road only 60km from our original destination Poison Creek which was under siege by a bushfire and the road closed.

After setting up camp another story in its self we finally got it set up (pew). It was then decided to go and have a look around possible fishing locations. The beaches and the views are really spectacular and need to be seen to be believed. The weather was cold at night but really warmed up during the day making it too hot to stay on the beach after 10am. Headed back to camp to warm in the tent luckily Martin had bought along his gazebo. What a god send to be able to sit in the shade out of the wind which a times was relentless, but this is the norm for Esperance I am told.

We had the biggest thunderstorm I have been in and went to bed with it rumbling all around us getting closer by the minute. I must have dozed off when this big bang and pressure on my chest woke me up after leaping in the air much to Peter’s amusement. Gary was giggling like a school girl not sure if it was sheer fright or just Gary being Gary.

After all the excitement went back to sleep to get up early for a fishing session. Peter and I as the old men of the party just quietly fished the beach and some easy rock fishing. So peaceful fishing with a line in the water lazing back in a chair watching while mother Nature does its thing. With club comp finishing on Tuesday it was decided to head home early Wednesday morning as we could not go anywhere else with the roads closed to the spots we wanted to go to. But we were safe and out of harm’s way. Hats off to the vollies that fought and controlled the fires.

On a personal note I would like to thank Martin for all his efforts to give us a fishing experience.

Pat McKeown

South West trip and sun protection *Chris Stickells*

At the end of Feb from the 26th until 1 March, I took a trip with my mate going around the southwest, staying at a different DPAW campsite each night to commemorate the 10 year anniversary of my mates dad’s passing. We set out on Tuesday around midday and started heading south. We were going to visit his dad's grave in Manjimup, but Sheldon changed his mind as it was a large detour from our coastal location.

Most of the sites we had to ourselves as they were so remote and 4wd only which provided some challenging 4wd conditions. Some tracks had to have their ruts filled in due to their depth so that the Suzuki Vitara could pass. Well worth getting held up for though, as we saw some amazing sites.

Wednesday night when we fished the only things, we caught were stingrays or big and unmovable monsters. Thursday proved more fruitful. I don't recall location however I know it was south of Margaret River, every cast on this deserted beach was whiting, herring or salmon trout. Bag limit was reached quickly so gutted and gilled. I then took my shoes off, applied sunscreen making sure it soaked in and went in for a wash lasting

about 20 minutes. Despite this my feet got burned and the next day they were blistered and swollen. The day after when I returned home, I showed Helen who took me straight to the doctor who sent us straight to hospital where I was given laughing gas to make me high and cover the pain while they cleaned and treated the wounds.

I've got to have a second doctor's appointment to have more pics taken and sent to Fiona Stanley Hospital burns unit to see where to from here.

The trip was amazing had a lot of fun, caught fish, made memories though I think I'm going to invest in water slippers for the future, as I don't know what else to do to prevent my feet from burning. My feet are painful now and I can't really walk. This means no work or fishing etc and it's upsetting me as I can't do anything around the home. Guys take really good care of your feet be sun smart so you don't go through what I'm going through.



A WAKE UP CALL FOR RECREATIONAL FISHING IN AUSTRALIA

22nd February 2019 By Ross Winstanley*

Recreational fishing in Australia faces an interesting challenge: a recent decline in the community's view of its sustainability. While community perceptions of commercial fishing's sustainability sit at a lower level, the industry has invested heavily – and with some success – in maintaining public support. It would be risky for recreational fishing to ignore the current trend in community perceptions and the possible consequences for one of our favourite pastimes.

WARNING SIGNS

Since the 2000-01 National Recreational Fishing Survey, state wide surveys have shown declining participation rates in recreational fishing around Australia. Despite population growth, fewer people are fishing and the numbers of fish they catch are declining. For example, a NSW state wide survey estimated that, along with declining fisher numbers, between 2000/01 and 2012/13, the numbers of every targeted scalefish, including stocked species, decreased. In Tasmania, across three surveys since 2000/01, participation fell by 22% and the total number of fish caught fell by 35%. Between 1996 and 2014, Queensland's participation rate has fallen from 28% to 15%.

For 20 years or more, recreational fishers have been alert to overseas pressures that could pose threats to their activities here. For example, the rising pressure from the animal rights movement and bans on catch and release fishing in some European states have aroused attention in Australia. These factors have helped to motivate fishers, working with governments, to develop fishing and fish-handling practices and fishing regulations aimed at harm-minimisation at the level of fish stocks, individual fish and the environment. All of this is to the great credit of the recreational fishing community. The question is, what has the wider Australian community made of it?

NATIONAL FISHING INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

Australia's commercial fishing industry is engaged in continual efforts to improve community support and recognition of its gains in areas of environmental and fish resource sustainability. Ensuring the health and productivity of fish resources involves continuous investment in technology, fishery monitoring, stock assessment and management, with much of the costs borne by the industry. Equally challenging is raising

community awareness of achievements made in these areas and what this represents in terms of ongoing investment by the industry.

To measure how effectively the industry performs in maintaining public support, the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) has been tracking perceptions of the industry through a series of community surveys since 2011. Combined with a 2002 pilot ‘community perceptions’ study, these surveys compare trends in how Australians view the sustainability of commercial ‘wild catch’ fishing, recreational fishing, traditional fishing and aquaculture. The 2018 survey showed that recreational fishing is one of three sectors currently showing a downward trend in sustainability as viewed by the community.

While fewer in the community view commercial fishing as operating sustainably, it is the only sector to have maintained a stable image throughout the 16-year period of these surveys. This has not happened by accident: the commercial fishing industry has invested heavily – and with some success – in maintaining its level of public support. The 2018 survey indicated that, while 11% of Australians are aware of the industry’s efforts to improve its level of sustainability, the majority (57%) are unaware of details, but assume that ‘something is being done’.

The industry works independently as well as with governments in several ways to demonstrate its sustainability. Environmental management plans, codes of practice and third party accreditation are some of the measures increasingly adopted and publicised during the past 20 years. Whatever the industry is doing, it is succeeding in holding the line, unlike the other sectors. The recreational fishing sector could learn a lot from the commercial fishing industry.

REACHING OUT TO PUBLIC OPINION

If they’re aware of it, most recreational fishers are indifferent to the downward national trend in participation: who wants to see more competition on the water, at the boat ramp and on the jetty?

Fisheries agencies enable participation through programs such as fishing clinics, schools programs and information services and by providing catch shares and access as required under government policies. The current Victorian Government goes the extra step by actively promoting fishing participation through its Target One Million program, with the aim of boosting adult fisher numbers to one million.

Recreational fishing bodies work independently and with governments in many of these programs and through promoting responsible fishing behaviour, humane fishing practices, safety and respect for other resource users. Anglers are increasingly involved in meaningful fish habitat restoration works, such as river re-snagging and shellfish reef recovery programs.

The recreational fishing industry engages with many of these programs, directly or through sponsorships. It also actively promotes fishing, for instance through media programs, state wide and local fishing shows, and fishing tournaments.

However, recreational fishers and their allied industry do little that reaches out with the aim of building community confidence in the sustainability of recreational fishing. Instead, around Australia their political activism has been rewarded by the closure of competing – and sustainable – inshore commercial fisheries, effectively gifting them sole fishing access. Few recreational fishers realise the privilege they have been granted, believing these re-allocations to be their right. Privilege or right, it would be a mistake to assume that this has gone unnoticed by the majority of Australians, most of whom are seafood consumers.

WHAT’S BEHIND THE TREND?

Despite the popularity and recognised quality of ‘farm fishing’ produce, it is not hard to think of factors contributing to the downward trend in the perceived sustainability of aquaculture. Serious events from several states have resulted in prominent mainstream media coverage nation-wide: Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS), diseased prawn farm closures and mass fish mortalities and environmental contamination from sea-cage farming.

Negative perceptions about commercial fishing abound and receive widespread publicity. On top of well-described Australian examples, the industry suffers from conflation with prominently described negative aspects of overseas fisheries. Actions to stabilise and rebuild our overfished stocks and to minimise environmental harm are not as well publicised as the conditions they seek to address. Effective responses

help to maintain public support but require significant investment (eg Marine Stewardship Council certification) and persistence (eg promotion of seafood health benefits).

It's not so easy to identify what's behind the post-2013 decline in the community's view of recreational fishing. Perceptions of cruelty and excessive catches are not new and the sector has worked closely with governments for over 20 years to improve fishing's conduct and image. Working collaboratively, the sector has tightened catch limits, promoted humane fish handling methods and strengthened controls of fishing competitions and tournaments. However, while these measures are well publicised among the fishing fraternity, they may not earn credit with the wider community.

Genuine advances in responsible fishing can be undermined by publicity given to one-off events such as the 650 kg marlin suspended from a gantry, accompanied by the RSPCA's reminder of their anti-game fishing policy.

What the 90% or so of Australians who eat seafood see is dwindling access to their local sources of fresh fish as governments heed calls from anglers to close inshore commercial fisheries. This process, too, has been ongoing for many years but recent prominent examples, amplified through mainstream and social media coverage, have heightened public awareness.

Over many years, governments' huge and well publicised investments in supporting recreational fishing have been justified partly on the basis of the social and economic benefits flowing from fishing. In an era of increasing application of user-pays, the large majority of Australians who seldom if ever fish may be beginning to question this as a valid use of public resources.

HOW WILL THE RECREATIONAL SECTOR RESPOND?

Politically, around Australia, recreational fishing currently enjoys a healthy level of recognition and support. However, with trends in public perception and fishing participation heading in the same direction, the sector faces a wake-up call, if not a real challenge.

In the report of their 2002 FRDC-supported study, *Community Perceptions Of Fishing: Implications For Industry Image, Marketing And Sustainability*, Heather Aslin and Ian Brown wrote:

“Without baseline understanding of public perceptions of the industry, industry plans, strategies, and communication and extension activities cannot take into account existing public concerns or knowledge levels. To effectively inform, educate and communicate with the public, the industry needs an understanding of what the public currently knows and whether this knowledge is accurate and up-to-date”. The industry also needs to know where the public obtains its information so it can target its communication strategies into appropriate communication channels and use appropriate media.

In keeping with this assessment, targeted community surveys and communications have guided commercial fishing's response to both emerging and persistent challenges. How and when will the recreational sector respond to their challenges and who will take the lead?

Most avid and rusted-on recreational fishers aren't concerned that participation is declining and will be indifferent to the level of public funding; they'll back their own ability to carry on successfully. Also, unlike Victoria, most governments around Australia aren't driven to increase fisher numbers, so the main incentives to turn the perception and participation trends around lie with the fishing tackle, boating, tourism and other allied industries, and with fishers' representative bodies whose political influence depends on numbers.

If these trends continue unchecked, carrying on in a bubble of indifference carries a real risk. The commercial sector has demonstrated how, working with social science and public opinion survey professionals, there are paths to – at least – halting the community's declining view of recreational fishing.

In terms of individual and community health and social benefits, there's a lot for the sector to work with in effectively selling the true value of recreational fishing to Australia.

** Ross Winstanley is a keen angler, fishing writer and fisheries consultant. For 30 years he worked with Fisheries Victoria in policy, management and research*

1. Western Australia's \$2.4 Billion Lifestyle



DEAR MEMBERS AND SUBSCRIBERS,

Today was a great day for recreational fishers all across the state, with the release of the report "Economic Dimensions of Recreational Fishing in Western Australia" undertaken by respected WA economists. The report aimed at quantifying fishers' annual expenditure and reaffirming the economic value of recreational fishing to our state. At Recfishwest we always wanted to understand how much money recreational fishers inject into the state's economy every year. This study, the first of its kind, was funded from fishing licence money through the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund and was completed in late 2018.

The contribution to our economy will come as no surprise to most of us, given the amount of our hard earned money we are prepared to spend to chase that fish of a lifetime. We need only to think about how many times we have bought lures and gear that we don't really need, or how many fishing trips we go on with friends and family each year. Every week it seems I am spending money on my boat, buying more gear, picking up bait, ice or putting fuel in the car for the next fishing expedition.

Have you ever wondered how much money you spend on fishing? Imagine if the state's other 750,000 fishers spent as much on fishing as you do?

Today Recfishwest along with the West Australian Premier Hon. Mark McGowan and Fisheries Minister launched this report which shows just how much rec fishing in WA matters. The economic study calculated West Aussies spend a whopping \$2.4billion on fishing every year! This is the new baseline for recreational fishing value, as long as fishing experiences are protected and enhanced this figure will continue to grow.

Recfishwest will continue to ensure that fishing gets the recognition it deserves and that decision makers are made aware of how important our pastime is to the state's economy.

*Dr Andrew Rowland
CEO
Recfishwest*



Fishing with Jim

Jim had an awful day fishing, without a single bite. On his way home, he stopped at the shop and ordered four good catfish.

“ Pick out four large ones and throw them at me” Jim said.

“Why throw them at you?” the fishmonger asked

“Because I want to tell my wife I caught them.” Jim replied.

“OK, but I suggest that you take the trout”, the fishmonger replied.

“Why is that?” Jim asked.

“Well, your wife was in earlier and said if you came in, I should tell you to take the trout. That’s what she wants for dinner tonight.”

HOW TO RIG YOUR SOFT PLASTICS

We often take for granted the importance of putting your soft plastic tails and hooks together properly, so I’ll provide you with some hints and tips for getting the job done right.

It’s no secret that soft plastic lures have to be rigged correctly to work as they were intended. Unless a plastic tail is threaded onto the hook dead straight and without any bumps or bulges, you can’t expect it to look totally lifelike and subsequently catch fish. To some anglers at least, rigging soft plastic tails comes easily. These are the guys who can do the job in the dark for perfect results. There are others, however who struggle to rig their plastics correctly on a regular basis.

Basically, there are two types of soft plastic rigging techniques you need to know to cover most lure styles – standard and weedless. Both are pretty straightforward and can be demonstrated clearly in a step-by-step pictorial guide. Firstly I’ll look at rigging a 145mm Squidgy Whip bait on a 21 gram Squidgy Fish Head jig, then do the same with a Squidgy Stealth Prawn on a TT Snakehead weedless jig.

Standard Rigging



Step 1

Lay the jig hook along the soft plastic tail so that the top of the tail sits flush with the jig head.

Step 2

Make a mark or find a feature on the lure tail where the point of the jig hook should emerge after being pushed through. Precision here is vital.

Step 3

Push the hook point through the head of the plastic, making sure it is right in the centre.

Step 4

Carefully thread the hook point through the middle of the soft plastic until the point is exactly beneath your mark on the tail.

Step 5

When you are confident that the hook point will emerge in the right spot, push it through the plastic and bring the hook through after it



Step 6

Push the plastic tail back down along the jig hook until the top of the plastic slips up over the securing barb and nestles nicely against the lead head. Provided you have completed all steps neatly and precisely, the lure tail should be sitting straight and on centre, with no bunching up or distortion of any kind along its entire length.



Rigging Weedless



Step 1

Place the jig head or hook alongside the plastic so that you know where the hook should be poking in and out through both the chin and the body and make a mark if necessary.



Step 2

Push the point of the hook through the head of the soft plastic and down through the chin of the lure. Once you've got the hook lined up properly you can then push the point of the hook through the chin and continue to slide the hook through the soft plastic until the eye of the hook is snug against the lure.



Step 3

Take note of where the hook wants to go through on the belly side of the body and proceed to push the point all the way through – again keeping everything central and neat.



Step 4

The hook point should come through the top of the lure and right in the centre.



Step 5

Gently push the very point of the hook under the surface of the soft plastic to make the lure as weedless as possible – if you're fishing in a potentially snaggy or weedy location.

Some soft plastics are not suited to weedless rigging. The softer the plastic, the better it will work. The plastic needs to be able to slide down along the hook or have a soft enough 'belly' section so that the hook point and barb can be exposed easily when a fish grabs the lure.

The bottom line, regardless of whether you are rigging weedless or with a weighted head, is keeping things neat and precise. Do the job right and you'll be fishing with one of the most effective lure styles ever invented!

Submitted by John Curtis



FISHING World's Facebook page shared an image on Tuesday evening showing a commercial boat load of mulloway, reportedly caught in the Shoalhaven River of NSW.

The response on social media was immediate and fierce. Rec fishos were vocal in condemning this type of commercial practice, a perfectly legal capture. On the flipside, pro fishos saw little wrong with the photo.

Last year, recently departed Fisheries Minister Niall Blair announced a plan for restoring mulloway numbers. The plan, which was in response to the failed Mulloway Recovery program, halved recreational bag limits while removing an undersize by-catch rule for commercial fishers. But did it go far enough?

No commercial quota is in place for estuary netting mulloway, meaning commercial fishos are still allowed to catch as many legal size fish as possible. Meanwhile rec fishos are releasing most of their catch, which sadly often end up in these same nets.

NOTES FROM AAAWA DELEGATES COUNCIL MEETING

19TH MARCH 2019

State Rock and Beach Competition:

To be held at Port Gregory on 28,29 & 30 September.

A club is required to run this event on behalf of the Association. Clubs are all asked to assist in the running of events. Guidance and assistance is available but clubs must notify their willingness to assist by the **July Meeting at the latest.**

State Estuary Competition:

To be held at Walpole on the 23 and 24th of November 2019.

Note: Change of date due to non-availability of the Rest Point Caravan Park on the previous as it was totally booked out.

Again a club is required to run this event on behalf of the Association. Clubs are all asked to assist in the running of events. Guidance and assistance is available but clubs must notify their willingness to assist by the **July Meeting at the latest.**

Catch and Release App:

Marmion are still using the app as an adjunct to their normal competitions. Results appear positive with many members taking the opportunity to record and release fish. Not a lot of response from club delegates with only one indicating support for inclusion in AAA Competition

National Park Draft Management Plans

Delegates were asked to advise clubs of the draft management plans for the Ningaloo National Park and comment was sought on this and another in the West Kimberley. They are a 10-year plan for jointly managed reserves in Ningaloo and the west Kimberley and are released for public comment. The plans are available at <https://pws.dbca.wa.gov.au/parks/management-plans/draft-plans-open-for-public-comment> and public submissions close shortly. Copies of the executive summary of the Ningaloo plan have been distributed to Delegates. Clubs are asked to review the draft management plans and respond accordingly.

Only one member responded to this request for feedback.

President's Report.

Web Site:

Progress is being made on the web site, and it is now live. It can be accessed at www.aaa-wa.org.au. Members are asked to review the site and where they find concerns or errors they are asked to advise the Secretary. The old site will remain in service for a period of time but will not be up-dated.

We need good clear photos of fish and club events. We do not want pictures of dead fish in a pile or hung up on scales and definitely **No Blood.**

To date we have had no feedback regarding the web site from members nor have we received any information from clubs.

The listing of clubs on the site has several errors and we are aware of these regarding affiliated clubs. Delegates are asked to go back to their clubs and confirm that the details shown are current. **If not please advise the Association Secretary promptly.**

Report provided by John Curtis (President)
