



Surf Casting & Angling Club of W.A. (Inc.)

P.O. Box 2032, Marmion W.A. 6020 <http://www.surfcasters.iinet.net.au/>

Club Committee for the Year 2005/2006

President

John Romano

Vice President

George Holman

Immediate Past President

Bob Henderson

Secretary/Reel Talk Editor/Web Page

Terry Fuller

**All club mail to:-
PO Box 2032,
Marmion W A
6020**

Treasurer

Paul Thompson

**All club mail to:-
PO Box 2032,
Marmion W A
6020**

(is away from Perth and really mobile until December, 2005)

Dry Casting Officer

**Need someone to volunteer
or else
No Dry Casting**

Email:- surfcast@iinet.net.au

Field Day Officer

Malcolm Harris

Property Officer

Vix Alexander

Recorder

Ian Cook

Committee Person

Peter Stoeckel

Assistant Drycasting Officer

Social Coordinator

Josh Lucocq

Committee Person

Jim Yeates

A.A.A. Delegates

George Holman

Chas Riegert

Terry Fuller

Committee Person

Chas Riegert

September 2005 Reel Talk Contents.

Minutes of General Meeting, 10 August 2005.....	2	Sponsorship Renewal by Yallingup Beach Holiday Park...7
Coming Club Events.....	3	Safari 2006.
September Dry Casting.....	3	Happy Birthday to:-
No Dry Casting in Future?	3	New Member Acceptances.....
September General Meeting.....	3	New Member Application.
September 2005 Field Day – S Bend.....	3	Member Resignations.....
Changes to Field Day Dates and Venues.....	4	Life Members of the Club.....
Local Field Day for September 2005.	4	Advertising in Reel Talk.....
October 2005 Field Day - Open.	4	Dry Casting Sausage Sizzle.....
Local Field Day for October 2005.	4	August Dry Casting Report.....
Who checks the Calendar?	4	Casting Top Ten up to August 2005.....
Member's Stories, Photos, Tips, etc.....	4	Help the Dry Casting Markers.....
Calendar for Next Three Months.....	5	Dry Casting Results, 7 August 2005.....
Reel Talk Publishing Deadline.....	5	Recfishwest Board Meeting Report.
2005/2006 Field Day Dates and Venues.....	5	River Kids
2005/2006 Dry Casting Dates.....	5	Wanted - Back Copies of Reel Talk.....
2005/2006 General Meetings.....	6	Advertising in Reel Talk.....
Field Day and Dry Casting Fees.	6	A Record Catch
Your Club's Future	6	Fisheries Management Perth Metro Area Proposals.....
Field Day Boundaries	6	Fishing in Brass Monkey Weather.....
Membership Fees Were Due 1 July 2005.....	6	Dry Casting Rods For Sale.....
Club Competition Rules and Constitution.....	6	August 2005 Field Day Report, Rottnest.....
Club Polo Shirts, Jackets and Caps.	6	Pink Snapper Spawning Closures.
Donations for Trophies.	7	Recorders Report August 2005.....
Have a Go Day.	7	Rottnest Island in October.
Kalbarri House For Rent.	7	Open Competition 2005/6.
Wanted - Aluminium Cans.....	7	Barron Lure Competition.....

Minutes of General Meeting, 10 August 2005

- Venue:-** Coolbinia West Perth Amateur Football and Sporting Club room. Time 8:05 pm. President John Romano presiding
- Present:-** 27 members.
- Apologies:-** Terry Willison, Mal Head, Jim Yeates, Roy Killick, Trevor Stam, Morris Kolman.
- Visitors:-** None
- Instruction Period:-** Chiropractor, Gary Patterson gave a very interesting talk on preparing the body for casting and fishing.
Paul Thompson gave a short talk on tackle, methods, bait etc, for fishing for whiting.
- New Members:-** Dion Damon and Dale Coates were welcomed into the club.
- Previous Minutes:-** John Jardine was presented with prizes not collected at the Presentation of Trophies night. As published in the Reel Talk. **Moved** Jim Strong, seconded Peter Stoeckel, these are a true record. Carried.
- Previous Committee:-** John Romano outlined actions from the previous Committee meeting. No other business arising.
- Correspondence In:**
- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Westpac Bank | Bank statement for July. |
| Ray White Kalbarri | Statement for July + cheque \$170.90. |
| AAA | Minutes of July AAA Delegates' Meeting and notice of AGM. |
| City of Stirling | Check of Club details in Community Info records |
| Yallingup Beach Holiday Park | Renewal of sponsorship and another voucher for accommodation for 2 nights for 2 adults and 2 children. Valid until 30 June 2006. |
- Correspondence Out:-**
- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Dale Coates | Acceptance of membership application |
| Dion Damon | Acceptance of membership application |
| City of Stirling | Confirmation of Club details in Community Info records |
- Moved** George Holman, seconded Jim Strong correspondence be accepted - carried.
- Treasurer's Report:-**
- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------|--|
| Accounts for payment. | | |
| Kalbarri Lawnmowing | \$157.80 | Lawnmowing, weed spraying, gutter cleaning, etc. |
| Coolbinia Football Club | \$200.00 | Room hire 4 months |
| iiNet Ltd | \$40.00 | Web sub domain charges |
- Moved** Jim Strong seconded Ian Cook accounts be passed for payment – carried.
- Property Officer** Vix Alexander reported on the Kalbarri House. Bookings have been quiet. Some maintenance to be done.
- Secretary's Report.** Will be covered under other headings.
- Field Day Officer:-** Malcolm Harris reported on the Cape to Cape Field Day, and presented the field day prizes. Details in the Reel Talk.
Terry Fuller advised that all the Reel Talks since January 2005 have shown the September Field Day as 10/11 September and the September Dry Casting as 11 September, with a note "changed from the usual first Sunday to avoid Fathers' Day". We never schedule two events on the same day One must have been wrong. And of course one was wrong. But no-one twigged. Or no-one told anyone else.
The Field Day dates were not the usual "weekend after the second Wednesday" which is the standard dates unless we consciously change from those for some good reasons. Should have been 17/18 September.
Then there's the "October" long weekend. Reel Talks showed that as 1/2/3 October, but it seems it should have been 24/25/26 September. Again no one twigged or no-one told anyone else. He was sure the dates were taken from the Government website, and lots of diaries show those dates, but that's water under the bridge now because they were wrong and not the correct dates.
Moved Peter Stoeckel Seconded Ian Cook that the dates and venues for the Field Days in September and October be changed – September Field day to be on the Long Weekend to S Bend, October to be on the usual "weekend after the second Wednesday" and be an Open. Dry casting dates to stay as advertised, which are not the first Sundays. Carried.
- Dry Casting Officer:-** George Holman reported on the August dry casting. Details in Reel Talk.
He reminded members help to set out and pull down the dry casting courts would be needed at each dry casting day in future.
September casting will be organised by Peter Stoeckel and Andrew Aubrey.
- AAA Report:-** Nineteen people, most from the Surfcasters, will be going to Yeppoon. Final meeting for the group will be Monday 8 August at George Holman's.
AAA meeting had not been held yet.
- Recorder:-** Ian Cook reported. Open fishing competition applications received - details to be supplied for Reel Talk.
Ian gave details of John Lee's 1.53kg King George Whiting caught on Garden Island field day May 1973. This was entered and accepted as a State Record at the time but not was formally entered as a Club Record because it was thought that would happen

automatically. John has supplied a copy of the State record certificate. It was agreed on Ian Cook's recommendation that this be accepted as a Club Record.

Ian reported on the arrangements for the August Rottneest Field Day. 15 people going. Weather reports are for rough weather. People need to ensure the security of their gear over night.

- Social Organiser:-** Nothing to report.
Reel Talk Editor:- Nothing special to report. Would like people to check and advise of any errors – like dates for events.
Notices of Motion:- None.
General Business:- John Romano advised there would be a hands on fishing, rigs, etc. instruction period at his house on Saturday 11 am and would be followed by a fishing trip that afternoon if the weather is not too rough.
 Chas Riegert reported Keith Heaney had caught and released tailor of 115 cm on a slice and 112 cm on a popper at Kalbarri.
 Black Bream are being caught at Canning Bridge on the rising tide. Bream are spawning in the Rivers from now on so catch and release should be considered.
Instruction Period:- Already held earlier in the night.
Meeting closed:- 9:50 pm.

Coming Club Events.

September Dry Casting.

- When:-** Sunday 11 September. **Note** Change of date to avoid Fathers' Day.
Where:- Yokine Reserve, Wordsworth Avenue.
Events:- Double handed accuracy, Single handed accuracy, 56 gram distance Artificial bait distance, 112 gram distance.
 All casters please assist with the setting up at the beginning of the day before setting up your own gear.
 Please assist with the retrieval and packing up of the casting equipment at the end of the day's events.

Reminder Competition Rules Section 3.6.2 says juniors still get a score even if the cast lands out of court. Remember to measure all junior distance casts and add the "P" symbol if necessary.

No Dry Casting in Future?

The Club elections were held in July, and a new Committee was elected.

Missing from the list was a Dry Casting Officer. No one volunteered.

The time is past when members can simply stand back and expect one of hard workers from the current small set of volunteers to pick up yet another job until they have far to much to do and get burnt out.

The workers have done enough and have earned a rest, and they certainly don't need to have more work lumped on them. This standing back and waiting for someone else is a form of blackmail.

At the July Committee meeting, the Committee resolved that dry casting will not be run unless someone volunteers to do the Dry Casting Officer's job.

Over to you, the dry casters, to find someone from amongst yourselves. **Or else no dry casting.**

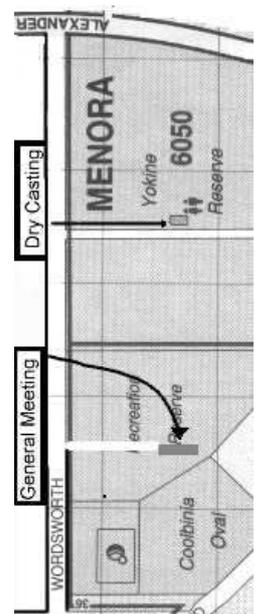
September General Meeting.

- When:-** Wednesday 14 September 2005, 8:00 pm.
Where:- Coolbinia West Perth Amateur Football and Sporting Club room, off Wordsworth Avenue, Yokine, about 200 metres south east of the Yokine Bowling Club.
Instruction Period:- Tony Ong, catching bream in the Swan River.

September 2005 Field Day – S Bend.

- When:-** Saturday/Sunday/Monday 24/25/26 September 2005. **(DATE and VENUE CHANGED)**
Sign On:- Saturday 11.00am at S Bend Caravan Park
Lines Down:- Saturday 12 noon
Weigh in:- Monday 10am at S Bend Caravan Park.
Boundaries:- Dongara to Southgates.

Tides for Geraldton	Saturday 24 Sept	0.83m at 1:19 am	0.27m at 12:23 pm	Sunrise:-	About 6:00 am
	Sunday 25 Sept	0.80m at 1:47 am	0.28m at 1:18 pm	Sunset:-	About 6:15 pm
	Monday 26 Sept	0.76m at 2:19 am	0.29m at 2:12 pm	Moon:- Last quarter:-	26 Sept
Moon	Saturday 24 Sept	Moonrise:-	About midnight	Moonset:-	About 9:50 am
	Sunday 25 Sept	Moonrise:-	About 1:00 am	Moonset:-	About 10:40 am
	Monday 26 Sept	Moonrise:-	About 1:55 am	Moonset:-	About 11:40 am



Changes to Field Day Dates and Venues.

Well people, where are all the proof readers and logical thinkers in the Club? Does anyone read the Reel Talks? Does anyone plan ahead?

All the Reel Talks since January 2005 have shown the September Field Day as 10/11 September and the September Dry Casting as 11 September, with a note "changed from the usual first Sunday to avoid Fathers' Day". Doesn't compute. We never schedule two such events on the same day One must have been wrong. And of course one was wrong. But no-one twigged. Or no-one told anyone else.

The Field Day dates were not the usual "weekend after the second Wednesday" which is the standard dates unless we consciously change from those for some good reasons. Should have been 17/18 September.

Then there's the "October" long weekend. Reel Talks showed that as 1/2/3 October, but it seems it should have been 24/25/26 September. Again no one twigged or no-one told anyone else. I'm sure the dates were taken from the Government website at http://www.docep.wa.gov.au/default_lr.asp?id=lr/wages/pub_hol1&menu=lr_wages and lots of diaries show those dates, but that's water under the bridge now because they were wrong in the Reel Talk.

Dates and venues for the Field Days in September and October were changed at the August General Meeting as shown below.

Local Field Day for September 2005.

When:- Saturday/Sunday/Monday 24/25/26 September 2005. **(DATE CHANGED)**

Sign On: At the General Meeting or to the FDO by 18:00 Friday.

Lines Down:- Saturday 12 noon.

Weigh in: Monday 10 am at G Holman's house, rear of 89 Clontarf St. Sorrento. Scales will be available on his back patio. An adult member must witness weights. Field Day money to be left with the scales in an envelope with your name and details written in the carbon copy Field Day book. No Money = no points. Results to be phoned to Field Day Officer by 8:00 pm that night.

Boundaries:- Penguin Island to north wall of the Two Rocks Marina, including the Swan River and both the North and South Moles.

Tides for	Saturday 24 Sept	0.42m at 1:33 pm		
Fremantle	Sunday 25 Sept	0.93m at 12:11 am	0.42m at 2:13 pm	
	Monday 26 Sept	0.89m at 12:51 am	0.44m at 2:45 pm	

October 2005 Field Day - Open.

When:- Saturday/Sunday 15/16 October 2005. **(DATE and VENUE CHANGED)**

Sign On: At the General Meeting or to the FDO by 18:00 Friday.

Lines Down:- Saturday 5.00 am - yes **5.00 am**.

Weigh in:- Sunday 4.00 pm at G Holman's house, 89 Clontarf St. Sorrento. Scales will be available on his back patio. An adult member must witness weights. Field Day money to be left with the scales in an envelope with your name and details written in the carbon copy Field Day book. No Money, no points. Results to be phoned to Field Day Officer by 8:00pm that night.

Boundaries:- all WA tidal waters. But no private jetties, nor places needing access through private property are allowed, etc unless these are **also** accessible to **all** SCAC members on the days of the field day. No non-tidal waters, dams, lakes, etc. are allowed.

Tides for	Saturday 15 Oct	0.83m at 8:34 am	0.76m at 9:19 pm	Sunrise:-	About 5:35 am
		0.51m at 3:07 pm			
Fremantle	Sunday 16 Oct	0.54m at 3:07 am	0.57m at 3:14 pm	Sunset:-	About 6:30 pm
		0.77m at 9:48 am			
Moon	Saturday 15 Oct	Moonrise:-	About 4:10 pm	Full Moon:-	17 Oct
	Sunday 16 Oct	Moonsset:-	About 4:45 am		

Local Field Day for October 2005.

A separate Local field day is not necessary in October - it's an Open Field Day allowing fishing in all WA tidal waters. Some people are organising a Rottne trip – see page 26 **(DATE CHANGED)**

Who checks the Calendar?

Seems nobody reads this. Or nobody notices any errors. Or nobody bothers to tell me about the errors they see. Tell me if you reckon it's worth my time to put it in. If I don't hear, I'll use my time on something else.
TerryF

Member's Stories, Photos, Tips, etc.

Does anyone have any new stories, photos, tips, news items, etc, etc, to share? Please send them in to the Reel Talk Editor. Thanks to John Lee, Ian Cook and John Romano for the article in this Reel Talk.

Calendar for Next Three Months.

Here's a calendar showing the dates we will use for Dry Casting, General and Committee Meetings, and Field Days in the next three months

30	AAA Event																			
7	Dry Casting		14		General Meeting		17		18		Field Day		21		Committee Meeting					
September 2005							October 2005							November 2005						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4	31					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				

Reel Talk Publishing Deadline.

The Reel Talk is published so that it gets to the members early in the week before the first event held in the coming calendar month. But it also depends what else is going on and what the Editor wants to do with his private life.

The Reel Talk is produced progressively through the month, as stuff becomes available, so that the whole article is on the same page, and to avoid a few lines separated from the rest of the article. Of course Microsoft Word makes it possible to zap the articles to any page, and the list of contents is updated almost automatically. But once the front pages are set out properly, it's just extra and unnecessary work to insert stuff. So items which come in early generally ends up towards the front of the magazine, and late stuff towards the back.

Items received electronically can be put into the magazine in a very short time, subject to space. It's a juggling act, and first in generally has the best chance of getting published that month. I wish I had lots to choose....

The Reel Talk contents is usually an even number of pages, and the pages are usually full with not too much blank space. Late items which need parts of extra pages and need a rearrangement of other stuff to keep to the "even number of full pages" might just get deferred to a later issue.

The **absolute deadline** for items for the coming Reel Talks are:-

October Reel Talk 3 pm Wednesday 28 September.

November Reel Talk 3 pm Wednesday 26 October. To be confirmed, check October Reel Talk.

December Reel Talk 3 pm Wednesday 23 November. To be confirmed, check November Reel Talk.

The editor would **really appreciate** getting items a long time before the deadline, particularly if they have to be typed in, scanned, reformatted, etc.

TerryF

2005/2006 Field Day Dates and Venues.

Sat/Sun/Mon 24/25/26 September 2005 LWE
Changed

Saturday/Sunday 15/16 October 2005 **Changed**

Saturday/Sunday 12/13 November 2005

Saturday/Sunday 10/11 December 2005

Saturday/Sunday 14/15 January 2006

Saturday/Sunday 11/12 February 2006

Saturday/Sun/Mon 4/5/6 March 2006 LWE

Saturday/Sunday 14/15/16/17 April 2006 Easter

S-Bend. Southgates to 10km south of Dongara.
Changed

Open - all WA tidal waters **Changed**

Cervantes / Jurien to Sandy Cape.

Golden Bay to Seabird. (An extended local.)

Preston / White Hills.

Cervantes.

Split Field Day Bremer Bay / Bluff Creek.

Emu Springs and Denmark.

2005/2006 Dry Casting Dates.

All are at Yokine Reserve, Wordsworth Avenue, Yokine, starting at 8:30am.

Sunday 11 September 2005, (changed for Fathers' Day)

Sunday 8 January 2006 (changed for NY Day)

Sunday 9 October 2005, (changed for Field Day)

Sunday 5 February 2006

Sunday 30 October 2005, AAA State Dry Casting Championships

Sunday 12 March 2006, (changed for Field Day)

Sunday 6 November 2005

Sunday 2 April 2006

Sunday 4 December 2005

2005/2006 General Meetings.

All at Coolbinia West Perth Amateur Football and Sporting Club room, Wordsworth Avenue, Yokine, starting at 8:00pm.

Wednesday 14 September 2005

Wednesday 11 January 2006

Wednesday 12 October 2005

Wednesday 8 February 2006

Wednesday 9 November 2005

Wednesday 8 March 2006

Wednesday 14 December 2005

Wednesday 12 April 2006

Field Day and Dry Casting Fees.

Field Day Fees:- \$7 for an individual, \$9 for families. Dry Casting Fees:- \$6 for an individual, \$8 for families.

Your Club's Future

The Club elections were held in July, and a new Committee elected.

To survive and prosper, the Club needs the participation of all its members in the various activities that we run. Membership numbers need to be maintained at a level so that the work load is spread and burnout is eliminated.

We all have a common interest, achieve individual rewards and obtain a magnificent prize called comradery.

No one person runs the Club. The committee is there to guide you.

Well, we need your input so we can guide the club into the future. It only takes a phone call, a note on a piece of paper, a new fandangled email, but most of all, it's just **DO SOMETHING**.

Got any new ideas to improve our Club

Any ideas on fund raising etc.

Are you prepared to put your hand up and assist.

What can we get involved in...why, when how.

What we should not do.

Field Day Boundaries

Club Competition Rules 2.1.6 says *"The boundaries for the Field Day will be published in Reel Talk. Boundaries may be changed at the sign on at the discretion of the Field Day Officer and by consensus of the majority of the participating members. Any competitor fishing outside the boundaries during the fishing times shall be disqualified."*

This has generally been accepted to mean that the boundaries may be changed if weather or weed or beach or water conditions mean that it would be difficult to find enough fishing spots within the chosen boundaries, and an extension would allow fishing in some places with better conditions. It does **NOT** mean that the boundaries can be extended because someone has a favourite spot outside the boundaries, or has heard of fish being caught outside the boundaries.

In future, the intention is that the boundaries will be discussed and set at or before the April General Meeting when the venues are being chosen, and everyone will have a chance to say what they want.

Membership Fees Were Due 1 July 2005.

The August edition was the last Reel Talk sent to people who hadn't paid the fees. If someone says "why didn't I get the September Reel Talk," ask them if they have paid or made arrangements with the Treasurer. Nuff said??.

Club Competition Rules and Constitution.

Printed copies of the Club's current Fishing and Dry Casting Competition Rules and Club Constitution are available.

The current versions of the Competition Rules are dated 13 April 2005, and the Constitution is dated February 2003. If you have any earlier version, **throw it away and get a current version.**

Contact the Secretary or see the club's web site <http://www.surfcasters.iinet.net.au> for the online versions.

Club Polo Shirts, Jackets and Caps.

We now have some stocks of short and long sleeved Club Polo shirts, long sleeved Club Jackets and baseball style caps with a club logo for sale to members. These are in the club colours of Gold (Yellow) and Black, and help to identify you as a "Surfcaster" member. Contact Andrew Aubrey.

Donations for Trophies.

We are looking for trophies for this current competition year. Please give us your suggestions for people / companies / etc to contact.

There are some things members can do:-

1. Donate a trophy yourself – particularly if you have been on the receiving end in past years.
2. When buying your gear and getting your services from our trophy donors and advertisers, make sure you let them know that you are a member of the Surf Casting and Angling Club, so that if or when we contact them, they will know that this Club's members support them.

Have a Go Day.

The Seniors "Have a Go Day" will be held at Burswood Park 9am to 3pm on Tuesday 25 October.

In past years the Surfcasters have had a club display and single handed casting tuition and practice.

We need someone to organise this display, and helpers on the day. Please contact President John Romano if you can help.

Kalbarri House For Rent.

The Club has a house in Kalbarri. The house is situated close to the river, beaches and town. It has two bedrooms and will sleep up to eight (max) in 1 double bed and 3 bunks, has reverse cycle air conditioning and ceiling fans to keep you cool in the summer months. Users need to bring their own linen, blankets and towels, tea towels, etc.

It has a radio and television, stove with oven, microwave oven, crockery and cutlery and all cooking utensils, fridge and freezer. It does not have a washing machine, but there is a laundromat in town. Outside has a fish cleaning facility and a full width verandah. Rates are:-

Public:- Off season \$250 per week, On season \$390 per week } all plus \$50
Club Members:- Off season \$160 per week, On Season \$210 per week } deposit / bond.
Club Members:- Short term \$45 for one night, \$40 per night for two or more nights} plus \$55.00 cleaning
Bookings taken for the school holidays go from Saturday to Saturday (leaving by 10am). Outside of school holidays it does not matter. The club has decided that cleaning will need to be paid for and is \$55.00 extra on the rates above for future new bookings. The club is now being charged GST on the cleaning.

Contact Property Officer Vix Alexander for more details and for bookings.

Check in time is 1pm. Check out time is 10am. Keys can be picked up from Ray White, Shop 1, Kalbarri Arcade. If people arrive after hours, they leave a note on the door of their office with a map of how to get to the house and telling them where the key will be.

If any work needs to be done in, on or around the house, please contact the Property Officer for approval. Members who are staying in the house are not allowed to authorise any repairs or services on the house without authority from the Property Officer, Treasurer or President.

Wanted - Aluminium Cans.

Wanted - Aluminium cans. Please bring them along to the General Meeting or to Mal Head's home, but not to Dry Casting. Mal saves them up and takes them to the recyclers when he has enough, and the price is right, and donates all the proceeds to the Club.

Please don't bring cans to the General Meetings because Mal will be away for a while at Yeppoon.

Sponsorship Renewal by Yallingup Beach Holiday Park

The Yallingup Beach Holiday Park has provided the club with another accommodation voucher to the value of \$250 for two adults for two nights in one of their Malibu ensuite cabins for the new competition year.

The previous year's voucher was raffled at the February General Meeting and was won by Tony D'Alonzo.

The park has a waterfront location with spectacular views over Yallingup Bay. Opposite is a safe swimming lagoon and an excellent fishing beach plus the world famous Yallingup surf break.

On site accommodation includes ensuite cabins and standard cabins (for the budget conscious) plus plenty of well grassed van and tent sites.

This is an ideal base from which to visit the numerous nearby wineries, go whale watching, take scenic drives and walk trails and visit the spectacular Yallingup Ngilgi Cave, or of course, go fishing!!

Check the website at <http://www.yallingupbeach.com.au/>

Safari 2006.

The next opportunity for a club safari is during calendar year 2006. Esperance has been suggested as a possible location. Suggestions for alternative places, dates, etc are wanted, please.

Happy Birthday to:-

A lot of members haven't told us their birth date, so there may be more birthdays. Dob them in!

Mark Farnay, 3 September

Sharon Osborne, 5 September

Morris Kolman, 5 September

Jim King, 7 September

Brian Stokes, 14 September

Ross Kember, 16 September

Rhys Jones, 23 September

Filomena D'Alonzo, 26 September

New Member Acceptances.

The following application for membership has been accepted, and will be invited to the next General Meeting to be welcomed into the Club. None this month

New Member Application.

Applications for membership have been received and will come before the next Committee meeting. If any member has any reason why any of the applications should not be accepted, please contact a Committee Member and state the reason. None this month

Member Resignations.

The following members will not renew their memberships of the club. Rick Hirayama, Robert Goodin and family. Some others are still to return calls or emails. No more Reel Talks until we know.

Life Members of the Club.

Doug Edward, Ric Parker, Jim Strong, Bob Klein, George Holman, Ian Cook.

Advertising in Reel Talk.

Advertising is available in the Reel Talk. 12 monthly copies are printed, currently 62 copies. Charges are:-

Inside and outside back covers are printed black on Terra Yellow paper.

Inside or outside back cover, full page..... \$100.00 per annum. half page\$70.00 per annum.

Inside pages are printed black on white paper.

Inside pages full page.. \$60.00 per annum half page \$40.00 per annum. quarter page ...\$30.00 per annum

Dry Casting Sausage Sizzle.

We usually hold a sausage sizzle on Sunday after the dry casting. Gives everyone a chance to talk over the morning's casting, gear to use, what's coming up, fishing, the state of the world or whatever, over some lunch.

But the sausage sizzle is not free, much as we would like it to be. It has to be paid for somehow, and the prices are quite reasonable compared to what you would pay elsewhere. **Don't forget to put the money in, please.**

Everything is one dollar each. You can get:-

1 drink plus 1 sausage in bread for \$2.00 Extra drink for \$1.00 Extra sausage in bread for \$1.00

August Dry Casting Report.

The weather for the August casting day was as good as it ever gets. It was a perfect sunny winter's day, giving beautiful conditions for being out in the open, even if the air was a little "heavy" for the casting.

Dry Casting is an outing where we are all together for a few hours enjoying each other's company, and competing and learning at the same time. Then there is the sausage sizzle, which gives everyone a chance to talk over the morning's casting, gear to use, what's coming up, fishing, the state of the world or whatever, over some lunch. Come along, it gives you a chance to get to know the other club members as well as learning about casting.

This was a very important casting day as it was our last occasion for getting our team together before they travel east to Yeppoon for the national event.

Distance casting was nothing to write home about as the sinkers just would not travel and the slight side wind and obvious heavy atmospheric conditions did control the distance. Chas Riegert had the longest cast for the 112 gram distance with 167 metres and George Holman was next with 163 metres. Filomena D'Alonzo had the longest cast in the ladies with 101 metres and young Rhys Jones is showing us all how good he is even though the rod he is using is not a large one, with casts of 139 and 142 metres in the junior event.

Chas Riegert showed the way in the 56 gram event with 143 and 142 metres. Tony D'Alonzo was top in the veterans with 115 and Filomena D'Alonzo in the ladies with 83 metres. Young Rhys Jones cast 115 and 116 metres which was excellent casting for the juniors and puts him in good form for the nationals.

Artificial Bait saw Chas lead the field again with 131 metres and Joe Pullella and George Holman were next with casts of 128 metres. Alan Jones won the veterans event, Filomena the ladies and Rhys' two casts were 109 and 111 metres.

Joe Pullella won the 112 gram seniors event, George Holman the veterans, Filomena the ladies and Rhys Jones the juniors. Double handed accuracy saw a total of four bull's-eyes scored, two to Gary Gildersleeves and one each to Chas Riegert and George Holman. Gary scored 158 points which is the right time with the nationals coming up, followed by a Mal Harris with 152, Allan Jones scored 149 in the vets with George Holman 147 and Tony D'Alonzo with 141 points. Filomena led the ladies with 120 points and Rhys Jones scored a creditable 131 points.

Joe Pullella led the way in the single-handed accuracy with 27 points. In the veterans Tony D'Alonzo scored 26 and Terry Fuller 24. Vix Alexander showed prowess in the ladies with 25 and Rhys Jones continued his good form with 26 out of a possible 40.

Gary Gildersleeves was top for the day with 256 and Tony D'Alonzo won the veterans with 231. Filomena won the ladies with 178 and Rhys Jones the juniors with 230.

Chas Riegert had the longest cast in the open 112 gram event with 169 metres, followed by George Holman 160 metres and Mal Harris with 155 metres.

Thanks to all who helped out on the day. I hope we have a Dry Casting Officer by next casting day.

Remember most will be away for September at the Nationals in Yeppoon and to all who are representing us a wish them all the best and safe travelling, from all club members. There will however be casting in September and it might be a good opportunity for more of our club members to come down and make a day of it.

Please make the effort!! See you all after Yeppoon

George Holman.

Casting Top Ten up to August 2005.

Here is the top ten dry casting scores including scores for the August dry casting. Remember the top ten will be decided from results from the top 11 out of the 12 months to cater for casters who are away representing the State at the Yeppoon National Championships and will miss one month's club cast. The rest, positions 11 to 25, are also listed so you can see where you are in the order.

Position	Name	Points
1	Malcolm Harris	955
2	Charles Riegert	887
3	Tony D'Alonzo	874
4	George Holman	783
5	Allan Jones	781
6	Nick Allsworth	779
7	Rhys Jones	756
8	Trevor Stam	728
9	Gary Gildersleeves	716
10	Jim Strong	680

The rest.....			
Terry Fuller	662	Peter Stoeckel	209
Vix Alexander	651	Andrew Aubrey	153
Malcolm Head	565	Eric Parker	146
Annella Riegert	543	Marlin Heaney	127
Filomena D'Alonzo	533		
Terry Willison	480		
Mark Hansen	479		
Geoff Raftis	469		
Joe Pullella	295		
Keith Heaney	289		

Help the Dry Casting Markers.

Come on, dry casting people, help the markers in the distance events, and help yourselves.

Anyone who has done any marking in winter or in windy conditions will know what I'm talking about.

Do you want your leaders and your weight mangled? Do you want long delays while the markers search for your weights or dig them out of the ground? No? Well you can easily help. Anyway even if you don't care, the markers do and cooperation works both ways.

Some of the weights bury themselves 150mm into the soft grass making it hard to get the sinkers out. Heavy leaders and a decent sized ring or swivel means the weight can be pulled out backwards. Light leaders and tiny swivels are a pain in the \$%#\$ by breaking off and the weights having to be dug out and mangled.

Please use heavy leaders – 50 pound / 25kg MINIMUM and preferably heavier - or else risk damaged leaders and lost weights and frustrated markers.

Independent scientific research has shown that the difference between a cast with a light leader and tiny swivel and a heavy leader and decent sized swivel averages 0.033m, which is much less than the error a tired and frustrated marker might make in rounding your cast distance down to the shorter number of metres rather than up to the longer number of metres.

Weights with short plastic tubing are very hard to find, since only a little bit of the tube is visible when weights bury. Please make sure all of your plastic tubes are close to the maximum length of 250mm. It's also very hard to see short tubes as they come through the air.

When it is windy, it is sometimes hard to find where the weight has landed. If you or any of the watching casters know where the weight has landed, PLEASE indicate to the markers by pointing in the direction and waving the markers further out or closer in.

Terry Fuller

Recfishwest Board Meeting Report.

Here are some of the main points from the July and August 2005 Recfishwest Board Meetings.

State of the Fisheries report for 2003/4 is even later than usual. The data covers the July 2002 to June 2003 period, and so is relatively old data. The report is just a historical document, and demonstrates that by many out of date references to proposals which have already had considerable further developments.

Considering that the 2004/5 period has already finished, the delays in presenting the data are unacceptable. Two more State of Fisheries reports, covering the 2003/4 data and 2004/5 data, should be released by the usual timetable of November to get these reports up to date.

It was pointed out that the recreational take of Western Rock Lobster was not consistent with that reported by Dept of Fisheries to Integrated Fisheries Access and Allocation Committee and also noted that the State of Fisheries Report was tabled in Parliament.

RFW has approached the Commercial Fishing Peak Body WAFIC about a combined approach on getting the State of the Fisheries Report and data up to date, but has WAFIC has not responded. RFW will do this alone. RFW will approach the Dept of Fisheries about getting State of the Fisheries reports up to date, because this is essential for Integrated Fisheries Management .

Two extra staff have been employed, Janet Patterson as Admin Assistant and Kane Moyle as Policy Officer. Work responsibilities have been assigned. This will free up time for Frank Prokop to concentrate on Integrated Fisheries Management. There is a great amount of work to do on Integrated Fisheries Management to look after recreational fishing interests, and Recfishwest is now in a better position to handle all the work.

RFW will arrange a briefing on Integrated Fisheries Management for abalone after Board members have reviewed the IFM report on abalone.

There has been developments on Western Rock Lobster including proposed Sea Lion Exclusion Devices for all rock lobster pots Wedge Island to Cliff Head by Fisheries Management Paper 197, and a new package to protect commercial rock lobster stocks which affects commercial fishermen.

A letter has been sent expressing concerns about Shark, billfish and tuna fisheries under Commonwealth Fisheries arrangements. A disappointing response has been announced. AFMA is just going to roll over Western Australia's objections with the commercial friendly decision.

Dept of Fisheries has approached RFW about closures of areas around the Hillarys Marina, including areas to protect the seawater intake pipes for the new Fisheries Research building at Hillarys. RFW have objected and asked for justifications and explanations.

A "loophole" in the Exmouth Gulf netting authorisations was represented to the Dept of Fisheries following complaints from the area about the impact on fish stocks. The Fisheries Minister has issued a Section 43 order today to correct the problem. The loophole was closed within 48 hours of being represented which is a tremendous response and shows the value of Recfishwest's actions.

Recfishwest has nominated a person to follow proposals for an upgrade of the Kwinana Beach boat ramp.

RFW has nominated a person to follow proposals for Leighton Beach Oceanside development.

Policy Officer, Kane Moyle, will be nominated as the Recfishwest representative on the Swan Catchment Council Coastal and Marine Reference Group.

Recfishwest has concerns about the Department of Fisheries proposals for Voluntary Fisheries Adjustments of South Coast salmon fishing, without guarantees of real benefits to recreational fishing. Recfishwest's view is that Southwest coast salmon and herring commercial fishing changes are a higher priority and has a concern that action on the South Coast will be at the expense of changes to commercial fishing in the area where it has the most impact on recreational fishing. RFW will write to the Minister for Fisheries.

Recfishwest will review all Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Schemes and decide and publish its priorities for the order in which these should be tackled.

The Recfishwest northern fishing clinic from Carnarvon to Derby has just finished, where 20 fishing clinics were run for 562 participants and contact was made with another 200 people. Local press interviews were given at almost every place and ABC Regional Radio had a ½ hour interview. Frank Prokop and Mark Pagano attended some of these as well as the other RFW people running the clinics.

Recfishwest has had productive meetings with both the Fisheries Minister and the Environment Minister covering a range of topics. The Fisheries Minister is keen to make the changes necessary, and has started work on a number of recreational fishing issue.

The meeting with the Environment Minister was particularly encouraging and it seems that Recfishwest's hard work is paying off, with the Minister recognising the value of Recfishwest's submissions and advice compared to some other advice she is receiving.

Recfishwest has received a request from the Department of Fisheries for comments on some proposals on changes to recreational pink snapper, Robinson's sea bream and pearl perch fishing rules in the Gascoyne

region. Recfishwest has serious objections to the process, where a request from recreational anglers are told they must wait for the next review, but request from commercial fishermen are dealt with immediately.

Western rock lobster and abalone integrated fisheries management is progressing.

Recfishwest has completed its move to the vacant Fisheries Research Laboratory Building at Watermans.

The current memberships of the Marine Parks Reserves Authority members expire on 15 December. Frank Prokop has been nominated for membership of the MPRA, with Mark Pagano as an alternative. Members are nominated by the Minister for the Environment.

A seminar will be held Wednesday 24 August to discuss research priorities from both recreational and commercial fishermen for studies in Marine Parks. There has been much research in the field of MPA's but little of it actually driven by those most affected by the results of such research, and much of the research, has been to 'prove' the value to MPA's rather than assess if they have any value for fisheries that are already managed for sustainability. The workshop is designed to allow fishermen (both professional and recreational) the opportunity to say what research they would like to see carried out on MPA's. It is an important area and one that has, in the past, been driven from outside the fishing community.

A call for nominations for Commonwealth's recreational fishing grants have been announced. Details are on <http://www.daff.gov.au/> Recfish Australia has three representatives on the national allocation body.

A number of community groups have joined together to oppose a very large proposed salt works on the eastern side of the Exmouth Gulf. Recfishwest will be involved with this.

Work is continuing on the Sampson fish tagging and spawning aggregations studies with an extension of the project likely to the South Coast. There are some concerns about continuing negative and inaccurate reporting of or comments about the survival of released fish.

The Recfishwest annual general meeting will be held on 21 October.

A weekend meeting of the Recfishwest Board will be held in September to discuss strategic directions.

Outcome of protection of Cockburn Sound and metro Pink Snapper spawning aggregations proposals were announced on 19 August.

River Kids

In the July Reel Talk, I was interested to read Hendo's article and it brought back memories of somewhat parallel childhood experiences on the banks of the Swan in roughly the same area.

My Dad was in the Army Medical Corp (RAP) as an orderly and a few years after the war when the government of the day brought in National Service, served in the same capacity meeting the medical needs of conscriptees at Campbell Barracks, Swanborne. Being an "Army family" as it were, we lived in the married men's quarters adjacent to the Fremantle Barracks (now a museum) in Queen Victoria Street. Our house was situated roughly halfway between the old train and traffic bridges and was a five minute walk from the river for a responsible adult. For children like us, it took about one and a half minutes; a dash over Queen Vic Street, a hop along doublegee infested tracks, a sideways slither through an ill fitting join in a cyclone wire fence and a stumble down a gravel and limestone washaway.

In the fifties the barracks were mainly used by RAEME – a maintenance group which serviced Army vehicles and which also included the marine maintenance facility on the waterfront which was adjacent to and interlinked with the rickety old train bridge's southern approach. This was the most interesting part for me of course because the western side of the bridge on the southern bank included a host of jetties that poked out into the harbour. They were used as a base by the old Fairmile cruisers that saw service as submarine chasing torpedo boats during the war. The whole complex was surrounded by barbed wire and included sentry quarters – therefore the only personnel allowed onto the base were from the armed services. It was very convenient because my Dad and I could go down there to fish just about any night we cared to, depending on how security conscious the sentry was or if my Dad knew him. Because so few people were allowed in, it was like a marine nursery.

Fish Galore. On balmy summer nights Dad and I (sometimes Mum and my Sister as well as one of Dad's mates) would fish to our heart's content. We didn't have rods – just handlines and we would catch all manner of fish.

On the outer jetty next to the deeper water of the navigation channel was a maze of mussel beds and it was an absolute haven for Silver Bream but other species we caught were: Tailor, Herring, Skippy, Salmon, Mulloway, Gardies, Squire Snapper (size limits were unheard of), every type of Whiting, Blue Mackerel, Flathead, Flounder and Black Bream in the winter months.

The Hawser. Dad possessed about one hundred metres of fine braided stainless steel insulated cable wound onto a wooden drum with a handle attached for winding. What its purpose originally was I have no idea, however it made a fine set line for large fish. I guess its breaking strain was something like about a hundred and fifty to two hundred kilos. Attached to the end of it - sometimes with a sinker, sometimes without, was a huge hook that could easily accommodate a whole Mullet.

On summer nights in the slack water when the tide was due to turn and run out, Dad would heave this hawser affair into the Swan with a whole fish for bait and once it had settled on the bottom he'd wrap a couple of turns around one of the jetty posts. I was usually only allowed to accompany Dad when he didn't intend to fish late but occasionally I was permitted on one of the "late nights" and it was on one of these occasions that something gigantic took off and soon had the cable under the sort of pressure which would delight a tight rope walker.

After about an hour of chafing and burning grooves around the tethering post, Dad and his mate managed to coax the creature close enough to identify it as a stingray – but what a stingray. I was young and very excited so it's a bit of a blur to me now but I certainly remember its shape and size outlined by the jetty lights. I think my Dad would have had trouble spanning it with both arms outstretched. I guess it would have weighed in excess of one hundred and fifty kilos. In trying to lift the thing sufficiently to extract the hook, the steel line, having worn back and forth over a rusted bolt finally and fortunately for all parties concerned, snapped.

On another occasion a few years later, after a fairly disappointing battle which only lasted about ten or fifteen minutes, Dad and I pulled a magnificent Mulloway onto the jetty planks. It was around six feet long and probably in the vicinity of thirty five to forty kilos. I don't know what the state record was at that time but I'm sure I saw something not long back showing that the current record is only about thirty kilos – this would have beaten that easily.

Crustaceans. Dad had made two long handled scoop nets – one with wire for crabs and one with netting for prawns. I can remember many summer nights on an incoming tide scooping huge Blue Manna crabs swimming along on the surface and in the autumn after the first heavy rains scooping giant King prawns from the outgoing tide.

As an aside, in those days there was a shoe manufacturing factory (Cecil Bros I think) immediately Northeast of the old traffic bridge and right next door was a tannery which tanned the leather for the shoes.

Anyway, for whatever the reason, a group of tannery workers (we just called them the tanners) thought they had exclusive rights to illegally string fine mesh, purse nets across some of the (non channel) arches on the opposite side of the river. They would catch massive numbers of big prawns which they would also illegally sell to local fish shops. The practice caused much ill feeling among other groups who wished to share in the booty – many's the night you would see punch ups between opposing groups vying for the right to put their nets there.

The Chinese Market Gardens. Let me first make it clear that like all boys, as individuals we were little angels (ask my Mum) but put a group of about seven together and no matter how law abiding the intention of each is, you have the recipe for absolute chaos and anarchy. On occasion, the cousin of one my friends joined us and what transpired thereafter inevitably went from just ordinary naughtiness to "the dark side of the force". This cousin was a couple of years older than any of us, seemed to be an outcast from boys of his own age and had a pronounced penchant for lawlessness.

I can clearly remember that a family of elderly Chinese owned or at least squatted on several acres of reclaimed swampy foreshore on the North Fremantle side of the river between the two bridges and adjacent to the old Swan Hotel (the pub is still there). It was rumoured that they grew vegetables – as to what was actually grown there I couldn't say for on the occasion we were encouraged by the wayward cousin to pinch some, we were surprised before we'd even gone twenty metres inside the makeshift galvanised iron fence and were driven off by angry Chinese men toting shot guns from which they fired saltpetre (potassium nitrate - aka rock salt). It was the only time I was ever shot at and it frightened the daylight out of me – fortunately I wasn't hit but one of my friends copped it from close range and was severely lacerated and scarred as a result. Then when he got home was thrashed by his father and berated by the Police. There was no such thing as reasonable force in deterring breaking and entering then and justice was meted out to all...even small boys. As you would expect, we didn't do it again.

Huckleberry Finn - Freo style. On the Fremantle side of the river between the two bridges was a derelict sunken barge with an upright wooden framework which probably once served during the war as a floating maintenance and careening platform. But now with a thick but flexible wooden plank bolted across a couple of uprights for a diving board it was the staging point for our self styled swimming pool and outdoor recreation area.

The outer edge in the deeper water, was festooned with old truck tyres used as buffers to cushion and secure harbour work barges which were often moored there. We called the structure "the Caddo" – someone reckoned that was short for cadamaran and perhaps it was a variation of catamaran, although back then none of us knew that the latter object was a swift moving, twin hulled, sailing craft. During the summer months "the Caddo" was where we'd spend most of our weekends and during the daylight hours of the school holidays, my folks would only see me at meal times.

I don't know whether the healthy lifestyle fast tracked us but once we attained the age of ten we were just beginning to experience the first nuances of hormonal induced bravado and recklessness which normally typifies teens (particularly boys) and which annoys society in general and mortifies Mothers in particular.

Tarzan and Johnny Weismuller. Not satisfied with performing death defying stunts from the diving board of the Caddo, we would leap (some would dive) and do “bommies” from the supports and superstructure of the old train bridge or jump from the railing of the traffic bridge. There were at least five sorts of bommies any self respecting member of our group was expected to be able to perform with alacrity and... at the required standard: The Dyno (Dynamite - my specialty), the Banana, the Bombshell, the Turnover and the Cowie (Cow dive).

For variety we'd swim across the river and back always keeping between the two bridges – actually, on analysis it was more like breast stroke, float, dog paddle, drift, overarm, tread water and backstroke. All the time laughing and carrying on like lunatics – occasionally unclothed and from time to time dodging boats (or should I say they dodged us) as they plied the waterway. I look back on those days and it sometimes terrifies me – the current that on some days surges with the force of oceanic undertow could easily have swept us miles up or downstream... even though most of us were fairly proficient swimmers.

Add to this the fact that there are sharks in the river and....don't let anyone tell you there aren't. My Dad caught a couple of small Whalers and had his hawser line snapped more than once by some oceanic denizens with tremendous power. Newspaper reports reveal that only twenty years earlier at Freshwater Bay, a small boy was fatally mauled by what was described as a large Tiger shark.

Invariably, someone would find (or perhaps purloin) a long length of rope and attach it to the waterpipe adjacent to the foot platform which runs alongside the road over the traffic bridge and for a while we'd have great fun playing Tarzan, swinging from a pylon and at the maximum of the outward swing, dropping into the water.

Just as invariably, spoilsport bridge maintenance crews from the Fremantle Council would remove it.

Paddlers and Paddlesteamers? Although they didn't look it, the bridges were fairly extensively maintained. They had to be because the Rottnest ferries from time to time ran into them or should I say....it - meaning the rickety old train bridge which was marked down for demolition not too far in the distant future.

Actually, the only ferry I personally saw collide with the bridge was the old Zephyr skippered by a certain Captain whose name I shall not mention in case word gets back to possible relatives. I don't know if it's true but by all accounts, said skipper was notorious for often being under the influence of the proverbial but seldom under .05 (shall we say). Incidentally, navigation of the waters beneath the old traffic bridge still seems fraught with occasional difficulty – just a couple of weeks ago after a spell of heavy rain, I watched as one of the tall Rottnest ferries was taken through one of the main arches on a high tide. Deckhands and senior crew members were stationed on the vessel's upper superstructure relaying clearance information to the skipper as he gently and deftly piloted her underneath ... with perhaps a foot to spare.

At the end of the back lane where I lived, on the other side of a barbed wire fence was about one and a half hectares (three acres approx) of virgin bush surrounding a small part of Cantonment Hill on which a FPA signal station still stands. This bit of bush was and still is accessible from Queen Victoria Street but we would mostly just climb over the fence to get to it. In there we'd play Cowboys and Indians, hide and seek and hone our teepee building skills.

However, one corner of it was used (quite illegally) by builders to dump waste material but to us it was a goldmine. Every now and then we'd recover pieces of galvanised iron and from them we would improvise the most primitive form of flotation you could imagine. We called them canoes – held together with nails, screws and wire and to waterproof them we used a mixture of pitch from nearby boatbuilders and chewing gum; thwarts were made from two by fours found amongst flotsam in the river and sternboards were made from old packing crates. Paddles were your hands or square bits of three ply scrounged from the same place as the galvanised iron and looking like ping pong bats.

Balancing in these craft, which looked like a cross between an ancient Welsh coracle and a floating tin box was a real feat in itself. But in time we achieved it ...if only for a short while before you were forcibly capsized to the cry of “ my turn” or the flex in the building material allowed in more water than the principle of flotation would allow.

Perhaps it was those early attempts at canoe building and paddling which kindled the interest I still retain in all things nautical.

The Fishy side of Huck Finn. This part of the river was an incredible playground both as a swimming hole and a place in which to hone basic fishing skills. There were many jetties, lots of sandy flats and heaps of rocky platforms that once linked rotting jetties with the shore. In addition, the bridge area was right next door to the harbour and was therefore subject to a good flow of seawater with every incoming tide and understandably expanded the range of fish species to be caught. During the summer school holidays my mates and I caught more fish than anyone I knew. We'd go fishing with handlines two or three times a week, from the bridge pylons and catwalks, the platforms of Victoria Quay and North Wharf.

Some evenings, with the aid of dull hurricane lamps and even duller torches, we'd walk around in the shallow water of the sand flats in tennis shoed feet attempting to gidgee Cobbler. We didn't spear many because with the frightful racket we made, I think we scared most of them off. However, because Cobbler numbers were greater than we nearly always got a couple – and they were huge; big yellow bellied

specimens ... and I can remember some that would have weighed perhaps two kilos. In the shallows at night as they undulated along from side to side like a marine snake, they looked like small Wobbegongs.

Of course, small boys being what they are, we had our fair share of accidents – a gidgee through a toe and one unfortunate young fellow who spent a few uncomfortable nights in Fremantle Hospital as a result of being stabbed by deadly Cobbler spines. Neither of those boys was me by the way.

Some days, we'd fossick with a gidgee around jetties or bridge pylons or amongst rocks in the shallows of the bridge arches where you could nearly always spear at least one occy. These were used as bait to fish from the wharves at some later stage; back then no one except the families of Italian fishermen would ever even consider eating them. Haven't things changed? Nowadays, there's nothing like char grilled occy ... yum.

Fishing the Wharves. By the time I was ten both my parents were working (in 1956 that was quite unusual) and so I had lots of time to go roaming along the riverbanks. You have to remember that in those days when doors and windows could be left unlocked, unescorted children were in no danger from miscreants. On any weekend afternoon during the warmer months we could be found down at either Victoria Quay or North Wharf with our handlines, self caught occy baits, a packet of Whitebait purchased with pocket money and sometimes a little pack of pollard scrounged by one of the boys whose parents owned chooks.

We would fish for whatever was going and it was rare to come home empty handed. The easiest fish to catch were the Blue Mackerel which often were to be found mixed with Scaly Mackerel (Scalies) and which you could also catch if you used a bait suited to the size of their tiny mouths. In amongst them were other fish that looked like a cross between the two and for which we had no name but had heard older anglers who fished with rods exclaiming "look, Mulies".

Schools of Blueys would swim in close to the wharves and with a small chunk of just about anything for bait it was dead simple to catch a dozen. The trouble was our Mums didn't like cooking them because they're full of tiny bones and therefore were not considered great table fare. After a while we got the message and only targeted a few that ended up as bait. I do remember though on one occasion when I had caught some larger than average specimens, Mum pickled them in a process known colloquially as "sousing" and they tasted good with a nice green salad.

One year (1957 I think) the schools of Blueys consisted of some massive examples that were probably a kilo in weight and which I've since been informed by a friend were probably Bonito. They looked the same as Blueys to me but as I've never caught a Bonito (or if I have I didn't know it) he could be right. I can remember that catching them was exciting but very tough on the hands – everyone had cuts to their hands and fingers from the sizzling runs.

Late in the afternoons we'd always look for a berthed ship with its bow facing upstream to the bridges. We'd sit in the lee of the boat's wind shadow protecting us from the Souwesters howling up the harbour and throw in our unweighted handlines baited with Whitebait and wait for the inevitable Tailor schools. Now when I hook a Tailor with my rod from a beach, I'm completely reliant on my tactile sense but back then with a ship's bow affording protection from the sun's glare it was fascinating to actually watch Tailor attacking a bait. When a bait is large, they tend to vigorously thrash their heads from side to side in order to tear chunks from their quarry. If we threw in a bit of pollard we'd catch Herring as well. When the Tailor moved off we'd attach a small sinker or a hexagonal nut (for those of us who were economically challenged – we would have said poor back then) and amongst the berley residue, catch Skippy or Silver Bream.

Fishball? As an interesting diversion, in the winter months we couldn't afford to go to the footy if we had been to the Saturday morning movie matinee and spent our pocket money. I think pocket money for most of us was about two bob. So on Derby (the real Derby) afternoons when the two port teams were locked in battle, we'd gravitate towards where wharfies were working. The wharfies would have a description of the game blaring over an old wireless or if they didn't, they'd relay the score from the Tally Clerk's office every couple of minutes or so. For the uninitiated it must have been puzzling to hear the comments and noises echoing off the sides of the ship and sheds.

It might have sounded something like this: Carn Old East, Carn the Bulldogs, I've got one, kill the ump, ah s..t – I lost it, and Gerovich takes a spectacular mark, it's a Skippy – nah it's a Tailor, Toddy's the best – nah Sorrell's the best, pass me the occy will ya, it's a goal, ah bugger - I dropped me knife in, what's the score? and so on.

When we were a bit older and had bicycles, we'd pedal over to North Mole to fish. We rarely did all that well out there with handlines because it was so difficult to prevent tangling from the wind and the rocky terrain. When we eventually got our first rods well that's a story for another day.

Well, there you have it, a very short history of one group of kids whose lives may have helped in some small way to shape the destiny of this little section of the Swan River that we always thought of as our home.

Thanks to Hendo for reviving the old memories.

John Lee.

Wanted - Back Copies of Reel Talk.

We are looking for donations of old Reel Talks, or can copy yours if you want to keep them. A few copies, eg all of what we have for the early months of 1982 are not in good condition, so we would take any better copies if they were offered. See the list in the February 2002 Reel Talk.

Advertising in Reel Talk.

Advertising is available in the Reel Talk. 12 monthly copies are printed, currently 62 copies. Charges are:-

Inside and outside back covers are printed black on Terra Yellow paper.

Inside or outside back cover, full page..... \$100.00 per annum. half page\$70.00 per annum.

Inside pages are printed black on white paper.

Inside pages full page.. \$60.00 per annum half page \$40.00 per annum. quarter page ...\$30.00 per annum

A Record Catch

I was prompted by a Reel Talk article from Cookie to make an enquiry about my chances of claiming the club record for a King George Whiting. The current club record is held by Vic Davis with a 1.134 kilo KGW caught at Rottneest. Back in 1973 I caught one from Garden Island during a Field Day which was quite a bit bigger and was eventually accepted as a State record but because of my inexperience and a lack of communication, missed out on the club record.

I believe Cookie has since put into action a few things that may correct this omission but in doing so he has asked that I tell the story of the circumstances surrounding the capture of the fish and the chain of events leading to its acceptance as a State record. At the risk of alienating members who've heard it before and - or were there at that Field Day (I think there's only a handful left), I agreed with reluctance. As it is now over thirty years ago my memory of peripheral events associated with the Field Day may not be entirely accurate - so feel free to criticise.

Leaky Cruiser. The Field Day for May 1973 was scheduled to be held at Garden Island and at the club meeting preceding it, when the Field Day Officer asked if anyone needed a lift to Palm Beach, one JR Lee put up his hand.

At that stage I had only been a member for a few months and thus the only person I knew well was the one who nominated me for membership - Bill Utting. Bill couldn't make the trip so I didn't really expect anyone to offer this fresh faced, inexperienced newbie a lift. I fully expected that I would have to appeal to my wife to drop me off and pick me up at Palm Beach when the ferry returned. I lived in Claremont in those days and as Don Bibby (dec'd) lived nearby in Nedlands, he volunteered to pick me up.

Don duly arrived, sporting a very heavy dose of the flu, on the designated Saturday morning at about 7.30 am - I think the ferry was due to depart at about 9.30 so it gave us plenty of time to get there. Don's old FJ40 SWB Cruiser had a bad rust problem at the top of the passenger door. The corrosion had caused a crack a couple of centimetres wide and perhaps 20 centimetres long and in rainy weather necessitated that the passenger either wear waterproofs inside the vehicle or wedge something in the crack in order to keep dry. Of course when we set off it was raining.

When we arrived at Palm Beach, the rain had abated but it still looked threatening. The sky was heavily overcast and the forecast was for a strong cold front to cross the coast during the evening. Many members were talking about calling off the Field Day but more adventurous heads prevailed and we sailed with a rising swell, a moderate sea, and fluky winds from a Northerly quarter.

The Huts. After disembarking, the first thing to do was find a bed and deposit your gear. Back then the options for accommodation were the "big hut" which contained about twenty or thirty beds (I think) and a series of small chalets which could accommodate from four to six people. As I recall, since there wasn't a great number of members attending, most of us fitted into the big hut.

The exceptions (George was one, can't remember who else) opted to catch a lift aboard the old truck in order to fish near the WWII gun emplacement site ("The Guns") on the weather side up towards the end of the island. I've never been there but I believe you could camp inside the concrete emplacements or at least alongside them out of the worst of the weather.

The beds in the big hut were those incredibly uncomfortable meshed wire contraptions fitted with mattresses filled with equally uncomfortable kapok or feathers and some I think, had no mattresses at all.

Next order, to the shop for a pie, sign on and then head for your fishing possie.

Trek to the Beach. Many members decided that with increasing wind and rain, the better option was to just sit on the old jetty, dangle a line and maybe catch a few Herring and Skippy. My only visit to the island had been many years previously on a Christmas picnic, so I relied on Don to lead the way and find us a good spot. In those days I had no qualms about fishing in inclement weather, so come hell or high water (literally) I was going to give it my best shot.

By now Don was feeling pretty crook so we decided that we should try to find a possie somewhere out of the worst of the weather on the southern end. We set off heading roughly southwest toward where Don reckoned there were a few rocky promontories. It was sounding more exciting the further we went because

Hewie (Hew Hoy Yew) had also advised that at a spot called the plank, he had once caught a Dhuie (Jewie). As an extra incentive I recalled seeing a photograph of an old family friend Arch Ticklie (who was a member of the club) with a big Dhuie he had caught in roughly the area to which we were headed.

At first the going was easy following a well defined path of crushed limestone and gravelly clay, obviously the precursor to a bitumen road. Before going further I should mention that the causeway linking the island to the mainland had been finished some six months previously and as part of the preparation for the commissioning of the naval base, a network of roads was in the last stage of completion.

Closer to the water the path petered out and we were forced to batter our way through copses of stunted, windblown Peppermint, spiky Dryandra and other prickly native coastal shrubs. We burst out of the scrub on the side of a rock outcrop overlooking a tiny beach.

Down to Business. The beach was enclosed on both sides by outcrops which extended into the water and appeared to be a mainly sandy bottom going out diagonally southeast from shore for about seventy five metres; just enough width for two to fish providing you could cast with a reasonable degree of accuracy. We decided to fish the beach once it got dark.

For now, because Don was so unwell and didn't fancy fishing with the wind and rain in his face, we reconnoitered the rocks at the eastern end of the beach and found that they were part of another outcrop that wrapped around to protect a little cove with another slightly larger beach beyond. The cove however, was full of accumulated weed and submerged reef so we picked a spot where the outcrop jutted almost back in a northeasterly direction and thus gave us the benefit of the wind at our backs.

The water in front of it looked reasonably weed free and fairly deep. With berley cages and whitebait we managed to catch a couple of Herring each and Don got a nice Skippy – along with a b...y lot of weed. As darkness approached we went back to the little beach and rigged up beach rods with the wind just beginning to swing southwest – directly into our faces. After about half an hour of belting baits into the wind, rain and churned up, fishless surf, Don gave it away in favour of the protection of a shallow cave formed by a rocky overhang behind the rocks on which we fished earlier.

The only beach rod I then owned was a soft multi-taper (really just a baitcaster) totally unsuited for those conditions; a decent lump of lead was needed to hold the bottom but because of the sloppy nature of the rod, my maximum cast was probably only just making forty five metres. Anyway, despite driving wind and rain, leaking waterproofs, and freezing fingers I was determined not to let the elements beat me.

I kept battling away and then suddenly I began to feel bites – smallish to be sure, but each time I retrieved my rig, what was left of the mulies revealed fairly sharply defined bite marks. I was fairly sure Tailor were the culprits. Problem was, Tailor in rough weather are normally not fussy biters... so why couldn't I hook one? By now I realised that I should've changed to either single hooks or tied on a smaller gang but my fingers were so numb I couldn't have re-rigged if I'd tried.

Fishing Blind. I was getting fed up, tired and because I wear spectacles, I was also sick of the lens being completely fogged by rain and salt spray. Add to this the fact that I had no form of lighting whatever and I was therefore, effectively blind. I guess by now it was probably about 8pm and I was seriously considering giving up for the night. I had just cast and was trying to adjust the slack against a sudden squall when the line suddenly went tight – very tight.

I was suddenly alert, wide awake and worried that my quarry was showing a sneaky tendency to head into the reefy area on my right. I could feel the big star sinker dragging against weed and scraping reef but was relieved when it pulled free – now the fish was in clear water and after a couple of Tailor-like head shakes it was just a matter of hauling it through the surging surf. However, the fish did not share my expectation as it powered around in all directions – by now I was thinking, small Salmon. Eventually, with my poor old sloppy multi taper struggling against five ounces of lead and a very vigorous fish, I pulled the flailing mystery onto the sand.

It was pitch black, raining heavily, my glasses were as clear as dirty dishwater and a fish was leaping around at my feet flicking sand everywhere. Having as yet no clue as to what my capture was, I was not about to try to grasp something that might bite, sting or jab me. In the circumstances I did the only thing possible – I took off my glasses and stuffed them in my tackle bag, got down on my knees and from about six inches away tentatively squinted through the flying sand at what was making such a fuss.

It must have looked rather odd, I was bent over in the attitude of a middle eastern cleric at prayer, backside up, almost face down in the sand. Wiping the sand from my eyes I was able to vaguely discern a torpedo shaped, pale thing that was squirming and rolling like a small shark in the slack line that had been blown off the Alvey.

Then it dawned on me and I clearly remember exclaiming loudly “bugger me, it's a giant King George Whiting”. Well, maybe I didn't say it that blandly but you know what I mean. I'd caught a few small ones before but I had no idea they grew this big. At any other time, I probably would have fished on but I was so excited, I had to show Don.

Whisky Mac. I ran, crawled and stumbled over to where Don was sheltering and thrust it at him. Don had a hip flask containing a blend of Stone's Green Ginger Wine and JW Black Label (Whisky Mac) in his hand;

understandably, his reply was rather slurred but at least he had a torch and so with the aid of its light we were able to see clearly what I had caught.

Don's exclamation made mine sound like a nursery rhyme as between expletives he estimated it at three and a half pounds (he was very close). Don was more than ready to go back to base for some food, sleep and above all - a warm place out of the incessant wind and rain. With a little disappointment I agreed... but with the warm glow of subdued excitement in anticipation of returning in the morning.

The Big Hut Restaurant. As we made our way back to camp, the atmosphere in the Big Hut had become quite festive with most members (except those at the "Guns") returning to camp at or shortly after nightfall. Over time, in the comparative warmth and comfort of the hut, everyone had consumed their food and drink. With the spirit of camaraderie and the wonderfully mellowing effect of an alcoholic overcoat to soften the harshness of the external elements, when Don and I returned, it felt and sounded like New Year's Eve at midnight.

Knowing that Don had the flu, everyone asked how he felt – but he just pointed at my bag and said "take a look". When they saw my fish, all were impressed – the most inebriated with an ulterior motive for whilst I was accepting complements, a pan was produced, the fish slapped in it and if not for the intervention of the club President Tom Corcoran, it would have been just a memory.

While Don and I were eating dinner (not my fish), appeals were made to the manager of the settlement to provide more alcohol as the revellers had drunk the place dry. Being one of the few with the necessary authorisation to use the Causeway, eventually he was persuaded to drive over to the Rocky pub and buy a few dozen bottles of beer. When he returned with the grog, I was just about asleep in my bed but I can still remember the cheer that went up and the strong smell of fishy things cooking.

Later I learned that having eaten all the food that was meant to be food, envious eyes were cast on the food meant for the fish. All the fresh mulies, whitebait and prawns were fried by a skilled cook (Huey) and eaten. Then they started on bait which probably by now should have been consigned to berley buckets but when you've had a skinful, apparently it lacks nothing by comparison. However, next day on the ferry back, there were some strangely pale faces in the sombre, stomach turning atmosphere of evil smelling diesel fumes.

During the night when even the most hardy had retired, the noise of creaking galvanised iron, shrieking wind and heavy rain drowned any sounds of discomfort from the inebriates.

The Tough Go Fishing. Next morning, the wind and rain had eased and at about 6am, one solitary soul rose, dressed, grabbed his gear and headed back to "the spot". By about 7am, after stumbling around trying unsuccessfully to find the quickest path, I finally emerged from the scrub (by pure luck) right on top of the spot.

Immediately I set to, making up smaller rigs on light line, reasoning that the previous night's success was a fluke and that any other fish would be more like normal/average and not XL king size economy. It was quite frustrating, I did catch three more KGW's the largest of which was about 0.9 of a kilo (2 pounds) but I was broken off twice and bitten off once. The break offs were where my trace was a bit light and two of the fish shot into the reef. When I beefed up the trace I got the largest of the three KGW's but then came the annoying bites again like the night before. So, down a notch again for trace and rig.... then a good hook up and – ping, clean bite off. Lines up was 8am, so in altruistic fashion I ceased fishing.

I should explain that back then, under the guidance of a far sighted and wise President the club had introduced what was then, a revolutionary species limit of four on all Field Day catches.

Anyway, I was so naïve - what I should have done was kept on fishing and declared any other fish caught as ineligible (nicking the tail). They were still biting when I left – sob... and (S.O.B.)!

At the weigh in that morning, my four Whiting and couple of Herring went about 4.5 kilo's with the biggy, 1.5308kg (three pounds six ounces in the old money). Although I didn't win the comp (I think George and his party got a few Salmon at the Guns), I was certainly popular. Members I'd never met before were pumping me for info about the location of my spot. I was able to answer honestly that I didn't know where it was, except that I could see point Peron roughly south of where I was standing and that there was a little beach in between two rocky outcrops. If I was asked the same question now, I could almost give you the compass bearings to the decimal point and take you to it blindfolded.

How Not to Claim a Record. Having been informed by all and sundry that my capture would be a State record, I think I had all the necessary paperwork and signatures signed and ready by the time I arrived home. At home I measured it – it went twenty two and three sixteenths of an inch long and nine and seven eighths of an inch in girth (approx 56cm x 25cm) All I needed now was a photo.

Responding to an offer from Ken Jones whose other hobby was amateur photography, I took the fish over to his studio that very afternoon. He took four large black and white photos of the fish... accompanied by the ubiquitous Redhead for comparison and developed them immediately while I watched. I next posted the form and one of the photos to the AAA's Recorder (his name escapes me) and thought, if it's accepted I'll most likely hear from the club's AAA rep first. After a few weeks, I'd heard nothing from the rep (Jim Strong) or the Recorder. Shortly thereafter, disturbing reports were filtering in about a rift/feud between the

Recorder and members of the AAA Committee and how various articles and documents entrusted to him had vanished.

I decided to circumvent the official channels of communication and just ring him direct. His answer was that he had not received my record claim and that I should send another one. One photo down – three to go.

I sent another form and photo.

The Thot Plickens. By now matters had reached a head and the AAA had elected a new Recording Officer immediately following the retirement or dismissal of the old one. I rang the new Recorder (again I've forgotten his name – well, thirty years is a long time) who had received nothing from the old one. So, I rang the old one again and had my head bitten off. Two photos down – two to go. I sent in another photo and form to the new Recorder and finally my fish was recognised as a record shore based capture. I received my record certificate via Jim at the next General Meeting.

With all the hassles I went through, it never occurred to me to claim it as a club record and club members didn't think to ask whether I intended to. Over time it was gradually forgotten until I saw Cookies' article in the July 2005 issue. As I said, Cookie has set the wheels in motion but I don't know how he'll go trying to retrieve the photo from AAA archives and as I've had several changes of residence, wives and partners since, the last remaining photo is effectively untraceable.

Post Mortem. In July of 1973 the club again staged a Field Day at Garden Island in conditions that were much calmer and therefore to most members liking but all I caught was a few Herring, Skippy, Silver Bream and only one KGW.

However in May of the next year, 1974 (the last time the ferry ran) my son and I returned to the same spot and over two days between the two of us, caught twenty two. The largest of them weighed a trifle under two kilos.

If it was only possible to get onto the island in May during a bit of a blow, I'm sure they would still be there. Interestingly, most of the whiting I've caught here in May have been females with full roe sacs.

I've tried many times since in my boat but unless there has been a scouring of the bottom by rough weather the hole remains silted. Even when the weather and oceanic conditions have churned out and deepened the hole, the sea is usually too treacherous to fish in it. Big swells break over the outer reef and unless you keep an eagle eye out, you could be upside down in a trice. With a capricious wind, tricky drift and surge you've got to be really quick to start the motor, gun it and stick the bow straight into any approaching wave, whilst at the same time maneuvering away from the reef and trying not to foul the prop in the anchor rope. Those sorts of conditions don't make for pleasant fishing.

I've managed to get in there on a few reasonable days during the cooler months but it's never the same. My best catch has been seven with a few around the 1.5 kilo mark – but I've never caught another one like the one I caught that day in 1973. So until the Navy allows access to the island I'll never know if my May theory is right.

A short time after my fish was recognised as a shore based record, the AAA integrated all the records so that now they are not category specific – if it's the biggest of its species, it's a record regardless of where your feet or backside are standing/sitting. So my record quickly went the way of the DoDo. Many larger KGW have since been caught from boats but boaties tend to be a b...y minded and disdainful lot and most couldn't be bothered with the procedure required to claim a record.

I'm not sure what the current record is but anyway, at least I can say that for a year or so I held a State record and I've still got the certificate to prove it.

John Lee.

P.S. With my "Secretary of Australian Anglers Association WA Division hat" on:-

The current Western Australian State record for King George Whiting is 1.856 kg, caught by Mick Cruickshank, off Two Rocks, 30 May 1976.

AAA recently decided to split the State Records into Shore and Boat categories once again. I know.... back to the past or whatever. But I guess there were reasons for combining them that seemed like a good idea at the time, such as the work to keep track of all the records, the shift to boat fishing, etc. and they probably were good reasons for that time.

But times change. With fish and fishing declining (that's another story) new records are getting rare as....

Anyway, Adam Eastman is the AAA Recorder now with a willingness to do the work to separate the records, and it's almost ready. Once it has been done, any extra work to keep two lists up to date will be trivial.

Anyone who is interested in the State and National fishing and casting records can find enough to keep you busy for some hours on the AAA WA website starting at <http://www.aaawa.iinet.net.au/RecordsMain.html>

Or if you don't have Internet access, I'll give you a paper copy of the records if you ask. Just another one of those "behind the scenes" things and services that AAA WA does that few people know or care about until...

TerryF.

Fisheries Management Perth Metro Area Proposals.

From the AAA meeting in August. I know it is long, but it is important.

A discussion paper titled "Zone 5" has been prepared by two keen and experienced recreational anglers Wally Parkin and Garry Lilley. A copy was received on Monday. A better title might be "Fisheries Management Perth Metro Area."

Terry Fuller said it was extremely important to look at the background to this paper and the reason for its preparation, and not just look at some of the details in isolation.

The people who wrote the paper now realise that it should have had a lot more work and different approaches before such a wide release, but now it is too late to call it back.

He gave some of the background to the paper, and said he would write up this extra background for AAA people even though not all of this had been discussed at this meeting.

Fisheries management is based on a large region, which for the West Coast region goes from north of Kalbarri to east of Augusta. What might be OK to manage the total fishing in the entire region might mean that areas near large human populations are allowed to be over fished.

Fishing in the metro area has changed a lot over the past 20 to 30 years, and not for the better. Fish are harder to find and people have to travel much further to find them.

What is sustainable?

Fish populations and the quality of fishing in areas around population centres and areas of heavy use will be changed, compared to what they would have been like if humans didn't exist. Some of that change is inevitable due to our human activities.

If people can come back in 5, 10, 20, 30, 50 years and find the situation is not significantly changed compared to the present, than whatever is being done is sustainable, even if the fishing and fish stocks have been changed using the idea of "compared to what it would have been like if humans didn't exist".

The metro population has increased to something like 1.5 million people, and the fishing pressure is increasing with the increasing population.

Improved boats, GPS, echo sounders, fishing equipment, access to information, are all increasing the pressure on the fish.

What is likely if we continue as at present? What do we want?

People who remember what the fishing was like 20 to 30 years ago see the current situation and ask "what is likely and what do we want for the future?".

Draw a line between what the fishing quality was like 20 or 30 years ago and what it is now, then extend that line the same distance forward into the future.

Will we, in 20 or 30 years time or longer, and our children and grandchildren, still be able to go fishing in Perth metro waters and be able to catch enough fish of the type we could catch in the past for it to be a worthwhile pastime?

Of course there are fisheries management processes in place to try to alleviate this. But will the fishing continue to decline at the rate it has in the last 20 to 30 years?. Will it decline even faster as more and more people compete for fewer and fewer fish?. **Think about that.**

For many species it means that they will be very hard to catch, which means the fish will have been heavily depleted in the metro area, and that means the fishing pressure is **unsustainable**.

What do we want for the future?

Where will it end? Will future generations (and ourselves in 20 years time) thank us for what we have handed on to them? Or will **they criticise us** for not using some restraint so they could experience at least some of what we and earlier generations could?

Or will it be like blue groper which used to be common around Rottnest, and are now very rare. Do **WE criticise** those people of 30 or 40 years ago, some of whom took more than they needed, even allowing for "*forgive them, because at the time they didn't know what they were doing*"?

Will your grandson ask you "*Grandad, what's a Dhufish?*", or "*what's a Mulloway?*", or "*what's a Tailor?*", just as today's metro fisherman ask "*what's a Blue Groper?*"

We can't use the excuse of "*we don't know what we are doing,*" because it is plain for everyone to see that the fishing is changing.

Who is responsible?

Everyone has some impact. No one, commercial, recreational, or charter, who goes fishing can say "*I'm not doing very much, so I don't have any impact.*" They cannot say "*It's up to other people to change, not me.*"

A lot of people having "not very much impact" can add up to a lot of impact in total, and the individual bits might need to be just slightly smaller, so that the total is smaller.

Just a small number of “really big impacts” can have a lot of impact in total, and it’s much more important that the people who are doing a lot change what they are doing.

No one who eats commercially caught local wild fish can say:- *“Someone else caught this - I’m not responsible.”* The fish would not have been caught if the market demand wasn’t there. Catches must be managed for sustainability. **Everyone has some impact.**

What has already been started?

What is already started or been changed which might stop or change the downward spiral? This is an enormous topic. Some include:-

1. West Coast Recreational fishing rules changes October 2003.
2. Commercial Wetline Fishing Review – in progress. Yes, it should have happened long ago.
3. Cockburn Sound and nearby Pink Snapper closure during the spawning period. Championed by concerned recreational anglers who are concerned for fish for the future. Announced 19 August.
4. Integrated Fisheries Management.
5. Government Election Policy promises and statements, including:-

Government understands that our fish resources and marine environments are coming under increasing pressure from human population growth, increased coastal urbanisation and advances in technology. In order for our fisheries to remain managed at sustainable levels increased investment in fisheries management, research, community education and compliance is required.

Government recognises that fish stocks are limited and marine environments can be damaged by unwise use. Growing populations are placing increasing pressure on fish stocks and the environment, highlighting the need for a new integrated approach to management that takes into account the requirements and aspirations of the commercial, charter, recreational, Indigenous and conservation sectors.

Ensure that management of commercial and recreational fisheries in Western Australia continues to be based on a strong principle of sustainability or “Fish for the Future”.

Continue to work with recreational fishers and the wider community to ensure that recreational fishing experiences can continue to be enjoyed by present and future generations of Western Australians.

Continue to work with local communities to identify and develop management plans for fish habitats in need of special protection.

Significantly enhance the State’s capacity to undertake research into fish species of importance to the recreational sector, such as Western Australian dhufish, rock lobster, tailor, herring, snapper, blue groper, blue manna crabs, abalone and marron.

Ensure there are adequate funds to undertake recreational catch and effort research to support recreational fisheries management and Integrated Fisheries Management.

Continue to protect snapper breeding aggregations in Shark Bay and Cockburn Sound and prohibit commercial snapper fishing in Cockburn Sound.

Use the provisions of the Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Act to phase out commercial fishing in the Swan and Canning Rivers.

Are these enough?

Some people say **NO**, these are only a start, and the situation needs more changes and needs them **VERY** soon. Some will take years to have enough effect on the fish and sustainability.

Will some amazing thing happen and will fishing get better than it is at present without more changes? Will it get better so that it goes back to what it was like 20 or 30 years ago? Not likely.

Are these opportunities to do the right thing – for the fish and for the fishing experience of future generations? Many people will say **“YES”** if they think about it.

What is possible if we decide to do things differently?

That’s where the “Zone 5” paper comes in:-

1. To get support for the **CONCEPT** of the need for special management for the metro area.
2. To get people thinking and talking about what things need to change.
3. To get the information about what is known, and what is not known, so that information gathering and fisheries research can be directed to the right things.
4. To consider some of the changes which are possible or necessary to make metro fishing sustainable.
5. To get organisations and individuals who have the skills and responsibilities to take this further and make the changes.

The following was actually discussed at the AAA Delegates' meeting.

Terry Fuller outlined some proposals which are being considered for recreational and commercial and charter fishing in the metro and near metro area from Dawesville to Two Rocks, 35 nautical miles out to sea, including the adjacent rivers and estuaries. This covers a marine area of about 10,000 square kilometres, plus the rivers and estuaries.

He read the main proposals in the paper, covering suggested recreational, commercial, charter and government actions or changes. He explained that he had given comments on an earlier draft of the paper, some of which had been used and some of which had not.

Some delegates expressed concern that the paper had been distributed in the form they had first seen it. They had problems with some of the principles, and one said that the problem was mainly with the commercial fishing. One said that license proposals gave the government a wedge or an opening for introducing more severe changes. Some of the detailed changes were not explained or supported by enough information.

Terry Fuller explained that it was not certain that commercial fishing was the cause of all the problems, because the recreational catch of some species was also large enough to be significant, but those catch figures were from some years ago.

There were a number of activities going on, such as the recreational boat ramp and capture survey which started in July and would give more accurate data on the recreational boat catch; and the commercial Wetline Fishing Review which would change some aspects of commercial fishing, and were not covered in the paper.

It appeared that the paper by itself gets some quick reactions which are not looking at all the issues involved and are not recognising the things which are happening already or are going to happen, or are likely to happen if people do or continue to do certain things.

Terry Fuller explained that the people who wrote the paper felt they had done all they could do, and that it was now up to other people to pick up the ideas in this paper and do something with them. By the time he had received this version of the paper, it had already been distributed to many people with the intention of getting comments and more information.

Further AAA Action on Metro Management.

The concept of special management for the Perth metro area will be considered by the organisations who make the rules, and that inevitably includes changes to fishing rules.

This club has an interest in making sure that members' views are heard, to get the best possible outcomes for the fish and for the future.

There are many issues to consider and there are sure to be many opinions. Any submission from AAA should cover all of these. But that needs people and clubs to get involved.

We need volunteers to meet, discuss and prepare a submission from this Club to AAA. Please contact Secretary Terry Fuller if you want to be involved.

Fishing in Brass Monkey Weather.

Its 5:00am and brass monkey weather, when Paul shows up. Moving as fast and quietly as possible we load the bus for another fishing adventure. Only the dedicated are out this time of day, as there is a fine line between fishermen and a fools with a poles in hand. Why did they have to choose the coldest day of the year to go. Its so freezing cold. All I could say was it better be worth it.

We headed to Chas's place and load everything in his Nissan and were off. Giving Jim a quick call to let him know were on the way. Seabird our first destination, to lure fish for Tailor. We finally arrive at about 7.20am, a little annoyed that the sun is already up. We clamber for our gear and in minutes were on the beach, shoulder to shoulder casting for that elusive fish.

Chas, Paul and Jim opted for poppers, (they were chasing plastic fish) while I chose a weighted mulie. Last to cast off, we finally found enough space to fish the reef. My second cast was hit and two minutes later I had landed the first Tailor. "Nice one John. You know its catch and release" Paul said. Too late! I had already bleed the fish by the time he came to inspect it.

Five minutes latter, a hit and miss. Quickly rebaiting my rig, and cast out again. Metres from the reef, another good hit. I yell out to everyone that I'm on again. This time, a better fight, and soon had him over the reef, and in the bucket. Two nice Tailor. 2 kilos each, gilled and gutted. I get bagged by Paul and Chas. Jim the only gentleman to congratulate me. I then tell them how to catch real fish, not the plastic ones they are chasing. Soon they all were throwing baited mulies, but it was too late. By 9.45 am we headed for the vehicle. A quick cuppa, change of clothes, and we're off to Lancelin.

From 11.30am to 3.30 pm, we fished the northern light marker. A couple of feeds of whiting, plus bait whiting, were all we could muster. Losing a few Tailor rigs hurt. (You don't mind losing a rig or two, if you catch a few) Still the company was good, a few laughs were had by all and we enjoyed the sunshine.

Next stop the Lancelin jetty. First we had to stop and get some glitter? Another novelty item, Chas has up his sleeve. We were able to drive on the jetty, after 4.00 pm. Squid herring, yellow fin whiting and tailor were the preferred species to catch. But that was about to change. While the sun was still up blowies had the best feed. Jim was bottom fishing and was catch and releasing some impressive looking Wrasse, when he wasn't snagged. Chas was chatting up the locals for information. I had a Tailor bait out near a reef, and a squid jig under a float. Paul was unsuccessful in jigging for squid and lost a squid jig. Nothing exciting happened until after dark.

Out in the deep a small bite and hooked up a small Skippy. As I reeled him in, he must have bought his mates. We quickly berleyed the water with my secret berley mix and Chas's glitter. (The glitter was to dazzle the fish. The berley just kept them at the end of the jetty we were fishing from) Soon we had small weighted gangs on light tackle, blue bait on the hooks and having a feast on Skippy and the odd herring. In the space of an hour or two, all the blue bait was gone, and squid legs were used, still hooking up a few good specimens. The weather turned cold again, so we quickly cleaned our catch and headed home.

The following morning Paul, Chas and myself commenced filleting the fish. Paul was scaling the Skippy, whiting and tailor. I was filleting, while Chas skinned the herring and taking out any other bones. In the space of an hour the catch was divided and bagged up. The end of another successful fishing trip. What we enjoyed the most was the friendship, the laughs and the weather, even if it was very cold. Catching of the fish was just a bonus.

John Romano

Dry Casting Rods For Sale

5177G extended, 7177G extended, with 4 inch Alvey \$150 the lot. Contact Carl Woodley 0438 939 433.

August 2005 Field Day Report, Rottnest.

Last weekend the weather was fantastic, this weekend the weather was even better, so what happened to the one in between on 13 – 14 August 2005 when we went to Rottnest? I know it is winter and all but I don't think it was necessary to dump such a bucket on us just because we were going to Rottnest. I've been fishing with the club for only a few years but I would say that was the worst conditions that I have ever fished. It also coincided with Vix and I taking our bikes over to explore more of the island, well it was good exercise anyway.

Twelve mad souls fronted up on the Saturday morning for the ferry ride which wasn't too bad, all things considered. The interesting stuff came later in the day with strong winds and rising swell. All (except us) elected to fish West End which was a good decision in hindsight as the wind at that time was from the north giving them a little shelter. Even so not very many places were fishable especially in the early afternoon while the tide was still up. It is usual for the group to fish Radar late in the day in time for the yellowtail kings and tailor to make an appearance. Even though the tide had fallen the swell was still pushing significant amounts of water over the reef later in the day. This deterred all but two of our group who took a bit of a battering with little to show for their efforts apart for a couple of busted rigs.

Having paid the extra fare for our bikes, Vix and I were not going to leave them at the chalets so off we pedaled into an uncertain blustery afternoon. The south of the island was the only option for Saturday so we fished from the Natural Jetty around to Henrietta Rocks with little more than a few whiting and tarwhine.

Saturday night the weather really put on a wintry show with strong winds and driving rain which may have been one of the reasons that there were very few occupants of the bus the next morning. Or was it the result of the few drinks we all had celebrating Tony's birthday, which was complete with champagne, cake and balloons compliments of Filomena. As the day wore on the conditions improved, so by the time we caught the ferry home the conditions would have been excellent, we were just a day too early.

The main catch for the weekend was herring, although not in huge numbers. The rest of the catch was made up of skippy, tarwhine, blackfish and a couple of snook. Tony and Peter Osborne worked hard for their full quota of fish. Tony secured the heaviest scale fish section with a chunky blackfish of 1.5kgs. Peter then collected the heaviest bag section with his mixed bag of around 5kgs.

Although it is always good to get away fishing, one could question the sanity of fishing this particular weekend but that's fishing, sometime you win, other times you just have to your scratch your head.

Hopefully the next field day which is on the 24 -26 September at S-Bend will be more comfortable and the fishing more rewarding.

Hope to see you there next time.

Malcolm Harris, Field Day Officer.

Species caught on this Field Day were:- herring, skippy, wrasse, whiting (other), western rock blackfish, tarwhine, snook, leather jacket.

Results for the August 2005 Field Day.

Sportsperson of the Year Sections for August 2005.

Best Scale Fish	Tony D'Alonzo	Western Rock Blackfish	1.525 kg
Best Bag of Scale fish	Tony D'Alonzo	Mixed Bag	9.775 kg

Field Day prizes for August 2005.

Best Scale Fish	Tony D'Alonzo	Western Rock Blackfish	1.525 kg	
Best Bag of Scale fish	Peter Osborne	Mixed Bag	5.3 kg	
Angler	Weight	Species	Fish	Points
Tony D'Alonzo	9.675 kg	6	30	206.75
Peter Osborne	5.3 kg	4	30	143
Tony Ong	3.825 kg	4	17	118.25
Grant Taggart	2.85 kg	4	12	108.5
Dale Coates	1.575 kg	3	4	95.75
Bradley Zaknich	1.45 kg	3	5	84.5
Ian Cook	0.25 kg	1	1	62.5
Vix Alexander	0.1 kg	1	1	61
Malcolm Harris	0	0	0	50
Spencer King	0	0	0	50
Ian Taggart	0	0	0	40
George Holman	0	0	0	20
Josh Lucocq	0	0	0	20
John Romano	0	0	0	20
Paul Thompson	0	0	0	20

Field Day Top Ten for 2004/2005 up to August 2005.

	Angler	Total Points		Angler	Total Points
1	Tony D'Alonzo	1178.7	6	Tony Ong	268.8
2	Filomena D'Alonzo	459.8	7	John Romano	242.6
3	Peter Osborne	411.5	8	Vix Alexander	230.3
4	Malcolm Harris	398.6	9	Grant Taggart	210.8
5	George Holman	321.1	10	Brian Stokes	207.4

Field Day Sections up to July 2005.

1A	Best Scale Fish (1st Six Months)	John Romano	Salmon	3.850 kg
1B	Best Scale Fish (2nd Six Months)			
2	Most Meritous Fish	Decided by Committee		
3	Best Shark (4.5kg min)		No entry	
4	Best Mulloway (2.0kg min)		No entry	
5	Best Tailor (1.0kg min)		No entry	
6	Best Salmon (3kg min)	John Romano	Salmon	3.850 kg
7	Best Skipjack Trevally (0.5 kg min)	Tony Ong	Trevally, Skipjack	0.825 kg
8	Best Mackerel (2kg Min)		No entry	
9	Best Scale Fish (Other than above)	Vix Alexander	Yellowtail Kingfish	1.775 kg
10	Best Bag Of Scale Fish	Tony D'Alonzo	Mixed Bag	27.855 kg
11	Best Bag Of Mulloway (2 Fish Min)		No entry	
12	Best Bag Of Tailor (2 Fish Min)	Tony D'Alonzo	Tailor	5.340 kg
13	Best Fish On S/H Rod 4kg b/s line (max)		No entry	
14	Best Fish Caught on Fly Rod		No entry	

Pink Snapper Spawning Closures.

Fisheries Minister Jon Ford has approved fishing closures and a maximum size limit to protect pink snapper breeding stocks in the metropolitan area.

Tagging studies show that pink snapper migrate into Cockburn and Warnbro Sounds in late winter and early spring, forming spawning aggregations.

"These spawning schools are the major known pink snapper breeding grounds for the entire coastal strip between Mandurah and Lancelin," Mr Ford said. "There is a lesson to be learned from Shark Bay, where pink snapper stocks are recovering well from severe overfishing.

"The overwhelming success of protecting fish stock during the peak breeding season proved far more effective in Shark Bay than simply imposing bag limits.

"In Cockburn Sound, the growth of recreational fishing has been especially alarming in recent years, with boats specifically targeting spawning pink snapper."

The Minister has approved the following measures:

- a ban on catching pink snapper in Cockburn and Warnbro Sound between October 1 and December 15 each year (applies to professional and recreational fishers);

fishers who catch pink snapper further off the coast during the closure must NOT stop to fish for other species in the restricted area, if they are returning to boat ramps inside Cockburn or Warnbro Sound; a recreational daily bag limit of four pink snapper still applies on the west coast fishing region (Kalbarri to Augusta); and the minimum size limit is still 41cm, and to protect pink snapper breeders in the metropolitan area between Dawesville and Two Rocks, fishers are only allowed one fish over 70cm.

Recorders Report August 2005

Belated Club and State Record

Some years back (actually about 22 to be exact) one of our members caught a very nice fish that was recognised as a State Record Fish. Somehow it never managed to get on the club records.

This gentleman (who is very quiet and unassuming) related his story to me of three attempts to have it put on the Club records. I have decided to rectify the omission.

The person I am alluding to is John Lee who is a member of many years, even before my time!

The fish he caught was a King George Whiting or Spotted Whiting. It was captured at Garden Island on 12 May 1973 on mulie bait. The vital statistics are as follows:-

Weight 1.5309 kg, Length 562 mm, Girth 250 mm. This KG whiting stood as a State record for 3 years and is still a SCAC club record. Unfortunately all copies of the original photograph have been lost with the missing forms.

I would like to apologise to John on the Club's behalf for not having recognised the capture. I hear stories of very large KG being captured off boats but do not know of any that come up to this weight. Well done John, your fish is probably now enshrined for immortality

Yet another new club record

Chas Riegert has now decided to get in on the roll and has entered a Southern Blue-Spot Flathead into the Club records. His fish was caught at Lancelin on the 21 June.

The fish's details are:- Length 530 mm, Girth 255 mm, Weight 1.080 kg. The fish also qualifies for Grand Masters and Species competition

Master Fish for the August Field Day:- None

Steep Point Trip. "Mate you should have been here last week"

The weather was fine warm with light winds. The sea was shimmering in the sunlight and the food & beer flowed free. The pink snapper and emperor were always keen to leap onto your baited hooks. We even had some pleasant female company. The group included Rhonda & Wayne Morris, Julie & Ross Kember, Derry Barber & I. We had decided on giving the Steep Point area another chance to redeem itself after a couple of disappointing trips, fish wise. All the above is factual except the part above ample fish.

Two vehicles went up with a trailer and dinghy. During the week they graded the road from the Useless Loop turn off to the beginning of the sandy track at the causeway. This has made it a very easy drive in. You can now easily tow a trailer in the last 35 kilometres in high range. There were even some toy RV vehicles at the point.

The camp was set up along the sandy beach east of the sand spit. We shared this area with about twenty five other camps as it was school holidays. Actually this did not cause any hassles as all were well behaved.

We fished three main locations along the cliff south of Steep Point. They were Freight Train, Suicide and a location we call the Arm Chair. This is a very good location except, getting down to the spot involves lowering your gear down two levels by rope. Then you need strong toes and fingers and a good sense for height as you clamber down. The last drop down has a short rusty steel ladder to help out.

One morning we watched some early birds who got there before us. They had 4 hook-ups at one time on balloons. We watched one mackerel of at least 15 kilograms being gaffed. Our only result from this location was a couple of small emperor and I lost of a big giant trevally at the gaff. I played with a very large shark on 24 kg line for about 30 – 40 minutes but it was beyond my strength to make much headway and eventually it came inshore and broke off.

Freight Train produced a nice mulloway for Ross and two good tailor. I lost a mackerel as it was being gaffed at Freight Train.

We did the scenic route to False Entrance one day stopping off at Thunder Bay and Crayfish Bay for a few photographs. We had False Entrance to ourselves but again no good fish were landed.

The "Point" was fished two nights with numerous bust offs on the first night and little action the second night. I fished out of the dinghy for emperor and other reef fish with little success on the inside of Dirk Hartog Island going up as far as the station homestead

The most productive method was to fish out of a dinghy at night using whole butter fish as bait. For those who liked sculling round in the dark near the Fault Line this resulted in some good pink snapper. But not this wood duck who is getting older and occasionally shows some commonsense judgment.

Derry and the girls fished long expanses of the sandy beaches and captured a good variety of small fish but put in long hours for little result. Some guys fishing out of a fair sized boat did very well the week before we arrived but had poor results the same week we were there. One afternoon the outboard motor had a carburettor needle & seat hiccup and these guys kindly gave us a tow home to camp.

The trip was very pleasant and all enjoyed the good company, weather, scenery, wild flowers, food and beverages.

For those contemplating a trip to Steep Point have a look at the Web Page <http://www.steepoint.com.au> it is very useful. I would also advise members to have a fall back plan for alternative fishing if the weather turns nasty. Steep Point has more alternatives to fish than False Entrance in inclement weather. Camping is also easier with toilets, fuel, freezer space and water available. I have a number of fishing locations marked on the chart and also some large scale aerial photos.

Rottnest Island in October.

After our recent trip to Rotto in August there was some talk about utilising the venue as part of the Open field day 15/16 October. This will still allow those members who wish to fish elsewhere to go further afield.

The proposal is to catch the last ferry to Rotto at 1600 hr from C shed on the Friday afternoon. We then have all Saturday on the island and half of Sunday. This gives us one more morning's fishing. We used a similar format at the long weekend in July and it was very well received.

In October the weather should be milder than last weekend. The water temperature will be similar at about 20 degrees. I would hope we can have another crack at the Yellow tailed kingfish and also tailor. The Yellow tailed kingfish were at Radar reef on the Saturday afternoon.

The conditions that Spencer and I fished under were extreme to say the least. We both hooked what we believed were probably Yellow tailed kingfish but could not handle them under the conditions. The coach driver had some tourists who were visiting West End comment to him, "See those two guys who are fishing and disappearing underwater as the swells rolled through. They must be tough or foolish".

The cost for the weekend based on 10 members is estimated at \$135. This is good value as to go to the south coast would cost about \$100 in fuel alone. I have 7 starters so far. If you wish to participate ring Cookie immediately you read this article as I must pay the Rottnest Island Authority.

Tides. These are good – See the main Field Day notice on page 4.

Open Competition 2005/6.

These are the details of the Open Competition Sections. Entries close 30 days after capture. Cookie needs some more entries !!

Section	For	Min weight	Entry
Section 1	Most Meritorious Capture	None	To be awarded by Committee
Section 2	Best Shark	4.5 kg	No entry
Section 3	Best Mulloway	5.0 kg	10.5 kg Paul Thompson, Kalbarri
Section 4	Best Salmon	3.5 kg	5.0 kg John Jardine, Swanborne Drain
Section 5	Best Dhufish	Legal size	No entry
Section 6	Best Tailor	1.5 kg	2.25 kg Tony D'Alonzo, Jurien Bay
Section 7	Best Samson Fish	1.5 kg	No entry
Section 8	Best Fish on single handed rod maximum 4kg line class	Legal size	No entry
Section 9	Best Pink Snapper	2.0 kg	No entry
Section 10	Best Tarwhine	0.5 kg	No entry
Section 11	Best Mackerel	4.0 kg	No entry
Section 12	Best Skipjack Trevally (southern)	1.0 kg	No entry
Section 13	Best Trevally (northern)	4.0 kg	No entry
Section 14	Best Snook/Pike	0.5 kg	No entry
Section 15	Best Black Bream	0.6 kg	No entry
Section 16	Best Scale fish other than sections 3 to 15	2.0 kg	No entry
Section 17	Best Fish caught on Fly Rod.	Legal size	No entry

Please let Cookie know if there are any omissions.

Barron Lure Competition.

Heaviest Tailor on Lure.	Paul Thompson, Tailor 1.43 kg, Seabird
Heaviest Salmon on Lure.	No entry.
Heaviest Scale Fish on Lure.	No entry.

Hope you all enjoyed the reports and keep the entries flowing rolling in. Tight Lines