

Acknowledgement of Donors

The club gratefully acknowledges the support from companies, organisations, club members and families for the donations towards our Presentation night and prizes for winners of our fishing and dry casting competitions.

Donors of prizes and giveaways for 2017/8

Club Members:

George Belin, Mal Head, Bob Henderson,
Peter Osborne, Gary Parkinson, Victor Schilo,
Shane Wignell
And
Sandra Wessels for the ladies' gifts

Special Thanks to John Curtis and Ron Thomas

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Western Angler Magazine

Thank you for your valued support.



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April 2018: Reel Talk Contents

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Club Committee for 2017/8

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Peet Wessels

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Victor Schilo, Pat McKeown

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

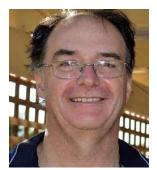
SCAC Life Members

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

Deceased life members: Vic Davis, Doug Edward, Lloyd Dunn, Dudley Brown, Noel

Knight, Les Shand, Ron Kildahl, Bob Klein, Jim Strong

President's Report:



At the next General meeting we need to vote on and lock in the Field days for next season. Members would have seen the proposed program and at the last couple of General meetings we have discussed the various changes we are looking at. It seems that members are happy with these and prepared to try a couple of new ideas especially with respect to boundaries. At the end of the day our goal is to provide a framework where as many members as possible are willing and able to participate.

Members would also have seen some proposed changes that Peter Osborne has been working on in an effort to simplify competition rules. Peter is fine tuning

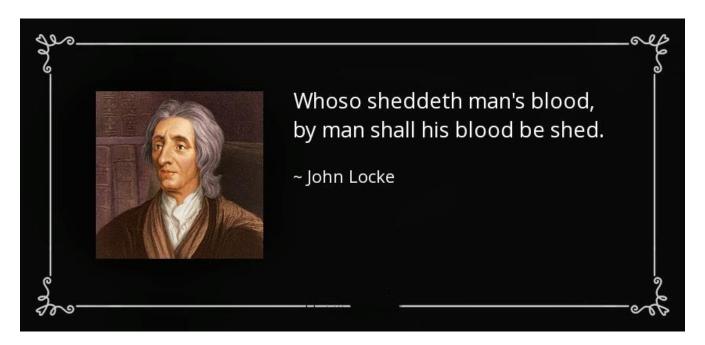
them so hopefully they will be right to be formally put before the membership at the April meeting. Thank you to Peter for the continued great contribution to the club even after his retirement from the committee.

Whilst on the topic of members making great contributions to the club, our Social Organiser Pat McKeown has been busy finalising preparations for our Presentation night in early June. Now is the time to book and pay for your tickets as well as consider donation of prizes for the night. As those who regularly attend will attest to these are a highlight of our year and I am sure this years will be no exception. Please try to make a special effort to get there and don't be shy about inviting any friends or even prospective members to the evening.

Despite being on the market for several months now the Kalbarri property is not generating much interest from any prospective buyers. The financials are also showing about a \$1000 loss for the current financial year. We are also facing the possibility of needing to spend significant funds in order to maintain the standards required for commercial rental. We may have some significant decisions to make in the near future about how me manage this situation.

At the time of writing I am packing ready for the Bluff Creek Field day. Having missed last year's I am very much looking forward to one of my favourite field days. Even better, Sarah is able to go this year and she can now share the driving. The first sight of the miles of beautiful beach as you crest the last sand dune is one that never fails to fill me with anticipation. I also love that characteristic sound that the tyres make in the sand as you head west towards the campsite. Although the weather [and the fish] don't always play ball it is always a great weekend and I trust this will be no different.

Quote for the month:



Membership Coordinator's Report

All is quiet on the membership front. Bob and Lee Henderson are enjoying their sojourn and have sent in a report.

THE TRIP

After being relieved of our root vegies at the Ceduna border inspection point, we had a quick stop in Ceduna for fuel before heading south towards Streaky Bay for a couple of days. A brand-new c/v park on the outskirts was a delight to stay at. Had a snoop around the area.

It was a windy stopover in Streaky Bay, so we moved on to have a look at Venus Bay, Ellison, and Coffin Bay. Driving around the small towns we viewed the old buildings and jetties, the c/v parks and tourist sites. A feed of whiting and chips in Coffin Bay were delightful. Both of the c/v parks were quite full. We then moved on to Port Lincoln c/v Park.

Caught up with old WA friends Eddie n Debbie Korin (from Perth) and had a good chin wag about past adventures. Went to the local pub for tea the next night for another good meal. We also spent a day touring the Cape area and the rugged coast line and topped up the pantry. Very windy.

We moved on and called in to Tumby Bay, Port Neil, Cowell and in to Port Augusta for fuel only. A long drive on down to Moonta and into the c/v park on the foreshore. Tried fishing off the jetty (Ziltch), engaged in tasting the local bounty of Cornish pasties and cakes (bugger indigestion pains). Visited family relatives for tea, drank a couple and chatted away the evening. Geez it's bloody windy around here too.

Off again and a day's trip down the coast via Maitland, Port Victoria, lunch in Minlaton, over to Stansbury, on to Port Vincent then up to Ardrossan before heading back to Moonta. Glancing at the local c/v parks we noticed all were at maximum attendance, so tourism is helping out the communities. We also called in to the old family farm at Arthurton and reminisced about old times. The small towns are really suffering from people leaving and moving on. Buildings are in a state of disrepair. It started to drizzle as we headed south and continued till we returned and found a few things left out quite wet. It will dry in time.

Stayed in Moonta for 5 days and our next stop is Lee's old town called Saddleworth.

THE TRIP 2

We left Moonta all loaded with Cornish Pasties, before stopping in Port Wakefield to get a minor repair done to our awning. Continued on thru Gawler, Balaclava on to Kapunda for a few days. The following day we toured Clare, Burra, Black Springs and Saddleworth, searching our family farms, past homes, cemeteries, and old memories of days gone by.

The next day we toured Eudunda, Angaston, Tanunda, Nuriootpa and Hahndorf, sampling the local delights. These Cornish Pasties are getting to be a naughty habit! Still one has to support the locals. Lee cooked a roast in the frying pan, a delicious meal. Warm days and cool mornings.

We then journeyed to Kingston SE and stayed overnight on the foreshore but it was a little windy. Went fishing and actually caught a herring???

On to Mt Gambier where we endured strong winds and constant drizzle for a few days. Gusts of 45 to 50 knots had the c/van arockin? We bunkered down and persevered and during the lulls we had a chance to visit the Hot rod exhibition on display at the showgrounds. A fine Chinese meal soothed the belly. It finally cleared up enough to venture out so we toured the coastal areas down near Port MacDonnell and Cape Douglas, observing the coast being lashed by big swells and light drizzle. So many little settlements amongst the sand hills. We diverted and wound our way back via the back roads, sighting many abandoned old stone farm houses. Visited the "Sinkhole" and the "Blue Lagoon" and restocked the pantry.

Chris (my brother in laws called it quits as he was a bit homesick, so we organised a bus trip and flight back to Perth from Adelaide for him. Lee and I decided to revisit a favourite spot called Lake Charlegrak (just west of Geroke), We went via Castleton, Edenhope and to the lake where we were informed that all

spots were taken for Easter so we moved on to a delightful little c/v park in Goroke for an overnight stay. We then left via Horsham towards St Arnauld but found a great spot in Murtoa, friendly people and besides a lovely lake. Ended up staying for 3 days.

The van tows well, everything is working okay, Molly is enjoying it immensely, Lee is happy being on the road and free camping at times. Happy Hour is a great time to unite with fellow travellers. Enjoying our travels.

Regards to all Bob n Lee n Molly Membership Coordinator Pat McKeown.

Social Organiser's Report

This year's Presentation night is being organised.

Date: -Saturday 9th June 2018 @ 6:30pm

Where: - Croatian House Wishart Street GWELUP

Menu: - Roast Beef, Chicken Schnitzel, Battered Fish, Pasta, Steamed Vegetables,

Roast Potato, Garden Salad, Desert, Tea and Coffee

Cost \$32.00 per head.
Drinks: - Purchase at the bar.

Submit all ticket payments to the club Treasure.

Bank Details:

Westpac

BSB 036 059

A/C #880334

Please ensure that you add your name to the transfer details.

Tickets will be available at the May meeting.

Any donations for the night are more than welcome.

TROPHIES

It is time for all trophy holders to clean and polish the trophies ready to be handed in by the **May General meeting.**

Please bring them all in as I don't want to be chasing them up for engraving.

Keep Fishing Social Organiser Pat McKeown

April General Meeting

When Wednesday 11th April commencing at 7.30pm

Instruction: John Curtis - Flatheads

Where Coolbinia West Perth Amateur Football and Sporting Club room

COMING FIELD DAY EVENTS

Members please take note of the new sign on and weigh in times

Rottnest Island Field Day bookings for May 2018.

Rottnest Island Field Day accommodation and bus transport for the weekend 25-27 May 2018 is all booked and organized.

The tides over the weekend are favourable for a good low tide around prime fishing times on Radar Reef. It is now the time to book your spot by contacting your FDO and paying your \$100 deposit. Please pay your deposit into the clubs bank account (see details below)and let the Treasurer and FDO know you have done so. Money can also be paid at the next General meeting.

Total cost for accommodation and bus transport is normally estimated at \$240 p/p.

MAY 2018

FIELD DAY VENUE Rottnest Island
WHEN 26 – 27 May 2018
SIGN ON At Rottnest Island
LINES DOWN Saturday, 12h00

BOUNDARIES All non-protected waters around Island WEIGH IN Sunday night shortly after bus drop off

FIELD DAY VENUE Local

WHEN 26 – 27 May 2018

SIGN ON At the General meeting or phone/message FDO

LINES DOWN Saturday, 12h00
BOUNDARIES Lancelin to Point Peron

WEIGH IN Sunday night. Location to be decided on at GM

Bremer Bay - Field Day March 2018

Peter O's story

Our scheduled field day for March on the long weekend at the beginning of the month was Bremer Bay - a fair drive but expectations were high.

Martin had organized a convoy to leave from Road. At 8:00 am I was joined by Martin and Gary in the one vehicle followed shortly by Vince and then Sri. After stops for fuel and food etc., we arrived at Bremer Bay shortly before 2;00 pm

The accommodation that Martin had organized was great - plenty of sleeping room, lounges, modern kitchen, toilets and shower with outside BBQ

The following discussion will pretty much mirror his field day report; hence the following is my perspective of how events unfolded for me.

To start the discussion, here are some tips I use to enhance the opportunities to get a bag of fish. I have premade rigs all ready when I decide what baits and fish (or fishes) to target.

Tip No 1,

When I know there is smaller fish mixed in with (hopefully larger fish like Tailor or Salmon), I use a special gang set.

2 or 3 no 3/0 Tarpons, small swivel and then a 1/0 or 2/0 Tarpon

A nice surprize in that I caught a Black Bream on this rig with the bream hitting the tail end of the mulie and catching itself on the smaller trailing hook.

Tip No 2

I always cut the .tail off the mulie, this allows dissipation of mulie oil to flow from the body and hopefully attract a strike. - In this case, come on black bream

Tip No 3

Sunday afternoon, I put out a burley bomb, but bights were slow, despite swapping between squid, prawn and a cube of Herring. Hence reverted to a tip provided by our South African contingent. A fillet of Mulie is tied to hooks with ghost cotton. Fishing like this I have a ganged setup pf 3 x no 3 tarpons at the bottom rig, then a no 4 long shank chemically sharpened hook coming off the top 3 way swivel. Mulies need to be fresh and firm to get a good fillet than can be tied to the set of hooks - if soft can go mushy and is impossible to neatly wind the ghost cotton around the fillet and hooks.

Tip No 4

I have found the fresh Herring makes an ideal bait either as:-

Cube on the top circle hook - good for small fish although, and while I did catch some Herring on this set-up I landed all of the Yellow Eyed Mullet on this offering'

As an alternative, a fillet of Herring on the ganged hooks set up for mulies - good for Tailor Salmon, Skippy and Mulloway - Think I caught my one Skippy on this offering.

A Herring as live bait is generally deadly for Salmon, but this weekend did not work as there was too much water between the Salmon.

Tip No 5

A burly bomb can get fish on the feed, particularly Herring.

A few days before the trip I make up in a bucket a mixture of Chicken Feed Pellets, a bit of Pollard (say 5 to 1), some fish oil (Sardine Oil) mix it up to a thick consistency, then add water to make it sloppy. I leave overnight and the pellets will absorb the oi and water and result in clay like consistency. I then put into containers and then freeze. I deploy the burley container at the edge of the wave brake on a rope and a large tent peg to allow breaking water to result in a stream of attractant flushing out to sea. I have a couple of purpose manufactured burley bucket - I.e. a lid and holes on side. If mixture is too sloppy, I will wrap some cling rale around the bucket to stop leaking into the freezer, a hessian bag is an alternative to a berley bucket.

Tip No 6

Here is a rig I use when fishing an area that has both larger fish, (Tailor and Salmon) and smaller fish (Whiting and Herring). I use 50 or 60 lb leaders, say 60 cm between a swivel and a three way swivel. A running sinker set up between these two swivels. From the lower straight through swivel a 30 to 40 cm leader again with a set of large ganged hooks for a mulie. I generally take a cork, push or drill a small hole in the cork, which I thread onto this leader before tying on the ganged hooks. The cork sits just above the hooks before I cast out. On the top three way swivel, 15 cm of say 30 or 40 lb line which goes out to a small circle hook say no 1 or 2. I also use the 3 ganged no 3 Tarpon hooks. I.e. Mulie on the bottom ganged hooks and a cube of herring or squid on the circle hook or, if using the small ganged hooks, whitebait, blue sardine, or a sliver of herring. -- An ideal rig for Bluff Creek

Hope the above can help with future fish captures

Some tips on what not to do:-

Tip No 7

When driving on soft sand, ensure your vehicle is in 4WD

Was warned Back Beach at Bremer bay had particularly soft sand and like all, let my tires down to 12/14 psi. Ongoing on the beach, could hear the motor was working a bit harder but thought was just the soft sand. Driving down a couple of 2 k, Martin called me up on the CB radio to say I had gone past the reef start. Stopped and immediately reversed to turn around and immediately became bogged. Vince and Gary came up and helped to dig sand to fit the Max Tracks under the tires. Hit the accelerator, went forward 3 or 4 metres and immediately became bogged. Must really be soft sand. Repeated this twice more with same result, then Gary queried me as to what gear I was in. On checking, B****y H**II, I was in 2WD, no wonder I was having problems. On putting the car into 4WD low range, driving in soft sand was not an issue. Thank to Vince and Gary for assistance, in particular to Gary for, pointing out what an idiot I was

Tip No 8

My senior moment don't end with this,

On the drive west coming into a tee intersection to the Albany highway, stopped and with the traffic being fairly busy, on seeing a gap moved into the line and felt I needed catch up to the cars in front of me. Accelerated and on reaching the top of the hill, there was a fellow in blue with a radar gun.

I was caught out beautifully I was in 70 kph zone and I was doing 90 kph. This was the Arthur River Township and from previous experience on driving through this area at long weekends I was aware police were very active. Tip is, when approaching small town, slow down and stay within posted speeds

The fishing

Saturday morning, travelling with Martin and Gary in their car and Vince in his Ute and Sri in his 4WD, we looked around. Some spots were already crowded out with fisher persons; we tried Short Beach for a while then onto Back Beach. We picked up a few Herring and Yellow Eyed Mullet ((Piltch).

Some of the Yellow Eyed Mullet were very large, biggest I had ever caught - some 0.4 kg uncleaned. I thought I had a possible new club record - but not to be. At the weigh-in Sandra had one that was one gram heavier than my largest. Sandra has a skill in getting the largest fish

In the afternoon I tried Bremer bay itself, fairly shallow so had to find a suitable gutter. I tried a reasonable gutter that also ran out to sea, but only a few small Herring. Vince joined me late in the afternoon and also got a couple of Herring. Find out later from a local this stretch is the best area to find Salmon Earlier when I planned to fish this beach. Led by Martin, the rest of their troupe headed up river to a spot known to hold Black Bream. They were not prolific as Martin was the only successful angler to land a Black Bream.

The following day I decided to fish Back Beach all day/initially joined by the rest of the gang we fished adjacent to the Abalone factory discharge pipes with some success. Early that morning, Martin received some sad news, his mother had passed away. Hence he and Gary packed up and returned to Perth. Condolences to Martin and his family.

I fished on the North sides of the pipes, Vince and Sri fished on the south side a couple of hundred metres from me. I did notice some activity and these anglers appearing to concentrate and looking for some action. Only later I found the Sri had landed a Salmon of some 4.0 kg (uncleaned) the only one of this size captured by Surfcasters and thus the heaviest for the weekend. Some smaller (32 to 35cm) salmon were caught by others in our group.

One of my casts I landed close to a bit of reef and landed my biggest fish - a Brown Spot Wrasse. During this all-day session is when I landed that Black Bream in the surf - I thought I was hooking and landing a good tarwhine until I actually picked it up and looked closely at it. - A pleasant surprize



I also landed an extremely large Garfish. It fought like an outsize Herring.

Again, on review, on initially picking thought it was a Robust Garfish. On closer look it did not have the tell-tale black spots on each side, so could have been a Southern Garfish. Hence with the recent change in rules on this latter species in mind incorrectly did a catch and release. Later on checking the rules on the Garfish closure, find that in the Southern area, they were still eligible to keep. Only the Meelup to Lancelin are they ineligible to be kept.

On returning to the accommodation just on dark, as we were all there and all had a bag of fish, and did not want to fish in the morning, Peet organized the weighin at the house BBQ. E.g. all had bags of 12 herring plus an array of Yellow

Eyed Mullet, Skippy, Wrasse and some small Salmon, except tor Sir's beauty, big fish action was not on for the weekend but everyone happy to take home a good feed of fish

While I weighed in the one-day bag limit of herring I kept another day bag limit of small ones - these get vacuum packed, frozen and then used for bait for both future boat and beach fishing.

See following pages on Reel Talk for individual capture details

Hope to see you at the April field day at Bluff Creek and trust we have a few more participants and a good showing for all of us with captures of Tailor, large Salmon, Skippy and Herring...

Cheers, Peter O









Field day results for March 2018:

| ANGLER | | Species Bream (all species) | Species Skipjack Trevally | Species Herring, Australian | Species Mullet (all species) | Species Yellowfin Whiting | Species Salmon Australian | Species Wrasse (all species) 1 only | Species Goatfish | Species Western Rock Blackfish | Total points | |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| | Number | | | 4 | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Gary Parkinson | Total weight | | | 0.55 | 0.22 | | | | | | 47.7 | |
| | Weight of best | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Number | 38 | 1 | 12 | 1 | St. | 2 | 1 | | | | |
| Vincent Tomazin | Total weight | 99 | 0.35 | 1.60 | 0.23 | 80 | 0.70 | | | | 88.8 | |
| | Weight of best | | 20213000390 | 8 8 | 7.388E-902-0 | 8 | 2 | | | | | |
| | Number | 1 | | 8 | 3 | | | | | | | |
| Martin Wearmouth | Total weight | 0.34 | | 1.04 | 0.70 | | | | | | 70.8 | |
| | Weight of best | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Number | 20 | 4 | 12 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Theo Van Niekerk | Total weight | | 1.15 | 1.83 | 0.71 | 0.05 | 0.56 | 0.28 | | 0.24 | 128.2 | |
| | Weight of best | .99 | | | | Ø | | 37 | | | | |
| | Number | 1 | 1 | 12 | 6 | | | 1 | | | 114.4 | |
| Peter Osborne | Total weight | 0.40 | 0.37 | 1.77 | 1.28 | | | 0.62 | | | | |
| | Weight of best | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Number | 35 | 2 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | | 1 99 | | |
| Sri Srigandan | Total weight | 07 | 0.60 | 1.84 | 0.32 | 50 | 3.71 | | | | 124.7 | |
| | Weight of best | | 1011001100 | | 7-0490MP | | 3.71 | | | | | |
| 1 1 1 | Number | Ì | 8 | 12 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | |
| Peet Wessels | Total weight | 2 | 2.53 | 1.93 | 0.28 | | | 0.55 | | | 112.9 | |
| | Weight of best | i i | | | | | | j j | | | | |
| | Number | 20 | 5 | 12 | 2 | 00 | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| Sandra Wessels | Total weight | | 0.97 | 1.90 | 0.68 | | 0.64 | 0.55 | | | 117.4 | |
| | Weight of best | - 10 | | | 0.36 | 8 | | | | | | |
| | Number | | | 12 | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | |
| Mark Hansen | Total weight | | | 1.50 | | | | 0.75 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 86.5 | |
| | Weight of best | | | | | | | | | | | |

Top Fishing Field day points up to end March 2018:

| | Top scores up to March | |
|------|------------------------|--------------|
| Rank | Angler | Total points |
| 1 | Martin Wearmouth | 1111.80 |
| 2 | Peter Osborne | 1087.18 |
| 3 | Peet Wessels | 829.31 |
| 4 | Sandra Wessels | 772.15 |
| 5 | Theo Van Niekerk | 618.48 |
| 6 | Mark Hansen | 529.80 |
| 7 | Gary Parkinson | 427.20 |
| 8 | Vincent Tomazin | 324.90 |
| 9 | Mark Nurse | 247.64 |
| 10 | Brad Zaknich | 227.91 |
| 11 | Sabby Pizzolante | 187.92 |
| 12 | lan Taggart | 181.58 |
| 13 | Ron Thomas | 171.90 |
| 14 | Sri Srigandan | 157.50 |
| 15 | Shane Wignell | 135.50 |
| 16 | Paul Terpkos | 116.50 |
| 17 | Sarah Wignell | 111.70 |
| 18 | Pat McKeown | 60.00 |
| 19 | Justin Rose | 54.80 |
| 20 | Oliver Wessels | 45.50 |
| 21 | Dean Stewart | 20.00 |

Fishing Field day competition section up to end March 2018:

| 1B | Best scale fish (2nd six months) | Sri Srigandan | Salmon Australian | 3.71 |
|----|--|------------------|---------------------|-------|
| 2 | Most meritorious fish | Sandra Wessels | Yellowtail Kingfish | 8.20 |
| 3 | Best shark (4.5kg min) | Peter Osborne | Shark | 5.29 |
| 4 | Best mulloway (2kg min) | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 5 | Best tailor (1kg min) | Martin Wearmouth | Tailor | 1.98 |
| 6 | Best salmon (3kg min) | Sri Srigandan | Salmon Australian | 3.71 |
| 7 | Best skipjack trevally (0.5 kg min) | Theo Van Niekerk | Skipjack Trevally | 1.74 |
| 8 | Best mackerel (2kg min) | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 9 | Best yellowtail kingfish, samson or amberjack (4kg min) | Sandra Wessels | Yellowtail Kingfish | 8.20 |
| 10 | Best scale fish (Other than above) | Peter Osborne | Westralian Dhufish | 2.75 |
| 11 | Best bag of scale fish | Sandra Wessels | Mixed bag | 26.08 |
| 12 | Best bag of mulloway (2 fish min) | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 13 | Best bag of tailor (2 fish min) | Martin Wearmouth | Tailor | 4.28 |
| 14 | Best fish on single handed rod (max 4kg line) | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 15 | Best fish caught on fly rod | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 16 | Best fish on single handed rod, soft plastic lure (max 4kg line) | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 17 | Best fish on single handed rod, hard body lure (max 4kg line) | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| | | | | |

| | rson of the year sections for March | 212 | - | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|--|
| Section | Angler | Species | Weigh 3.71 | |
| Best scale fish | Sri Srigandan | Salmon Australian | | |
| Best bag of scale fish | Sri Srigandan | Mixed bag | 6.47 | |
| Best shark | 100 | | | |
| Best bag including sharks | | | | |

| Field day prizes for March | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Section | Angler | Species | Weight | | | | | | | | | |
| Best scale fish | Sri Srigandan | Salmon Australian | 3.71 | | | | | | | | | |
| Best bag of scale fish | Peet Wessels | Mixed bag | 5.29 | | | | | | | | | |
| Best shark | 3 | % | | | | | | | | | | |
| Best bag including sharks | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Birthdays for April

Lee Zhang 13th; Shane Wignell 14th; Liam Wignell 16th; Sri Srigandan 25th *We wish you all the best for your special day*

Dry Casting Report 11 February 2018

A very disappointing attendance for the March casting day with only 5 members and 2 visitors, Terry Willison and Jeff Hewton.

Not only was the attendance poor but also the casting results. Mark had 2 break offs and 1 out. I had 2 outs and Klaus had one.

Terry had the highest DHA score with 141, Alan had the best SHA with 31 along with 1 bullseye.

Hope to see a few more faces next month, which will be 8th April and back to 8.30am start.

Vets winner – Alan Jones 411.37% Mens winner – Mark Hansen 400%

Ron Thomas – Drycasting Officer

SURF CASTING & ANGLING CLUB Dry casting results - 18th March 2018

| | | <u>56 gr</u> | am_ | | | | Artific | ial Bait | | | 112gram | | |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------|----------|-------------|-------------|--------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| | <u>Cast</u> | <u>Cast</u> | <u>Total</u> | - | <u> </u> | <u>Cast</u> | <u>Cast</u> | <u>Total</u> | _ | <u>Cast</u> | <u>Cast</u> | <u>Total</u> | |
| | 1 | 2 | | % | | 1 | 2 | | % | 1 | 2 | | % |
| <u>Veterans</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ALAN JONES | 96.30 | 96.38 | 192.6 8 | 66.88 | | 86.40 | 86.43 | 172.8 3 | 68.15 | 101.0 0 | 91.70 | 192.7 0 | 96.78 |
| PETER OSBORNE | 86.10 | 106.0 0 | 192.1 0 | 66.68 | | 107.1 0 | 99.05 | 206.1 5 | 81.29 | 102.0 3 | 97.07 | 199.1 0 | 100.0 0 |
| RON THOMAS | 144.90 | 143.2 0 | 288.1 0 | 100.0 0 | | 123.4 0 | 130.1 9 | 253.5 9 | 100.0 0 | OUT | OUT | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| KLAUS SCHONWOLF | 105.90 | 120.1 0 | 226.0 0 | 78.44 | | 86.60 | 77.50 | 164.1 0 | 64.71 | OUT | 100.2 4 | 100.2 4 | 50.35 |
| <u>Seniors</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MARK HANSON | 101.60 | 93.40 | 195.0 0 | 100.0 | | В/О | 107.2 7 | 107.2 7 | 100.0 | В/О | OUT | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Visitors | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TERRY WILLISON | 96.40 | 106.5 0 | 202.9 0 | | | 99.60 | 103.1 7 | 202.7 7 | | 108.8 8 | 118.9 5 | 227.8 3 | |
| JEFF HEWTON | 113.40 | DNC | 113.4 0 | | | 110.5 0 | DNC | 110.5 0 | | DNC | DNC | 0.00 | |
| VETS WINNER | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ALAN JONES | 411.37 % | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MENS WINNER | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MARK HANSON | 400.00 % | | | | | | | | | | | | |

SURF CASTING & ANGLING CLUB 18th March 2018

| | | | | Dou | ble Ha | anded | Accu | racy | | | | | Sing | le H | andec | l Accurac | <u>cy</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Attendance</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-----------------|----------|----|----------|----------|--------|--------|-------------|------|-------|----------|--|---|----------|------|----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|
| | | | | | Targe | et nur | <u>nber</u> | | | | | | | Targ | et dis | tance | | ı | D/Casting | <u>Points</u> |
| | <u>3</u> | 3 | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | Total | <u>%</u> | | Ļ | <u>s</u> | L | <u>s</u> | Total | <u>%</u> | <u>%</u> | _ | _ |
| <u>Veterans</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ALAN JONES | 15 | 21 | 13 | 16 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 109 | 79.56 | | 8 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 31 | 100.00 | 411.37 | 10 | 421.37 |
| PETER OSBORNE | 18 | 17 | 8 | 20 | 1 | 12 | 12 | 1 | 89 | 64.96 | | 1 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 13 | 41.94 | 354.87 | 10 | 364.87 |
| RON THOMAS | 18 | 24 | 9 | 9 | 18 | 20 | 20 | 19 | 137 | 100.00 | | 8 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 21 | 67.74 | 367.74 | 10 | 377.74 |
| KLAUS SCHONWOLF | | | | DNC | | | | | 0 | 0.00 | | 5 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 23 | 74.19 | 267.69 | 10 | 277.69 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Seniors | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MARK HANSON | 8 | 14 | 12 | 18 | 11 | 10 | 20 | 14 | 107 | 100.00 | | 9 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 14 | 100.00 | 400.00 | 10 | 510 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Visitors | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TERRY WILLISON | 23 | 14 | 16 | 22 | 21 | 15 | 19 | 11 | 141 | | | 0 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 16 | | | | |
| JEFF HEWTON | 8 | 16 | 15 | 14 | 12 | 0 | 16 | 16 | 97 | | | 0 | 9 | 0 | 8 | 17 | | | | |

| VETERANS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 20 | <u> 17 - 2018</u> | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| | | |
| LONGEST 56 GRAM | 144.90 | RON THOMAS |
| LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT | 130.90 | RON THOMAS |
| LONGEST 112G | 162.33 | RON THOMAS |
| HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY | 168 | BOB HENDERSON |
| HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY | 33 | RON THOMAS |
| | | |
| | | |
| SENIORS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2017 | 7 - <u>2018</u> | |
| | | |
| LONGEST 56 GRAM | 115.29 | SHANE WIGNELL |
| LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT | 115.43 | JEFF HEWTON |
| LONGEST 112G | 135.14 | JEFF HEWTON |
| HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY | 134 | MARK HANSON |
| HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY | 25 | MARK HANSON |

Recorder Report

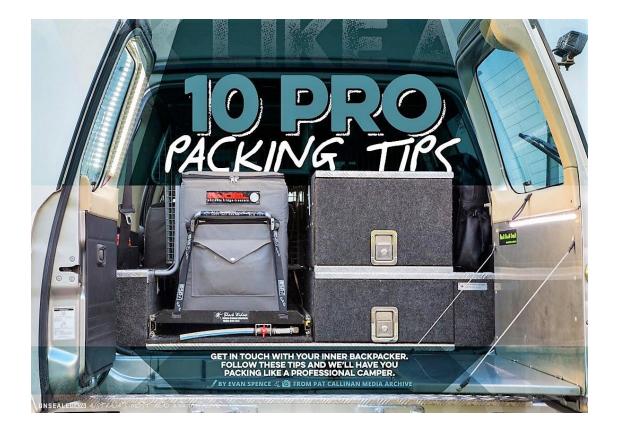
This month on the field trip down to Bremer bay Sandra Wessels caught the biggest Yellow eye Mullet of the trip of 0.36 kg. This secured Sandra's Master badge (8 species) and also a club record, well done Sandra on two great achievements there!

Sri Srigandan didn't miss out either with a slightly smaller mullet and a nice Salmon both added to his Masters badge, well done Sri

The talk up and down the coast of the pending metro Salmon Season is already well underway, if you come across a feeding school consider using a popper and send a photo and entry in for the baron lure competition. If you can send me a half decent photo on a brag mat, I can work some magic and get a reasonably accurate weight estimation.

| Species and number in Competition Rules | Salmon | Mulloway | Skipjack Trevally | Flathead | Tailor | Whiting | Tarwhine | Yellow Eyed Mullet | Shark | Snook | Trevally (other) | Mackerel | Snapper pink or northwest | Bream (all) | Free choice | Free choice species entered | Require total 8 to qualify |
|---|------------|-----------|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|------------|------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Minimum weights | 3.5 kg | 5.0 kg | 0.6 kg | 0.5 kg | 1.0 kg | 0.4 kg | 0.6 kg | 0.3 kg | 7.0 kg | 1.0 kg | 3.6 kg | 7.0 kg | 2.6 kg | 0.6 kg | 3.0 kg | | Number entered |
| Wessels, Sandra | 4.1 | | 1.07 | 1 | 1.7 | 0.67 | | 0.36 | | 1.17 | | | | | 3.21 | YTK | 8 |
| | Apr- 11 | | Jun- 08 | Oct- 13 | Jun- 08 | May- 13 | | Mar- 18 | | Apr- 13 | | | | | Oct- 09 | | |
| Srigandan, Sri | 3.7 | | 1.19 | | | | | 0.32 | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| | Mar- 18 | | Aug- 15 | | | | | Mar- 18 | | | | | | | | | |





10 PRO PACKING TIPS

Get in touch with your inner backpacker. Follow these tips and we'll have you packing like a professional camper.

You know that saying, 'all the gear, no idea'? It pretty much sums me up to a tee. Well, except for the fact I have been four-wheel driving for longer than I care to remember, so I'm not implying I am an off-road novice. The point here is my vehicle is becoming increasingly more setup for off-road travels, and while I have all the gear... I have no idea where to put it all! Over the weekend, I spent some time devising a plan of attack to fit all my touring paraphernalia in the old GQ Patrol, and it dawned on me that there is a real art to packing a four-wheel drive. Here are ten points that I feel will be real assets to anyone in the same situation.

1 SMALL CAMP CHAIRS

We here at Unsealed 4X4 have been using collapsible chairs from companies such as Helinox and Oztrail recently, and with great success, too. The huge benefit of these camp chairs is they pack down into a bag the size of the pencil case you had in high school, yet they don't take long to set up. They are also really comfortable, and they make for fantastic conversation pieces around the campfire. This concept is quite new in Australia it seems, but I guarantee you there will be more and more options appearing on the market. Helinox camp chairs start from \$124 and they are worth the money. My Oztrail camp chair was purchased on sale for just \$12.50 from my local supermarket. Yep, you read that right, \$12.50! But it is heavier, and definitely not as comfortable. I wish I spent the extra money, basically.

2 DISTRIBUTING WEIGHT

Bent chassis are becoming a common sight in Outback workshops – don't become another statistic. You might not have even thought about it, but the way you distribute weight through your vehicle is extremely important. If you place heavy items at the back of the vehicle for example, it is putting undue stress on the chassis and suspension components while turning your 4X4 into a seesaw on wheels. The trick is to store heavy bits of gear as low as possible, assisting with keeping the centre of gravity down. You want these heavy loads to sit directly over the vehicle's axle as much as

possible, too. This spreads weight throughout the vehicle's suspension and chassis, rather than dumping loads of pressure on isolated spots.

3 SHARING GEAR

Do you really need five recovery kits in your travelling convoy? Or even five camp ovens? Nope, I didn't think so. By being more organised in the planning stages of your trip, you can assemble what I have dubbed the 'Who-Brings-What' List. This frees up interior space, reduces the stress on your vehicle and best of all, it will save you money in fuel. You see it time and time again while on trips... someone will ask to borrow a hammer, and two seconds later a handful of tools are presented from everyone at camp. Now, you still need to be prepared for any situation that can present itself – but a little communication between the vehicles on your trip before you leave just makes sense. This step will take some time to hone, but once your mates get into a groove it will become the way you camp for good.

4 STORAGE SOLUTIONS

Storage drawers are an amazing addition to any touring four-wheel drive. They allow for more gear to be stored safely, and give everything a home. Looking for the tomato sauce? It is in the left drawer at the front... you see where I am going here? Personally, I don't have storage drawers in my current four-wheel drive – because for my needs they add a fair amount of weight, which is the enemy. Instead, I use separate storage cases which are always packed and sitting in the shed ready to go at a moment's notice. One box has all the cooking gear required and enough room for food. The second case houses all the required tools, spare parts and recovery gear I may need. This way I'm not carrying around unnecessary weight while commuting, but I can still be organised while at camp.

5 TOO MUCH FOOD

I'm sure this is something we are all guilty of, and something that seems to happen on every trip I've been on. We bring too much food! For me, the allure of a roadside burger or pie is too hard to ignore – meaning the food in the fridge for lunch is now sitting around idle. But it isn't just the amount of food we take; it is the way we carry it that causes issues, too. Lately I have been bringing away pre-made meals from Happy Camper as they are quick and easy to prepare without taking up much storage space. Vac-sealing meat is a smart idea for concise storage too – instead of bringing away the bulky packaging supermarkets insist on using. It all adds up, and if you put in the effort here it just might make it easier to say no to the roadside burgers.

6 MULTI-USE ITEMS

If you have ever owned a Suzuki Sierra, you are probably also really good at packing (and playing Tetris). A tip I learned from my time bouncing around in a Zook is to only bring items that have two or three uses. Instead of packing a hammer, bring an axe that can be used as a hammer as well. Want to bring a hammock along? Sweet! Use it as a seat cover on the trip. Don't just throw in your stubby holders; why not store your small jars of herbs and spices in them on the way? Not only does this limit the amount of kit you pack, it also makes you think about the things you actually use while in the bush. Maybe that TV and hairdryer can stay at home... unless you are planning on opening a mobile off-road hair salon, that is. And I'm going to take a wild guess, and assume you aren't.

7 KNOW YOUR ENEMY... GVM

It is all well and good to say that if you want more space, then bring less stuff. The truth is, there is only so much weight a vehicle can carry before it is deemed to be unroadworthy. This is known as the vehicle's Gross Vehicle Mass, and if you are a regular reader of Unsealed 4X4 you would have heard about this topic already. The point is, while it might be great to bring away everything including the kitchen sink, there is a limit to the amount you can carry. This limit will be printed on your rego papers and stamped on the vehicle's compliance plate. A trip to your local

weighbridge fully loaded will let you know if you are safe. Considering how little room modern manufacturers allow for these days though, I guarantee you will be surprised at how quickly this number is reached. This is especially true if your 4X4 has been modified with bar work and other weighty accessories.

8 GOING DIGITAL

Leave those books at home, and I'm not just saying that as a dodgy tactic to keep you reading Unsealed 4X4 (cheers for reading, though). The reality is more and more publications are going digital. What this means is you don't have to drag along a sack full of books on your next trip, if you have an iPad or similar tablet device. This saves loads of space while also reducing weight. Download the books you wish to read before you leave, and swipe through them at your leisure. You also have the advantage of being able to store music and take images with the same device; and even run your navigation software while on the road. Remember that point we made about bringing one item that performs multiple tasks? A good tablet is the perfect example.

9 ACCESS ALL AREAS

There are nooks and crannies all over your vehicle, which are just begging to be utilised. Think about the amount of space under just one of your front seats, and you will notice it is the perfect spot for a fire extinguisher. The rear panels in a wagon are another example of wasted space, which could be used to house recovery gear or even a small water tank. One place I feel is completely wasted is the inside roof area. A trick I have seen before is to use a mesh cargo net to hold any light yet bulky items such as clothes and sleeping bags. The cargo net can be tied up to the roof grab handles, allowing for more interior space while keeping those necessities high and dry.

10 SEAT AND DASH ORGANISERS

An excellent way to make the most of unused space is with a few 'organisers'. As we all know, the little things tend to add up rather quickly – so by grabbing a few seat or dash organisers, you can de-clutter your interior simply and easily. Dash organisers are perfect for sunglasses and other items you need to keep close by. Seat organisers are perfect for your kids' toys, or other small items like sunscreen, torches, umbrellas or cutlery... just to name a few. For the minimal outlay, they really are an excellent addition to any touring vehicle. They don't weigh very much at all, and they will enhance your camping experience. Imagine searching for that torch you always lose, and actually finding it where it should be? Off-road Nirvana right there, folks.

Article by: Evan Spence – Published in Pat Callinan's 4x4 Adventure magazine.

Check out: <u>newsletters@patcallinanmedia.com.au</u> – mr4x4.com.au

<u>Proposed Motions put forward by Peter Osborne (– key words in italics)</u>

Preamble - Motion No 1

This concept put forward on basis that the intent of the point scoring system is to recognize the best most "skilled" fisherperson. (Emphasis on skilled) While two measures currently used are based on weight and number of species in combination this gives a good measure of skill, where it is seen to be a fair and reasonable measure except I consider a minor tweak to the calculation to recognize in a small way the number of fish caught.

An example is if you caught 4 Tailor average weight of 0.5 kg and I caught 1 only Tailor of 2.0 kg for the weighin points we both receive 10 & for a species plus $10 \times 2 \text{kg} = 20$ for a total of 30 points. If one point is given for each fish caught this would give recognition of a better fishing skill in catching more fish now giving you 34 points and I would receive 31 points. I.e. A small increment in points for recognition of this measure of catch skill.

Notice of Motion #1

Competition Rules Clause 2.4 Field Day Point Scoring

- 2.4.1 Trip Field Day Attendance Points remains unaltered.
- 2.4.2 General Meeting Attendance Points remains unaltered
- 2.4.3 Weigh In Points for Field Days Points are awarded for the following:-
 - 1. 10 points per eligible species.
 - 2. 10 points per kilogram weighed in.
 - Add 3. 1 point for each fish weighed in

2.4.4 Multiple Hook-Up Remains Unaltered

Preamble - Motion No 2

There has been a lot of discussion on catch and release in recent months by various club members. It is noted we have a mechanism in the Club Competition Rules for catch and release but is seen to be vastly unfair as it nominates the weight of restricted list of species that is considered very low for any fish actual caught so the person does not release same.

While there is no good evidence of persons disposing of fish (e.g. rubbish bins) following weigh-in, we do see many instances of persons that have a bag of fish that go across the weigh-in scales that are greater than their needs, and then giving away their extra fish to others. Having other club members, friends or relatives recipients of fresh fish is very satisfying and this should be encouraged knowing that some fish may not survive upon release. By using a system where a more realistic measure of fish weight is allowed would encourage persons who do capture fish greater than their need (both personnel consumption and give to others) who would release fish and be competitive

Notice of Motion #2

Competition Rules Clause 2.3.6 – Catch and Release

Delete current rule and replace with:-

Rules & Guidelines for Field day Weigh-in

A member may catch and release any eligible species per the listing in Rule 2.3.1. The following weight will be allocated whereby any fish released, including nominated bag fish numbers, must comply with all obligations incorporated in Rule 2.3.1.

A released fish will be allocated a weight based on the average of the weight of "all" fish of that species weighed in for that field day.

If the number of fish of that species weighed in for that field day is less than three, then the previous month(s) total bag for that species per field day will be included in the calculation.

The objective of ensuring fish survival is for the fish release to be undertaken immediately upon capture with minimal handling, preferably with wet hands or a wet rag and in the "shortest" time possible. A witness to the capture/release is be nominated at the weigh-in, however for some venues or fishing activity this may not be possible, an honour system shall apply.

Rules & Guidelines for Local Weigh-in and Open Section fish captures

For fish released by a Competitor fishing at a "Local" venue then the honour system shall apply.

If a particularly large specimen of a particular species is released, the competitor may make a special application (via the FDO) to the next Committee Meeting.

However to allow a more informed consideration to assist in assessing the weight, the application should if possible include a statement from a witness(s), and/or length in cm, and/or a photograph. As a last resort as an extension of this concept if a fish that is caught and released cannot be measured using the foregoing concepts to arrive at an assessed weight, the Field Day Officer (in agreement with two other competitors) shall research and make judgement on weight, based on captures of past years or anecdotal information from other sources. This approach and guidelines shall be utilized by persons submitting a catch and release capture for an Open Section fish application.

Preamble - Motion No 3

This concept put forward on basis that the use of actual points for Fishing and Drycasting are based on parameters that are entirely different and thus earned different ways that cannot be exactly correlated to each other By giving the top Fisherperson (using the point scoring system a 100% - (100 percentage points) and the top Dry-caster using the applicable point scoring system 100% (100 percentage points) it puts the top person of each category on exactly the same footing. Other individual scores are calculated as a percent of the top point score for that category. The individual percentage points are added to determine the Sportsperson of the year.

Historically the results have given a bias towards the top Dry-caster. A check over the past 11 years in comparing the current to the proposed method gave two of the eleven top score would have reversed from the top score to the person who had a larger field day points It will be seen that no advantage is given to either a caster or fisher and may contribute to more person's involvement of the two forms of competitive sport within the Club.

Further it is noted that not many persons are able to attend 11 events in both fishing or Drycasting monthly competitions (e.g. family, health or work issues impacting ability to attend), Hence it is recommended that for both of these competitions, the top fisherperson, the top Drycasting competitor and calculation of the Sportsman of the Year that the winning person will be based on the best nine (9) scores in each of these sections over the competitive year

Notice of Motion #3

Competition Rules Clause 6 Sportsperson of the Year Points

The member who gains the greatest number of *percentage* points for **both Fishing and Drycasting** in any one competition year shall be known as the Club's "Sportsperson of the Year.

Percentage points shall be based on the top Fishing person actual points, per Rule 6.1 then given are given 100% for the highest points total, (thus 100 percentage points for fishing) and all other percentage point calculations for applicable individuals are a % based on their points received divided by the aforementioned top point score. To this shall be added to the individual Drycasting percentage points using the same method of percentage calculation based on individual points per rule received for Drycasting per Rule 6.2. Totals for both shall be based on the best 9 months score for both Drycasting and Fishing.

Preamble - Motion No 4

Recreational Fishing Guide - Department of Fisheries.

The Booklet has both guidelines and very specific rules as to what recreational fisherpersons are to observe. While the SCAC Competition rules do address some items and the imposing of specific actions or penalties at weigh-ins it does not give any guidelines or any penalties if a Dept. of Fisheries noncompliance bag is taken to the weigh-in. Further in the booklet there are further rules that must be observed while fishing. (E.g. Catch and Release, Number of Rods, or Flights of Hooks.) Hence to make it clear to competitors the following Rule addition is proposed.

Note the content of this booklet contains both rules and guidelines – the FDO will adjudicate, if persons dispute which category the item fits under.

Notice of Motion #4

Competition Rules Clause 1.0 – General

Add 1.10 - Dept. of Fisheries Rules:-

With the exception of additional specific rules applying to SCAC as detailed hereafter, any person not complying with the rules provided in the current booklet Recreational Fishing Guide – Government of Western Australia Department of Fisheries, the FDO shall have the bag disqualified for that particular Field Day. All noncompliance items must be tabled or bought to the attention of the FDO by the time the weigh-in is completed If the Competitor is not in agreement with the FDO decision, he may pursue a change in the decision via Rule 1.1.8 – Protests.

Preamble - Motion No 5

Local Field Days.

In recognition that for weigh in of local field days a witness may not be available the following shall apply February 2018

Notice of Motion #5

Competition Rules Clause 2.1.10 – Local Field Days

Add a further paragraph after the second paragraph: -

Should a witness not be available an honour system shall apply. Further if the Competitor has a digital camera he or she shall be use same to depict the catch and show scales weight and in particular if a special species or large fish is caught a specific photo would assist the FDO in incorporating such detail into the competition results.

Preamble - Motion No 6

Early am start to Field Days

Over the past few months a number of Surrfcasters have put forward a request to start our field days at 6:00, 7:00 or 9:00 am on the Saturday in lieu of 1:00 or 2:00 pm. I arriving at a consensus of an early start time, the FDO shall address at the Wed General meeting prior to the field day.

Mechanics of sign-on

Safety and location of various fishers

Common start time for summer and winter

To put in place for all venues or selected only

Notice of Motion #6

Add to Rule 2.1.5

The Field Day Officer shall announce the field day start and weigh-in times by either advice in the current monthly Reel Talk, or at the preceding General Meeting Item 7

Preamble Motion no 7

Field day venue Selection

Need to give a ruling as to how field selections are made

Notice of Motion #7

Add rule 2.20

During the period Dec to January, the Field Day Officer shall utilize any data of field day catches and any anecdotal information to put forward a selection for the forthcoming competitive year by February for discussion and review or comment by the Committee. A final listing compiled by the Field Day Officer shall be published in the April Reel Talk for field day venues for each month and voted upon in the April General Meeting.

The FDO shall take aboard any recommendations for long weekends and away field days and if applicable shall include in his final April recommendation.

Notwithstanding the formal field day selection, if hazardous conditions can be seen for the particular venue (Storms, high wind, large swells) or made non fishable due to weed, the Field day officer I conjunction with at least two other Fisherperson advising they will be attending that venue, can make a decision to nominate a new location either at the preceding General Meeting or at the Venue field day sign-on location.

5 things you must do before you renew your insurance policy

A great milestone and many have received and renewed their policies already. We get a lot of questions every day from 4X4 drivers who are interested in switching their policies to join the club. This is great, but what are the things you need to think about before you *renew* a policy? Here's a quick laundry list to work off next time you see a renewal come through from us, or any insurer:

- 1. Has the coverage changed? We've done it and others will too. During the course of the year insurers make adjustments, some will work for you, such as the changes we've made based on feedback from the market. In our case, we issued a Supplementary Product Disclosure Statement (SPDS); a document designed to supplement the main PDS and clarify the changes we've made. You should look through and compare PDS' and other policy documents when choosing who to renew your insurance with in much the same way you would when you're first signing up with an insurer. Common sense right?
- 2. **Has your vehicle changed?** I confess. Every year, regardless of which vehicle in the shed I'm insuring, I always go back and increase my agreed values to the maximum. This may be as a result of a new accessory or modification i've added, or simply because the vehicle is in great condition and deserves a higher value. Make sure the value you're insured for is suitable for your needs.
- 3. What about your other coverage needs? When you're looking at your Certificate Of Insurance, check for specific endorsements. Endorsements such as driver age exclusions, noted drivers (very relevant if you have a "named driver" type of coverage) and any other exclusions or special conditions can make a significant difference to your premium and coverage, so make sure everything is up to date. Having an under 35 year old driver exclusion on your policy can be a very rude shock if your visiting nephew happens to drive the rig and damage it.

- 4. **Driving Infringements anyone?** We all need a driving infringement like a split in an intercooler hose. Remember, whilst every insurer is different, many do ask about your driving and claims history. If you've had any changes, it's your responsibility under the DutyOf Disclosure to let your insurer know. Remember, if the question is asked when you're buying a policy, it's what is known as underwriting criteria. These criteria not only affect your premium, but also whether an insurer chooses to offer you coverage at all. If they wouldn't offer you coverage based on your information when quoting, you can be sure that any claim you make will be declined if the information is uncovered at that stage. Keeping this information up to date is critical.
- 5. **Price** I've noted this as the last item intentionally. Knowing full well that not everyone thinks like I do, premium really is the last thing i consider. My toys mean too much to me, so I would rather have them covered the right way rather than save money. If the worst were to happen I'd rather know it'll get <u>repaired the right way</u>, or the pain of losing it completely is covered as best as possible. Check premium if you like, but make sure it's not a premium only observation, <u>this should always be done in concert with item 1 above</u>. You wouldn't buy a Camp Fridge or a Battery controller without researching it would you??

So there you have it, 5 tips from a self-confessed car nut and insurance guy. Sure there's more, but making sure you've ticked off the 5 boxes above will make sure you're making an informed decision around insurance for your pride and joy.

Article by Kalen from Club 4x4 Insurance.

