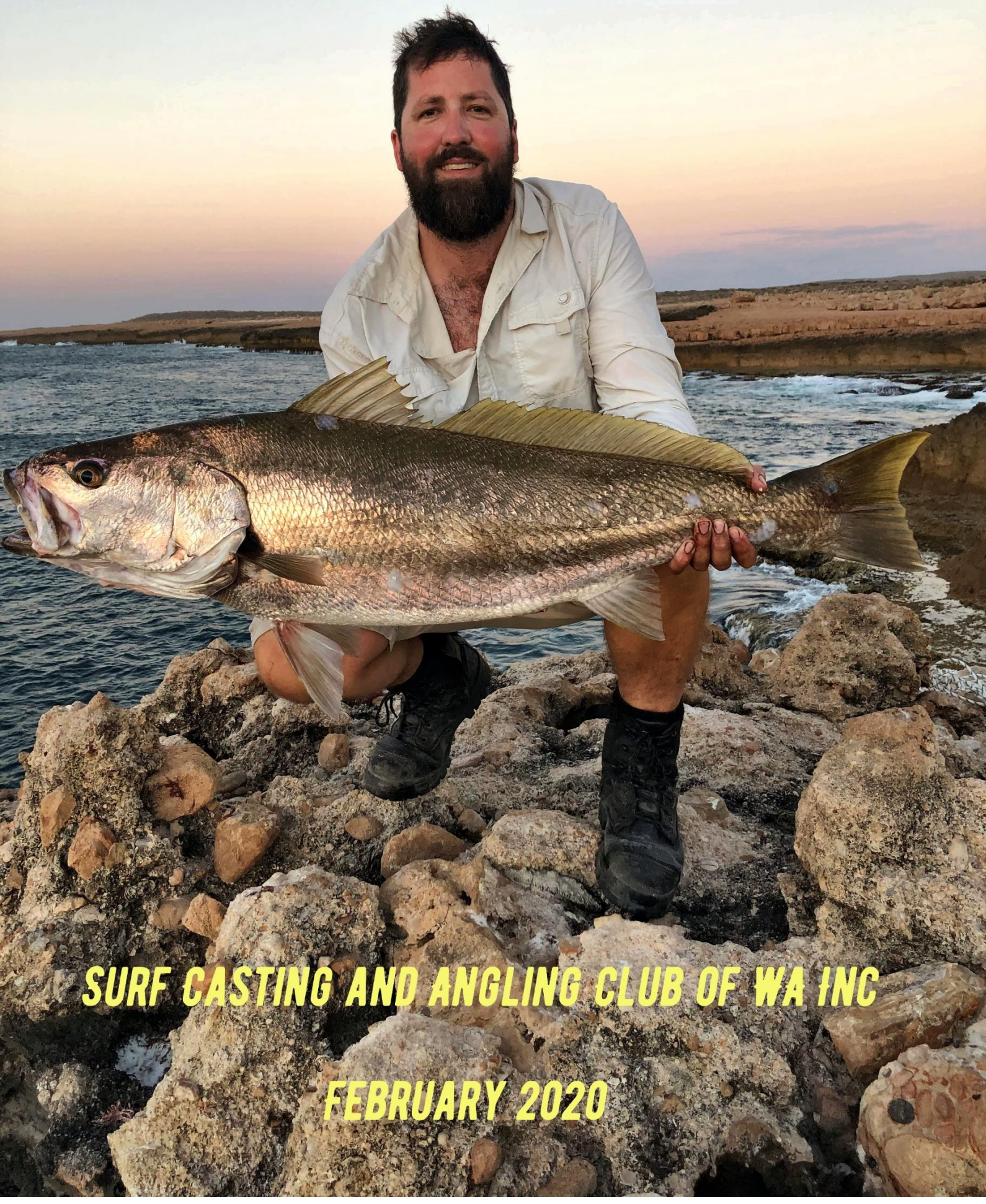


REEL TALK



SURF CASTING AND ANGLING CLUB OF WA INC

FEBRUARY 2020



Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

PO Box 2834, Malaga WA 6944

ABN 29 925 237 020

Email: secretary@scac.net.au

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

Acknowledgement of Donors

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

Club Members:

Mal Head, Peter Osborne, John Curtis,

Bob Henderson, Alan Jones, Pat McKeown

Company Sponsors:

Alvey Australia

Belmont City Medical Centre (Dr Sri Srigandan)

Bladon WA (Martin Wearmouth)

Halco Tackle

J M Gillies Agencies

Western Angler Magazine

Buildcorp Developments (Victor Schilo)

Thank you for your valued support.

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Club Committee for 2019 - 20

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Peet Wessels

AAAWA Delegages

Victor Schilo, Martin Wearmouth

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

PO Box 2834, Malaga WA 6944



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*

Presidents report February 2020



I hope everyone has had a good start to 2020, We had a great turn out to our January meeting and our fishing field days are now set for next season, please consider participating and planning now for any you intend to fish at.

With the Recfishwest grant for our Drone approved we are just waiting on the money so we can start our new fishing section as the new rules will kick in this May, I have been learning and trialling it with my drone and so far only stingrays.

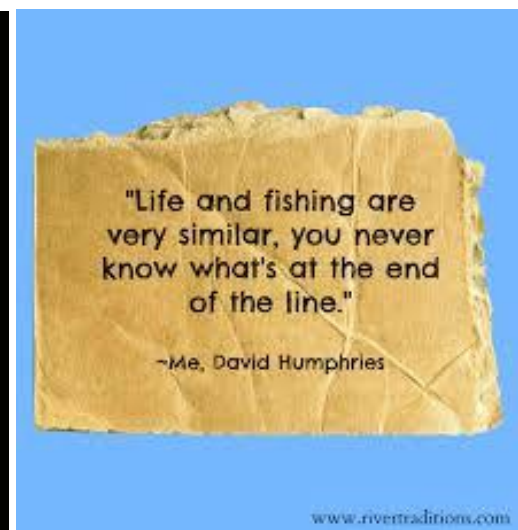
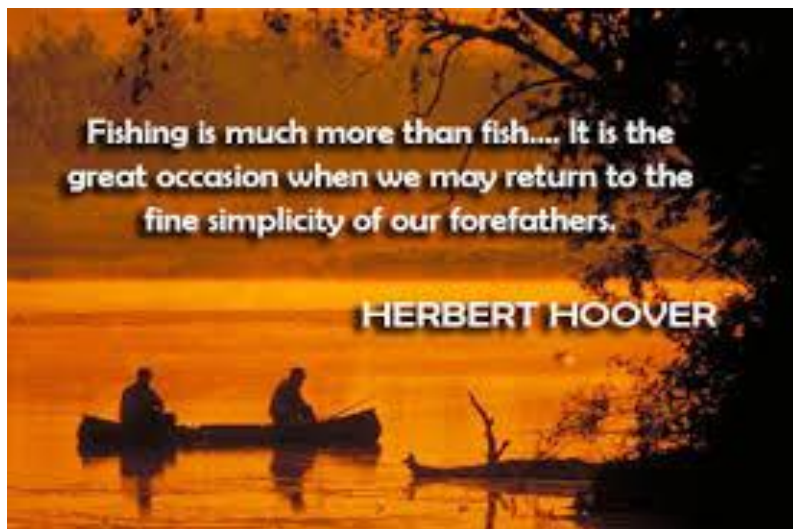
I am looking forward to trying it at our Reef Beach event as this should be the ideal location to drop a big bait out next to the reef, I will be trying to catch some fish that I can post on some facebook groups to try to get some

new members for the club.

It would be great to get some new members that want to participate in Casting or Fishing so please do your best to promote our club and try to attract new members.

Martin Wearmouth; President

Quote for the Month



February 2020 General Meeting

Wednesday 12 February 2020 7.30pm

Coolbinia Sports Clubroom; Wordsworth Avenue, Yokine.

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

Instruction Sessions:

February meeting: First Aid - presented by Dr Shane Wignell

March meeting: Gear/tackle and techniques I use when fishing the northern rock platforms. – Presented by Justin Rose.

Field day venues for 2019/2020

Dates	Venue	Boundaries
15 – 16 February 2020	Busselton to White Hills and standard local Lines down 9.30am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Busselton to White Hills and local as below at bottom of page
29 February – 2 March 2020 Long weekend	Reef Beach Bremer Bay and standard local Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Reef Beach and local as below at bottom of page
11 April – 13 April 2020 Long weekend	Bluff Creek and standard local Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Cheyne's and Bluff Creek area and local as below at bottom of page

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

Lines Down for long weekends and Rottnest – Saturday 6.00am

Lines up for long weekends and Rottnest – Monday 9.00am

Lines Down on Standard weekends – Saturday 9.30am

Lines up on Standard weekends – Sunday 9.00am

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

DRYCASTING – 6th January 2020

With the usual 5 or 6 turning up for casting each month, at least we are keeping our heads above water, and hoping for a better attendance when we can get back to our Sunday casting.

Mark started the day off with 2 outs in the 56gr event but came good in the DHA with 131.

The highest in the 2 accuracy events were 154 and 31. Hendo took out the honours in the 56gr cast with 138.10m. Not bad on a day when no matter what you did you were never going to get a good distance. The best in the Art bait was 117.21m and in the 112gr 147m took out the honours.

The next casting day will be held on the first Monday of February. Hope to see a few more faces.

DCO: Ron Thomas

DRY CASTING DATES

Monday 3 February 2020

Monday 9 March 2020

**Perth Polo Ground
Meadow Street
GUILDFORD**

<u>SURF CASTING & ANGLING CLUB</u>													
<u>Dry casting results - 6th January 2020</u>													
	<u>56 gram</u>					<u>Artificial Bait</u>					<u>112gram</u>		
	<u>Cast</u>	<u>Cast</u>	<u>Total</u>			<u>Cast</u>	<u>Cast</u>	<u>Total</u>			<u>Cast</u>	<u>Cast</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Veterans</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>		<u>%</u>		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>		<u>%</u>		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>%</u>
BOB HENDERSON	138.10	135.13	273.23	100.00		101.10	105.37	206.47	88.74		118.23	122.57	240.80
RON THOMAS	133.38	135.04	268.42	98.24		117.21	115.47	232.68	100.00		145.56	147.02	292.58
KLAUS SCHONWOLF	B/O	85.18	85.18	31.17		79.60	95.65	175.25	75.32		105.11	104.43	209.54
MAL HEAD	95.73	100.07	195.80	71.66		91.36	87.73	179.09	76.98		111.68	102.25	213.93
ALAN JONES	98.87	98.43	197.30	72.21		91.06	89.25	180.31	77.50		104.32	108.05	212.37
<u>Seniors</u>													
MARK HANSEN	OUT	OUT	0	0		93.15	90.55	183.70	100.00		105.2	109.16	214.36

<u>SURF CASTING & ANGLING CLUB</u>													
<u>Dry casting results - 6th January 2020</u>													
	<u>Double Handed Accuracy</u>											<u>Total</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
	<u>Target number</u>												<u>D/Casting</u>
<u>Veterans</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>		<u>%</u>	<u>Points</u>
BOB HENDERSON	3	14	13	22	15	20	21	12	120	77.92		436.06	10
RON THOMAS	17	20	15	19	22	21	20	20	154	100		498.24	10
KLAUS SCHONWOLF	7	0	18	19	0	0	6	1	51	33.11		259.61	10
MAL HEAD	15	19	20	15	11	8	14	21	123	79.88		353.32	10
ALAN JONES	14	21	24	0	22	11	16	17	125	81.17		329.26	10
<u>Seniors</u>													
MARK HANSEN	6	21	20	11	14	19	18	22	131	100.00		400.00	10

<u>VETERANS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2019 - 2020</u>													
LONGEST 56 GRAM										151.01		RON THOMAS	
LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT										135.23		RON THOMAS	
LONGEST 112G										165.08		RON THOMAS	
HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY										171		GARY GILDERSLEEVE	
HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY										36		RON THOMAS	
<u>SENIORS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2019 - 2020</u>													
LONGEST 56 GRAM										110.24		MARK HANSEN	
LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT										112.41		MARK HANSEN	
LONGEST 112G										127.62		MARK HANSEN	
HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY										133		MARK HANSEN	
HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY										27		MARK HANSEN	

Birthdays for February

Slavka Schilo 13th

Dean Stewart 28th

Wishing you all the best on your important day.

After my trip to the island in late 2018 I was reluctant to book again, my reasons being mainly around the duration of a trip to DHI. To go all that way, I would recommend no less than 6 nights on the island to have a good look around, from Perth allow two days travel there and two for the return, it's a long trip. The barge fees also add a solid cost to the trip, but I go at the cheapest time of year. A long-time fishing companion had booked a spot at "the block" with his son and another mate for early January in 2020 so by May 2019 I had succumbed to "FOMO" (Fear of missing out) and added myself to his booking.

Prior to the trip a cyclone was developing in the states north west, fortunately it wasn't close or strong enough to cancel our trip although it did jack the winds up to 35 knots+ at times which cut a few sessions short due to the intense gusting and the nature of the cliff fishing. One benefit of staying at the block is the use of the Hartog Hilton shack which provides excellent shelter from the wind and elements although it does get hot in there. We were there in the lead up to a full moon which I personally like to avoid due to the large tides meaning fish may find slacker water offshore.

As per usual we stayed in Shelter Bay the night before the barge, there are new rangers at Steep Point now, a young couple in their late 20's. The trip up to Shelter Bay was uneventful except for my ute canopy suffering some damage on the window locks thanks to the corrugations which were quite bad through Carrang Station and onwards. I was able to make a temporary fix as I had experienced this problem before, the following morning we were on the Barge around 7am and heading up to The Block. We took the shortcut through the middle of the island as per a previous trip and the sand dunes weren't too bad to traverse although we encountered a pretty decent sandstorm which also ended in me getting bogged as I was driving too slow. The sandstorms repeated most days when the wind went over 25 knots which reduced visibility down to 20m at one point I also managed to tear a mudflap off on the way in.

When we got to The Block around lunchtime the winds were hitting 35 knots and really gusting, it was just far too dangerous to fish so we took the time to fully setup camp. I have a submersible pump we use in the lagoon which provides an easy way to get unlimited saltwater for washing, showering and processing fish, we got all that up and running along with rods ready for action. Towards the evening the wind steadied although still extreme, so we had a fish for snapper which was still hard thanks to the wind. Unfortunately, we were plagued by schooling sharks mostly long nose grey whalers who were quick to pounce on snapper baits so we gave up and retreated to the Hartog Hilton.

I'm not sure why as the swell wasn't excessive but the ocean water all around the island but particularly on the west side was filthy green (pea soup) and visibility down to 1 metre, I had my dive gear but it was looking like it would stay in the bag. Unfortunately, this dirty water can really turn off the pelagics as they steer clear of it to hunt baitfish more effectively in clearer water.

On the following day our first full day we started fishing the block spinning for pelagics and bottom fishing for snapper. The sharks especially of school size were really active constantly taking our snapper baits and no mackerel were spotted nor looked to be with disgustingly green water so it was time to change tactics. We headed down to a great series of ledges mid-morning known as "The Aquarium" which I had fished previously but my companions hadn't. It's hard not to be excited when taking a look at this area it's just fishy. Straight away we had some success on large spangled emperor they always surprise me at how hard they fight and striped Sea Perch along with a few Shark Mackerel. Soon the bite shut down and we explored some further cliffs nearby picking up a few fish including a coral trout for myself.

The following morning, we hit the aquarium again and the wind swung around to the north east allowing me to cast into water usually unreachable which provided a really great session catching some large Bald Chin Groper, Rankin cod and snapper. The Baldies are such a brutal fish to fight in this terrain, they have a picky bite and you have to wait for them to eat your whole bait then they get under ledges so quickly and have so much torque with that short powerful tail. I use a wind on leader of 5m of 150lb mono that allowed me to get some fish that had buried themselves into the reef, one of the guys I fished with most times only ran a short leader 1.5m and his mainline was snapping when contacting the reef which cost him a few beauties. The FG knot is a must for this type of scenario tying long leaders onto mainline that can be cast through the guides.



Over the next 24-72 hours the fish and in particular the snapper really shut down and we couldn't raise a scale, I did some decent hikes (5km) into areas that rarely see anglers due to their remoteness, there are so many great spots and I can report I caught some of the largest Wirrah I have seen at these spots, even here they weren't really on the bite. We went down to Mystery beach one night but all the decent surf gutters had weed so we fished a fantastic cave spot on the cliffs, unfortunately they were still shutdown at this point

We went back to the aquarium one afternoon and had a large school of Mulloway move in, this provided a bit of mayhem as in this area tight drag is a must against the reef species or they will snag you if given line. Large mulloway are a different beast and we all definitely lost some large ones due to over tightened drags I managed by best for a while at 11kg.

The following day two of the guys were a bit ill so I and the other healthy member just fished the block and it was alive again, Spanish and shark mackerel were taking lures and there was many snapper around in what turned out to be one of the hottest bites on snapper I can remember we were flat out and eventually the other two woke up and joined us. Following this session the block typically fished much better for the rest of the trip, there were large schools of Mack tuna about 1kg in size pushing baitfish against the cliffs, then the Mackerel were feeding on the Mack Tuna, there were fish busting up everywhere. Despite the water clarity still being poor the water temp was up and the pelagics were busy.

I had been going through a bad run with Spanish Mackerel, nearly every fish I had hooked in my last couple of trips had been instantly sharked whilst my companions seemed a bit luckier, this time while fishing a surface lure I got a rat 7kg Spaniard that made an acrobatic surface strike in with no taxing. It took to the last day for our balloon to get consistent strikes we figured out a few tweaks that helped us along the way as this ledge is a bit different compared to others for ballooning.

During our stay a group of people came through for a look as they were moving between camps on the east side of the island, as they left the block and headed south they then proceeded to slash 3 mud terrain tyres which left them stranded and forced to drive on a flat all the way back to the homestead, during that trip they destroyed a rim bent the axle and broke a leaf spring along with other damage. The journey took them 36 hours to get back to the homestead (70km), this would take most people no more than 4 hours usually. It serves as a stark reminder the hostility and remoteness of the island, we caught up with them back at the homestead as they explained the horrible events that had occurred since we saw them and they were not out of the woods yet having to get spare tyres rotated off good vehicles and repairs to get the barge back to Steep Point and then tackle the infamous Tin Hill sand dunes on their way out. I will probably never know how they fared, but it was a good reminder to do as much prep as possible and carry appropriate spares if possible with some idea on how to replace them if need be. I slashed a tyre last trip, this year the other vehicle had major damage to one tyre and, but it was still drivable we were both carrying 2 spares each that coincidentally fit both vehicles. We also broke one leaf spring on the trailer but didn't notice until after we were back in Perth.

On conclusion and review of the trip I will definitely be going again, its always hard work over on the island there but a couple of magic sessions are well worth going for. This time I took a drive through the Quoin head area which has many great spots for another day

Justin Rose

Recorder Report

It's been a while since I posted a report, life has been far too busy.

Speaking of busy, Darcy Tomlinson has been busy ticking off a wide range of species over the last couple of years, in the AAA State estuary comp he caught a nice King George whiting of 150g then finished off the year with a bang landing an inaugural club record with a Red Fin Perch weighing 474g on new years eve, well Done Darcy!



In September Geoff Raftis caught not one but 2 nice mulloway up at Jurien, for those in the know Geoff has designed a new rig that has been working successfully, that's all I am allowed to say. The larger of the two fish were eligible for the open competition being 4.5kg (est). Unfortunately for Geoff the recorder had the foresight (or was too lazy) to record this as he knew a bigger Mulloway was coming from elsewhere, sorry Geoff and there are still several months left to trump me

The open comp as pictured still has many gaps in entries or opportunities to upgrade prior to the 2019/20 competition season concluding in May, it would be great to see some more entries. I have entered some of my own catches from a recent trip to Dirk Hartog Island, I will include that detail in a separate report

The Sportsperson of the year trophy is going to have an interesting finish with several members in contention to take out the award if they have consistent finishes to the year in both fishing and dry casting.

Justin Rose

-MEMBERSHIP NEXT OF KIN REMINDER-

Following a recent incident where information on Next-of-Kin was required, and we as a club were unable to locate up to date information.

As a result, the Committee has added a Next of Kin section to the Application for Membership Form.

Can you please complete the new form and return it to the Secretary as soon as possible so that we can bring our records up to date?

Thank you for your assistance in this matter, and the Committee apologises for any inconvenience caused.



Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

PO Box 2834, Malaga WA 6944

ABN 29 925 237 020

Telephone 0459 183 375 Email surfcaster@inet.net.au

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

Open fishing competition 2019/20

The Open Competition is for fish caught between 1 May 2017 and 30 April 2018, other than on Club gazetted Field days, but not in any other AAA affiliated club event on the same dates. Entries for the Open competition close **30 days after capture**. See Competition Rules Section 4.

Section	For	Minimum weight	Entry
1	Most meritorious capture	None	To be awarded by Committee
2	Best shark	4.5 kg	5kg Justin Rose, Dirk Hartog Island, Jan 2020
3	Best mulloway	5 kg	11kg Justin Rose, Dirk Hartog island, Jan 2020
4	Best salmon	3.5kg	
5	Best flathead	0.5 kg	
6	Best tailor	1.5 kg	
7	Best samson fish	5 kg	
8	Best fish on single handed rod maximum 4kg line class (Bait)	Legal size	0.15kg King George Whiting, Darcy Tomlinson, Wapole November 2019
9	Best pink snapper	2 kg	4.5kg Justin Rose, Dirk Hartog Island Jan 2020
10	Best tarwhine	0.5 kg	
11	Best mackerel	4 kg	7kg Justin Rose, Dirk Hartog Island Jan 2020
12	Best skipjack trevally (southern)	1 kg	
13	Best trevally (northern)	2 kg	
14	Best snook or pike	0.5 kg	
15	Best black or yellow finned bream	0.6 kg	
16	Best scale fish other than sections 3-15	2 kg	Bald Chin Groper 4.3kg, Justin Rose, Dirk Hartog Island Jan 2020
17	Best fish caught on fly rod.	Legal size	
18	Best fish caught using a soft plastic or hard body lure on a single handed rod (4kg line max.)	Legal size	Red Fin Perch 474g, Darcy Tomlinson, Dec 19

Barron Lure Competition

The Barron Lure competition is sponsored by Eric Parker, who donates the trophies. Try Eric's Poppers, you will not be disappointed. The rules for this competition are the same as for the clubs open fishing competition, plus the fish must be caught on a popper lure and a single fish cannot win more than one Barron lure section.

Heaviest Tailor on lure

No Entry

Heaviest Salmon on Lure

No Entry

Heaviest Scale fish on lure

No Entry

Recorder, Justin Rose



For Sale

16' Surf Rod (SUS 7177) \$150

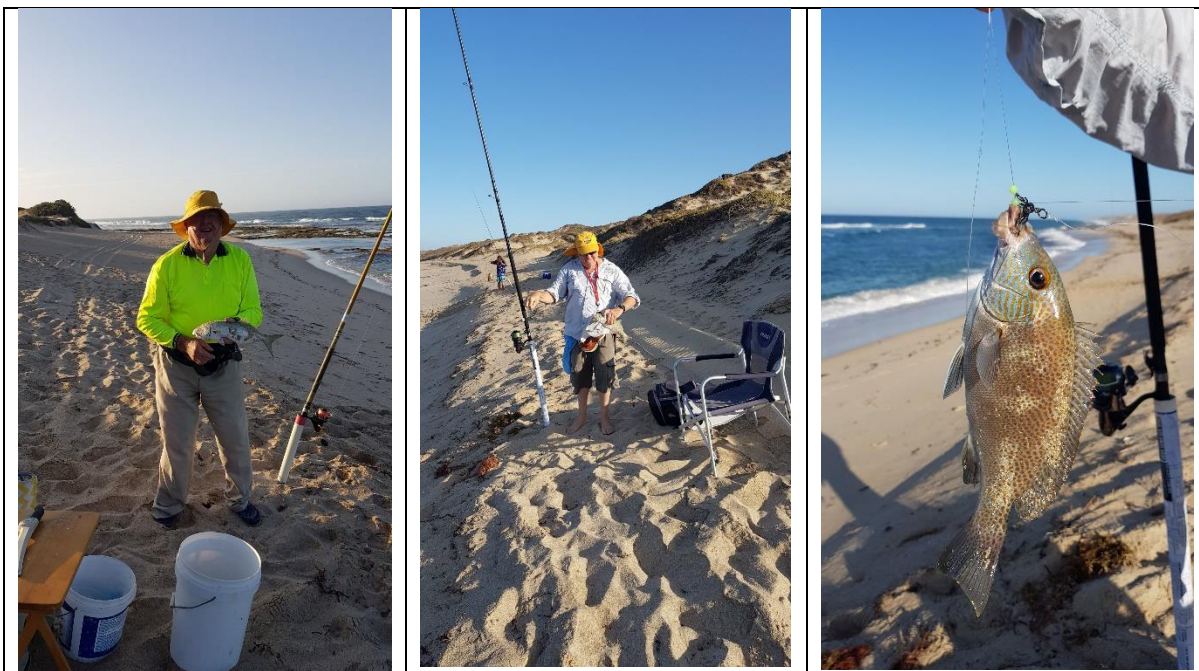
Suitable for Mackerel & Tailor
Fishing

Contact Mal Head 9276 4809

3 Surf Casters travelled to S-Bend for the long weekend field day, 2 down on what was planned as Vince was still recovering from his shoulder injury and Pat had fallen ill just a few days before the field day, Peter O arrived first followed by Gary and Martin at 4.30pm, after unpacking the car we let our tyres down and headed off to check the beaches, We started at Flat rocks which had a lot of sea weed, then moved north finding all likely spots up to Duncans having a lot of sea weed, we then headed to Lucys and found the spot we fished last year about 2km south was ok but still had some sea weed.



We awoke early on Saturday and headed to our spot at Lucys finding 1 fisherman already at the spot we set up and had baits in the water just after 6am, it did not take long for a few Tailor to come in along with some wrasse, dart and wirrah, the fishing action was steady until about 9.30am, we stayed till about 11am but not much was happening so we headed back for lunch.



Saturday afternoon we went back to our spot at Lucys at 4pm and started fishing, not too many bites until 6pm when the tailor came on the bite, the action continued till about 7.30pm with most tailor being in the 35cm to 45cm size, I had to start to release the smaller ones hoping for some 40cm plus models which I

managed to find before the bite stopped, the action slowed right down after 7.30pm with only an occasional Tailor hitting the beach, we packed up and left about 9pm.

Sunday morning saw us back at the same spot and again the Tailor were there, not biting the same as Saturday night but we all got a couple along with wrasse and dart, I caught a new species sweetlip that was not size but still a nice looking fish, Gary had also caught one on Saturday but his was also undersize and went back in, The fisherman we saw on Saturday morning was also at the spot on Sunday morning when we arrived and had bought a mate along, they fished into a deeper part we fished Saturday night and for about an hour got a fish a cast as the tailor went crazy, we got a few but the Tailor all seemed to be in that part of the beach only 40m away.



The bites got a lot less after 9am and the mulies were coming back untouched, we stayed till 10am and then decided to pack up and head back, as the winds and swell had been less for a few days we drove to the Flat rocks area and went about 3km south to see how the sea weed was going, it had cleared a bit but still too much in all spots around Flat rocks to be able to fish comfortably.

After lunch we again went back to our spot at lucys, the fish seemed to have shut down and not many bites, A couple of Tailor came in and I managed 2 herring but we caught a lot less than the other sessions at this spot, we stuck it out till 8pm and then with nothing biting headed back to the cabin for dinner and a shower. When we woke up on Monday morning the power was out at the caravan park there had been a pole fire during the night, it had been very still and humid overnight after the 40 degree on Sunday, So with no kettle to boil for a coffee we packed up and headed out just after 7am to make our way home, we decided to go the Brand Hwy and had a good run home with very light traffic.

Well not too many fished this field day I hope to see a few more at our next event, Ron Thomas fished at Hill River and did very well (see report from Ron following) Mark Hansen fished locally at the Fremantle moles but did not manage to catch anything to add to our weigh in sheet.

Ron Thomas - January 2020 open field day report

An open field day gives you a chance to fish your favourite spots, and Cervantes is one of those places. At 3am I left home Saturday morning, arriving (at one of my little hide outs, I will call it). About 5am just as it was starting to get light, a quick walk along the beach, no weed whatsoever, a good sign.

By 6am I had 3 rods rigged and ready, along with my sleeping gear, all set to start but one thing that did concern me was the wind which was blowing from the south – south east. Not good as I have found up there a direct easterly in the morning is what you need for the smaller variety which what I was chasing.

As the morning rolled on i knew it was not going to happen, even though the wind had dropped quite a bit, the fish were just not there. By nine am i had just 2 herring and 2 flathead and quite a few small whiting under size, not good. The tailor came on the bite about 9am but all under size. I fished hard all day with 2 rods, stopping only for the necessities.

Late afternoon the southerly was blowing at about 35kmh and as the water was looking fishy i was hoping for the best but it did not happen. By 8pm i had 1 tailor and 1 spotted mackerel.

Sunday morning the southerly was in at 4.30am and once again the small fish were just not there. I managed 1 more flathead and 1 skippy. About 5.30am the tailor came on thick, so it didn't take long to get my bag limit.

A good weekend spoilt by the wind but sh... happens. Home by 12 noon Sunday.

Looking forward to the next field day.

RON THOMAS



ANGLER		Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Total weight	No. of Species	No. of fish	F.D. points	Attendance		Total points
		Tailor	Wrasse (all species) 1 only	Dart (all species)	Wirrah	Herring, Australian	Pike	Skipjack Trevally	Flathead (all species)	Mackerel (other than listed)					Field Day	General Meeting	
Ron Thomas	Number	8				3		1	3	1							
	Total weight	3.62				0.36		0.36	1.05	1.85	7.24	5	16	138.4	1	1	158.4
	Weight of best	0.75															
Peter Osborne	Number	8	1	1			1										
	Total weight	5.42	0.31	0.46			0.17				6.36	4	11	114.6	1	1	134.6
	Weight of best	1.25															
Martin Wearmouth	Number	8	1		1	2											
	Total weight	4.45	0.31		0.31	0.34					5.41	4	12	106.1	1	1	126.1
	Weight of best																
Gary Parkinson	Number	6		2	1												
	Total weight	3.20		0.92	0.31						4.43	3	9	83.3	1	1	103.3
	Weight of best																
Local																	
Mark Hansen	Number																
	Total weight														1	1	20.0
	Weight of best																

Sportsperson of the year sections for January

Section	Angler	Species	Weight
Best scale fish	Ron Thomas	Mackerel	1.85
Best bag of scale fish	Ron Thomas		7.24
Best shark			
Best bag including sharks			

Top scores up to January

Rank	Angler	Total points
1	Martin Wearmouth	1031.8
2	Peet Wessels	702.3
3	Peter Osborne	601.1
4	Sandra Wessels	543.7
5	Mark Hansen	501.6
6	Gary Parkinson	444.1
7	Ron Thomas	306.1
8	Shane Wignell	297.3
9	Sabby Pizzolante	251.0
10	Vincent Tomazin	230.4
11	Mark Nurse	190.5
12	Theo Van Niekerk	142.5
13	Sri Srigandan	139.7
14	Victor Schilo	123.2
15	Stuart Waterman	115.4
16	Paul Terpkos	114.8
17	Brad Zaknich	63.6
18	Slavka Schilo	50.0
19	Chris Stickells	49.8
20	Wally Lukic	47.6
21	Geoff Raftis	34.6
22	Ian Taggart	20.0
23	Pat McKeown	20.0
24	Bob Henderson	10.0
25	Justin Rose	10.0
26	Malcolm Head	10.0
27	Anthony Terpkos	10.0

Now, more than ever before, recreational fishing is under the spotlight - not just here, but on a global level. Organizations like PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) have had us in their sights for years now, throwing barbs in our direction at every possible opportunity. And while we've traditionally shrugged off much of this criticism and simply got on with enjoying the recreation, we all love, the pressure is building and we need to take the whole business far more seriously. Failure to do so will inevitably lead to major problems, and not too far down the track.

As a matter of course, I like to keep up with what PETA and other vocal animal rights groups are doing. It's all there on-line to see, and I can tell you it's frightening. PETA is based in the US and has been around now for something like 35 years, during which time it has amassed a huge membership and a funding base in excess of 50 million dollars. Make no mistake - this is a well-organized, highly aggressive and extremely vocal organization that can and will do damage to our cause if we let it.

Just recently, however, I've become aware of yet another potentially dangerous body, this time closer to home, that is heading down a similar path. The RSPCA - yes, that feel-good group that takes in lost pets and pulls at our heart strings through emotive TV ads - has declared its hand as a strong opponent of recreational fishing. This is an organization I've contributed to, freely and regularly, over the past decade, blissfully unaware of its anti-fishing agenda.

A browse through the RSPCA's website will reveal plenty to be concerned about, especially pertaining to sportfishing. It's also totally opposed to live baiting in any form. Like me, I bet there are thousands of keen recreational anglers out there who knew nothing about all of this, and it's time to make it public knowledge. I can guarantee you that I'll no longer be contributing in any way to the RSPCA and, if you're as worried about highly organized opposition groups as I am, you might wish to have a rethink as well.

Another group that is starting to make regular appearances on nightly television news and in the press is Direct Action Everywhere. These are vegans, vegetarians or whatever else that they stand for. They are aggressively dealing with anyone who eats meat. They want everyone to follow their single-minded lemming like approach and not eat meat - of any form. They have protested in supermarkets, in butcher shops and restaurants, annoying staff, and upsetting customers and patrons. They are actively anti fishing as well and we will find them speaking out or actively protesting our angling activities.

The bottom line with these opposition groups is their high degree of organization - precisely what we, as recreational anglers, are lacking. Through organization comes funding, and through funding comes a voice that the general public listens to. Remember the Golden Rule from the Wizard of Id - He who has the gold - makes the rules. At the opposite end of the spectrum we find ourselves with very little organization, no funding and next to no voice when it comes to significant issues like the implementation of Marine Parks and changes to Fisheries regulations. We are the silent players in a game that affects all of us, and it's high time for change.

This would normally be the moment when I rattle on again about the need for a recreational fishing licence as a serious funding tool, but I'll resist the temptation. Most anglers will already know of my feelings on this issue, so I won't go over old ground again. However, the need to consolidate and prepare ourselves to fight the 'fish huggers' has never been greater; they are a far more daunting opponent than the Government, growing in strength daily and accumulating ammunition to use against us when they feel the time is right.

If you look at the statistics, there are something like 5 million Australians who go fishing annually, leaving around 19 million who don't. You can bet that a large chunk of those 19 million non-fishers would side with PETA and the RSPCA if push ever came to shove on the issue of sportfishing, leaving us well and truly outnumbered - again, a quite frightening prospect. Any vote for the Greens in the recent Federal election would have hammered another nail into the coffin too - something we hope you kept in mind as you entered the polling booths back then.

While I'm not trying to sound alarmist by presenting all of the above, I feel it's important to remember a quote from a learned individual who said, "Keep your friends close and your enemies closer". Getting ourselves

better organized and better funded needs to be a high priority for all of us if we plan to enjoy a long and happy recreational fishing future.

Food for thought. Here in Western Australia the Greens moved a Motion during a very late night sitting where there were not very many members in the house. It was only because of the efforts of one MP who got those members in their offices back onto the floor of the house to vote against the amendment that recreational fishing was not banned under the RSPCA amended legislation. They have tried it once and will no doubt try it again.

Due to the fact that the current government relied on the Green vote to gain/retain seats at the last State election, the government is listening to them. We lost access to Greens Pool near Denmark due to the “green influence” in the former Fisheries Minister’s office. Now we have a new Minister we will have to wait until he shows his hand.

RAPID EVOLUTION IS THE SOLUTION

Article by Dr Andrew Rowland, CEO, Recfishwest.

Published in Special Edition 2019, Fish and Research Development Corporation’s *FISH* magazine

Recreational fishers have an important role to play in increasing the abundance and resilience of our fish stocks, says Andrew Rowland, leader of Western Australia’s peak rec fishing organisation.

We need a cultural shift in the mindsets within fisheries regulatory agencies if we are to truly optimise social outcomes from fishing activities. Understanding, quantifying and clearly articulating what recreational fishers’ value most and building this into management objectives is the critical first step.

Changing environments, populations, technology and, increasingly, community values are all rapidly impacting on the fishing landscape. Such changes present huge challenges for the future of recreational fishing, but also opportunities. As a sector we need to become more agile, savvy and tenacious than ever to meet these challenges.

By providing innovative solutions such as stock enhancement, habitat restoration and artificial reef systems, we can help aquatic resource management evolve and future-proof against many of the challenges.

Adding stock to the resource

Fish stocking has often been regarded as a last resort to rebuild stocks that have crashed, but it can also be a valuable management tool that helps the sector meet community expectations about how fish stocks should be managed. A strategic stocking program can help smooth variation in fish recruitment, ensuring stable and growing fish populations. In turn, this allows for consistent and stable fishing experiences. In years of good recruitment, no stocking may be needed; in years when environmental conditions suggest recruitment may be poor, stocking can take a leading role in a management strategy. The benefits of stocking have long been evident in ‘put and take’ freshwater fisheries around the world. However there is no reason why stocking programs cannot be applied to a broader range of estuarine and marine species.

Recfishwest’s ‘Snapper Guardians’ program is a good example of how approaching fish stocking differently can result in greater community engagement and stewardship of important fish stocks, changed community perceptions and improved fishing experiences.

Habitat enhancement benefits

By constructing artificial reefs we can create highly productive habitats and new fishing oases. This strategy is informed by science: artificial reefs have been shown to be more productive than natural reef systems and the ability to build reefs in specific locations to suit specific species makes them a vital fisheries management tool.

When done well, purpose-built reef systems can benefit the community, industry, government, tourism, the environment and critically endangered fish stocks.

Increasingly, the energy sector is also showing an interest in enhancing habitats. Obsolete oil and gas industry infrastructure is being repurposed as reefs, for example in the Mexico Gulf. Giving these structures new lives as artificial reefs benefits the community enormously and should be embraced.

These types of projects, together with our sector's support of initiatives such as shellfish reef and seagrass restoration, not only provide fishery benefits but also improve our sector's environmental credentials. This credibility will be increasingly important if we want to do what we love into the future, in the face of shifting societal norms about animal welfare and the acceptability of fishing.

Beyond sustainability

The benefits of recreational fishing to people's wellbeing are enormous. In an ever more urbanised society, recreational fishing experiences give people the opportunity to connect with the natural world, tap into their primal reward systems and engage with others. It is not just about catching a feed. This connection to nature means recreational fishers' attitudes are changing. Consciousness of environmental and conservation issues within the recreational fishing community continues to grow. The economic dividends of recreational fishing are also substantial: recreational fishers in WA, for example, directly spend \$2.4 billion a year on fishing. Despite their economic and social importance, our fisheries have traditionally been managed using tools that focus on exploiting fish stocks to the edge of sustainability.

Sustainability should be the starting point for fisheries management rather than the end goal.

It is critical we don't just settle for sustainable fisheries – we want abundant fisheries. User groups need to work more closely together to achieve outcomes that lead to abundant fisheries. When we get bogged down in inter-sectoral stand-offs the resource suffers first, then all of us do.

There is also a pressing need to improve procedures and tools within the existing fisheries management system in Australia. We need to extend management plans and harvest strategies beyond the traditional concepts of a fishery's biology and commercial fishing economics. Such concepts are well understood and relatively easily applied to deliver positive outcomes against sustainability and commercial fishing economic targets; however, the same cannot be said in their application for recreational fisheries.

In most recreational fisheries, the data relied on under traditional management systems is the wrong type or it simply does not exist. Moreover, it is generally unclear what data should be collected to measure fishing experiences or how to best apply the limited data currently collected. We need to create a management system that is less subjective, more transparent, more inclusive, more reactive and less *ad hoc*.

Turning value into valuable

One of the biggest challenges is a general lack of understanding as to what constitutes a quality recreational fishing experience. For some, catching Yellowfin Whiting on micro-poppers in south-west estuaries is what gets them going; for others, catching, tagging and releasing mighty marlin out wide on fish aggregating devices (FADs) is the ultimate. And others enjoy simply soaking a bait off the beach and maybe catching a herring or two.

We need a cultural shift in the mindsets within fisheries regulatory agencies if we are to truly optimise social outcomes from fishing activities. Understanding, quantifying and clearly articulating what recreational fishers value most and building this into management objectives is the critical first step.

To evolve in this direction, fisheries management needs to draw much more heavily on the expertise of social scientists, economists and the recreational fishing sector itself. As we establish clear social objectives, we will need to develop new tools to complement traditional management practices. This evolution will take time, it will require leadership and patience, and it will not be perfect the first time. However, we must start now if we are to effectively meet the desired outcomes of recreational fishers and maximise the benefits of recreational fishing into the future.

We live in a fast-paced world that is speeding up all the time. We need to not just meet these challenges and opportunities but get ahead of them. We need to work smart and focus on solutions that benefit our sector, the community and the environment in the weeks, months and years to come. I, for one, relish that responsibility and challenge – bring it on.

Celebrating a big win for Bunbury recfishers

Email from Dr Andrew Rowland



On Friday I had the pleasure of attending a media event by Ports Minister Alannah MacTiernan at which she announced the transformation of the Bunbury Service Jetty in the port's outer harbour into a new fishing platform.

This is a fantastic outcome for Bunbury shore-based fishers who, from March, will have improved access to deep water from which to target herring, skippy, squid, crabs, whiting and a range of other popular species.

There are currently very limited quality shorefishing opportunities in Bunbury, particularly since the much-loved Bunbury Jetty in Koombana Bay was demolished in 2013. Creating new fishing access to replace that keenly felt loss has been a community aspiration ever since.

We're extremely pleased to see the Government recognise the importance of recfishing and cut through the red tape to deliver public access to this refurbished jetty.

Another great result coming out the jetty refurbishment will see the creation of wheelchair-accessible fishing spots and allow our partner organisation Fishability to develop a completely new program for Bunbury.



It's great to see the advice of Recfishwest, Fishability and local anglers incorporated into the design for the new fishing platform.

We're all about creating better fishing experiences and improved access to catch fish on jetties like this does just that.

And this announcement sets a good precedent for pursuing similar initiatives in other areas of the State.

So, make no mistake, this is a win for all of our community and something to be celebrated.



SWEET 'N SOUR FISH

Ingredients:

1 green capsicum cut in half, seeded, and thinly sliced.
2 stalks of celery cut into 25mm lengths.
1 cup carrot straws.
3 shallots cut into 25mm lengths OR 1 medium white onion cut into eighths
1 piece of preserved ginger sliced very thinly
1 large tin pineapple pieces
3 cups large diced fish pieces (herring are ideal)
1 tablespoon cider vinegar
1 tablespoon raw sugar
1 dessertspoon soy sauce
cornflour for thickening

Method:

Place the vegetables, ginger, juice from pineapple pieces, vinegar, raw sugar into a medium saucepan and simmer for about 15 minutes. Add the fish and cook for a further 5 minutes. Add the pineapple pieces and soy sauce. When the mixture comes to the boil, thicken with a little cornflour blended in a cup of water.
Serve with rice or noodles.

GRILLED FISH.

Sufficient fish fillets for each person.

Lemon juice (suggest lemon pieces)

Place the fillets skin side down, and cook on moderate heat for approximately 5 - 8 minutes or until a nice even light brown colour. Remove from griller and garnish with lemon. Serve with a salad.

Makes great sandwich filling also when served with tartare sauce,

NOTES FROM AAA DELEGATES COUNCIL MEETING 21st January 2020

Special Business or Notices of Motion:

There were two Notices of Motion presented to the previous meeting.

One from Peter Osborne, ORSSC relating to modifications to the rules for Rock and Beach and Estuary State Championships Competition..

The Notice of Motion “That the rules for Rock & Beach and Estuary competitions be amended”, **was lost on a show of hands.**

The second process was discussed at length and Martin Wearmouth is to present a motion to the next meeting.

As there was no formal motion put, it is to lay on the table.

Presidents Report:

Several clubs had received funding from Recfishwest for various projects including; Beachcombers, L A A C, S C A C and the Association. Pat indicated that LAAC had received funding for their Johnny Bray Memorial Fishing Day and they had 179 kids attend. AAawa received funding for the Snag It – Tag It program and a defibrillator, Beachcombers and S C A C also received funding for purchase of hardware.

Pat also commented on the success of the Johnny Bray Memorial Fishing Day and also on the success of their Boat and Trailer Inspection Day.

LAAC arranged for St John's, FESA, Lancelin VSRG, and other relevant parties such as boat and trailer servicing specialists, Recfishwest and AAawa all making presentations. It is recommended that boating clubs specifically speak with Pat on this and plan to do a similar check amongst their club members and the general public during the demersal closure next year. It will encourage members to check their boats before

the season and also encourage a wider safety approach to boating and fishing and check gear and equipment prior to the season.

Estuary; Rock & Beach Report

Russell is to contact the caravan park at Port Gregory to notify them of the State Rock & Beach event to be held over the June long weekend.

We still need a club to run the event

ORSSC had indicated previously that they would run the event on the condition that the boundaries were opened up, that the lines down and lines up times were extended and that it was a species competition. Following Notice of Motion failing earlier in the evening, this cannot be made a species style competition. Peter Osborne is to go back to the ORSSC and see if they are still willing to run the event. If they choose not to – we need a club to host the event.

Boating Sub Committee Report:

Last Boating Sub-Committee Meeting was held last Thursday evening at Hillarys. All is in readiness for the March 2020 Boating Championships and all that is required are more adverts for the publicity booklet. Pat Shinnick presented a DRAFT copy of the event booklet.

Dry Casting Report:

The Perth Polo Ground is undergoing maintenance at the moment and due to polo competitions being held on the ground. Casters are using it on the first Monday of the month. Due to a major competition in March on the 8 & 9th casting will be done on the 16th. Normal Sunday casting will resume in April. Next State Dry Casting event is in October.

Planning for Next Year:

Due to a variety of circumstances, none of the current executive are able to stand again next year. To ensure a complete and useful changeover, delegates are to go back to their clubs and seek interest from their members to fill these positions. Hopefully this can be done before the AGM in August and a smooth transition can take place.

Brag Mats:

The Association has purchased 100 Brag Mats for use by clubs and there has not been a great uptake. Delegates are asked to take the information back to the clubs and place orders. They cost the Association \$20 each and are being sold for \$10.

Association Web Site:

Club information and club contact details, pictures and any other promotional materials from clubs are still required to be sent to the Secretary. Much of the information currently held is not correct.

Also club activities for inclusion in the Club Calendar of Events which is included with the Delegates Council Minutes is also required.

Prepared by John Curtis; AAAWA President



Field day venues for 2020/2021

Dates	Venue	Boundaries
9 -10 May 2020	Rottnest Island and Open Local Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Rottnest and Open anywhere in WA
AAA only - 30 May - 1 June Long Weekend	AAA Rock and Beach see AAA website for info	Horrocks to Wagoie area
13 - 14 June 2020	Open Lines down 9.00am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Open anywhere in WA
11 - 12 July 2020	Open Lines down 9.00am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Open anywhere in WA
22 - 23 August 2020	Rottnest Island and Open Local Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Rottnest and Open anywhere in WA
26 - 28 September 2020 Long Weekend	Reef Beach Bremer Bay and standard local Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Reef Beach and local as below at bottom of page
17 - 18 October 2020	Dunsborough to White Hills Lines down 9.00am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Dunsborough to White Hills and local as below at bottom of page
14 - 15 November 2020	Cervantes to Leeman Lines down 9.00am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Cervantes to Leeman and local as below at bottom of page
12 - 13 December 2020	Lancelin to Greenhead Lines down 9.00am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Lancelin to Greenhead and local as below at bottom of page
Sunday 24 January and Monday 25th January 2021 make own long weekend Australia day is Tuesday 26th	Open Lines down 6.00am Sunday Lines up 9am Tuesday	Open anywhere in WA
13 - 14 February 2021	Dunsborough to White Hills Lines down 9.00am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Dunsborough to White Hills and local as below at bottom of page
27 Feb - 1 March 2021 Long Weekend	Geraldton to Kalbarri Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Geraldton to Kalbarri and local as below at bottom of page
3 April – 5 April 2021 Easter Long weekend	Bluff Creek and standard local Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Cheyne's and Bluff Creek area and local as below at bottom of page
AAA only - 24 - 26 April 2021 ANZAC day Long Weekend	Cheyne's Beach/Bluff Creek see AAA website for details	Bremer Bay to Albany
Local boundaries are from Lancelin in the North to Point Peron in the South Lines Down for long weekends and Rottnest – Saturday 6.00am Lines up for long weekends and Rottnest – Monday 9.00am Lines Down on Standard weekends – Saturday 9.00am Lines up on Standard weekends – Sunday 9.00am Sign-on / Weigh-in times, possible fish together spots and locations to be decided at the general meeting prior to the Field Day		

ALVEY REELS – 100 YEARS, A REEL ICON
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EXCELLENCE.

Rods through the ages

Published: Saturday, 06 July 2019 18:31



Caption: The difference in pulling power graphically demonstrated with a mere 2.5kg hanging off the rod tip. Old school fibreglass versus powerful graphite.

Fishing rods are big talk amongst shore anglers and for good reason. When did you last see someone handlining from the shore? Efficient casting is partly a product of the rod being used and while good technique matters too, without the right fishing rod for the task at hand you are well behind the eight ball before you even start.

Rod technology has evolved massively over the past few decades and I believe advancements in rod materials and design have allowed shore anglers to become much more successful. I'll skip the pre-fibreglass era and start our discussion with fibreglass.

The first fibreglass rods appeared in Australia in the late 1940s. The move from split cane to fibreglass was a quantum leap in rod technology. Fibreglass rods were powerhouses compared to split cane and could be used and abused much more than their cane counterparts without ill effects. In particular fibreglass rods could really flex compared to cane. Shore anglers took advantage of these characteristics to start fishing heavier sinkers which allowed them to fish heavier sea conditions. For the first time anglers could winch fish up cliff faces without fear of rod failure. To this day fibreglass rods are often the tool of choice for cliff fishing given their tolerance to bending under heavy loads. The action of fibreglass rod blanks can be described as 'slow'. That means the rod is inclined to bend through its entire length in a parabolic curve which increases towards the tip and decreases towards the butt.

The first fibreglass rods were solid like the split cane before them, but the introduction of mandrel-rolled blanks produced hollow rods that were both exceptionally light and adequately strong. These days we would call fibreglass rods insensitive but compared to cane rods they felt very sensitive. Fibreglass rod blanks also triggered developments in rod building resins. These changes improved the durability of rods which were constantly being exposed to harsh environmental conditions. As manufacturing methods developed factories were able to offer longer rods for shore anglers too. Rods upwards of 15 feet entered the market, assisting anglers who fished heavy surf beaches. Initially fibreglass rods were generally one piece and later during their era were offered in two piece, which obviously aided with transportation. I can distinctly remember my father declaring that two-piece rods were a gimmick that weren't really up to the task of heavy shore fishing. That comment was made in the mid '70s. How times have changed!

After a period of market dominance the fibreglass manufacturers were beginning to experiment with new materials. Of course fishing rods weren't the only application for fibreglass resins. Manufacturers were tinkering with state-of-the-art alternatives to fibreglass. In the quest for power and sensitivity carbon fibre was introduced into the blank manufacturing process and the first 'composite' rod blanks were made. Generally composite rods feature carbon fibre towards the tip and fibreglass towards the butt. The use of carbon fibre increases sensitivity and power but also increases cost and fragility. More about this fragility later. You can generally see where the two materials meet on a composite rod blank.

In terms of action, the more the carbon fibre extends down the blank the faster and more sensitive the action of the rod. Shore anglers jumped onto composite rods quickly when they realised the additional tip stiffness might be advantageous. Casting heavy sinkers, winding in heavy clumps of weed and battling big heavy fish was challenging with full fibreglass rods at times. All that flex in the fibreglass blanks made it hard to impart much pressure on the other end. The additional stiffness of composite rods made them more effective tools where casting distance and rod rigidity were important, especially in the extra-long sizes. Being able to cast sinkers up to 220 grams plus a big bait off a long rod was now a reality. Some of the classic surf casting rods like the SU400 were offered in both pure fibreglass and composite configurations. This gave some old rod designs a second life in terms of popularity.

The third generational change to surf rods was the introduction of full carbon fibre, or graphite blanks with no fibreglass content. These materials offered unheard of stiffness and sensitivity as well as incredible power coupled with lightness. As far as I'm aware the British were the first to adopt the full carbon blanks and given the popularity of dry casting in the UK the material soon saw distance casting records being smashed. Shore anglers soon adopted the technology and UK manufacturers like Century offered an array of blanks lengths and power ratings to suit all land-based applications.

Following on from the success in the UK, South Africa took to carbon blanks with relish. The heavier surf conditions that feature around the South African coastline were a perfect match to the advantages these carbon blanks offered. It was inevitable that Australian surf anglers discovered the benefits too and when the big rod manufactures like Daiwa and Shimano started offering carbon/graphite surf rods the tide turned away from fibreglass and composite very quickly.

So are there disadvantages to using full carbon fishing rods? Potentially yes depending on the situation. I mentioned rod fragility. In simple terms carbon fibre and graphite has different characteristics to fibreglass. While it can bend quite a lot and store huge amounts of energy that can be unleashed during the cast, it is also susceptible to breakage if pushed too far. 'High sticking' is an absolute no-no with graphite rods. Many anglers have learned this the hard way after transitioning from more forgiving fibreglass rods. Another quirk with graphite is that scratches, chips and other minor damage to the blank surface can create a weak point where failure can occur. I've had this happen.

You need to be extra careful around rocks when using graphite rods to avoid damage. Many anglers have also struggled to relearn their casting technique when transitioning to full graphite rods. These rods are far stiffer than both composite and fibreglass. This requires an adjustment to cast timing as the tip of the rod is not so far behind the butt when loading up during the cast. Another factor when casting graphite rods is they take more effort to load. And to really take advantage of the power graphite offers the angler has to get the blank to bend and 'load up' during the cast. One way to achieve this is to pull the cast through a longer range of motion. Good bye to the old west coast overhead thump! Another important factor is matching the casting weight to the power of the blank. Fibreglass was more forgiving in this regard.

As rods continue to develop we are seeing the introduction of exotic space-aged materials like boron into their construction. I know I'll take any advantage I can get from changing technologies.

