

REEL TALK

February 2021



New meeting venue
Refer to page 4



Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

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Club Committee for 2020-21

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Committee Persons

Gary Parkinson

Chris Stickells

Website Coordinator

Peet Wessels



Recorder

Justin Rose

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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

February General Meeting

A reminder to all members that the February General Meeting will be held on:

Wednesday 10th of February 2021 at the Croatian Club in Wishart Street Gwelup commencing at 7.00PM.

A meal will be served at 7:00PM and the February General Meeting will commence at 8:00PM.

To encourage members to make this a social event there will be an excellent meal of crumbed chicken schnitzel, battered fish, roast potatoes & salad served at 7:00pm.

The club will be covering the cost of the meal for this meeting in February. Please advise Victor Schilo (0413 152 550 or email victor@schilogroup.com) before midday on Sunday 7th of February, so that he can advise the Croatian Club.

The Croatian Club is charging \$25 per head and for future meetings the club will pay \$10 and members will need to pay \$15, those who have gone to the Presentation nights will know that this is a great price for the meals they serve up, If this works well over the next few months we will change to this venue for good, if you have any concerns please contact Martin, Victor or John.

January General Meeting Surprise

You can imagine the shock of arriving at the Coolbinia Sports Club rooms only to find that there was major renovation works in progress. The club did not receive any notification that the venue was not available. A very quick decision was made to hold our meeting under the trees and stars, which surprisingly worked out well. A discussion followed and members agreed that this was an opportunity to explore alternative venues.





President's Report - February 2021

What a meeting last month, due to the club rooms being half demolished and no access being possible our meeting was held under the tree in the car park, Thanks to those who attended and sorry but we had not been advised by the Football or Cricket club that this refurbishment was happening.

Due to this our next few meetings will be at the Croatian Club in Gwelup, this will mean a meal and bar so we may change to this venue forever if it works ok over the next 5-6 months.

Thanks also to those who voted on the Rottnest Island accommodation and fishing rule changes at the last meeting, I think we are making some great changes which will help make our club more attractive to new members.

We have a couple of vacancies now for the Dirk Hartog safari in July, if you are interested please contact Vince or me.

Martin Wearmouth; President

Field Day Venues For 2020/2021		
Dates	Venue	Boundaries
13 - 14 February 2021	Dunsborough to White Hills Lines down 9.00 am Saturday Lines up 9 am 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 6 am Saturday Lines up 9 am 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 6 am Saturday Lines up 9 am Monday	Cheyne 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 6.00 am Lines up for long weekends and Rottnest – Monday 9.00 am Lines Down on Standard weekends – Saturday 9.00 am Lines up on Standard weekends – Sunday 9.00 am Sign-on / Weigh-in times; Where possible please fish together; Spots and locations are to be decided at the General Meeting prior to the Field Day		



Field day venues for 2021/2022

Dates	Venue	Boundaries
15 -17 May 2021	Rottneest Island and Open Local Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Rottneest and Open anywhere in WA
12 - 13 June 2021	Open Lines down 9.00am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Open anywhere in WA
17 - 19 July 2021 Long weekend due to safari	Open Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Open anywhere in WA
16 - 26 July 2021 Dirk Hartog Island and Steep Point safari	Dirk Hartog Island safari 2 fishing days to be chosen by traveling group once on the island	All of Dirk Hartog Island and Steep Point Shelter bay area
28 - 30 August 2021	Rottneest Island and Open Local Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Rottneest and Open anywhere in WA
25 - 27 September 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
16 - 17 October 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
13 - 14 November 2021	Cervantes to Leeman Lines down 9.00am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Cervantes to Leeman and local as below at bottom of page
11 - 12 December 2021	Lancelin to Jurien Bay Lines down 9.00am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Lancelin to Greenhead and local as below at bottom of page
15 – 16 January 2022	Open Lines down 9.00am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Open anywhere in WA
12 - 13 February 2022	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
5 - 7 March 2022 Long Weekend	Bremer Bay area Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Albany to Bremer Bay and local as below at bottom of page
16 April – 18 April 2022 Easter Long weekend	Bluff Creek and standard local Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Albany to Bremer Bay and local as below at bottom of page
<p style="text-align: center;">Local boundaries are from Lancelin in the North to Preston Beach in the South</p> <p>Lines Down on Standard weekends – Saturday 9.00am Lines up on Standard weekends – Sunday 9.00am Lines Down for long weekends and Rottneest – Saturday 6.00am Lines up for long weekends and Rottneest – Monday 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</p>		

SCAC Meeting dates:

February: Wednesday 10th
 March: Wednesday 10th
 April: Wednesday 14th

Surf Casters January 2021 Horrocks field day report by Martin Wearmouth



Eight Surf Casters fished at Horrocks for our January Field day, Peter Osborne, Peet & Sandra Wessels, Vince Tomazin, Stuart Waterman, George Matrakis, Steve Harrison and myself, we all met at Cataby at 10am on Saturday 23rd January ready to tackle the trip to Horrocks, The traffic was light and we arrived just after 2pm to settle into our accommodation for the 3 night stay.

About 5pm we all decided to go for a drive to the Bowes river to check out some fishing spots, on arrival the water just off the gravel car park looked good but had a lot of seaweed, we let down our tyres and headed north along the beach track for a couple of kilometres but found only shallow rocky beach and no spots worth fishing, we then drove south of the river for about 2km but again found piles of sea weed or shallow rocky areas.



On the way back to the car park 4 of us stopped at an area opposite the river that had some deep water between 2 reef sections, after about an hour and a half of fishing all we managed to catch was Wirrah, they came in regularly and seemed to be the only thing there ready to take out baits.

We packed up and headed back to Horrocks, Peter O and Steve had tried fishing the Jetty but only managed some puffer fish.

We all rested up and had a good social night at the accommodation with fishing stories and hopes of good fishing for the next 2 days, We had a House that could sleep 5 people and a cottage that slept 3 people, the cottage was in the lower part of Horrocks and the house was on the hillside and had a fantastic view over the ocean and town, with a great big front veranda this was a great spot to catch the sea breeze and enjoy some refreshments.

On the Sunday morning we got up early and most headed to the Bowes river to fish near the river, Peet & Sandra, Vince and myself fished the small area between the reef and again found the Wirrah, Sandra caught a nice 1.4kg Sweetlip that was released, Stuart, George and Steve fished the beach area near the Bowes river car park and managed some Tailor amongst the sea weed, George hooked into a shovel nose and spent 30 minutes getting it onto the beach, Peter O fished the jetty with not much success.

Vince and I moved on about 7.30am to go a bit further south, I found a spot about 6km south that was clear of weed and had some nice clean water to cast into, here I managed a nice 44cm Tailor and a Dart, Vince got a Dart and small sting ray, we fished here until about 11am then headed back, Peet and Sandra had moved back to the beach area near the Bowes river car park where Stuart, George and Steve were fishing and managed to bag out on Tailor, we headed back for lunch.

Most headed back to the Bowes river after lunch to fish the beach area close to the car park, again most managed a few tailor and Dart, Peet got a nice 54cm Tailor, Sandra got one about 50cm and I got a 48cm Tailor being the best fish for the afternoon session, Stuart and George decided to head to the Hutt river about 35km north to see if that was better fishing, It proved to be the best spot with both getting a few good Tailor and George hooking another shovel nose even bigger but this one managed to get away just as it was getting close to the beach.



On leaving the beach at Bowes river at night Peter O got badly bogged on the beach trying to get up a sand hill, this required a bit of digging then I used his snatch strap to pull him out, Thanks to Vince and Steve for the shovel work.

Monday morning most headed back to the beach at Bowes river only to find that it was now unfishable due to too much seaweed, we all packed up and headed to the Hutt River where Stuart and George had gone straight to that morning, Vince and I headed back to the Cottage to pack some lunch and drinks and find Steve who had slept in.

When we arrived at the Hutt River track we let down our tyres and drove onto the beach about 8.30am, as we drove by Peet, Sandra, Stuart and George all had been catching Tailor on most casts since 7am and some hit the beach right in front of our eyes, but by the time we had a line in the water they had gone.

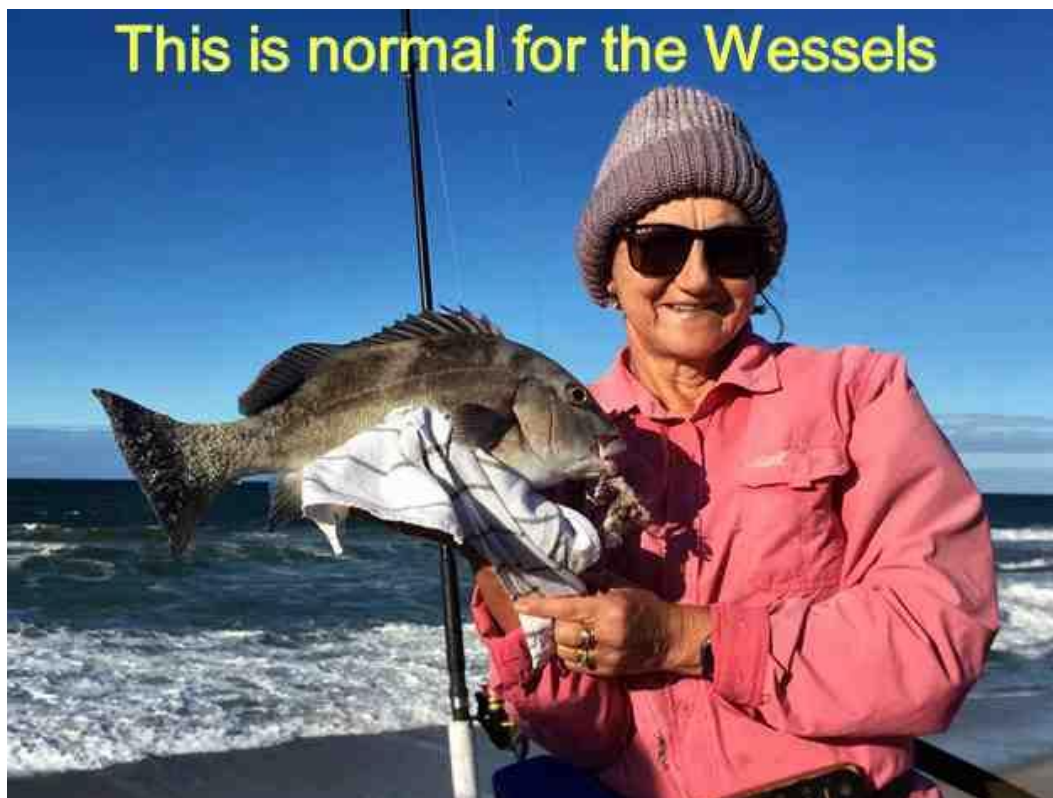


I managed 1 Tailor and a couple of Dart before 12pm and we had decided to stay all day and fish this spot, the water was the best I had seen at Hutt river with a nice deep gutter running for 600m or more all the way along in front of the river, there was some sea weed but it was not bad and fishing was ok, over the day all I could catch was some Dart, all up I caught 12 Dart at Hutt River this being the most dart I had ever caught they do put up a good fight.

We all hoped for another hot Tailor bite like Stuart and George had the night before but as the sun went down only a few Tailor got caught and I missed out only catching Dart, Sandra did get a nice Bull Herring and a Dart double header, We all packed up about 8pm and after pumping up the tyres headed back to Horrocks for Dinner and a well-earned rest.

So, I do not think we will be rushing back to Horrocks due to the limited beach fishing spots, but I am hoping the nice water at the Hutt river stays for our March field day trip at the end of February where I have booked to stay at Port Gregory caravan park which is only a few Kms from Hutt River. Thanks to those who attended another great social weekend with a lot of jokes and recycled fishing stories to pass the time, most managed a few fish and we explored a new spot.

Ron Thomas decided to go to Reef Beach on Friday and only ended up fishing ½ a day due to the lack of fish he packed up and left on Saturday planning to go to Bluff Creek but due to a detour and road works could not get to the Bluff Creek road track so he drove home, On Sunday and Monday morning he fished at Hill river and managed a few fish including Butterfish, Flathead, Trumpeter, Herring, Pike, Whiting and Tailor a pretty good bag so well done Ron, you certainly put in some miles to find the fish.



Field day prizes for January			
Section	Angler	Species	Weight
Best scale fish	Sandra Wessels	Sweetlip (all species)	1.26
Best bag of scale fish	Sandra Wessels		12.02
Best shark			
Best bag including sharks			

ANGLER		Species	Tailor	Species	Dart all	Species	Wirrah 1 only	Species	Drummer (all other than Bluff Bream)	Species	Wrasse (all species) 1 only	Species	Sweetlip (all species)	Species	Herring Australia n	Species	Butterfish Western	Species	Flathead (all species)	Species	Trumpet er - Grunter striped	Species	Pike	Species	Whiting	Total weight	No. of Species	No. of fish	F.D. points	Attendance		Total points
																														Field Day	General Meeting	
Sandra Wessels	Number	16	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12.02	6	25	205.2	1	1	225.2	
	Total weight	7.59	2.40	0.25							0.20	1.26	0.32																			
	Weight of best	1.00																														
Peet Wessels	Number	16	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10.14	4	22	163.4	1	1	183.4	
	Total weight	7.67	1.92	0.25	0.30																											
	Weight of best	1.07																														
Ron Thomas	Number	4													6	0.98	1.18	7	3	0.73	0.20	1	4	4	6.30	7	29	162.0	1	1	182.0	
	Total weight	2.01																														
	Weight of best																															
Martin Wearmouth	Number	5	10	1																					8.06	3	16	126.6	1	1	146.6	
	Total weight	2.88	4.93	0.25																												
	Weight of best	0.83																														
Peter Osborne	Number	5	4	1																					4.60	3	10	86.0	1	1	106.0	
	Total weight	2.51	1.84	0.25																												
	Weight of best	0.66																														
Stuart Waterman	Number	12																							5.76	1	12	79.6	1	1	99.6	
	Total weight	5.76																														
	Weight of best																															
George Matrakis	Number	12																							5.76	1	12	79.6	1	1	99.6	
	Total weight	5.76																														
	Weight of best																															
Steve Harrison	Number	8	1																						3.75	2	9	66.5	1		76.5	
	Total weight	3.42	0.33																													
	Weight of best	0.70																														
Vince Tomazin	Number	1	2	1																					1.69	3	4	50.9	1	1	70.9	
	Total weight	0.38	1.06	0.25																												
	Weight of best																															

Top scores up to January		
Rank	Angler	Total points
1	Martin Wearmouth	1633.4
2	Peet Wessels	1240.3
3	Ron Thomas	1085.8
4	Mark Hansen	827.6
5	Sandra Wessels	781.9
6	Vince Tomazin	735.7
7	Stuart Waterman	360.5
8	Theo Van Niekerk	302.4
9	Shane Wignell	301.7
10	Gary Parkinson	298.5
11	Sabby Pizzolante	224.4
12	Peter Osborne	179.0
13	George Matrakis	166.4
14	Steve Harrison	163.0
15	Brad Zaknich (visitor)	161.2
16	Chris Stickells	152.2
17	David Wilding	59.0
18	Alan Green	44.5
19	Oliver Wessels	39.3
20	David Trainer	30.0
21	Trinity Wessels	29.0
22	Logan Wessels	21.8
23	Sri Srigandan	20.0
24	Grace Wessels	10.0
25	Ian Taggart	10.0

Open fishing competition 2020/21

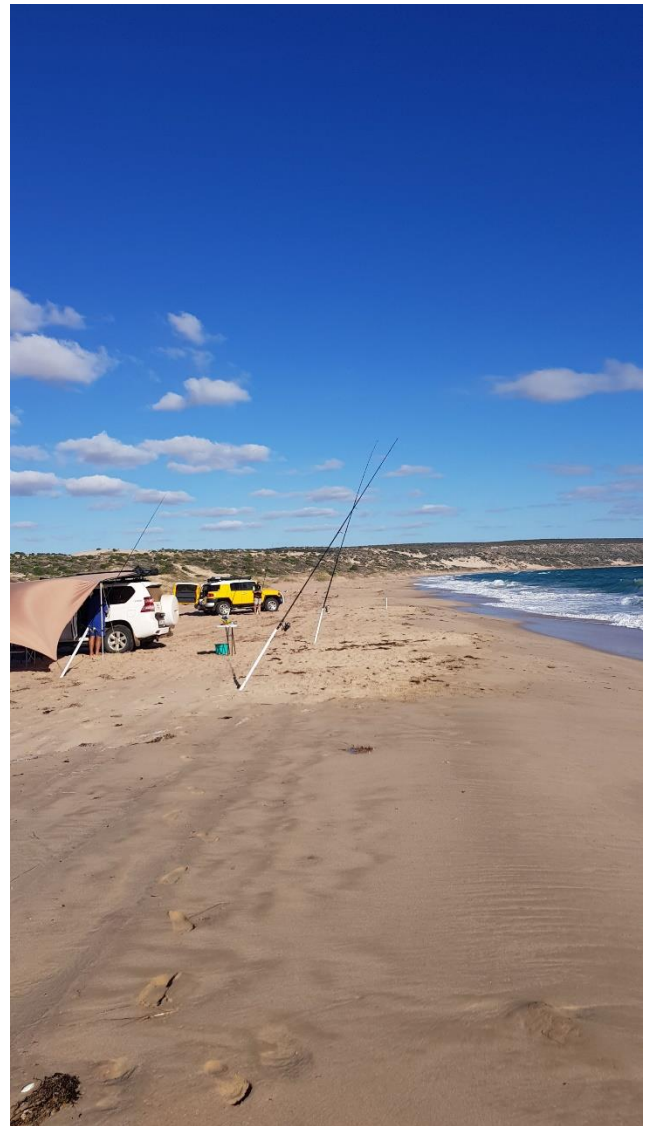
The Open Competition is for fish caught between 1 May 2020 and 30 April 2021, other than on Club gazetted Field days, Entries for the Open competition close **30 days after capture**. See Competition Rules Section 4.

Section	For	Minimum weight	Entry
1	Most meritorious capture	None	To be awarded by Committee
2	Best shark	4.5 kg	
3	Best mulloway	5 kg	
4	Best salmon	3.5kg	Peet Wessels, 6kg Reef Beach 1/6/20
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	
9	Best pink snapper	2 kg	
10	Best tarwhine	0.5 kg	
11	Best mackerel	4 kg	
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	
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	
19	Best Fish caught by Drone	Legal size	



According to Peet “this is normal for us.”





DRYCASTING – 4TH JANUARY 2021

Only five turned up for the first cast for 2021 on a day that was ideal for casting. We changed the format this time and cast the distances first before the wind eased off.

Hendo had the longest 56gr at 134m. Gary, who is doing a lot of practicing lately, and changing his style, is improving quite a bit. In his distances he had the longest art bait at 119m and was only 6m behind the longest cast of the day. Gary also won the DHA with 148, winning by 2 points. Hendo and Gary both scored 31 in the sha.

The overall winner for the day was Gary with 471.40%.

Hope to see you all next month Monday the 1st.

RON THOMAS
DCO

SURF CASTING & ANGLING CLUB													
Dry casting results - 4th January 2021													
	56 gram					Artificial Bait					112gram		
	Cast	Cast	Total			Cast	Cast	Total			Cast	Cast	Total
Veterans	1	2		%		1	2		%		1	2	
BOB HENDERSON	106.60	133.92	240.52	94.30		B/O	111.23	111.23	47.49		B/O	133.18	133.18
GARY GILDERSLEEVE	127.48	123.60	251.08	98.44		115.04	119.20	234.24	100.00		137.96	144.38	282.34
RON THOMAS	129.52	125.53	255.05	100.00		114.29	113.19	227.48	97.11		150.30	150.18	300.48
GEOFF RAFTIS	89.27	B/O	89.27	35.00		82.63	84.20	166.83	71.22		106.84	117.99	224.83
Seniors													
MARK HANSEN	B/O	83.62	83.62	100.00		85.70	88.33	174.03	100.00		113.58	104.99	218.57

SURF CASTING & ANGLING CLUB																					
Dry casting results - 4th January 2021																					
	Double Handed Accuracy										Single Handed Accuracy							Total	Attendance	Total	
	Target number										Target distance								D/Casting	Points	
Veterans	3	3	1	1	4	4	2	2	Total	%		1st	2nd	1st	2nd	Total	%		%		
BOB HENDERSON	8	0	24	24	14	14	15	19	118	79.73		9	4	10	8	31	100.00		335.11	10	345.11
GARY GILDERSLEEVE	21	21	19	19	15	15	18	20	148	100.00		9	8	6	8	31	100.00		471.40	10	481.40
RON THOMAS	25	23	11	11	19	18	14	25	146	98.65		5	8	9	4	26	83.87		469.11	10	479.11
GEOFF RAFTIS	0	13	9	19	0	16	17	4	78	52.70		5	7	9	7	28	90.32		287.04	10	297.04
Seniors																					
MARK HANSEN	3	11	19	21	21	22	0	22	119	100.00		8	5	2	8	23	100.00		442.00	10	452.00

VETERANS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2020 - 2021													
LONGEST 56 GRAM										150.57			RON THOMAS
LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT										132.69			RON THOMAS
LONGEST 112G										161.55			RON THOMAS
HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY										157			GARY GILDERSLEEVE
HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY										35			BOB HENDERSON
SENIORS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2020 - 2021													
LONGEST 56 GRAM										97.80			MARK HANSEN
LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT										97.16			MARK HANSEN
LONGEST 112G										121.35			MARK HANSEN
HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY										135			MARK HANSEN
HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY										29			MARK HANSEN

My season at CBH by Chris Stickels

My season working for CBH started in late October and went through to 22nd December. I worked on a site called Kalannie in the central wheat belt about a 3 hour drive northeast of Perth. CBH supplied shared accommodation for the duration of my season which I shared with the general manger, Helen, 2 backpackers from Belgium, Steve from Perth, Jade, Jemma, Chelle and a guy called Marty from Northam.

My job was to be a revival point operator which basically meant I met truckies at a allocated grid guided the dumping of grain in there grids and sent on the conveyor to the correct bin. I was also trained to spear trucks to take samples for quality control. Not difficult like a big claw game works. Not really that hard and mostly not physical if you can sweep climb a ladder.

Most of the truckies are very nice and sometime bought us snacks. Going to the pub is the done thing here. Everyone was nice and you felt like you can talk to anyone like their old mates. Spent some time on a friend's farm who lives out here. Bbq and just hanging out because why not.

Wheat drive was fun, this is their local fund raiser for the year. This is where the truckies go around the farms and collect donated grain to sell to raise money. This was followed by a feed at the pub and a few drinks.

The day's range up to 12 hours 6 days a week. Harvest bans and rain interrupt this. I really enjoyed my time out there, made some new friends, learned some new things and earned good money. This was how I decided to use my LSL and the experience was extremely rewarding.



Fishing for Yellowfin Whiting *John Curtis*

Yellowfin whiting have long been known as the second most popular whiting to target behind the mighty King George. However, in more recent times, chasing these shallow water gems has been gaining more exposure, with a lot more coverage on how to target them.

The best time of year for catching yellowfin whiting, is generally during the warmer months when the water temperature hovers between the 20-24 degree mark. November through to March and even into mid-April gives you ample time to target them. October sees the 'locals' scouting for them, with some experienced anglers lucky enough to find them consistently leading into peak season.

In different locations, yellowfin whiting will take some baits readily when presented to them. These places are generally sheltered spots that are generally protected from the wind and swell. Other locations that are protected will also produce good fishing and generally the fish that reside here will attack harder and get caught on stick baits, poppers, vibes, hardbodies, soft plastics and baits. Protected shallow beach areas in the Swan and Canning rivers and locations such as the beaches behind protecting islands as around Rockingham and Lancelin also provide excellent fishing for yellowfin whiting.

When using stick baits, I've found several that work for me. These include lures that are decorated with colours that are an ideal match to imitate what the yellowfin would usually feed on such as prawns and small fish. Make no mistake these fish are aggressive feeders and will readily attack baits and lures if it is food. Removing the stock trebles and replacing them with a an assist hook on the front towing point so that it is sitting around the belly of the lure and stinger assist hooks on the back, (preferably with the red or gold tassels) These lures are not cheap and these modifications will make the lure fairly pricey, however, they are proven performers and soon pay for themselves when you're into a school of tasty treats to bring home.

I've also found that the new Shimano surface popper, which is 65 mm in length, comes with two size 10 treble hooks (which I change over to the same set-up as above), weighs 5 g and has a unique 'spouting' bubble chamber. When retrieved across the water, this produces an exciting splash and pop action which whiting find attractive.

I've also talked to some local whiting experts who use small vibe lures, and catch a lot of whiting on the bottom with them. They're also somewhat expensive, but with their assist hooks, are very sticky and latch onto the fussiest of fish. I have also taken to using barbless, in-line hooks on my lures. They are extremely sharp and without a barb come out of my flesh readily, rather than having to operate to remove them. Beware assist are also extremely sharp and penetrate rapidly into flesh and can be difficult to remove if they penetrate below the barb.

Catching yellowfin whiting on bait can also be fun - time consuming, but well worth the effort. I will use river worms, beach worms, seaweed worms, cockle, fresh shrimp and prawns along with fresh oxheart. Finding and digging for beach or river worms under washed up seaweed above the high tide mark on a beach is usually my choice, and I personally think they make the best baits for yellowfin. Keeping seaweed worms fresh and alive is simple; just take a bit of seaweed and wet sand in the container/bucket you collect them in, which will be ample to keep them fresh and alive until ready to use. Just make sure if you are digging for worms that you cover over the areas you dig - for two reasons. Firstly, it conceals your area so no one else gets a sniff of your bait-finding location and secondly, it helps to keep the worm population going in that spot. Just remember the age-old quote, 'If you want to go fishing, use a lure. If you want to catch a fish, use the freshest bait.

I have a couple of variations for catching whiting on bait, the more common of which is to run a standard paternoster rig using about a metre of 8 - 10 lb fluorocarbon under a snap swivel, a sinker to suit conditions, and two Mustad bloodworm hooks in size 6. The top snood, being a shorter length and the bottom hook having a longer snood that hangs well below the sinker, gives both baits the freedom to dance around under the water and not run the risk of tangling up. I use long shank hooks with a paternoster rig because I like to feel the bite and strike the fish to set the hook. Another reason for using long shank hooks is when onto a hot bite, they are easier to remove, which means quicker rebait time and getting back into the water sooner!

Another unorthodox method I often now employ is using a bobbing light weighted styrene float, threading it between a length of 20 cm of line and two swivels. I like to use 50-60 cm of 10 lb fluorocarbon leader under the float and run that down to two Black Magic size 1 circle hooks. These are spaced about 50 cm apart,

which is ample for one or two nice whiting to slurp down and get pinned just inside the jaw. I use circle hooks on a float rig so that the fish can hook themselves while dragging the float under. It doesn't matter if the baits aren't suspended in the water, as whiting are generally a bottom feeding species. I'd usually use this technique fishing in flat water conditions.

When using stick baits and poppers, don't be afraid to fish in breezy conditions. I've caught many fish in choppy weather by casting with the breeze and working the lure back into the wind across the surface. I feel the fish are more predatory and will attack more comfortably than when it's flat calm. When the wind is blowing sideways or onshore and I still decide to go, I stand out in waist-deep water and cast with the breeze. Yellowfin whiting aren't afraid to attack in knee-high water or less. Also, when casting in breezy weather, click your bail arm over before the lure hits the water. This will prevent a 'belly' forming in the line, which you'll then have to wind in and lose a bit of distance.

Using the 'walk the dog' motion has been most popular, and you'll find different variations on YouTube about how to follow this. My method has been to start with the rod slightly pointed downward, with the tip just a few inches off the water. After the cast, twitch the tip sharply a few inches, then immediately drift the tip back toward the lure a few inches, creating a bit of slack in the line. If retrieved right, you should see the stick bait dart across diagonally back towards you. With poppers you'll see a large burst of water at the bow making more of a commotion. Visually at least, this form of fishing is by far the best and most exciting way to catch them, in my opinion. The boils of water following your lure before the strike, and then that splash of hooking up to that nice yellowfin is next level.

Vibe lures, have also performed well on the yellowfin. I like to cast, retrieve, twitch-twitch, let the lure sink for a split second and twitch-twitch again. This really gets them fired up and they are likely to get caught on the stinger assist hooks the lures come with.

The soft plastics I've trialled include the 2.5" flick prawns in the green and orange colours are best, and the Gulp 'Crabby' in camo works well too. I like to use a size 2 hook, but vary my jig head weight according to weather conditions, generally going as light as I can. I use the same technique as the vibes to retrieve soft plastics.

I feel the moon certainly comes into play when chasing yellowfin. My best results from a full moon would be right on dusk or an early start before the sun comes up. That being said, the tides then have to line up as well. I prefer to target these fish two hours either side of the high tide, and I've found when there's a new moon, day fishing is best when the tides align.

There needs to be some form of bottom structure around when hunting yellowfin. Even a little bit helps and with this style of fishing, both bait and lure, you'll need to keep moving as the fish won't hold in the same area for long. Yellowfin whiting like to congregate in shallow areas, and if it's breezy, use the wind to your advantage when casting.

With the tackle I use, I never go any heavier than 8 lb braid for my mainline and the strength of the leader varies if I'm fishing bait or lures. I do, however, tie on all leaders with an FG knot to start with, roughly 2 m in length. When the knot runs through the eyes of the rod, I can hardly feel it leaving and there's no damage to the guides at all. If, by any chance, I lose a lure/rig/ leader and I need to quickly join a knot on the go, I'll tie a double Uni knot with a length of about a metre. That way the knot won't have to travel through the rod tip, but you'll still have enough leader to play with.

Certain lures do need to be tied on differently. With poppers I tie a standard locked blood (clinch) knot straight to the towing point. I'd also be using a heavier fluoro leader of 10-12 lb, as with poppers the aim is to make them travel in straight lines, not dart around going everywhere; a heavier leader encourages that. Stick baits, vibes and soft plastics can all be tied on with a loop knot, which gives the artificial the movement it needs on or under the water to have that natural motion. Using a lighter leader between 4-6 lb is ideal here. I like to stick with light combos for lure fishing, favouring my 1000 or 1500 size reel with 6 lb Suffix 832 braid paired with an ultra-light rod. This outfit casts a long way and is super smooth. Any whippy rod over 7 feet would be ample though. For bait fishing I love using my 1-4 Kg rod paired with a small 2500 loaded with 8 lb braid. The rod is very flexible and the reel is more than capable if you're onto a pair of 40 cm fish, knowing you're a fair chance of landing both fish.

In the cooler weather or really early mornings I'll wear waders to work areas on the beach up and back, but in the warmer months a pair of shorts and water boots is fine. I always fish with my shoulder catch bag on, my dab net clipped to the bag and either a container of bait, lures or both in one of the catch bag pockets. A set of long-nose pliers or a hook remover is also essential, and I like to fish with gloves. When you catch a decent yellowfin and you're standing out in the water, they can be slippery critters, and when you hold them, you don't want them flapping around and potentially getting away. A good pair of polaroid sunglasses is also compulsory. While fishing the flats, decent sunnies definitely help by taking that glare off the water and also enable you to see the fish following a lure.

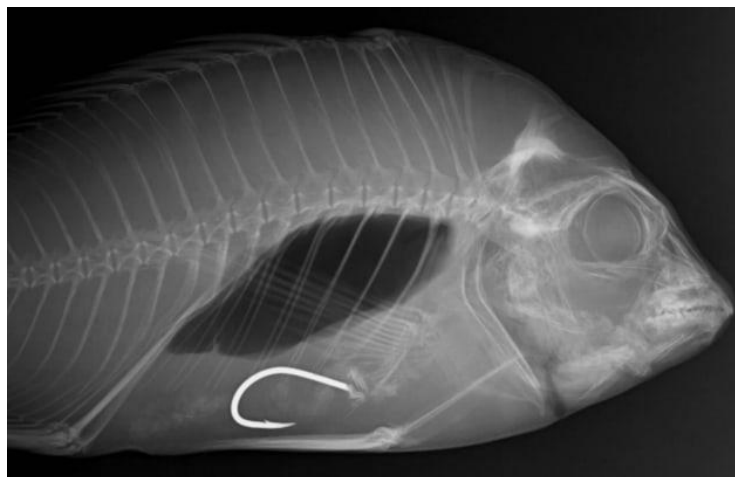
So give this method of fishing and you will be surprised at the pulling power that these fish can turn on. They are also an exceptional table fish when freshly cooked so it becomes a great relaxing fishing outing that is quite enjoyable. Also you can use an old plastic washing basket with a pool needle wrapped around the rim as a catch basket that will keep any fish you catch in the basket and you can release any fish not needed for the table.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE LINE PARTS?

By Dr Ben Diggles

Have you ever wondered what happens to those fishing lures or hooks that are left in fish after they break off? Perhaps you've caught an undersized fish while bait fishing and it swallowed the hook right down, forcing you to leave the hook in it as you cut the line prior to release. In either case, there was little scientifically proven data available on the subject. Fortunately, fisheries scientists are an inquisitive lot, and over the last decade or so this subject has been researched fairly well, and we now know a little of what goes on after the line parts.

For some time now it has been well established that if you hook a fish deep in the mouth, throat, gills, or gut, it reduces its survival chances quite a bit. This is because of the increased risk of damage to vital organs and/or bleeding. Of course this means if you are releasing lots of fish you should try to eliminate deep hooking by fishing actively and using, for example, circle hooks or lures, both of which promote more superficial hook-ups. However, it's also now well established that leaving the hook in deep hooked fish and cutting the line will greatly increase their chances of survival compared to the alternative of the angler exercising a little amateur surgery to try to regain a hook. For example, one study found that 77% of deep hooked snapper (*Pagrus auratus*) released with embedded hooks survived, with most shedding their hooks on average around 9 days later. In contrast, the same researchers found 0% survival for snapper on which amateur piscatorial surgery was undertaken to remove the hook. Another study found 85% of deep hooked yellowfin bream survived if they were released after cutting the line, with 76% of fish shedding the hook between 6 and 56 days after release. Unfortunately, despite this I have seen anglers sacrifice a fish just to get their hook back, which is a sad and sorry state of affairs when hooks are, in the whole scheme of things, the cheapest bit of fishing gear in your whole tackle box.



This x-ray of a healthy yellowfin bream showed it was surviving and feeding voraciously while possessing a 2/0 sized hook, which had worked its way out of the stomach to lie loose inside its peritoneal cavity.

Even though survival chances of deep hooked fish are much improved when the line is cut, the presence of the hook may not be completely benign, as studies have shown yellowfin bream which carry ingested hooks long term gained weight at slower rates than normal. Fortunately, anglers can improve the hook shedding rate for fish that are released even further by using hook materials that will corrode (as opposed to stainless steel hooks that do not), and by going barbless. Data from sharks hooked as bycatch in Pacific longline fisheries (where they bite through monofilament droppers set for tunas) found that stainless steel hooks of size 10/0 and upwards persisted in shark mouths for around 3 times longer (up to 7.6 years) than did plated corrodible hook types. Despite this, there was no detectable influence of hook type on shark survival, regardless of whether the sharks were trailing line or not (trailing line persisted as long as hooks were embedded). These results are not surprising when you consider that an embedded hook is very similar to injuries obtained from eating sharp natural prey items, while trailing line is similar in many ways to certain natural copepod parasite infections (which of course sharks and other fishes are naturally resilient to).

The influence of corrosion appears to be consistent across various hook types, but of course smaller thinner hooks corrode faster, and for the ultimate in hook shedding, barbless is best. Studies on much smaller (size 2) hooks retained by yellowfin bream have found that plated hooks quickly corrode and are shed by fish usually within the first 2 weeks post release, but up to 9 times faster if they are rendered barbless. This is because the corrosion originates from the area under the damaged barb (which if the hook remains in the fish for long enough), eventually causing the hook point to fall off allowing the hook to be shed.

So what about lures? Recent studies of largemouth bass, and European pike suggest all of the above in relation to hook materials and barbless also applies to lures. A telemetry study of European pike simulated breakoffs using lures manufactured with radio telemetry transmitters inside them. Of over 50 pike hooked and broken off, only one died and all fish except for one shed the lures within 14 days of release. Again, use of barbless hooks significantly reduced the time required for pike to shed lures, while another finding was those fish that were hooked more deeply tended to be not as active as those hooked superficially. These results were similar to those found for largemouth bass in North America, which demonstrated that bass which had ingested soft plastic lures typically expelled the lure within 9 days of ingestion, either by spitting it out or defecating it. The main detrimental effect that was noted for bass which ingested lures was a temporary reduction in growth rate, due to a temporary reduction in feed intake.

So now we know more about what happens when the line breaks. It's encouraging to know that fish can cope with shedding hooks and lures reasonably well, but of course as noted by the scientists in each of these studies, anything anglers can do to firstly rig up to help the fish shed the hooks (i.e. using non-stainless hooks, and going barbless), then avoid breakoffs or deep hooking in the first place, will also help.

February General Meeting

A reminder to all members that the February General Meeting will be held on:

Wednesday 10th of February 2021 at the Croatian Club in Wishart Street Gwelup commencing at 7.00PM.

A meal will be served at 7:00PM and the February General Meeting will commence at 8:00PM.

To encourage members to make this a social event there will be an excellent meal of crumbed chicken schnitzel, battered fish, roast potatoes & salad served at 7:00pm.

The club will be covering the cost of the meal for this meeting in February. Please advise Victor Schilo (0413 152 550 or email victor@schilogroup.com) before midday on Sunday 7th of February, so that he can advise the Croatian Club.

The Croatian Club is charging \$25 per head and for future meetings the club will pay \$10 and members will need to pay \$15, those who have gone to the Presentation nights will know that this is a great price for the meals they serve up, If this works well over the next few months we will change to this venue for good, if you have any concerns please contact Martin, Victor or John.



Butter and garlic is a match made in heaven. I often like to throw that on a steak but there is something special about the way it pairs with seafood. That hasn't stopped me from making this recipe.

Ingredients

250 grams Squid
50 grams salted butter
20 grams garlic
5 grams spring onion
5 grams Parmesan cheese
3 grams Coriander (optional)
salt & pepper to taste
a squeeze of lemon juice

Method:

Chop the spring onion and set aside the green part for garnish at the end. Chop the coriander finely as well. Mince the garlic and cut the squid into rings.

Season the squid with salt and pepper and set aside.

Heat the butter in a frying pan along with the garlic, coriander and spring onion white and middle.

Let it cook on a medium heat till the garlic starts to brown.

Turn the heat to the highest and add in the squid.

Give it all a good mix and cook for 2 - 3 minutes till the squid is fully cooked.

Grate some Parmesan cheese over it, give it a mix and squeeze some fresh lemon juice as well.

Garnish with the spring onion greens and serve.

SALT AND PEPPER SQUID

By Nigella.

**Ingredients**

approx. 500 millilitres groundnut oil (to come about 1 cm up in a frying pan)
2 tablespoons salt
2 tablespoons black peppercorns
75 grams cornflour
500 grams baby squid (cut into rings, tentacles left un-chopped)
lemon for squeezing

Method

Put the oil in a frying pan over a high heat.

Bash the salt and peppercorns in a pestle and mortar till a bit more than bruised but not quite pulverised, and combine this mixture in a freezer bag with the cornflour, adding the squid and tossing to coat well but not heavily.

When the oil's very hot - not quite smoking but nearly - fry the squid (knocking any excess cornflour back in the bag first) in batches (about four, probably) and cook each batch for about a minute or so till just crisp on the outside and still sweet and tender within. You probably won't need to turn the squid since the oil should bubble up and cook both sides at once, but do if you feel better.

Remove to plates lined with kitchen towel.

After the squid has sat for about half a minute, remove the greasy towel - though sometimes, I dispense with this faddy stage - squeeze lemon over and eat with your fingers - quickly.

Surf Casters Dirk Hartog safari July 2021

Dates: Friday 16/7/2021 to Sunday 25/7/2021

That includes 2 days traveling and 8 days on the island, staying at the block and Urchin Point.

Please contact Vince Tomazin if you are interested in going



Trip details as follows

- 16/7/2021 Drive from Perth to Shelter Bay, Shark Bay and camp overnight.
- 17/7/2021 - 7.30am - Barge picks up vehicles and transport to DHI. Drive north to The Block and Urchin point, unpack and fish for 8 days
- 25/7/2021 - Pack up drive south to pick up point by the barge and camp overnight. More fishing (if you feel like it)
- 26/7/2021 - 7.30am Barge picks up vehicles and transports to shelter bay. Drive to Perth.
- 1. Camping Fees - \$20/night per person.
- 2. Barge fees - average of \$665 per vehicle. To DHI and back to mainland and a one of fee of \$35 per person
- Average cost/person for 10 nights camping (8 nights on The Block) is
- Camping 10 x \$20 = \$200,
- Approx cost if 2 people per car is \$550.00 ea plus fuel, food and bait.

Contact Vince Tomazin for further details. Ph 0417 910 531, stptax@gmail.com

Tips for Driving on Sand

Posted by **Emprise Marketing** on Jan 28, 2021 (from **Hema Maps**)

Sand driving requires a certain set of skills that, once attained, will open some of the most enjoyable and scenic drives in the country.

Step one, lower tyre pressure; step two, load up a shovel and some traction boards; step three, have fun. You may hear some four-wheel drivers bemoan the perils of a sandy track, but while it's true that sand driving can be tedious at times, nothing beats blasting down a beach to an idyllic seaside campsite.



(Image: Step one, lower tyre pressure; step two, load up a shovel and some traction boards; step three, have fun.)

THE SETUP

Your ultimate defence against getting bogged in sand is low tyre pressure. By dropping down to around 20psi, the load of your vehicle is spread over a far greater surface area, which greatly reduces your chances of sinking in. You may need to re-inflate and deflate tyres on varied tracks, so a compressor and deflator are two of the sand driver's favourite things – a shovel and traction boards are the others.

If you're new to sand driving then you will get bogged – c'est la vie. And when you do, your shovel and traction boards are the go-to tools to get you rolling again.

It's also important to realise that unlike other off-road surfaces, torque is not the mightiest weapon when driving on sand. Rather, constant forward motion is what you're after, so that you can float along the surface and avoid sinking in. There are few scenarios in which you'll require low range on sand and in any case, it's wise to avoid stopping your vehicle; if the sand takes hold it can be tricky to get going again.

If your vehicle has a suitable pre-set then select it (ie. sand mode), otherwise you'll do well to disengage stability control and traction control. A little bit of wheel spin can be useful on sand, but pay close attention to excessive wheel spin, which will quickly dig your tyres in – aggressive mud-driving tread patterns will dig tyres in even faster.

FUEL AND ENGINES

Low tyre pressures, high revs and increased rolling resistance all result in dramatic increases in fuel consumption and heightened stress on your engine. Assume the worst when it comes to fuel economy, always start with a full tank and don't try to traverse long stretches of unknown sand with little to no fuel in reserve.

Sandy conditions also require engines and automatic transmissions to work harder than they otherwise would. As a result, your engine will run hotter than it would in other circumstances, this is normal, but keep an eye on the temperature and take a break if it's climbing into the red. Before heading onto sand, it's worth ensuring all fluids have been topped up.



(Image: Tides are another factor that you need to pay attention too.)

BEACHES

Driving on smooth, hard, compacted beach sand is an absolute pleasure. But no matter how cruisy it may seem you'll need to keep a lookout for protruding rocks and creek runouts. Areas that show evidence of water flow will often consist of soft boggy sand, even if they don't appear to be flowing at that exact moment. These areas can be unpleasant to hit at speed, so back it off a little when you see those tell-tale signs.

Tides are another factor that can turn a sandy sojourn into an ocean-side horror. It's annoying for the tide to come up and cut off your intended path, but it's a whole other matter if you get bogged and the ocean quickly creeps up to your door handles. Driving close to the water's edge is favourable since the surface is harder, but if the tide's coming in it's a dangerous place to get bogged – if there's one thing your vehicle doesn't enjoy, it's saltwater. Check out local conditions and familiarise yourself with the speed and behaviours of the tide to be on the safe side. Having

all your recovery gear handy and a good idea of what to do with it will also aid in a speedy escape.

Beaches where driving is permitted also have speed limits. These are generally displayed at the entrance or along the beach and must be obeyed – generally, they're in the vicinity of 60 to 80 kilometres per hour. We have seen police monitoring beach driving more than enough times to assure you that they're out there.

Always give your vehicle a good hose-down after beach driving to get rid of any residual sand, which can be abrasive, and to remove saltwater. Give extra attention to the undercarriage.



(Image: The Hema Map Patrol driving on the dunes in the desert. Credit: Matt Williams.)

DUNES

The trick to driving up and over a sand dune is to approach with enough speed that you'll make it to the top, but not so much as to launch off the apex. The correct speed will depend on the depth and softness of the sand, the weight of the vehicle, height and gradient of the dune and several other factors. Drive in a straight line up and down, as driving sideways on a dune can easily result in slippage. Avoid changing gear on the way up and try not to rev too high.

When driving in deserts or other undulating sandy landscapes, vehicles must be fitted with sand flags that protrude high above the roofline. These allow oncoming vehicles to see one another well in advance of the moment where they simultaneously crest a dune when the ability to avoid collision will be close to zero. Radio calls are also advised for particularly big sand slopes.



(Image: It's

important to stay on track and never drive over vegetated sandy terrain.)

VEGETATION

Any grass and scrubby vegetation found growing on sand – especially on dunes – will be fragile and easily destroyed by vehicles. These plants can be vital for preventing erosion, so it's important to stay on track and never drive over vegetated sandy terrain.



(Image: When possible, follow in existing tyre tracks where the sand will be firmer.)

OTHER VEHICLES

When travelling with other vehicles, keep a good distance between each one so that in the event the leader hits a soft patch and gets stuck, the followers can avoid it and aid in recovery. When possible, follow in existing tyre tracks where the sand will be firmer. Otherwise, note that regular road rules apply on beaches and dunes where driving is permitted. This includes signalling, overtaking on the right-hand side and so forth.



(Image: The aim when sand driving is to float across the surface without digging in.)

TOP TIPS

The aim when sand driving is to float across the surface without digging in; this means low tyre pressures and constant momentum.

Use low gears, gentle acceleration and avoid hard cornering.

You won't need to brake so much, since the rolling resistance of soft sand will slow you easily.

If there are tyre tracks from vehicles before you, drive in those, as the sand will be compacted and easier to manage.

Don't forget to bring your sunnies.



Coffee and cake



Meeting under the stars