

REEL TALK



January 2022



Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

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Deceased life members:

Vic Davis, Doug Edward, Lloyd Dunn, Dudley Brown, Noel Knight, Les Shand, Ron Kildahl, Bob Klein, Jim Strong, Eric Parker



President's Report - January 2022

I hope everyone had a good Christmas, the 40-degree heat was not ideal so I hope you all kept cool and well hydrated.

With COVID-19 now having a greater impact on Perth I hope we can still get to our favourite fishing spots for 2022.

For our next fishing season I plan to try to fish the better solunar predictions, this normally means close to the Full or New Moon, if anyone has any ideas for our next fishing season starting in May 2022 please let me know.

It's also a good time to look at our competition rules, we have done a lot of changes in the last 2 years but if you have any ideas or issues please let me know.

Martin Wearmouth; President

Field day venues for 2021/2022

Dates	Venue	Boundaries
15 – 16 January 2022	Open Lines down 9am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Open anywhere in WA
12 - 13 February 2022	Dunsborough to White Hills Lines down 9am 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 and Open We plan to fish Bremer Bay area Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Open anywhere in WA
16 April – 18 April 2022 Easter Long weekend	Bluff Creek area and Open Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Open anywhere in WA
Local boundaries are from Lancelin in the North to Preston Beach in the South Lines Down on Standard weekends – Saturday 9.00am Lines up on Standard weekends – Sunday 9.00am Lines Down for long weekends and Rottnest – Saturday 6.00am Lines up for long weekends and Rottnest – 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		

January General Meeting

Wednesday 12th

Croatian Club in Wishart Street Gwelup

Meal at 7.00pm with meeting at 8.00pm

DRY CASTING RESULTS – 6 December 2021

Dry casting – 6th December 2021.

I really believe practice makes perfect. When you look at the scores in the DHA, and taking into consideration not only me but others as well have not done any practice for quite a while. Gary 126, Ron 121, Bob 120, Klaus 117, Mark 84, Bruce 50. That is not good casting at all when conditions were perfect. The same goes for the SHA with Klaus taking out the honours once again with 28. The distance was a different kettle of fish. Last month I said that the 160m mark was getting a little bit out of range. Well guess what, 165.67m at last, so I was right, we are not getting too old. I was not the only one that threw some good distances, for example, 56g Mark 123.68m, Gary 143.33m, Bob 134.93m. Art bait Gary 119.50, 112gr bob 148.44, Gary 141.75.

Many thanks to the ones that did turn up, it makes it all worthwhile. Apologies from Mal who was in isolation.

Hope to see you next month, **Monday 3rd January, 8:00AM**.

DCO Ron Thomas

SURF CASTING & ANGLING CLUB													
Dry casting results - 6th December 2021													
	56 gram					Artificial Bait					112gram		
	Cast	Cast	Total			Cast	Cast	Total			Cast	Cast	Total
VETERANS	1	2		%		1	2		%		1	2	
BOB HENDERSON	131.10	134.93	266.03	90.11		106.89	114.52	221.41	82.15		OUT	148.44	148.44
GARY GILDERSLEEVES	140.71	143.33	284.04	96.21		118.25	119.50	237.75	88.21		141.75	135.75	277.50
KLAUS SCHONWOLF	103.25	108.44	211.69	71.70		85.71	92.16	177.87	66.00		95.73	105.05	200.78
RON THOMAS	144.98	150.25	295.23	100.00		135.46	134.07	269.53	100.00		165.67	152.65	318.32
MENS													
MARK HANSEN	123.68	117.41	241.09	100.00		98.52	102.54	201.06	100.00		B/O	103.77	103.77

SURF CASTING & ANGLING CLUB																				
Dry casting results - 6th December 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	16	21	15	12	21	12	15	8	120	95.24		8	7	4	4	23	82.14		396.27	10
GARY GILDERSLEEVES	14	23	18	19	17	B/O	12	23	126	100.00		0	7	1	8	16	57.14		428.74	10
KLAUS SCHONWOLF	23	9	16	13	10	0	25	21	117	92.86		7	7	7	7	28	100.00		393.63	10
RON THOMAS	10	10	15	24	9	9	22	22	121	96.03		4	9	5	3	21	75.00		471.03	10
MENS																				
MARK HANSEN	10	0	18	18	11	10	1	16	84	100.00		2	5	7	1	15	100.00		500.00	10

VETERANS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2021 - 2022									
LONGEST 56 GRAM								157.57	RON THOMAS
LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT								137.80	RON THOMAS
LONGEST 112GRAM								165.67	RON THOMAS
HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY								166	GARY GILDERSLEEVE
HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY								34	BOB HENDERSON
SENIORS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2021 - 2022									
LONGEST 56 GRAM								123.68	MARK HANSEN
LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT								109.01	MARK HANSEN
LONGEST 112G								120.19	MARK HANSEN
HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY								163	MARK HANSEN
HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY								29	MARK HANSEN

Surf Casters Quobba Station safari July 2022

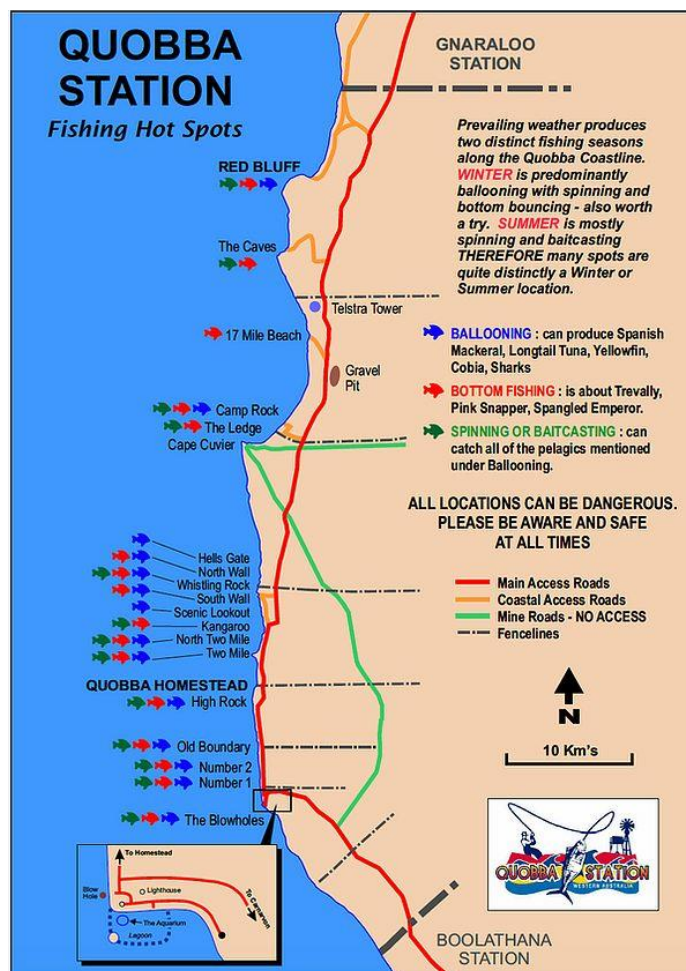
- Check In Date Saturday 16th July 2022
- Check Out Date Sunday 24th July 2022
- Number Of Nights 8

Staying at The Long Cottage – **Contact Martin if you are interested in going ASAP**

The Long Cottage sleeps 8 people, with one double bed, six singles. It consists of a self-contained kitchen covered veranda, shower and toilet facilities (donkey hot water system - you have to light a fire under 'donkey' to heat water for shower), 24-hour power to lights and fridge (10-hour power to power points and BBQ facilities. This cottage is ideal for larger groups or the budget minded family.

*Bed linen/towels/pillows NOT supplied.

**Firewood collection is not allowed on the station so please bring your own supply for the Donkey hot water system, otherwise wood can be purchased at the office.



**SUNRISE / SUNSET - MOON RISE / MOON SET TIMES FOR S C A C FIELD DAYS
WITH SOLUNAR PERIODS**

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Moon Rise	Moon Set	
15/1/22	05:25	19:25	07:11	21:16	
16/1/22	05:26	19:25	08:13	21:52	
12/2/22	05:51	19:09	05:57	19:48	
13/2/22	05:52	19:08	06:59	20:21	
March Long weekend					
5/3/22	06:08	18:46	12:21	22:58	
6/3/22	06:09	18:45	13:28	23:47	
7/3/22	06:09	18:44	14:32	--:--	
Bremer Bay					
5/3/22	07:52	18:14	12:05	22:42	
6/3/22	05:53	18:13	13:12	23:31	
7/3/22	05:53	18:12	14:16	--:--	
Easter Long Weekend -					
15/4/22 06:37	17:55	09:12	19:51		
16/4/22 06:38	17:54	10:08	20:29		
17/4/22 06:38	17:53	11:04	21:11		
18/4/22 06:39	17:52	11:58	22:00		
Easter Long Weekend – Albany to Bremer Bay					
15/4/22	06:29	17:47	09:04	19:43	
16/4/22	06:30	17:46	10:00	20:21	
17/4/22	06:30	17:45	10:56	21:03	
18/4/22	06:31	17:44	11:50	21:52	
SOLUNAR PERIODS					
	Major Above		Major Below		
15/1/22	20:12	22:12	07:47	09:47	FAIR
16/1/22	21:02	23:02	08:37	10:37	BEST
12/2/22	18:55	20:55	06:30	08:30	POOR
13/2/22	19:46	21:46	07:21	09:21	FAIR
March Long weekend					
5/3/22	12:08	14:08	23:47	01:47	BEST
6/3/22	12:52	14:52	00:31	02:31	BEST
7/3/22	13:36	15:36	01:15	03:15	GOOD
Bremer Bay					
5/3/22	11:52	14:52	23:31	01:31	BEST
6/3/22	12:36	14:36	00:14	02:14	BEST
7/3/22	13:20	15:20	00:59	02:59	GOOD
Easter Long Weekend -					
15/4/22	21:05	23:05	08:42	10:42	BEST
16/4/22	21:52	23:52	09:29	12:29	GOOD
17/4/22	22:43	00:43	10:18	12:18	GOOD
18/4/22		11:10	13:10		BEST
Easter Long Weekend – Albany to Bremer Bay					
15/4/22	20:55	22:55	08:32	10:32	BEST
16/4/22	21:42	23:42	09:19	12:19	GOOD
17/4/22	22:33	00:33	10:08	12:08	GOOD
18/4/22			11:00	13:00	BEST

Prepared by John Curtis

Surf Casters December 2021 Hill River field day report by Martin Wearmouth



With a good trip to Hill River last month, we decided to go back for our December field day. Vince and I headed up early and arrived at the car park about 8.30am and let our tyres down, we had a drive along the beach and ended up back at the spot we fished last month in front of a reef and weed bank about 60m from the beach.

Ron was already there after having a look at Ledge Point on his way up and finding a lot of seaweed he had arrived at 7.30am but had not caught too many fish. As I was setting up Ron started catching some Tailor and on my first cast at 9.15am I pulled in a 36cm Tailor, Vince managed a 41cm Tailor at 10am so hopes were high for a few more tailor this trip.

Mark had called me on our drive up and was heading to Black Rock to fish, Shane and Sarah arrived about 11am and set up next to us, Sarah caught a 41cm Tailor at 12.20pm and seemed to be enjoying her first fishing trip with the club in quite a few months.



By 1pm I had managed to catch 3 Tailor, 1 Pike and 1 Flounder but after that the fishing slowed down, the baits came back untouched on most casts, this trip we had a small amount of seaweed in the water not too bad but if you let your line sag the seaweed would start to drag the line down. One good thing was we had not seen any blow fish, this trip I only caught 1 and Ron got 2 Compared to last trip where we both got well into double figures of the annoying little buggers, it was not till about 6pm that the fish started biting again, so a long 5 hours of not much fishing action, lucky the weather was good and we enjoyed a bit of sun and fresh air.

For the afternoon session up to 9pm I managed to catch 4 Tailor, 1 Herring, 1 Pike and 1 Trumpeter, and on my last cast at 9pm 1 blow fish I thought they disappeared after dark.



After a nice sleep I got up at 5am and started fishing, straight away I got a 32cm Tailor and by 5.30am had 5 with the best being 39cm a great morning session and everyone else also managed a few fish. The Tailor action slowed and at 6am I looked over and Shane was onto a good fish, it turned out to be a 0.82kg Skippy, a great fish for this location well done Shane.

So, our last trip for 2021 was very pleasant weather and a few species again, no big fish but everyone managed to have a smile on their face a great way to end 2021, I hope to see a few more on the beach next year.





Ron with Tailor & war wounds from surgery on his face just days before



Shane with Skipper



Sarah with Tailor



Vince with Tailor



Martin with Tailor



Mark's Flounder

Top scores up to December		
Rank	Angler	Total points
1	Martin Wearmouth	1629.0
2	Ron Thomas	1510.7
3	Peet Wessels	1094.3
4	Mark Hansen	896.6
5	Vince Tomazin	724.8
6	Sandra Wessels	700.7
7	Gary Parkinson	393.6
8	Sabby Pizzolante	361.7
9	Tino Baiardo	355.8
10	Justin Rose	349.2
11	Chris Stickells	298.7
12	Alan Green	230.7
13	Shane Wignell	170.3
14	Robert Wilding	153.2
15	Brad Zaknich (visitor)	148.0
16	George Matrakis	138.6
17	Stuart Waterman	130.1
18	Theo Van Niekerk	109.2
19	David Wilding	99.0
20	Sarah Wignell	87.6
21	Oliver Wessels	75.5
22	Helen Carnell	56.1
23	Ian Taggart	55.0
24	Dom (visitor)	52.3
25	Steve Harrison	35.1

ANGLER		Species Tailor	Species Herring Australian	Species Pike	Species Flathead (all species)	Species Trevally Silver Skippy	Species Flounder (all species)	Species Butterfish Western	Species Trumpeter - Grunter striped	Species Toadfish weeping, Blowie	Species Garfish (all species)	Species Whiting	Total weight	No. of Species	No. of fish	F.D. points	Attendance		Total points
																	Field Day	General Meeting	
Ron Thomas	Number	8	6					5	5	2		1	8.29	6	27	169.9	1		179.9
	Total weight	5.07	1.10					1.01	0.89	0.10		0.12							
	Weight of best	0.85	0.22																
Martin Wearmouth	Number	12	1	2			1	2	1	1			6.23	7	20	152.3	1	1	172.3
	Total weight	5.11	0.13	0.25			0.24	0.30	0.15	0.05									
	Weight of best	0.69																	
Shane Wignell	Number	1	1	1	1	1		1	2	1			2.19	8	9	110.9	1	1	130.9
	Total weight	0.31	0.23	0.15	0.29	0.71		0.15	0.30	0.05									
	Weight of best																		
Mark Hansen	Number	2	3				1			1	5	1	2.58	6	13	98.8	1	1	118.8
	Total weight	0.71	0.52				0.36			0.05	0.84	0.10							
	Weight of best	0.44									0.22								
Sarah Wignell	Number	2			1	1		2	1				2.06	5	7	77.6	1		87.6
	Total weight	1.08			0.25	0.28		0.30	0.15										
	Weight of best	0.59																	
Vince Tomazin	Number	3	2	1									1.75	3	6	53.5	1	1	73.5
	Total weight	1.18	0.42	0.15															
	Weight of best	0.45	0.25																

Field day prizes for December			
Section	Angler	Species	Weight
Best scale fish	Ron Thomas		8.29
Best bag of scale fish	Ron Thomas	Tailor	0.85
Best shark			
Best bag including sharks			

Open fishing competition 2021/22

The Open Competition is for fish caught between 1 May 2020 and 30 April 2021, 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	
3	Best mullet	5 kg	
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	
9	Best pink snapper	2 kg	3.4 kg George Matrakis, Dirk Hartog Island 17/7/21
10	Best tarwhine	0.5 kg	
11	Best mackerel	4 kg	22.6 kg Martin Wearmouth, Dirk Hartog Island 22/7/21
12	Best skipjack trevally (southern)	1 kg	
13	Best trevally (northern)	2 kg	3kg Vince Tomazin, Dirk Hartog Island 23/7/21
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	3.5kg Spangled Emperor, Justin Rose, Dirk Hartog island 22/7/21
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	



Surf Casters March 2022 Bremer Bay Field day booking

The club has booked a large house in Bremer Bay for 3 nights in March 2022, Friday 4th March 2022 to Monday 7th March 2022 (check out by 10am on Monday)

It can sleep up to 12 people so I am hoping to get a good few going (we may be able to fit a few more if needed)

We will be voting at the December 2021 General meeting to see if the Club can pay for the accommodation for this trip,

The cost for the 3 nights is \$1260

Some details below



12 guests
3 bedrooms
9 beds
4 baths

Each of the three bedrooms are furnished the same with one queen bed, two single beds and an 'open' plan wardrobe in each. All bed linen and bath towels are supplied along with hand towels, face cloths and tea towels.

Link to house on Air B&B

https://www.airbnb.com.au/rooms/33169616?guests=1&adults=1&s=67&unique_share_id=234a788c-e9bb-468f-85fd-971f9af62e12

A few members are planning to head out past Esperance on the Monday 7th March 2022 to Thomas River for an extra week, if anyone is interested in going please contact Martin for details.



Surf Casters Rottnest 2022 fishing trips

The club has now booked the May and August 2022 Rottnest fishing trip accommodation, these trips can produce some fantastic fish so if you have not attended before please consider trying a trip with us.

Please contact Martin for more information and to secure your spot, numbers are limited to 12.

Dates	Venue	Boundaries
28 -30 May 2022 New moon 30th Leave from Fremantle PM Friday 27/5/2022 Return to Fremantle PM Monday 30/5/2022	Rottnest Island and Open Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Rottnest and Open anywhere in WA
27 - 29 August 2022 New moon 27th Leave from Fremantle PM Friday 26/8/2022 Return to Fremantle PM Monday 29/8/2022	Rottnest Island and Open Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Rottnest and Open anywhere in WA

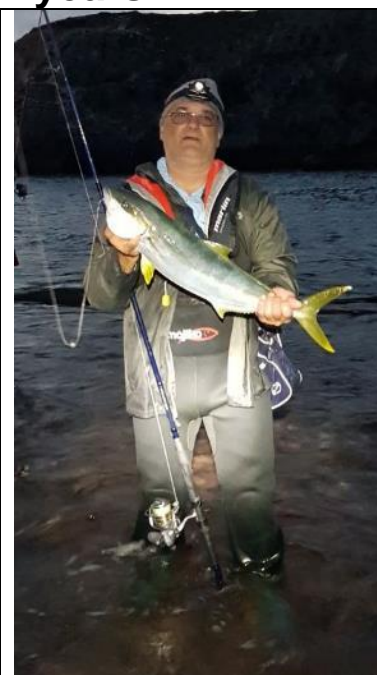
These are some fish for the last few years



Tino with a nice Dhu Fish



Sabby with a big Skipper



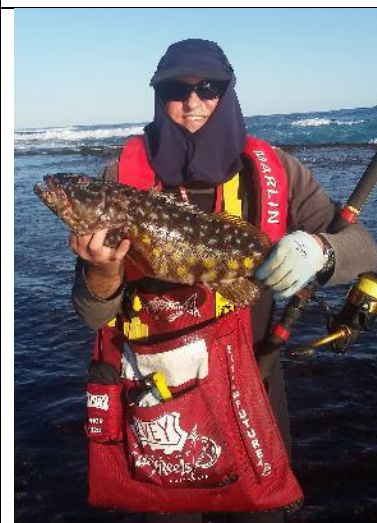
Sabby with a YTK



Peet with a YTK



Sandra with a Emperor



Martin with a Harlequin fish

9 Tips to get the lady in your life to go camping and enjoy it....

At some point in life, the fellas tend to stop hanging out in massive groups of man gangs and opt for the coupled-up, raising kids lifestyle. And even though it's fun to head out into the bush with the guys, blokes are always asking how to get their partners to go camping.

Well, like most relationship advice, the best approach is to always try and see it from her perspective. That's why I've put this article together and hopefully some of these ideas will get you sleeping under the stars with your main squeeze before too long.

1. Test the waters, but start small

Go away for the weekend to someplace close by. Make sure there are facilities, toilets and showers, possibly BBQs. Caravan parks are great because there are lots of activities for the kids – pools, jumping pillows, playgrounds, movie nights and heaps of other playmates. Plus, if you bring bikes, the kids can just cruise around the caravan park in gangs and leave you to relax. Don't head out for a two-week trip on your virgin voyage; that could ruin things for the rest of your life!



2. Promise to help – AND ACTUALLY DO IT!

We tend to avoid camping as a holiday because it's a lot of work. If blokes pitch in a bit more and make the whole operation less daunting, we're more likely to go again. There is nothing worse than coming home exhausted from a trip, unpacking the 4X4 and doing 10 loads of washing. If you want us to camp, roll up your sleeves gents ... and make sure we feel like you're helping!

3. Find out what kind of camper she is

Full-blown wild woman, quasi-camper who needs a shower and loo, or the 'tame caravan park only' kind of gal. Sometimes you can swap between these options – but for me personally, I'd rather camp wild with nothing but a hole in the ground, than suffer through communal caravan park bathrooms and the sound of generators. Either way, you might have to make compromises; but hey, that's what relationships are all about! If you have to buy a camper trailer so she can have a bed, do it!

4. If she's really not interested, start bargaining

Camping is fun, but so are beachside resorts. Can you go camping for four nights and then stay in a five-star hotel for the last one or two? Buy her a spa voucher so she can be pampered and de-stressed after you get home. Offer to take her to a nice dinner, plan the night and hire a babysitter when you get back. Thoughtful gestures work like magic. Compromises can move mountains; so if you show the love, she's more likely to help you pack the car and put up with mozzies and dirt for a few days.



IMAGE SHOT DURING THE VICTORIA HIGH COUNTRY 'FORGOTTEN HUTS' TRIP WITH EVAN SPENCE FROM UNSEALED 4x4.
AUGUST, 2015



5. Go with friends

Camping in groups is way more fun. Plus, you can share the cooking and cleaning with other people. And the more playmates you bring for the kids, the better off everyone is. Use peer pressure from mates to work in your favour! No-one wants to say 'no' to fun!



6. Tell her she looks beautiful every morning

We're scared to go camping because we don't want to look ugly. No make-up, hairy legs, body odour, no hair dryers ... it's hard to leave all that stuff behind. We just don't feel sexy. But with a little pinch on the bottom and a wink from our main man, it makes letting go of the modern-day perception of beauty a lot easier. Besides, it can be liberating to embrace the freedom of living without the hassles of day-to-day life; it just takes time to realise this.

7. Dirt and sand everywhere

Most women do not want to deal with the dirt. The kids get dirty, the beds get dirty, clothes are dirty and there is sand all over the tent/camper trailer/caravan. Help her clean up. Help her keep the campsite reasonably tidy and then she won't have anything to nag you about.

8. Managing meal times

Camping makes eating more complicated than it is at home. If you can have a fire, use it to cook everything. If you can't, make sure you help with the cooking and washing up. Put the kids in charge of clean-up duties; and always, always, always take charge of the meat. If you leave us alone all day to go fishing and deal with feeding time ourselves, we will want to kill you – and we might even try. Unless you bring back a really nice catch, but even then ...

9. grateful

At the end of the trip, say thank you. Even if it rains the entire time, the kids are covered in mozzie bites and stung by stingers, there are snakes in the tent, the fridge breaks and spoils all the food, the missus is looking suicidal and gives you the silent treatment ... laugh and shrug your shoulders and say thanks for coming along. We'll get over it eventually, if you really mean it.

Article by Evan Spence published in Unsealed 4x4 6/12/2021

Reel Talk Editor's Note: None of these worked for me.



TIPS FOR TAKING BETTER PHOTOGRAPHS



Anglers are justifiably proud of their fishing prowess, particularly after the capture of a good fish. To enable the catch to be recorded for posterity, a good clear photograph of the fish is required. This is achieved by taking a good clear in focus picture that fills the frame. If you are wanting to show your capture on the cover of the Club magazine you will need to shoot in portrait mode, leaving room for the 'banner' and other details such as edition and date.

Please photograph the fish against a neutral background. Digital cameras have gotten faster, cheaper, and a whole lot more powerful. Almost everyone owns a camera and therefore, everyone can be a photographer. Often when fishing, anglers only carry a simple 'point and shoot' style of camera, which is not suitable for taking a good clear photograph close up. Most mobile phones are capable of taking a reasonable clear picture, some now have the capability to take photographs in reduced light with the aid of a flash. Just ensure that you fill the frame with the fish. However, if the picture is to be printed and enlarged to a size bigger than A4, you will need to use a DSLR or mirrorless camera. The sensor in these cameras allows for a lot more detail to be recorded when the picture is in focus.

Another tip for anglers to learn is how to hold a fish for a better picture – we don't want a picture of grubby fingers with a fish in the background. Don't waste the shot by holding the fish awkwardly. Here is a foolproof method for getting the best shot of your fish.

Drop your arms to your sides, face your palms out. Now think about the fish resting on just the very tips of your fingers and letting your thumbs slide behind the fish, partially obscuring them from view. Don't lose details by covering up the gill cover and pectoral, pelvic, and anal fins. Place your hands behind the head and in front of the tail. If the fish is larger and you need a little bit of elbow grease to hold it, simply switch the position of your tail hand to the front of the fish grasping with your entire hand around the front of the tail. This covers a bit more of the fish but still shows the tail and makes it a bit more manageable to control large fish.



For the photographer - get closer to your subject. Fill the frame with the fish. As a general rule, get twice as close as you normally would and take a couple of shots. In fact take a bunch. With a digital camera you can always erase them.



An old photographers adage "Keep the sun at your back" is still true with digital photography. Colours are typically much better if the fish is in sunlight rather than in shadow. Shooting into the sun will render anything other than the background as silhouette. Also by using a neutral background the colour of the fish will not be distorted.

Also take your pictures as soon as possible after the capture. Most fishes go through a colour change after death and you lose a lot of the vibrant colours if it is left for a time.

Also wash or wipe away any blood or sand that is on the fish as this detracts from the fish.

If you want 'brag' photos, take a few moments to get the angler and fish set up correctly to show the fish in its best presentation.

Try to get good light on the subject (the fish) and remove sunglasses (hiding the eyes) and hats (shading the face) from anyone in the picture. Take several pictures on auto and also use manual settings and vary the aperture settings a couple of stops either side of the automatic settings. Yes this will under or over expose the picture, but it also may provide a perfect exposure.

Fill the frame. T

his is most important. The more fish in the frame, the less distractions can be included.

After capture keep the fish moist and cool and flat. Lay the fish out straight with the dorsal pectoral and tail fins spread out as when the fish is swimming.

Other points to consider include;

- Place the fish in a position so that there are no shadows falling on the fish when you photograph it. There is no problem in taking the photo in subdued light.
- Photograph the fish from directly above. If using a DSLR, use 'f' stops between 8 and 11 as this gives better depth of field - keeps more of the fish in focus.
- Use a shutter speed 1/125th of a second or faster. This will help eliminate camera shake which blurs pictures.
- If fish is very thick through the body then focus half way through the fish. Use the tail as the focus point.
- If you have a light fish on a dark back ground you may get over exposure. Similarly a dark fish on a light back ground may be under exposed. You should take a photograph 1 stop either side of the indicated readings to ensure accuracy of exposure.
- Use a flash to fill in. There are some advantages of using fill in flash. This will remove the possibility of any shadows being on the fish. It is only to enhance the photo, or for use on a very dull day. It is preferable to photograph in the morning or afternoon as the midday sun light is a little harsh.
- Try not to photograph fish at night if possible. If photographing at night make sure the background is none reflective or poor exposure will result. You tend to get flare from the fish.

So what you now need to do is to get out and catch a fish that is

- a) A personal best,
- b) will make a great picture,
- c) and print and frame it so that you can brag about

Article supplied by John Curtis

WHAT IS YOUR FISHING GOAL?

One way of improving your fishing is by setting definite goals for your fishing future and this will almost certainly lead to you getting better results. Having taught management studies, there is an acronym that is used for goal setting, that is also applicable to fishing.

Setting SMART goals is the way to go when wanting to achieve a positive outcome. Goals have to be Specific; Measurable, Achievable; Realistic and Time Framed. These goals need to be organized in such a way that we have some short term and other longer term ambitions. Short term goals will be in the next three to six months, while long term goals will be in the next three to five years. Plan these out, write them down, and cross them off when you have achieved them. What do you want to achieve?

If there's one thing in life that to this day has never rung more truly, it's the importance of, or at least the recognising and being aware of setting long and short-term goals. As the saying goes, the greatest tragedy in life is all those unfulfilled dreams taken to the graveyard - all those failures and successes that never got to see the light of day or shared with others.

Things like lack of education, focus, opportunities, or simply getting caught up in the responsibilities of day-to-day running of a family and working life, all come to mind as reasons for simply not getting things done. COVID has also played its part in this, but it cannot be used as an excuse, as here in WA we have had minimal lockdowns and travel restrictions.

Without even realising it, the years tick by and all those dreams, goals and aspirations of youth quickly fall by the wayside without any thought given to living, being in the moment and trying to make things happen for ourselves. One manager I had many years ago had an expression “GOYA - Get of your a---” - make it happen and now!

For most of us, restrictions associated with COVID has certainly made the temptation of hitting the couch for a Netflix binge session and going to bed well after midnight quite appealing - definitely more appealing than having an early night to rise at sparrows and catch a high tide on your favourite beach seeking a feed of fish.

Lastly and most unfortunately, the greatest obstacle, for want of a better word, is just being plain lazy. Parents can be somewhat excused though, especially after a hard week of work, school drop-offs and pick-ups, evening tennis and ballet lessons and on-line maths tuition thrown into the mix for good measure. However this is life and we have to live with it. I am totally frustrated with people who are ‘too time poor’. There is no such thing! The truth of the matter is they cannot plan or prioritise and try to fit too much in. Occasionally we just have to stop and smell the roses.

By setting some specific goals it will assist in improving your fishing and accepting the associated challenges. Here are a few examples of my ‘bucket list’.

Bonefish Goals

Visiting Exmouth back in 2013 to fish GAMEX. I had the opportunity to chase bonefish on the flats on the inside of Exmouth Gulf. Chasing big bonefish was always at the very top of my angling goal list, ever since reading about them in various flyfishing magazines. The covers of these glossy magazines often featured this incredible looking fish that appeared part sand whiting, but with dual turbos, and with the tail reminiscent of a milkfish, another renowned speedster but growing to much larger sizes. The capture of a good sized bonefish on that trip is as fresh in my memory today as it was back then.

To have waited nearly 20 years for the opportunity, and to have made the cast to put the home-tied fly in the right spot, still brings a big smile to my face. I'd achieved one of my angling career's biggest goals.

Years earlier while fishing in the Port Hedland Sportfishing Club's Easter Tournament I managed to land a sailfish. I seem to recall spending more time looking at the reel and making sure I was winding the Dacron line on evenly, rather than following the leaping fish. I had borrowed the reel, a Penn International 20W from one of the club members and was really concerned that I might stuff it up.

Other fish ticked off my bucket list on that and other trips to the region was a very big wolf herring caught in Balla Balla Creek. Also catching mud crabs and cooking them over an open fire. Capturing Spanish mackerel, gold spot trevally, golden trevally, a couple of varieties of queenfish, big baldchin groper, cobia, turbot and a variety of emperors made those trips quite memorable. Having kept a list of species captured I now have over 100 species caught on rod and reel including as well, 36 species captured on fly.

Photographic Visions

I have always had an interest in photography, but now it is an obsession. I have had some of my work published in fishing magazines, and even one memorable cover pic in *Modern Fishing* magazine. Those of us who are old enough know only too well the frustrations of shooting photographic film and later, when we became more serious about shooting, using slide and colour transparency film. In those days we would shoot off rolls of film and then wait two to three weeks for the finished product to be processed and returned.

If all this wasn't enough to contend with, pictures were also taken without any consideration to the direction of the sun, or the shutter speed was so slow at dawn and dusk, that every single shot would be blurred and unusable. It also explains why a lot of anglers back then had plenty of useable images of their mates but none of themselves. Handing a fully manual camera to someone totally unfamiliar with its operation usually never turned out well, but at least manufacturers listened, and auto-focus and auto-metering systems made things more fool proof. I am too much of a purist to recognise that a phone is suitable as a camera. It is fine if you want happy snaps, but if you want to print anything over A4 size then a DSLR or similar is required. Just as in a car where there is no substitute for cubic inches, in a digital camera there is no substitute for pixels.

Nowadays, with screens that instantly provide feedback, digital cameras have taken 20 years off the self-taught route. You can learn a lot from YouTube videos offering more information than a course or camera instruction manual can ever hope to convey. However, there is still a need to regularly shoot and critique your work.

My goal over the years has always been to continually improve, especially in the area of shooting better landscape photographs, arguably the most challenging and satisfying images to get right, due to the great differences in light values between the sky and foreground. Even to the extent that I'm now going back to transparency and black and white film and doing my own processing again.

For newcomers the initial financial outlay and learning how to use expensive, graduated and polarising filters forms a very large piece of the puzzle. Perhaps the most exciting part of this continuous improvement and taking full advantage of the technology available, both in cameras and software, has been the ability to record some stunning pictures, a lot of which would have been almost impossible to achieve back in the 'good old days'.

Fishing With The Family

Families that play together stay together, and marriage and kids inevitably lead to showing one's offspring places, activities and experiences we ourselves enjoyed in younger days. As nice as it has been showing the kids and grandkids around some local metropolitan spots and around the Swan and Canning rivers chasing bream, cobbler, tailor and mulloway. Some more important goals are on the agenda for 2022.

Firstly, with my granddaughters returning to Perth, I am keen to rekindle family fishing with them and the 'local' mad keen fishing granddaughter. Secondly, I'm keen to explore more options a little further afield such as fishing the estuary flats in the Peel Harvey estuary and the King and Kalbar rivers out from Albany. The Cape to Cape and Busselton / Margaret River region has provided some excellent fishing for the nieces and nephews, but nowadays they are too preoccupied with them being doctors and dentists and don't seem to have spare time.

There have been several standout family fishing trips over the years and here are some of them. On a family trip to Onslow and Thevenard Island (Mackerel Islands) my eldest daughter went out in the boat with then island manager Bernie Taylor and I. We travelled out to the sand cay just offshore from the island. Queenfish were balling up bait and she hooked in excess of 40 queenfish before she actually got one to the boat. "Gee Dad, this is hard work – casting and hooking up and not getting any" This was said with a huge grin on her face and she spoke of it quite often after.

On the same trip my youngest daughter caught a large long tom which when released just lay in the shallows and sulked. Even being prodded with a rod tip it still lay doggo until it decided to swim away to strike a lure cast by the other daughter and was caught a second time in 5 minutes.

This wasn't the first time I had had a similar experience. I was working in Kununurra and went out with a couple of mates ostensibly chasing barramundi when I hooked a saratoga on fly. It fought quite hard and was released at the boat side where it lay doggo for a few minutes. I cast the fly again and it immediately took off and chased down the fly almost as soon as it landed on the water. Hooked again, it fought hard and was again released at the boat side where it swam away leaving the lures and flies alone.

Family fishing can be 'interesting' and a lot of fun. One time on a summer evening a family trip down to Freshwater Bay my youngest, as a three year old, 'picked' out her tackle from my collection. A \$350 graphite rod and a \$250 reel. She was ready to catch fish. We fished from a jetty adjacent to the Freshwater Bay yacht club where a group of teenagers were busy catching undersized tailor. The three girls all caught very large cobbler much to the chagrin of the teenagers.

Last but not least, with my daughters all having families of their own now. The grandkids are all encouraged to fish. Most are now of an age where I feel confident in taking them to do a lot more beach fishing. Make sure that they adhere to the *SMART* rules, and make sure they that go much further, and with more commitment, than just a New Year's resolution. Whether it's catching a big mulloway on a lure from the beach, a 40cm bream on soft plastics, taking better photographs, set out and write down a few goals for yourself in 2022.

Life's too short, so dare to dream. *GOYA* and go and achieve your goals and I might see you out there.

Article by John Curtis



