

REEL TALK

JANUARY 2023



Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

January 2023 – Reel Talk Contents

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SCAC Life Members

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, Eric Parker, George Holman

President's Report - January 2023

Welcome to 2023, let's hope it is a good year for the club and all our members. Thanks to all the committee members for their time and help running the club.

Please put some thought into our new fishing season starting in May, and if you have any locations for us to try a field day at please let me know. It is nice to try some new spots from time to time; we did try Dongara last year with some mixed results.



If you are fishing please keep in mind the open competition. If you catch any eligible fish on your summer holidays please let us know; just take a photo with a length and weight please and send it to Peet or me.

Martin Wearmouth; President

January General Meeting

Wednesday 11th January

Croatian Club in Wishart Street Gwelup

Meal at 7.00pm with meeting at 8.00pm

Please RSVP to secretary by noon Sunday 8th January

January Birthdays

Paul Terpkos 6 January

Pat McKeown 18 January



IN MEMORIAM

VALE ROY KILLICK

It is with a sad heart that I inform fellow Club members that an old member, Roy Killick, passed away peacefully in Hollywood Hospital on Saturday 17 December after a long battle with breathing difficulties. Gallant to the end.

I have many fond memories of the times Roy and I went on field days. Club casting days and many AAA National Conventions. Roy was truly a champion Double Handed caster, set records and assisted our State Team to become National Casting Champions. Without question a true gentleman at all times.

Our many trips to Kalbarri to attend to maintenance issues on our Club house, then the fishing adventures that followed, Roy always put his hand up to assist. His lovely wife Nita, always presented us with wonderful corn beef and pickle sandwiches after each outing. Roy was also one of my crew who assisted at all our social events during the time I was social organiser or President.

A sad loss of another true gentleman and just a great bloke, he has left me with so many wonderful memories. REST IN PEACE MATE.

Article and story prepared by Bob Henderson

SCAC sends our thoughts and condolences to Roy's family and friends

ROY "SLAPPER" KILLICK

"We're going to Kalbarri for a week, so would you care to join us for a holiday?" said Roy and Nita. So after attending the "Have A GO" day at Burswood and then stowing all the gear away I headed north to join them at the Club's house in Kalbarri.

"Lousy fishing at the moment," said Roy as he explained the past few day's experiences. He then dragged out a large smelly bluff bream that he had caught and explained that he was saving it for his neighbour (nice neighbour you are Roy!). "She'll be right Roy," said I, "I know lots of spots to have a go at." I then went on and explained the locations we could try, sounding like I knew it all but forgot to tell him all my information came from Mal Head.

"What a learned chap," said Nita as I showed them around all the spots in Kalbarri.

That evening we headed for Bluff Creek area and parked our vehicle on the rocks then walked down the beach a bit to a spot called "Sharkfin Rock". As Roy didn't have a decent beach rod, I loaned him one of mine, explained and supplied a "mulloway rig", burleyed up the water a bit then explained the best spot to put his bait. Well, within an hour Roy had landed a good-sized mulloway and a couple of tailor that had him grinning like a moggy with a milk bowl. We were heading home by 8:30pm. Photos were taken before the catch was dispatched to the freezer.

At daybreak I had trouble getting Roy out of bed and after a lot of pushing and goading we arrived at the "Blue Holes". Rigging up with gardies we proceeded to pepper the surrounding waters of the reef. Within the hour we both had our 8 tailor that were in the 2 to 4 kg weight range. Returning to the house we caught Nita still in bed and surprised her with our catch before the fish were filleted and placed into the freezer. Fresh fish for breakfast is a delight.

All day long Roy strutted his stuff with a grin on his mush that said it all, a spring in his step and calls for “tea” to replenish his strength. Meanwhile I mashed up all the frames and cleaned up the fish cleaning area. The nanny nap revitalised us both ready for the evening sortie.

Down onto Chinaman’s Point well before dark and every one else had us in a good position for the night. The occasional dash of burley encouraged small chopper tailor in close and one was sent out as a live bait on my rod. Within an hour I was hooked up and doing battle with a decent fish. The sight of that gleaming body in the wash must have over excited old Roy for he dropped his rod into a holder then sprung into the water to lift the fish out. The mullet was about 6kg and Roy seized it and clung it to his chest as he brought it in. The fish wasn’t quite beaten and put up a struggle and the tail gave the old fella a few good wack son the chest and stomach. HE was a happy chappie although the bruises next day were a worry.

Another early night because nothing else was around so after the photos and filleting we sat back and took it easy. The next few days only produced a limited catch but the old boy was as happy as Larry. Why, he even shouted me an ice-cream. His excuse was always that “Nita” held the purse strings tightly.

Our trip back was uneventful but the stop at Cataby and the hamburger with coffee were great, shared alongside good friends.

PS WHY “SLAPPER KILLICK”...

... Roy has an ungodly aversion to flies inside the house, and will spend hours chasing that one that got away no matter where it lands. Now he had a fly swat made of rhino hide which he brought back from their days in South Africa that was bloody tough, and demolished any fly that was struck by it.

So...

A word of warning to others... always wear long pants and long sleeves because that bloody swat stings and keep an evil eye on the shifty old sod, for there were times I got a whack when no bloody flies were around.

CLOUD FISHING

A Poem by Phillis Levin

To fish from a cloud in the sky
You must find a comfortable spot,
Spend a day looking down
Patiently, clear-sighted.

Peer at your ceiling:
Where a light dangles, hook & line
Could be slipping through.

Under the hull of a boat
A fish will see things this way,

Looking up while swimming by —

A wavering pole's refraction
Catching its eye.

What will you catch?
With what sort of bait?
Take care or you'll catch yourself,

A fish might say,
As inescapable skeins of shadow
Scatter a net
Over the face of the deep.

Fishing calendar 2022-2023

Field day venues for 2022/2023

Dates	Venue	Boundaries
21 – 22 January 2023 New moon 22nd	Open Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Open anywhere in WA
4 - 5 February 2023 Full moon 6th	Lancelin to Jurien Bay Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Lancelin to Jurien Bay and local as below at bottom of page
4 - 6 March 2023 Long Weekend Full moon 7th	Open – Reef Beach Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Open anywhere in WA
8 – 10 April 2023 Easter Long weekend Full moon 6th	Open - Bluff Creek area 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 6.00am 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.		

Next field day is on the weekend of 21st to 22nd January
Boundaries: Open anywhere in WA

The Magical Frog

Long ago, there was a man who had a 25-inch... 'little friend'.

After consulting many people and finding no solution to his big problem, he decided to consult with a local witch. Once in the witch's presence, he said, "I need your help. My little friend here is so big, it's hard for me to find women who can accommodate me. Can you help me?"

The witch said, "Go to the forest, and in the middle of it you'll find a frog. Ask it to marry you. It is a cursed frog, and every time it says no, the curse will cause your 'little friend' to shrink 5 inches, which in your case is actually a blessing!"

So he went to the forest, and after hours of walking he found the frog, knelt down in front of it, and asked the frog to marry him. The frog said "No," and the man's 'little friend' shrunk 5 inches. He asked the frog again, "Will you marry me?" and again the frog said, 'No,' causing his 'little friend' to shrink another 5 inches. The man thought, '15 inches is still too big, I'll ask it again. 10 inches will be fine. So, one more time, he asked the frog, "Will you marry me?"



The frog looked at him, disgusted, and said, "I told you already. No, no, and NO!"

DRY CASTING REPORT

5TH DECEMBER 2022

I don't know if you have ever heard that horrible sound of a rod cracking while casting, but it happened to me at casting the other day for the second time. I had an awful feeling that the rod was damaged in two places and beyond repair. Later when I had a closer look it wasn't that bad, in fact it is quite fixable. Enough of the dribble, let's get down to the nitty gritty.

Gary won the day with 1060.77 on handicap, followed closely by Hendo with 1056.45. Both Gary and Bob are casting a lot better now than they were earlier in the year.

Bob took the honours in the DHA with 142 followed by Gary with 137. Incidentally, Gary had two hits (bullseyes) on the same target. I have only ever seen this twice before. Well done Gary. Best in the SHA was 27 by myself, with Mal in second place.

As you will see by the distances just how much better Bob and Gary are casting. In the 56g Gary 141.10, Ron 137.68, Bob 135.78. This is where it gets close, also these distances are without handicap.

In the Art Bait, Gary 122.99; Bob 120.14; 112gr, Ron 152.86, Gary 149.31, Bob 147.11. I am looking forward to seeing the results at the end of the year.

Next casting day will be on the second Monday of January, 9th of January 2023. If there is any change you will be notified.

RON THOMAS D.C.O.



**Dry casting is held once a month at
Perth Polo Club - Meadow St, Guildford WA 6055
Please contact Ron Thomas if you are interested in
joining in**

DRYCASTING RESULTS – 5TH DECEMBER, 2022

[illegible]

Surf Casters December Field Day 2022 – Hill River

By Martin Wearmouth

With a very similar weather forecast to the November trip, being 40kmh southerly winds all afternoon, a few members had decided not to fish. Sabby and I left at 6am, the 2 hour drive went quick and we soon arrived at the Hill River car park and let down the tyres to 15 PSI; we arrived at the spot Ron and Vince were already fishing and as we arrived Vince landed a nice Tailor, while we set up next to them.

Ron and Vince had already got 8 Tailor each and they had been on the bite from 6.30am, but by the time Sabby and I got a line in the water they had gone. The wind was nice and light for the first hour or so, but the strong southerly started about 10am and got stronger as the day went on.



Sabby caught a nice 38cm Flathead at 10am and on his light rod managed some Herring and Whiting before I got my first Tailor at 11.45am, a nice 43cm size. Over the next few hours the Tailor came through and we would get a fish or 2 then it would go quiet again, but most were a good size, 40 – 45cm, which give you a great fight as they try to escape the hooks.

Ron and Vince tried to target other species, having already bagged out on Tailor, but even on a rig meant for Herring and Whiting caught more Tailor. As the afternoon went on the wind was getting stronger, and at 5pm it was 40-45kmh and everyone was taking shelter behind the cars. At 5.30 I had a good bite and landed a good Skippy, 44cm 0.86gm, which I think is the biggest Skippy I have caught at Hill River.

By 5.30 I had my 8 Tailor and managed a couple of size upgrades, as I was releasing most of the fish I caught and taking only 1 home for dinner. At 6.30 I had a good bite which I thought was another Tailor but turned out to be a 31cm 0.37gm Herring; it had taken the Mulie and 4/0 gangs. It put up a fight like a Tailor; most of the Herring we caught came in at over 25cm.

From about 7pm the wind started to drop and by 8pm it was much better maybe 20kmh; we all had been thinking if it kept up maybe we pack up and go home, as a night on the beach with 35-40kmh winds was not going to be enjoyable. Sabby and I fished till 9pm but with not much happening and finding it hard to keep our eyes open after a full on day of fishing we went to bed.



I woke at 5am to a beautiful morning with light winds and sun shining. I sent out some baits, but there was not a lot of action till 6am when some Tailor moved in; we all got into some more Tailor action over the morning and also some Herring. Vince got another Bull herring at 0.34gm which he initially thought was a Tailor.

We all packed up at 8am and headed to the car park for the trip home, so another good session at Hill River and much better than the last couple of years. It was good to see everyone getting a few fish and enjoying the fishing.



Geoff fished at Jurien bay on Saturday afternoon and got 8 Tailor and 1 Herring in just a couple of hours; he was also blown away by the strong wind but stuck it out with the Tailor biting.

Mark fished for three hours on Sunday morning at the South Mole catching and releasing; 1 blowfish, 1 yellowtail scad and 3 trumpeter.



Smiles all round after a good trip



Ron with one of his Tailor



Vince with one of his Tailor



Sabby with one of his Tailor



Martin with a Skipper

Surf Casters December Field Day 2022 Fishing results

ANGLER		Species	Tailor	Species	Herring Australian	Species	Whiting	Species	Trevally Silver Skippy	Species	Flathead (all species)	Species	Tarwhine	Species	Whitespotted Guitarfish	Species	Dart all	Species	Pike	Species	Yellowtail Scad	Species	Trumpeter - Grunter striped	Species	Toadfish weeping, Blowie	Total weight	No. of Species	No. of fish	F.D. points	Attendance		Total points	
																														Field Day	General Meeting		
Ron Thomas	Number	16	14	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12.42	7	38	232.2	1	1	252.2	
	Total weight	7.33	2.59	0.22	0.75	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63								
	Weight of best																																
Martin Wearmouth	Number	12	5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9.77	5	21	168.7	1	1	188.7	
	Total weight	7.36	1.14	0.30	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77								
	Weight of best																																
Vince Tomazin	Number	11	5																1							7.05	3	17	117.5	1	1	137.5	
	Total weight	5.64	1.11																0.30														
	Weight of best																																
Sabby Pizzolante	Number	7	3	6							1															6.15	4	17	118.5	1		128.5	
	Total weight	4.20	0.60	0.90							0.45																						
	Weight of best																																
Geoff Raftis	Number	8	1																							4.65	2	9	75.5	1	1	95.5	
	Total weight	4.45	0.20																														
	Weight of best																																
Mark Hansen	Number																				1	3	1			0.85	3	5	43.5	1	1	63.5	
	Total weight																				0.20	0.60	0.05										
	Weight of best																																

Top scores up to December		
Rank	Angler	Total points
1	Ron Thomas	1198.6
2	Martin Wearmouth	1167.3
3	Peet Wessels	1027.9
4	Mark Hansen	821.5
5	David Wessels	465.8
6	Theo Van Niekerk	436.3
7	Vince Tomazin	409.3
8	Alan Green	403.5
9	Gary Parkinson	386.7
10	Sandra Wessels	250.8
11	Tino Baiardo	239.4
12	Brad Zaknich	209.3
13	Sabby Pizzolante	191.5
14	Norm Vojdinoski	119.0
15	Geoff Raftis	95.5
16	George Matrakis	95.3
17	Ian Taggart	90.2
18	Stuart Waterman	90.0
19	Robert Wilding	87.5
20	David Wilding	81.5
21	Dom Zangari	78.5
22	Morris Kolman	73.6
23	Oliver Wessels	38.3
24	Paul Terpkos	22.3

Field day prizes for December			
Section	Angler	Species	Weight
Best scale fish	Martin Wearmouth	Trevally Silver Skippy	0.77
Best bag of scale fish	Ron Thomas		12.42
Best shark			
Best bag including sharks			

Field Day Sections up to and including December				
Section		Angler	Species	Weight
1A	Best scale fish (1st six months)	Ron Thomas	Gold Spot Trevally	8.06
1B	Best scale fish (2nd six months)	0	0	0.00
2	Most meritorious fish	0	0	0.00
3	Best shark (4.5kg min)	Peet Wessels	Shark Wobbegongs	12.00
4	Best mullo way (2kg min)	0	0	0.00
5	Best tailor (1kg min)	David Wessels	Tailor	1.80
6	Best salmon (3kg min)	Alan Green	Salmon Western Australian	4.44
7	Best skipjack trevally (0.5 kg min)	Mark Hansen	Trevally Silver Skippy	1.96
8	Best mackerel (2kg min)	0	0	0.00
9	Best yellowtail kingfish, samson or amberjack (4kg min)	0	0	0.00
10	Best scale fish (Other than above)	Ron Thomas	Estury Cod	4.46
11	Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	0	27.58
12	Best bag of mullo way (2 fish min)	0	0	0.00
13	Best bag of tailor (2 fish min)	Ron Thomas	Wilbinga October 2022	9.85
14	Best fish on single handed rod (max 4kg line)	Martin Wearmouth	Leatherjacket	0.95
15	Best fish caught on fly rod	0	0	0.00
16	Best fish on single handed rod, soft plastic lure (max 4kg line)	0	0	0.00
17	Best fish on single handed rod, hard body lure (max 4kg line)	0	0	0.00
18	Best fish caught using a drone	0	0	0.00

Open fishing competition 2022/23

The Open Competition is for fish caught between 1 May 2022 and 30 April 2023, 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	2 kg	
4	Best Salmon	3.5kg	
5	Best Dhufish	2 kg	
6	Best Tailor	1 kg	
7	Best Samson fish	1.5 kg	
8	Best fish on single handed rod maximum 4kg line class (Bait)	Legal size	
9	Best Pink snapper	2 kg	3.1kg Vince Tomazin, Dirk Hartog Island 12/9/2022.
10	Best Tarwhine	0.5 kg	
11	Best Mackerel	4 kg	20 kg Greg Harvey, Dirk Hartog Island 15/9/2022.
12	Best Skipjack trevally (southern)	0.5 kg	
13	Best Trevally (northern)	4 kg	
14	Best Flathead	0.5 kg	
15	Best Black or Yellow finned Bream	0.5 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	

Silly Season Sallies

A little girl saying her prayers: 'Please God, put vitamins in ice cream and sweets, not spinach and cod liver oil!'

Short ghost story - "I don't believe in ghosts," said the man.
"Don't you?" said his companion, walking through a wall.

Experience: The wonderful knowledge that enables you to recognise a mistake when you make it again.

A fly was walking with his son on the head of a bald man. "How things change," he said to the lad.
"When I was your age, this was the only footpath."

It's been scientifically proven that women can turn into good drivers.
So if you're a good driver, watch out for turning women

Nudism: Exposure with composure

MEDIA RELEASE: ALVEY REELS

Give a man a fish and you
feed him for a day.

"Give a man a reel and you
feed him for life".



MEDIA RELEASE:

**An Australian favourite
in fishing since 1920,
Alvey Reels, has been
acquired by Gowing
Bros Ltd securing local
ownership.**

Gowings has been in the business of Enriching People's Lives since 1868 and is still operated by the family of the founder

"Gowings is extremely proud and honoured to be able to keep Alvey Reels in Australia" says Gowings Managing Director, John Gowing.

Founded in Queensland during the 1920s when Charles Alvey saw the need for a fishing reel that was easy to use, easy to cast, simple to maintain, and solidly constructed. The original factory was a small shed without electricity where Charles Alvey painstakingly produced about twenty reels per week. His work was so meticulous that anglers called the Alvey *"The reel you cannot wear out."* By the 1930s, 5,000 reels were being produced annually.

The Queensland National Trust listed Alvey Reels as an icon of the state in 2004. Alvey reels are a quintessential Australian brand having a reputation for being durable with a long and proud history of high-quality Australian craftsmanship. The choice of competitive anglers for many reasons.

John Gowing explains how the purchase of Alvey Reels fits within Gowings:

"We saw an opportunity to keep an icon in Australian hands. Gowings also owns FCS, an iconic surfing brand, and we think Alvey would complement our interests in ocean sports."

"Philosophically we want to encourage sustainable enjoyment of our seas and oceans. Demonstrating this commitment is our 1% for the Oceans pledge, with proceeds going to the Gowings Whale Trust which aims to fund positive change in our oceans."

GOWING BROS. LTD
(GOW:ASX) ABN 68-000-010-471

REGISTERED OFFICE
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GOWINGS.COM

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The ties between the Australian Anglers Association and Alvey Reels Australia go right back and probably rank as one of the longest running sports sponsorships of all time. Alvey also support a vast number of angling clubs and State Associations throughout Australia. The following article appeared in the Queensland Amateur Fishing Clubs' Association Inc. yearbook of 2005.

THE STORY OF ALVEY

The Alvey reel is accepted today, throughout Australia and in many overseas countries, as the most reliable, efficient reel marketed. It has gained this popularity wholly on a faultless performance in the angling field. In competition fishing where gear must be reliable, often under adverse conditions, users of the Alvey reel built such an impressive record of championship wins that the superiority of the reel soon became well-established.

To trace the history of production, we must look back to the year 1920, when an English migrant, Charles Alvey, saw the need for a fishing reel that was easy to use, simple to maintain and solidly constructed to give many years of trouble free angling. Working on the basic principle of the Scottish Mallock reel, he designed a reel which allowed the body of the reel to be turned sideways when casting, allowing the line to strip freely from the edge of the specially shaped spool. This took away the problem of backlash and overrun common to users of the multiplying type of reel. When the reel was returned to the finishing position, it afforded the best positive direct rewind of the centrepin reel, which only lost favour because of the difficulty casting.

So the Alvey reel came into being, combining easy casting and forceful rewinding. While it was revolutionary in its early stages, anglers came to recognise the advantages of using this type of reel.

The original factory, if it could be so called, was a small shed without electric power, whereby using a treadle lathe, Charles Alvey painstakingly produced about twenty reels a week, delivering them on Saturday morning. They were all wooden reels with wooden backs and moulded castings. His work was so meticulous that the anglers called the Alvey, "The reel you could not wear out".

By 1923, the demand had become so great that Charles Alvey's son, Ken, a qualified pattern maker and draftsman, joined the business and a partnership was formed. Together they steered the business into the 1930's pouring all available profits back into new machinery, (the buying of a capstan lathe was the turning point in the business) and taking on more staff to increase production. By this time, about 25,000 reels were being produced annually. In 1936, the company became Charles Alvey and Son.

In 1939, the Second World War brought an abrupt halt to Alvey production. Machinery was converted to assist the war effort by producing vehicle and aircraft components which were to be so essential over the next six year period. It was not until 1945 that efforts could be turned again to the manufacturing of fishing reels. Also in 1945, Charles Alvey passed away, leaving behind a devoted family to carry on the business that he lived for.

Jack Alvey, Ken's son, joined the company in 1946 after obtaining his qualifications with a local engineering works. Jack was also a keen fisherman and a champion distance caster and was able to further the strong liaison already established between the company and many of the top anglers of the day.

This association has kept the Alveys in touch with the ever-changing trends, and suggestions by the users have brought about quite a few modifications to the reel. In return, the Alvey company has always maintained a strong involvement in the promotion of the sport of angling, giving support to the National, State and Divisional organisations, as well as individual clubs and such projects as the Junior Anglers Association.

With an increasing post war demand for Alvey reels, it became a constant battle to cope with the necessary production. Every available space was utilized, new buildings were erected, new machinery installed and methods of production became streamlined. Even with a staff of fifty people, many hours of overtime was worked. By this time, overseas orders were starting to come in, adding further pressure to the production requirements.

In the early seventies, it became an absolute necessity that some future plans be made to move to larger premises as no further expansion could be made at the St Lucia factory.

Ken Alvey died in 1973 after leading a full and successful life. He was at least spared the anguish and heartache when the disastrous flood early in 1974 caused havoc in Brisbane and the factory area suffered severe damage. A lot of effort, (some coming from the Oceanic Club and the ladies from Moreton Mixed Club), had to be applied to allow manufacture to recommence two months later. This temporary setback caused a delay to the expansion plans, but they were not overlooked.

Around this time, the last of the traditional wooden spools and the first of the all fibreglass spools were produced. Also around this time, Bruce, Jack's elder son, completed an engineering course and joined the company. Once again, the father and son image had been re-established.

By 1976, the initial design for the new factory and office premises appeared on the drawing board. From this point, many months of consideration were given to the layout of all the machinery to achieve optimum efficiency. Early in 1978, the dream started to become a reality when land was acquired in the Carole Park Industrial Estate and tenders were called for construction. By September, the building and the major shift had been completed.

1987 saw a major expansion of the Carole Park plant taking the buildings to the maximum size allowed on the area of land. Plastic injection moulding machines were installed and a new range of products using this latest technology started to emerge. This machinery allowed the latest fibreglass, carbon and graphite materials to be utilized in the manufacture of the Alvey reels. With the purchase of the tooling for the "Capstan" range of fishing tackle products, Alvey became fully involved with the production and marketing of a wide range of fishing accessories.

In 1988, Jack's younger son, Glen, joined the company bringing with his computer management and administration skills.

1990 saw the Alvey company acquire the adjoining property to ensure the company's expansion in the future is never held back by lack of space.

In 2001 Jack Alvey passed away, but the business still continues to flourish. This year (2005) demand will see about 80,000 reels produced, but in better economic times and better fishing seasons demand has seen annual production reach 100,000. Today, Bruce and Glenn carry on the name that has been synonymous with fishing in Australia for the past 85 years ...

ALVEY.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In the interests of prior planning and preparation those who live, work or travel in the outback of Western Australia should be prepared for any foreseeable emergency whether they are on foot or in a vehicle. Actions on should be planned and the knowledge and skill to carry them out should be acquired through training. A personal first aid kit and a personal survival kit should always be carried, notifications should always be posted and safe practices must be a priority.

PROCEDURE IF LOST

If you do become lost, try to remain calm as panic will put you at a psychological disadvantage; the situation is not as hopeless as you may think. If by any chance you have taken the wrong track and do not know where it is going to lead you, it is pointless going on any further. It would be safer to return the way you came by retracing your tracks back to a point where you can establish your location. Case histories reveal that most people, when lost, push on blindly in a state of panic, hoping that they might end up somewhere. In these cases their efforts either take them further away from civilisation or around in circles. Do not under estimate the huge vastness and great distances of our Western Australian outback.

In a vehicle

If in a vehicle stay with or near your vehicle as it is a source of shelter and water [provided there are no chemical additives in the radiator]. Also it is easier for search parties to locate a vehicle than to locate a solitary human wandering around somewhere in the bush. If you have to leave your vehicle temporarily to search for food or water mark your trail on the ground with sticks or stones so you can find your way back. Otherwise you may find it hard to locate your vehicle once it is out of sight. Only walk in the cool part of the day to minimise fluid loss and exposure to the sun.

On foot

If on foot once you decide you are lost consult your map and use it in conjunction with your recollection of the country you have traversed to try to identify a feature. You can consider retracing your route to your last known position, or you can make for higher ground in an attempt to fix your position.

Note: If you are operating with a pre-set escape route then you should proceed on the bearing to safety.

ELECTRONIC SAFETY AIDS

There are many aids available to the outback traveller and it is worth considering these when planning for outback travel both on foot and by vehicle.

Radio communications

For communication between vehicles a UHF citizen band radio is recommended. If travelling in more remote outback regions an HF single side band transceiver will be required. These sets will allow you to communicate with the Royal Flying Doctor Service and although expensive to buy they can be rented and radio schedules organised with the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Position indicator beacons

There are several rescue instruments available for the purpose of signalling for assistance, these include different types of rescue beacons. Travellers in isolated or outback areas should seriously consider their use.

Satellite Navigation Systems

Global positioning systems are available in Western Australia for purchase or hire. These are a hand held system that allows you to find your exact position. They also allow you to plan routes and navigate by giving you a read out of your exact speed and heading. Even though the cost may be a factor these units are of obvious value to off road travellers, particularly when travelling through unfamiliar territory.

Note: Due to the technical nature of global positioning systems, users are advised to ensure they understand their operation fully. Map suppliers should be consulted to ensure that maps used are compatible. Not all maps [particularly older ones] use the grid system of reference used by GPS.

EMERGENCY SIGNALS

The following methods can be used to indicate your position.

Fires

A smoking fire will aid searchers, both in daylight hours and at night. Extreme care should be taken when lighting signal fires as some have got out of hand to the extent of causing major bush fires further endangering survivors and searchers.

Whistle Signals

- Distress signal by lost party three [3] signals together, regularly spaced.
- Searchers looking for lost party one [1] blast at regular intervals.
- Acknowledgement of distress signal two [2] blasts repeated regularly
- Recall signal for search parties four [4] blasts.

Gun Shots and Torch Flashes

When using gunshots or torch flashes the signals are the same as whistle signals.

Note: Guns should be discharged into soft ground, not the air.

Mirror

Your survival kit will contain some foil that can be used if you do not have a mirror or heliograph for use in bright sunlight.

Ground to Air Code

This is a universal code used to communicate with rescue aircraft. The figures should be approximately eight to nine metres in length and contrasting material such as rocks; logs or brush should be used. Trenches in sand can also be used to throw a shadow.

Ground to air visual code for use by survivors

The ground to air code that should be used by survivors is as follows –

Y - yes or affirmative

N - no or negative

X - am unable to proceed

↑ - am proceeding in this direction

Note: If in doubt use international symbol -'SOS';

Actions by Aircraft

The aircraft will indicate that your signals have been seen and understood by rocking from side to side in daylight hours and by making green flashes with a signal lamp at night. If ground signals have been seen by the aircraft and not understood, it will fly in complete right hand circles in daylight hours or make red flashes with a signal lamp at night.

Rescue Helicopter

Never approach a helicopter from the rear, position yourself in front, in view of the pilot and wait until approached by a crew person.

BUSHWALKING SAFETY

Route plans

All members of the group should have a copy of the route plan and should be aware of any hazardous sections and ensure all maps are current and accurate.

Leaders

If there is a leader appointed they should be competent in all skills required and assistant leaders must be experienced enough to safely care for the party should something unforeseen happen to the leader. Both should be conversant with the area.

Medical limitations

Any medical condition suffered by any member of the group or any limiting personal factors must be known to the leader.

Actions-on

In the interests of safety actions-on should be set for all foreseeable emergency situations and all members of the group must know the agreed emergency procedures [an individual emergency procedure card can be printed and issued].

Escape Routes

Escape routes should be set prior to departure and must be known by all members of the group.

Notifications

Notifications need to be posted prior to departure [cancel on return] and Police in the area of the walk notified [it is good practice to discuss your plans with them].

Walking Formation

In the interest of group safety a system of walking in single file through the bush is recommended rather than having the group walk scattered over a large area where should a walker be separated from the group he will most likely not be missed until the group stops at the end of the day. If the group walks in an orderly line then there is less chance of an individual becoming isolated.

Navigation tasks should be divided between group members and tasks interchanged regularly in order to increase team spirit and skill practice. Roles within the bushwalking formation should be: -

Position and role in walking formation

Listed below are the roles of walkers when walking in single file. Numbers are from the front to the rear:

1. Responsible for carrying the compass and direction of travel
2. Carries the map and responsible for map-to-ground observations
3. Records the distance travelled by counting paces
4. Responsible for communications and navigation log
5. Uses the GPS if carried to verify position
6. Carries first aid kit and performs the duties of whip [always last in line]

BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL

Every year in Australia there are serious bushfires in which people are caught and sometimes die. In some cases these deaths could have been prevented if the people involved had not panicked and had a basic knowledge of bushfire survival. Here are some basic rules.

Avoid

Take immediate action to leave an area as soon as you become aware of the fire. Every minute may be critical especially if on foot.

Panic

Causes energy loss and poor judgement, act calmly and do not run.

Breathing

When the smoke is dense the air closest the ground will be cool and fresh.

Heat

Radiated heat is the real danger, use anything to avoid it such as culverts, running streams, ponds, rocks or depressions.

Flame Fronts

Do not attempt to run through flame fronts. Always move downhill from a fire as fires travel faster uphill. Avoid dense areas with heavy fuel such as swamps or creeks.

Critical Periods

When you have no possible escape you should lie on the ground [bare ground, in a rut or behind a log or rocks] or bury yourself and stay put. If time permits consider lighting an area down-wind of a bare area. Step into the burnt area when it cools down sufficiently. Select or create a depression and lie in it or shelter behind rocks, etc.

Clothing

When you realise that you are in danger from a bush fire cover as much exposed skin as you can with any clothing available. Do not use nylon clothing. If your clothes catch fire do not run as this feeds air to the fire, roll on the ground or use items such as blankets to smother the fire.

In a vehicle

Many tragedies have occurred because people left the safety of their vehicles and tried to flee from a fire. Your vehicle will provide much protection from radiated heat. Park the vehicle in a clear area away from heavy fuels; protect yourself from radiated heat with blankets, towels, coats, etc. Close all windows, doors and vents. Leave the hazard lights on, leave the engine running. Turn the air-conditioning on, set to re-cycle.

Note: Remain in the vehicle as long as possible. Exit the vehicle on the lee side avoiding hot door handles, etc.

BLUE SWIMMER CRABS

Blue swimmer crabs are sometimes called 'blue manna' or 'blueys'. They are powerful swimmers and voracious hunters and scavengers. They are targeted by commercial and recreational fishers. Blue swimmer crabs (*Portunus armatus*; formerly known as *P. pelagicus*) are a tropical species and belong to the Portunidae family. The family also includes other large, edible crabs found in Australia, such as mud crabs. Crabs from this family can usually be recognized by their flat, disc-shaped hind legs, used as paddles for swimming. They also have nine spikes, called horns, along their carapace, on either side of their eyes. In Western Australia, blue swimmer crabs can grow to up to 25 cm wide across the carapace with a claw span of up to 80 cm. They eat small fish and crustaceans, molluscs, worms, and occasionally, algae and seagrass. In turn, they are prey for fish and birds.



Distribution and habitat

In WA they're found mainly between Port Hedland and Dunsborough. They live in estuaries, sheltered bays and offshore waters up to 50 m deep. Estuarine crabs tend to move from estuaries into nearby marine waters during winter. Crabs in marine bays spend their entire lives in the bay. By day, they usually hide beneath the sand with only their eyes protruding, then launch themselves at prey. At night they become mobile and search for food.

Lifecycle

Blue swimmer crabs begin life as tiny larvae, called 'zoea', which grow and change shape over a four-to-six-week period during early summer. They drift in bays or along the coast up to 80 kilometres out to sea. They are prey for fish and the death rate is high. The survivors reach shallow nursery areas by late summer. They settle to the sea or estuary bottom and moult (shed their shell) frequently while rapidly growing. They turn into a more crab-like state called 'megalopae'. By autumn, most are crab-shaped. They continue growing rapidly. By winter, the carapace is about nine centimetres wide. During the final moult to reach maturity, females mate for the first time. Most mating takes place in the autumn. Males moult first, so that their new shells have hardened beforehand. A courting male then catches a female and carries her beneath him for four to 10 days while fending off other males. He helps her to moult then turns her over to mate while she is still soft-shelled. After mating, he continues to carry and protect her for another three-to-four days while her new shell hardens. In southern WA waters, the females retain the males' sperm over winter until their ovaries develop – helped, it's thought, by rising water temperature in spring. In the ocean, big females mostly spawn in late spring and early summer. Estuarine crabs tend to spawn later in summer, having moved to the sea or estuary mouth during winter rains. Each female produces between 180,000 and two million eggs in a single spawning – and may spawn more than once in a season. The eggs are fertilised by the stored sperm and, when laid, they attach under the female's abdomen, forming a spongy mass. The term for a female crab carrying egg clusters is 'berried'. The female incubates the eggs for about 18 days. When the embryos inside are mature she shakes the eggs off and they hatch into zoea. A new life cycle has begun.