

# REEL TALK



How do we get out of here?

SURF CASTING AND ANGLING CLUB OF WA INC

October 2017

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## **Acknowledgement of Donors**

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

Donors of prizes and giveaways for 2017/8

Club Members:

George Belin, Mal Head, Bob Henderson,  
Peter Osborne, Gary Parkinson, Victor Schilo,  
Shane Wignell

And

Sandra Wessels for the ladies gifts

Special Thanks

John Curtis

## **Company Sponsors:**

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Bladon WA (Martin Wearmouth)

Central Seafoods

Halco Tackle

J M Gillies Agencies

Western Angler Magazine

*Thank you all.*

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## President's Report – October 2017



The September General meeting will go down as a particularly significant one in the recent history of this club. After several months of discussion and input from members, those present at the meeting overwhelmingly supported the committee's decision to place the Kalbarri property on the market.

I feel this responsible action by the members is evidence of a sensible approach to difficult problems. Whilst the property has been part of the Surfcaster's club for 40 years or so, with changing times it simply wasn't fulfilling its original purpose. Members were not utilising the property preferring to holiday and fish elsewhere.

Despite considerable efforts from members in recent years and much club money being spent on upgrading the house, we were continuing to see net financial losses year after year. The members could see that this situation was not sustainable and eventually would place the club in financial danger. Sentiment doesn't pay the bills.

We are truly fortunate that those members in the 70's had the foresight and determination to purchase and develop the property. Irrespective of what price the sale realises, they will be leaving us and future generations a wonderful legacy. Sensibly managed, these funds could virtually guarantee the financial security of our club long in to the future. Given the current economic climate that really is a very enviable position to be in.

At the last committee meeting, there was some discussion about club fishing competition rules and how we can change them to make them as fair as possible. In previous days it was a simple exercise of weighing in sacks full of dead fish and biggest number wins. Changes were made to incorporate a point system, where more emphasis was placed on numbers of species caught.

In modern times, there is a move towards more catch and release type fishing which makes it a little more complicated. How do we fairly assign points to a fish that is simply released and not weighed-gutted and gilled? We have been using an average weight type system which is OK, but we run in to the problem of participants possibly weighing in their biggest samples of the species whilst taking the average for the rest. There are many of us who participate purely for enjoyment purposes rather than competition, however, we are a competitive angling club and we really need try developing a point system for competitions that accurately reflects the relative fishing merit of the participants on the day, rather than one that encourages some form of tactical battle. Ideas welcome.

There has been some discussion and agreement on combining our drycasting days with those of Beachcombers Angling Club. This looks like a win for all parties in terms of cost as well as trying to keep the interest in drycasting alive. Thanks to Drycasting Officer Ron Thomas and the Beachcombers management for their endeavours in trying to get this up and running.

*Shane Wignell; President*

### Quote for the month:



JFK when hearing of an American pilot straying in to Soviet airspace was moved to say

*‘ There is always one Sonofabitch who doesn't get it. ’*

## **Membership Co-ordinators Report**

Membership enquires are starting to trickle in must be the change in the weather.

Have received a request for membership from Bev Grigo who was a long-time member and left due to the upsets going through the club at the time.

But now that all that is sorted and we as a club are well and truly stable let's enjoy your club and welcome new members.

Remember to purchase your club shirt and caps never know the club president could even shake your hand. He needs the room

David was over the moon receiving a Peter O rig box complete and ready to go fishing.

Peter O you might have started something of a welcome pack for new members.

*Stay well and Enjoy Life    Membership Coordinator Pat McKeown*

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## **Social Organisers Report October 2017**

Here's hoping this finds you all well and ready for club activities.

The first to be introduced is the mid week fishing session which be held on the **FIRST** Thursday of each month. The first date will be **5<sup>th</sup> October** at Mindarie time 10.00- 2pm let's see how it goes.

For those that can't remember the date for Bunning's is **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December** at the Morley store.

Please let me know that you will be assisting and any special times that you want.

If you can't assist then please make a donation drinks as they are always welcome and keep the costs down. Sauces and paper towelling are things we have to purchase and this comes out of the bottom line

The club raffle is going along very strongly thanks to all that purchase tickets.

The prizes are value for money thanks to Ron for his help in purchasing the various items which we try and mix with terminal gear etc.

It's sad to have to put the club house on the market but it was becoming a millstone around the clubs neck and has outlived its useful life.

I am sure members can all remember good times but fewer members were using this facility so we must move on.

As agreed on at the last general meeting it was decided by members to combine our Drycasting day with the Beachcombers at the Polo grounds in Guildford.

This really does make good sense from a safety angle and very cost effective.

So, let's support Drycasting at this new location. It is very family friendly in a great setting.

I am sure Ron will provide details when the move is due to occur.

I must say a big thank you to all that supplied sinkers for Ron's endeavours to help others enjoy the wonderful world of fishing.

That's what club fishing is about.

*Tight Lines and don't forget a smile says it all.*

*Social Organiser; Pat McKeown*

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## **October General Meeting**

### **When**

Wednesday 10 October commencing at 7.30pm

### **Where**

Coolbinia West Perth Amateur Football and Sporting Club room



## COMING FIELD DAY EVENTS

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

### OCTOBER

<b>FIELD DAY VENUE</b>	<b>Cervantes / Jurien</b>
<b>WHEN</b>	14 - 15 October 2017
<b>SIGN ON</b>	Saturday, 09h00 Hill River car park
<b>LINES DOWN</b>	Saturday, 09h30
<b>BOUNDARIES</b>	Green Head to south side of Cervantes Beach
<b>WEIGH IN</b>	Sunday, 10h00 Hill River car park
<b>FIELD DAY VENUE</b>	<b>Local</b>
<b>WHEN</b>	14 - 15 October 2017
<b>SIGN ON</b>	At the General meeting or phone FDO before Thursday evening.
<b>LINES DOWN</b>	Saturday, 09h30
<b>BOUNDARIES</b>	Penguin Island to north wall of the Two Rocks Marina, including the Swan River and both the North and South Moles
<b>WEIGH IN</b>	Sunday, 10h00 Floreat car park

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### November

<b>FIELD DAY VENUE</b>	<b>Preston to Floreat</b>
<b>WHEN</b>	11 – 12 November 2017
<b>SIGN ON</b>	Saturday, 09h00 Preston beach car park
<b>LINES DOWN</b>	Saturday, 09h30
<b>BOUNDARIES</b>	Preston south beach to Floreat
<b>WEIGH IN</b>	Sunday, 10h00 Preston beach car park
<b>FIELD DAY VENUE</b>	<b>Local</b>
<b>WHEN</b>	11 - 12 November 2017
<b>SIGN ON</b>	At the General meeting or phone FDO before Thursday evening.
<b>LINES DOWN</b>	Saturday, 09h30
<b>BOUNDARIES</b>	Preston south beach to Floreat
<b>WEIGH IN</b>	Sunday, 10h00 Floreat car park

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### Kalbarri House

At the September General Meeting, the membership overwhelmingly supported the Committee's decision to place the Kalbarri property on the market. I can report that the property has been placed on the market at a price of \$280,000, with Ray White Real Estate Kalbarri.



## **Surf Casters S-Bend field day September 23rd to 25th 2017**

A total of 7 Surf Casters attended the September S-Bend field day, Peter Osborne, James Reilly, Gary Parkinson, Vince Tomazin, Martin Wearmouth, Pat Mckeown and Dean Stewart.

All travelled up to S-Bend on Friday in wet and wild weather so a slow and safe speed was needed, first to arrive was Peter and his grandson James who proceeded to set up their tent in 30 knot winds, soon after Gary, Vince and I arrived at about 12.30pm and after unloading the cars at our cabin began to help Peter with his tent, After a while it was decided to leave the tent down and see if the wind dropped later in the day to avoid the tent being ripped to shreds in the wind.

After warming up in the cabin with lunch and a coffee we headed off to check the beaches, first we had a look at Flat Rocks only to find a large amount of sea weed, heading south of Flat rocks we found the same fully weeded out conditions so we turned around as the beach was washed away and we could not go very far south due to the large swell, North of Flat rocks was also weeded out but when we got to Duncans it had an area that had some weed but looked fishable, Here Vince decided to drive down the hill and found some very soft sand so when he tried to turn around the going got very soft, after letting more air out of his tyres he managed to get going and back up the hill.



**Vince and Gary at Duncans working out the best way to get back up the hill.**

We then headed to Lucys to have a look at that area only to find lots more sea weed, so we did not have many options for fishing spots due to the sea weed and large seas/swell, we headed back to the caravan park hoping the forecast of 10-15 knot winds on Saturday would come true.





**Map of S-Bend area**

Back at the caravan park Dean and Pat arrived about 5pm and as the caravan they had booked had 2 spare beds offered to put Peter and James in their van for the night as the wind was still howling and the tent was not a good option.

After a good night sleep 5 surfcasters got an early start Saturday and headed to Duncan's at 6am hoping for some great fish, the weed was there but it was fishable with most of the weed being small and not moving the rigs off the bottom, The wind had dropped and the rain was gone so it was a nice morning on the beach but the fish were not plentiful with only 2 tailor, 1 flathead, 1 wrasse and 1 wirrah caught that morning, Vince managed to catch an eel that proceeded to wrap its self-up in the rig and line making it impossible to untangle, that kept him busy for half an hour trying to sort it all out, He also got a 48cm Mulloway that was sent back to grow for next time.



**Fishing at Duncan's on Saturday morning**

After lunch and an afternoon rest we all headed back to Duncan's hoping for an afternoon tailor run, weather again was good with 10 knot winds and not much rain but only 1 tailor was caught and fishing at night was not easy due to the sea weed and reef sections so we all left shortly after dark.



**Vince having a rest**



**Fishing Duncan's on Saturday afternoon**

Sunday saw good weather in the morning, Gary, Vince and I headed off to Lucy's where we headed south for about 1km and found an area that had very little sea weed, this spot had a lot of small fish and the baits were stripped quickly, 1 wrasse and 1 whiting were caught here before we moved another 500m south to another spot that had deeper water and a nice gutter but the wind and rain moved in so we headed back for lunch, Peter and James fished at Duncan's again but had no luck.



**Fishing south of Lucy's on Sunday**

Dean and Pat headed into Geraldton at lunch time on Sunday to have a look around, Bringing Gary, Vince and Martin back a pizza which was much appreciated and went down very well, Thanks Pat and Dean.

Sunday afternoon saw a few storms move through and the wind picked up, Vince, Gary and myself headed back to our spot about 1.5km south of Lucy's to try for a tailor run, the wind was strong and more sea weed had moved in making fishing very hard, 1 tailor was caught but due to the conditions we did not stay very long, Peter, James, Dean and Pat did not fish.

The caravan park put on a sausage sizzle on Monday morning for the weigh in which was very well received and appreciated.





**Gary with his 2 released fish**



**Peter with his Flathead**

So all in all not a great field day for fishing but all who attended had a great time with plenty of time socialise and enjoy the great Comradery, I hope to see many more at the next field day in Cervantes, Tight lines.

### **Local**

Justin Rose signed on but did not end up Fishing due to his kids being sick.

### **Eel Talk by Vince Tomazin**

On the first morning of the competition we all had high expectations, as Martin had caught a large tailor. Unfortunately, my first hook up was an eel. I thought I would do the right thing and unhook it and release it. Not so simple as that. Once I had the hooks out of its mouth the rest of the eel had wrapped itself around the leader and braid line. It looked like a great big knot with braid and line wrapped around it.

The eel came of second best after I cut the line and leader. A lesson to be had here. As soon as you are aware you have an eel on, try and cut the line as close to the hooks before it wraps itself around everything. My second hook up was a Mullaway. I thought you beauty. 48cm so it went straight back in the water. That's fishing.



Neither weed, rain or wind affects his fishing.





**Vince with his Wrasse**



**Martin with his Tailor**



**Everyone enjoying the sausage sizzle (Yum Yum)**

## **S Bend - Sept LWE 20 2017 / Peter O's story**

On the Friday I picked up my Grandson, Jamie at 7:30 and headed north. Rain/showers intermittent, but of concern was that strong winds buffeted the car all the way. This did not inspire confidence for a good weekend of fishing.

On arriving at S bend and with assistance from some of the other Surfcasters, made a start at trying to set up our tent. With such a strong wind it quickly became apparent that we didn't have a chance of erecting same. We left the tent on the ground - pegged flat down, and with others spread out to have a look around at the usual fishing spots. All places we looked at showed large amounts of weed. In my mind Duncan's was the location appeared the least of all evils and thus planned to fish there in the morning.

On arriving back at the caravan park, Pat and Dean had arrived and set up in their cabin. It had 5 beds, so we imposed on them for us to sleep there that night - thanks, we slept in comfort

All of us up early Saturday morning, no rain, some wind so we headed to Duncan's. We all got stuck into the fishing despite some weed still around. Within 15 minutes, I'm onto a big fish. Initially I thought a good Mulloway, but not long into the fight I realized I had a Sting Ray on. This was hard work to land and resulting in stiff back problems further compounded by pulling in 5 tons of weed. Thanks to Vince and Martin in helping me release the Ray and in removing ultra large clumps of weed from terminal tackle. Shortly afterwards I caught a Flathead - not a real big one, but good enough for a delicious feed of Flathead fillets. Despite fishing on for several hours I did not manage anything.

Martin fishing 40 metres away landed some quality Tailor. No other fish caught by fellow fisho's other than a Wrasse. Jamie and I left there mid-morning to go back to the Caravan Park to erect the tent. Bit of a gap in the weather allowed us to erect the tent with ease - course had to borrow a mallet to drive in the tent pegs as this was an item I had failed to pack.

We tried again at the same place for the evening fish, with the same result, i.e. again pulling in tons of weed and no fish. Back to the Caravan park and tent- had a cook up and despite strong winds and rain we then managed to have a dry sleep. Up again early Sunday morning and made our way back to Duncan's, again rain, weed waves and for us no fish.

An Italian fellow fishing right beside us hooked onto a very large fish. He called it as a Mulloway, but when it reached the shore break it surfaced, jumped and I saw it as a Jumbo Tailor anywhere between 3 to 5 kg. As he tried to drag it up onto the beach, the hooks pulled - what a shame and a big disappointment for him.

The rain and wind started to beat us, so we up gear and went back to the Caravan Park. Our tent was taking a real battering and some of the Fibreglass Hoops/poles had started to incur damage - not looking good. Pat wandered across and seeing the tent problem, again offered the use of his beds.

We were going to try Duncan's again that evening but with a lull in the wind, sunshine drying out the tent and with a bed offered for the night we dismantled the tent and packed up the car. Hence, we decided not to fish this period. Later found out the Italian fellow beside us went down to our Duncan's spot and caught some fish, including a Mulloway. For us Duncan's was the right place but the wrong time

Discussion that evening was to shorten our fishing period and have the weigh-in early Monday morning instead of late morning. Again S Bend Caravan Park went out of the way for us and, following the way-in; Roukie served up a sausage sizzle breakfast at 8:00 am Monday morning.

I had planned to return to Perth on Tuesday to miss weekend traffic, but we left after breakfast and had a fairly easy run back to Perth. As in the past, Roukie went out of his way to make us comfortable - e.g. Sunday afternoon I went to the Laundry with two pairs of very wet jeans to put through a dryer. Roukie was there and said he had just put a couple of shirts in a dryer, so he said go ahead with putting my jeans in with his gear - hence saved the \$4:00. A further comment on the service, on arrival on Friday, he also set up a pole with a 240 V outlet adjacent to our tent campsite.

I pride myself on being skilled in catching Tailor, but this weekend disproved this thought as I had nil Tailor, while Martin fishing close to me had a bag of 4 quality Tailor. This result for me was not one I expected as in all the years have been fishing this location I have captured good bags of Tailor and the odd Mulloway. From having a fantastic best fishing session at Rotto a month ago, this field day was one of the worst I have had. Both Jamie and I were very disappointed with our results; Jamie wanted to better the large Tailor he caught here a year ago. Well there is always next year. Hope to see you at the beaches at Jurien for the mid October field day.



## S – Bend Field Day Results

Gary Parkinson	1 x Wrasse	1 x Wirrah	Released both
Vince Tomazin	1 x Wrasse (.42kg)		
Peter Osborne	1 x Flat Head (.27Kg)		
James Riley	Nil		
Pat McKeown	Nil		
Dean Stewart	Nil		
Martin Wearmouth	4 x Tailor (heaviest 1.72kg, total 4.28kg)	1 x whiting (.17kg)	

### Fishing Field day competition section up to end August 2017:

Field Day Sections up to and including August			
Section	Angler	Species	Weight
1A Best scale fish (1st six months)	Sandra Wessels	Yellowtail Kingfish	8.20
1B Best scale fish (2nd six months)	0	0	0.00
2 Most meritorious fish	Sandra Wessels	Yellowtail Kingfish	8.20
3 Best shark (4.5kg min)	0	0	0.00
4 Best mulloway (2kg min)	0	0	0.00
5 Best tailor (1kg min)	0	0	0.00
6 Best salmon (3kg min)	0	0	0.00
7 Best skipjack trevally (0.5 kg min)	Theo Van Niekerk	Skipjack Trevally	1.74
8 Best mackerel (2kg min)	0	0	0.00
9 Best yellowtail kingfish, samson or amberjack (4kg min)	Sandra Wessels	Yellowtail Kingfish	8.20
10 Best scale fish (Other than above)	Peter Osborne	Westralian Dhufish	2.75
11 Best bag of scale fish	Sandra Wessels	Mixed bag	26.08
12 Best bag of mulloway (2 fish min)	0	0	0.00
13 Best bag of tailor (2 fish min)	Martin Wearmouth	Tailor	3.91
14 Best fish on single handed rod (max 4kg line)	0	0	0.00
15 Best fish caught on fly rod	0	0	0.00
16 Best fish on single handed rod, soft plastic lure (max 4kg line)	0	0	0.00
17 Best fish on single handed rod, hard body lure (max 4kg line)	0	0	0.00
Sportsperson of the year sections for August			
Section	Angler	Species	Weight
Best scale fish	Sabby Pizzolante	Yellowtail Kingfish	3.10
Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	Mixed bag	20.80
Best shark			
Best bag including sharks			
Field day cash prizes for August			
Cash	Angler	Species	Weight
Heaviest Yellowtail King Fish - \$30.	Sabby Pizzolante	Yellowtail Kingfish	3.1 kg
Heaviest Skippy - \$20.	Theo Van Niekerk	Skipjack Trevally	1.74 kg



A little colder than S Bend

## **Open fishing competition 2017/18**

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

<b>Section</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Minimum weight</b>	<b>Entry</b>
1	Most meritorious capture	None	To be awarded by Committee
2	Best shark	4.5 kg	
3	Best mullock	5 kg	Geoff Raftis, 9kg, Kalbarri, 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
4	Best salmon	3.5kg	Martin Wearmouth, 5.4kg, 30 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
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	Theo Van Niekerk, Blue Bastard, 5.28kg, Waroora, 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
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	







The Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA meets regularly on dry land and practises their casting skills. The secretary John Crompton of Ballajura can be contacted on 9249 6209.

The club, first formed in 1952, is one of the oldest fishing clubs in WA with about 90 members. Young members can compete in the under 12's or 12-16 years Junior section. There is also a section for Women and seniors.

The club's charter promotes responsible fishing, dry casting, competitions, fun and fellowship. The whole family can participate, even if fishing is not your 'thing'.

Each year the club plans a week long 'safari' to a distant and isolated fishing spot.

Pictured above (Left to Right) Trevor Stam, John Crompton, Peter Pekaar, Marcia Pekaar, George Holman and Owen Williams.

**Photo taken in 2010**

## Dry Casting Results 3 September 2017

	<u>56 gram</u>					<u>Artificial Bait</u>					<u>112gram</u>			
	Cast	Cast	Total	%		Cast	Cast	Total			Cast	Cast	Total	
<u>Veterans</u>	1	2				1	2		%		1	2		%
RON THOMAS	135.30	137.2	272.5	100.00		121.25	124.62	245.87	100.00		159.25	162.33	321.58	100.00
PETER OSBORNE	93.06	73.27	166.33	61.03		91.61	98.50	190.11	77.32		93.19	109.16	202.35	62.92

### Seniors

MARK HANSON	91.29	82.24	174.53	100.00		99.33	93.44	192.77	100.00		121.25	119.39	240.64	100.00
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### Double Handed Accuracy

### Single Handed Accuracy

### Total

### Attendance

### Total

	<u>Target number</u>											<u>Target distance</u>							<u>D/Casting</u>	<u>Points</u>
<u>Veterans</u>	3	3	1	1	4	4	2	2	Total	%		L	S	L	S	Total	%			
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
RON THOMAS	17	7	13	13	8	22	20	22	122	100.00		7	7	10	9	33	100.00		400.00	410.00
PETER OSBORNE	2	17	18	14	12	20	25	3	111	90.98		7	0	0	9	16	48.48		340.73	350.73

<u>Seniors</u>																				
MARK HANSON	10	17	14	16	16	11	9	16	109	100.00		0	0	1	6	7	100.00		500.00	510.00

### Veterans: Best Casts for the year 2017 - 2018

Longest 56 Gram	139.82M	Ron Thomas
Longest Artificial Bait	124.62M	Ron Thomas
Longest 112 Gram	162.33M	Ron Thomas
Highest Double Handed Accuracy	159	Ron Thomas
Highest Single Handed Accuracy	33	Ron Thomas

### Seniors: Best Casts for the year 2017 - 2018

Longest 56 Gram	102.91M	Mark Hansen
Longest Artificial Bait	115.43M	Jeff Hewton
Longest 112 Gram	135.14M	Jeff Hewton
Highest Double Handed Accuracy	117	Mark Hansen
Highest Single Handed Accuracy	25	Mark Hansen

## **Birthdays for October**

Aniello Pizzolante 9<sup>th</sup>; Sarah Wignell 12<sup>th</sup>; Victor Schilo 12<sup>th</sup>;

Vince Tomazin 15<sup>th</sup>; Gary Parkinson 18<sup>th</sup>; Mariella Pizzolante 22<sup>nd</sup>

*We wish you all the best for your special day*



## September AAAWA Report

The September AAAWA meeting included the annual presentation event. Congratulations to Peter Osborne and Ron Thomas for receiving trophies.

State Dry Casting Championships are scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> October at the Guildford Polo Ground.

Please see Ron Thomas for further information.

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## ***FISHING ROD AUCTION***

An Auction will be held at the November General Meeting by Ron Thomas.

Items will include:

- Light spinning rods – Abu, Berkley, Ugly Stiks and Shakespear - some with reels
- Beach Rods: 10' & 12', 2 piece and will include Penn, Pflueger, Shakespear and Ugly Stiks
- There will be a few baitcasters such as Abu, Shimano, Berkley and Pfluger

All rods and reels will be on display prior to the meeting.

A percentage of the sale will be donated to the Club, so if you are in the market for a bargain come along and join in the fun.

We could all do with another rod and reel.

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## Safety when working with LEAD

Extract from "*The Complete Book of Rod Building and Tackle Making*." by C Boyd Pfeiffer pp79, 80.

### **SAFETY**

Safety in handling lead must be paramount in any operation to make bucktail jigs, jigs, and sinkers. The cautions presented in this chapter are equally important for chapter 5, "Sinkers and Tin Squids," and must be reviewed before you attempt to make sinkers, tin squids, or buck tails.

Safety in moulding lead heads must be on several levels. Lead can be a dangerous, toxic substance. In addition, it often contains minute amounts of impurities such as tin, antimony, and arsenic, which are poisonous, and mercury, the vapor of which is highly poisonous.

Because it does not flush easily from the body, lead has an accumulative effect. Lead absorbed over time builds to higher levels, and too high a level is toxic. Examples of the danger are found when children eat lead paint chips (lead is no longer used in paints) and as a result experience mental impairment as well as other medical problems.

Lead is absorbed into the body when its fumes are inhaled (thus the need for proper venting or an outside location when melting lead). The fumes are deposited on the mucous membranes of the nose or mouth and subsequently swallowed, absorbed by ingestion (thus the need for proper hand-washing after handling lead and care around food), or by contact with oil-soluble lead that is absorbed directly into the skin, as in smoking while moulding.

Certain safety procedures in handling and melting lead are necessary. These include making sure that you work in a properly vented area. This does not mean just a workspace in a large area, or one with passive ventilation, but



one (as with the kitchen vent fan) that will actively pull the fumes from the work area and vent them outside. Lacking proper ventilation, work outside.

Do not smoke. Experts warn that smoking while moulding is one of the principal ways lead can be ingested or absorbed. Lead is transferred to your hands, which in turn is transferred to the cigarette or cigar, which in turn is transferred to your mouth. Lead also could be deposited on the cigarette paper and then burned and inhaled as the cigarette is smoked. Take your smokes before or after moulding, and be sure to wash thoroughly as described after moulding and before handling any smoking materials.

Do not eat or drink anything while melting lead or moulding lead heads. This is a must-lead will be absorbed onto your hands and can be transferred to food and thus into your body. Be sure to wash your hands properly and thoroughly after each moulding session and before doing anything else. Use plenty of soap. Best are the heavy duty hand cleaners that are gritty (such as Solvol), which will thoroughly clean your hands of oil carried lead or other lead residue.

Wear protective clothing to prevent lead-to-skin contact. A long-sleeve shirt, a cap or hat, and gloves are helpful. Heavy insulated gloves are particularly good because they aid in safe handling of moulds and ladles while minimizing contact with lead or lead-based oils or substances.

In addition to these main concerns over working with lead, there are also the safety concerns of working with the high heat necessary to melt lead. Whether using pure lead or lead alloys, or even pure tin (more on the subject of making tin squids in chapter 5), molten metal is dangerous if not handled carefully and systematically. Tin melts at 449 degrees Fahrenheit, pure lead at 621 degrees Fahrenheit. Although it may seem repetitive to you, follow these guidelines when preparing and working with any molten metal.

Note that these guidelines are in addition to those for safety. They do not replace them.

Before beginning to mould bucktail heads or sinkers, make sure there is no competing activity in the house or area where you will be working. Do not mould when others, particularly children, are in your area or likely to interfere physically or by distraction. Moulding requires all of your concentration. Put all pets in a secure place (basement, bathroom, inside if you are working outside, outside if you are working inside) for the duration of the moulding session. Make sure others in the house know what you're doing so that they do not release pets or allow children to go into your work area.

Make sure you have adequate ventilation if you are working at home. While this is important for safety, it is also important if you want to be allowed back in the house after the moulding session is over. Many spouses are very unsympathetic "to the fumes and odours of lead moulding, but the main reason for proper ventilation is of course safety.

Make sure you have a safe, sturdy workplace with a counter of ample size that is properly protected with large hot pads, sheets of plywood, or similar insulating sheets. Make sure that any lead that might spill will be contained so as not to ruin countertops, flooring, or other equipment.

Use an adequate furnace or heating source. If working with a furnace, camp stove, torch, or barbecue grill not specifically made for melting metal, make sure it is sturdy-not at all wobbly-and will not slip or move as you work. Similarly, make sure that any pots used on such stoves are flat bottomed and stable. (Lee pots have a wide, flat bottom just for this purpose.) Lead is heavy, and a small pot can hold 10 or 20 pounds and be completely uncontrollable if the lead starts to spill. Make sure you have furnaces and melting pots bolted down properly.

Work out a plan for your moulding, pouring, and handling of hooks and moulds. Use your steadier, stronger hand to control pouring the lead while the other hand holds the mould. If you are right-handed and working with a bottom-feed furnace, use your right hand for the furnace controls and hold the jig mould in your left hand to line it up under the furnace spout. If you work with a top-pouring electric furnace, it helps to use your right hand to control the lead and your left to hold the mould handles. If you work with a pot (electric or heated separately) and separate ladle, hold the ladle with your right hand and pour into the mould being held with your left hand. (The latter two suggestions assume you are right-handed. Reverse the directions if you are a southpaw.)

Regardless of method, you will need a large working area to the left of the heat source to minimize the amount of movement you will need to make with a lead-filled ladle or to eliminate crossover where you would have to bring a mould across or in front of the molten lead supply. Again, reverse the directions if you are left-handed.

Never cool a mold or lead by dipping it in water, and never have water anywhere near the moulding operation. Moisture or water in the melting pot or ladle or dropped into the molten lead will cause the metal to explode violently, with dangerous and potentially disastrous results.

## UNDERSTANDING AND CORRECTLY USING REEL DRAG SYSTEMS

John Curtis

With today's saltwater fishing so readily available to the average angler by the Improvements in small boat design and communication technology, extended fights with and the capture of large pelagic species have become more commonplace.

An item sometimes not fully understood and often improperly set is the lever or star drag found on today's saltwater fishing reels. Modern game fishing reels feature such functions as in-built cooling, designs, space-age materials and pre-set drag systems. Without becoming too technical we will endeavour to illustrate herein the basics of the drag system for the thinking angler to bear in mind when preparing his or her tackle for any high demand fishing situation.

Most anglers are aware that today's reel manufacturers recommend presetting modern lever or star drag reels to affect a braking pressure of around 25% – 33 % of the breaking strain of the line used. We would like to point out a few important considerations which if not addressed may have a dramatic effect on the angler's success.

An interesting experiment is to set the drag on a game reel fully loaded with line (with the drag in good condition) to 33% of the breaking strain of the line - say 5 kg on a 15 kg outfit. We set the drag by pulling back slowly on the rod so that the spool slips and reads 5kg at the scale. Now everything seems OK. However, grab the line really hard, preferably after wrapping a cloth around your hand and wrist and pull it smartly, (like a yellowfin tuna grabbing a trolled lure) and we find we can break the line.

'What we have done is to set the drag for a slow-moving fish. You *will* find that if you double the acceleration then you double the amount of force exerted on the line. This is even more dramatic on older style drag materials which incur a drag peak prior to the spool slipping.

If the drag is set by pulling the scale at a pace which simulates the speed of a fast moving fish; ie, by pulling line off quickly, then the chance of a bust off in the initial stages are reduced. So, when setting your drags prior to fishing, place the rod/reel in a rod holder or vice at 45 degrees - pass the line through the guides and attach to your scale.. Then, at a brisk pace, draw the scale away from the rod tip and adjust the preset until 25 - 33% of the line class is achieved.

Another point - the reason for the suggested 25 – 33% of the breaking strain at the 'strike' position is to enable the angler to fish within the safe limitations of the fishing line - but these limitations are affected by several factors. One important factor being that as the line load diminishes on the spool, the effort required by the fish to turn the spool is increased. This is due to the alteration in the point of leverage as shown in the diagrams and is inversely proportional.

This means that should you for example correctly set your 24 kg outfit for 8 kg at strike and the spool reduces by ½ of its original diameter, then the drag would increase to 16 kg, should it further reduce to ¼ of its original diameter then the drag would increase to 32 kg.

If this fact is not realised and considered when setting the drag initially and/or adjusting the drag during the course of the fight, then a break-off could occur.

Another interesting point to consider is the effect of different thicknesses or gauges of line on the drag setting. This gauge varies greatly depending upon brand, quality and manufacturing processes and this thickness is another factor to be considered should your initial drag setting be too high. The reason being that should you be fishing with a heavy gauge line and have 200 metres of line off a full spool then the effort required to turn the spool will be greater than if you have the same reel full of a fine gauge line with 200 metres of line off the spool.

Say a reel was set at strike at 8 kg with a full spool then the loss of 200 metres may reduce the spool diameter by 25% thus increasing the drag to 10.67 kg. where as a reel with finer line on the reel has the spool diameter reduced to a lesser extent and thus a lesser effect on the drag setting.

As a final dramatic example where all factors are included to the maximum degree, say an angler has set 5kg of strike drag on a 15 kg outfit set by pulling the scale at a snail's pace, he may in fact be already at 8 or 9kg *working* drag. If the spool diameter is then halved by a fast running fish and no alteration is made then he may well be at 16-18 kg - an impossibility on 15 kg line.

Many people test their lever drag reels by placing their thumb on the spool and turning the handle. This is not an effective method of testing lever drags due to the design of lever drags. The only proper way to test a lever drags smoothness is to pull line off the reel This test will show the true condition of the drag.

### The Recipe

In a heat proof container large enough to mix your requirements for the fishing trip place the dry ingredients comprising 2 parts pollard and 1 part bran (also add additional dry ingredients – see note below)

Mix these ingredients thoroughly ensuring that you don't leave any pollard or bran in the 'corners' where it isn't being mixed thoroughly.

When fully mixed, slowly add **BOILING WATER** and stir it with a wooden spoon or similar. Keep adding water until the mix has reached a thick porridge like consistency.

Add 3 – 4 tablespoons of preferred oil to the mix and stir in. More oil is not necessary and is generally wasted and drifts away on the tide or wind. Store in suitable closed containers, such as ice cream containers, in freezer. Take sufficient for your needs out fishing with you.

For beach fishing it is recommended that you only use berley in a cage or float for the first three (3) casts, then every third cast. You are not feeding the fish – just attracting them to your baits!

### Added ingredients.

For skippy (in WA a small member of the trevally family and caught on the east coast under various names) add some 2 – 3 tablespoons of instant mashed potato to the dry ingredients. The potato content has some effect on the trevally and gets them excited and they bite at almost anything.

For oil to be added to the mix use whale oil, tuna oil, mulie or pilchard oil, cod liver oil or any general natural fish oil. **DO NOT** use vegetable or mineral based oils.

Another additive that is recommended is fish sauce. This is the same product that is used in Asian cooking and is made from fermented fish. It works a treat in a berley mix. Use it sparingly as it is concentrated. It works.

In addition to the above you can add ornamental glitter as used by kids to decorate cards and drawings etc. In a berley mix it gives the impression of small baitfish scales and reflects light just as the remnants of a school of bait fish that has been chopped up by a predator. It works well in a very liquid berley and dissipates slowly. The oils and the finely minced fish product in a liquid berley will provide scent to attract fish the glitter just adds to the impression that something has just had a good feed on baitfish.

Take home all old bait and put it through a blender and mince it up very fine then dry it a little on a tray covered with baking paper in the oven at around 80 °C to remove the moisture. When fully dry, pack it in plastic bags and freeze it. Place a couple of small handfuls of this in a dry berley and mix it through before adding water.

The discarded bait generally comprises of mulies (pilchards) blue sardines (small blue bait fish) whitebait squid and octopus etc. Crush up all crab, crayfish and prawn shells in a similar manner and add them to the mix as well – particularly good for berley in the boat.

For boat specific berley if we intend to anchor and fish rather than drift, place a stone for weight in the centre of a 2 litre ice cream container and then freeze a finely ground mixture of this discarded bait.

When the anchor is set the frozen berley block is tossed up tide of the anchor and it sinks to the bottom where it thaws out and slowly dissipates. The rock carries it down fairly rapidly and holds it in position. Tidal movement disperses the berley and again we are not feeding the fish just attracting them. This requires that the berley pieces be minced very finely.

Where we intend to drift fish, a similar system minus the stone is used. The frozen minced bait is placed in the berley pot and left to thaw and dissipate through the wash of water in and out of the pot.

If you are on good terms with your butcher you may ask him to collect all the shavings from the meat saw and add this to the berley.

As well if you are very friendly with the local fish and chip shop proprietor you can obtain all the skimmings from the cooking vat and add them to the berley as well. Nowadays most fish shops are using a vegetable oil to cook in and all the skimmings contain a lot of this oil which makes a good additive to your berley.

Another item that can be added to your berley mix is a product called 'Fluorescein' a fluorescent tracer. It is a product that is used in several industries as a tracer. When in a bottle it is generally a brown liquid, but when a little (3 - 5 ml) is added to a berley mix with some water it goes fluorescent green. When used from a boat it gives a clear indicator as to where your berley is drifting. It can be just mixed with a little fish berley oil to float on the surface to give an indication of drift.

### DO NOT

DO NOT EVER, NEVER, ADD BREAD or yeast products to your berley if you are not going to use it immediately.

The yeast will re-activate and you will have a great growth of mould develop. This growth thrives in warm moist climates and is guaranteed to make even the strongest stomach dry reach with its smell. Don't do it.

If you get a little rash in adding water or the berley mix is not thick enough, add plain flour. This will thicken the berley to the required consistency. You should be able to pick up a handful and squeeze it into a ball and have it stay together so that it can be thrown / cast either free or in a cage or sinker and not break up or fall out.

The secret behind this mix is the hot water. Bran and pollard are wheat (starch) products and as starch cells are heated they expand and burst (somewhat akin to popcorn - same principle)

If like me you had to help make the gravy every Sunday to go with the roast and this worked on the same principle. When the starch cell has burst it then increases its surface area and also makes it more receptive to the oil in your berley. It will absorb more and take it down when the berley sinks.

For fishing in the boat a quick ready made berley is cat food. I have found that a can of tuna based cat food or similar works wonders (it's the cheapest tuna mix). The method is to punch a small hole in the top of the can adjacent to the side and another in the side adjacent to the top near the other hole. Feed a length of 15 kg line through the holes and tie it off. I then punch a series of holes in the can using a small screwdriver, and stir the contents up breaking it up.

This is then lowered 20 – 30 feet over the side of the boat on the side to which we are drifting. It is then tied off and left to bounce up and down with the movement of the boat and provide a great berley trail / slick.

DO NOT use heavy line as it can become very exciting when a 'bitey' grabs the can and swallows it and the line won't break! it is frightening in a small boat – particularly when you are not expecting it.

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## INTELLIGENT FISHING

Observation, common sense and logic are all important factors which contribute towards the successful angler.

*The big fish was hungry! It had spent the day lying in a crevice in the rocks, waiting for the evening before venturing out to feed. In its sheltered hide the effects of the surf raging onto the rocks above was minimal.*

*Dusk, and time to feed. The big fish moved out from its protected position and along the face of the rocks towards the adjacent beach. Here it hoped to find the small whiting, mullet and yellowtail that would form its meal, seeking the protection of the shallows.*

*The small bait fish moved in a solid ball and parted to let the predator through, reforming into a self preserving mass after it had passed. In the shallows the whiting and in mullet were waiting. Sensing the presence of the larger fish, they became agitated, and either darted to and fro, or clung to the bottom immobile, the only sign of life being the rapid movements of their gills.*

*Further along the beach sat a lonely, but patient angler. He had fished this spot for a number of years and had regularly caught small fish such as herring, skippy, whiting and the odd tailor in this sheltered bay. He had reasoned that with the constant supply of smaller fish there must be bigger fish around also. The mulloway had reached the beach now and had succeeded in catching a few of the smaller whiting trying to hide on the sandy bottom. Yellowtail fled from his path as he moved amongst them. Frustrated by their tactics and because his hunger pains had not diminished, the large fish became annoyed and chased a school of mullet towards the surface. They leapt out of his path and scattered across the water leaving a burst of white foam in their wake.*

*Instantly the somnolent angler was alert. What had caused that furious splashing? What fish was feeding just in front of the waves breaking over the sandbar a few yards from the beach?*

*The mulloway sensed the struggling of a fish in distress. The small sand whiting, captured just on dusk, and lightly impaled on a hook, sought shelter and found none. It struggled against the line and sinker and sent out a message loud and clear and the large fish homed in on them like a moth drawn to a bright light.*

*It swam on, and hunger overcame its natural caution and took an easy meal. The prick of the hook was just another minor discomfort caused by a fin ray as it swallowed the whiting. It would go as other small annoying fins had dislodged on previous occasions. Partially satisfied the fish swam on to seek another meal, trailing a length of nylon behind it.*

*The angler stooped and picked up his rod. The rapid movement of the line slopped and the line went slack. Had the bait managed to escape, or had a large fish taken the bait? Carefully he checked the drag setting on his reel, and pulled a short section of line free, watching it disappear into the water washing around his feet.*



*The fish had now moved off seeking another morsel for its meal. It required a lot of small fish of that size before its hunger would be satisfied. As it moved on, so that line followed, bringing an unnatural weight with it. To the patient angler this was the start of a run, even though only tentative.*

*Suddenly realising that all was not well with the weight of the line pulling through the water the big fish bolted for cover trying to avoid what was potential trouble. To the angler this was the time to strike and set the hook.*

*The hunter had become the hunted.*

Four criteria are applicable in the preceding anecdote to the angler's approach to fishing. They are species, terrain, timing and bait.

### ***Let's analyse the story and learn from it.***

The species in this anecdote was mulloway, but it could have been anything. These fish are generally a schooling fish when smaller, but as they grow larger tend to become loners. I believe that it is simple deduction to see why as most areas can only support one or two large fish unless there is a plentiful food supply available. The only exception that is possible is when fish gather to spawn, and then there is fierce competition for the limited food.

Take as an example the lower reaches of the Swan River during the period October to November. There are many large Mulloway caught during this period, and most of them are in roe. At other times of the year there are mulloway caught in the Swan but never in the same numbers as when the spawning run is on.

The terrain is also an important factor in fishing. Rocks grow algae and weed, small fish live on this and use them for shelter. Larger fish in turn prey on the smaller fish and on down the food chain it goes. Large fish also need shelter from predators and secure resting spots, hence the fish in the story hiding in a crevice.

The timing was important because, until dusk, the fish didn't move out to feed, but lay resting in its sheltered hole. Also the bait fish had moved inshore seeking some protection from predators. Until dusk the angler had only caught smaller fish which were located in the deeper water.

The last criteria was bait. The fish was looking for the food available, and the angler had caught and set the small whiting as bait. This is what the mulloway had expected to find along the inshore region of the beach and was possibly its last meal.

Learn what habits the fish you are chasing have and you should be able to anticipate in advance, where they will be feeding, and what they will be feeding on. By understanding the fish and its habits you should be able to increase your catch. Also be observant and style your fishing to the fish that you want to catch.

Ask yourself some of the following questions and see what answers you come up with?

When do they feed, is it predominantly day or night, morning or evening, or is it throughout the day?

Do they prefer a sandy bottom or a weed covered rocky bottom?

Do they object to suspended sand in the water or will they swim in it regardless of clarity.

What temperatures do they prefer?

Are they schooling fish or do they swim alone?

The list goes on.

There are several things that will only come to you through observation and concentration. Start to think like your quarry and you will increase your success rate. Get to know the area that you fish most frequently. Look at the gutters, channels and holes that are forming and eroding, and learn to look for the signs of changes along the beach. The more you know about a particular section of beach you will then start to understand the ways of the fish that inhabit that section.

Check with other regular anglers who are fishing the same locations and see if they are having a greater scoring rate than you are. Swap ideas and observations with them; it is amazing just how much can be learned by casual conversation if you are listening with an open mind.

The most effective way of learning more about fish and locations is by the keeping of a fishing diary. This then becomes not only a record of your exploits, but an invaluable aid in fishing. It doesn't require a lot of effort to start and maintain and the rewards by constant observation will certainly improve your fishing.

Seasons play an important part in deciding what species of fish will be where. The seasons are not governed by a timetable of events as dictated by nature. The weather produced by the seasons will dictate the annual movements of fish. These movements can be recorded and accurately predicted by keeping an accurate set of records.



Record as much detail as you can in your diary, bad trips as well as good trips. What you will want to know is up to you. I would suggest that for starters things like: The state of the tide, was it rising or falling; what was the mean variation; only a few centimetres or was it metres? What was the wind speed and direction? Did it change while you were fishing? Did that change cause a change in the fish's feeding? What was the phase of the moon? What baits were used? What time did you start fishing and what time did you finish? What was the cloud cover? Was it heavy or light? Where did you fish and for what length of time? On and on it goes, but the more information that you are able to accumulate, the better the diary becomes.

If you decide to start a diary - stick with it. When you first begin you will have limited data to draw from, but as the diary grows the more valuable it will become. The longer it runs the better it becomes.

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*My sincere thanks to John Curtis for his assistance in supplying interesting articles.*

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