

# REEL TALK







## **Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)**

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### **October 2021 : Reel Talk Contents**

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# **Club Committee for 2020-21**

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

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*Vince Tomazin*

## **Assistant Drycasting**

**Officer**

*Bob Henderson*

## **Committee Persons**

*Gary Parkinson*

*Chris Stickells*

## **Recorder**

*Peet Wessels*

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## **Website Coordinator**

*Peet Wessels*



## **SCAC Life Members**

*George Holman, 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*





## **President's Report - October 2021**

Sad news last month at the passing of Eric Parker, A great club supporter and long-time member, condolences to all his family and friends.

I have just finished the long weekend fishing field day at Lucky Bay Kalbarri and although not too many fish got caught the fishing group all enjoyed the weekend and shared a lot of laughs, a great group to spend a weekend with, thanks to all that attended.

If anyone has any ideas on new fishing locations, please let me know, it seems the fish are getting much harder to find, we are seeing a lot more people with 4WD on the beach due to the COVID19 travel restrictions.

*Martin Wearmouth; President*

### **Field day venues for 2021/2022**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Boundaries</b>
<b>16 - 17 October 2021</b>	<b>Dunsborough to White Hills Lines down 9am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday</b>	Dunsborough to White Hills and local as below at bottom of page
<b>13 - 14 November 2021</b>	<b>Cervantes to Leeman Lines down 9am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday</b>	Cervantes to Leeman and local as below at bottom of page
<b>11 - 12 December 2021</b>	<b>Lancelin to Jurien Bay Lines down 9am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday</b>	Lancelin to Greenhead and local as below at bottom of page
<b>15 - 16 January 2022</b>	<b>Open Lines down 9am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday</b>	Open anywhere in WA
<b>12 - 13 February 2022</b>	<b>Dunsborough to White Hills Lines down 9am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday</b>	Dunsborough to White Hills and local as below at bottom of page
<b>5 - 7 March 2022 Long Weekend</b>	<b>Bremer Bay area and Open We plan to fish Bremer Bay area Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday</b>	Open anywhere in WA
<b>16 April - 18 April 2022 Easter Long weekend</b>	<b>Bluff Creek area and Open Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday</b>	Open anywhere in WA

**Local boundaries are from Lancelin in the North to Preston Beach in the South**

Lines Down on Standard weekends - Saturday 9.00am

Lines up on Standard weekends - Sunday 9.00am

Lines Down for long weekends and Rottnest - Saturday 6.00am

Lines up for long weekends and Rottnest - Monday 9.00am

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

## **October General Meeting**

**Wednesday 13th**

**Croatian Club in Wishart Street Gwelup**

**Meal at 7.00pm with meeting at 8.00pm**

## Dry Casting Report & Results 12<sup>th</sup> September

Looking at the state of the ground i would suggest it will be too wet to mow within the next 3 – 4 weeks, so I am thinking we will be casting on the first Sunday of October, if there is any change you will be notified.

They say practice makes perfect, well if not perfect it definitely makes you better. Gary is practicing, I am not, check out the scores for distance and you will see what I mean. 3 months ago I was 15 – 20m in front of Gary, but not anymore. That is what I call dedication. Keep it up Gary.

We have had a visitor along for the last two casting days and I would think he (Barry) has not done too much fishing by the way he was casting, but last Sunday his best cast was 70m with a ten foot rod, so it will be interesting to see how he goes with some decent dry casting gear.

*Prepared by: Ron Thomas DCO*

<u>SURF CASTING &amp; ANGLING CLUB</u>														
<u>Dry casting results - 12th September 2021</u>														
	<u>56 gram</u>					<u>Artificial Bait</u>					<u>112gram</u>			
	<u>Cast</u>	<u>Cast</u>	<u>Total</u>			<u>Cast</u>	<u>Cast</u>	<u>Total</u>			<u>Cast</u>	<u>Cast</u>	<u>Total</u>	
<u>Veterans</u>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>%</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>%</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>%</b>
GARY GILDERSLEEVES	136.56	128.11	264.67	95.84		112.67	117.72	230.39	99.05		144.30	143.77	288.07	93.63
MAL HEAD	86.85	95.45	182.30	66.01		78.93	83.83	162.76	69.97		94.58	108.49	203.07	66.00
KLAUS SCHONWOLF	109.46	OUT	109.46	39.64		92.31	96.07	188.38	80.99		104.60	105.77	210.37	68.37
RON THOMAS	140.63	135.53	276.16	100.00		113.53	119.07	232.60	100.00		153.80	153.80	307.60	100.00

SURF CASTING & ANGLING CLUB																		
Dry casting results - 12th September 2021																		
	Double Handed Accuracy										Single Handed Accuracy						Total	Attendance
	Target number										Target distance						D/Casting	Points
Veterans	3	3	1	1	4	4	2	2	Total	%	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	Total	%	%	
GARY GILDERSLEEVEES	18	18	10	20	21	18	15	25	145	100.00	7	1	3	6	17	58.62	447.14	10
MAL HEAD	10	10	0	0	15	19	5	19	78	53.80	9	0	0	5	14	48.28	304.06	10
KLAUS SCHONWOLF	13	12	17	10	4	0	2	11	69	47.59	5	9	4	4	22	75.86	312.45	10
RON THOMAS	23	19	19	12	16	1	20	22	132	91.03	9	6	6	8	29	100.00	491.03	10
BARRY	0	3	4	8	0	0	0	7	22		0	0	0	0	0			

VETERANS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2021 - 2022												
LONGEST 56 GRAM						156.96						RON THOMAS
LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT						134.92						RON THOMAS
LONGEST 112GRAM						156.96						RON THOMAS
HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY						166						GARY GILDERSLEEVEE
HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY						34						BOB HENDERSON
SENIORS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2021 - 2022												
LONGEST 56 GRAM						114.18						MARK HANSEN
LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT						96.20						MARK HANSEN
LONGEST 112G						120.19						MARK HANSEN
HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY						163						MARK HANSEN
HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY						29						MARK HANSEN

## Surf Casters September 2021 Lucky Bay field day report by Martin Wearmouth



I set off from home just before 6.30am to meet up with Gary and George for our drive to Lucky bag on Friday morning. We planned to meet up with Peet & Sandra, Dave and Rob and Vince at the 440 roadhouse past Geraldton, the drive was easy and not too much traffic on the Brand highway. When we arrived at the 440 roadhouse it was closed for renovations. Dave and Rob arrived before us so we decided to go the Northampton for lunch and fuel, I called the rest and told them we would meet at the Lucky Bay road turnoff.

We arrived at the Lucky bay camp site about 1pm and drove around looking for a suitable camp area for the group, it was already quite full with caravans and campers but we found a spot and set up camp. Once set up we sat under the gazebos and took in the fresh air, the wind was strong about 40 – 50 kmh, so we waited at camp for a few hours. We went out late afternoon for a drive along the beach to find some fishing spots, the water looked good and the swell was not too big, we drove up past the bay and went into the dunes to find our way back onto the beach near the reef that runs all the way to Wagoie.

We followed Peet and found some soft sand and narrow tracks that put some nice pin stripes on the paint work, eventually we made it back to the beach and drove about 5km north but mostly only found reef along the beach with only 1 area that had low reef that was fishable. As the wind was still strong we decided not to fish and turned around and went back to camp.

As the wind dropped after dark, we lit a fire and everyone had dinner and sat around the fire talking and listening to some music until we all went to sleep.

Saturday morning we left for fishing about 5.45am and most went south at the beach entry, Vince and I went north but only fished for about an hour at this spot as the sea weed moved in. As we had no good bites for the time we fished this spot, we moved back to join the rest and only Peet had caught a Tailor. I fished here for another hour but got no bites at all, even the mulie was coming back untouched on most casts, Peet and Sandra had moved on and the rest of us also decided to look for another spot.

We drove up past the bay and to the reef area, we went a bit further this time maybe 7km but still only had high reef area that was not fishable, we moved back to the spot that had lower reef and I had a few casts with no luck. Here you needed a good cast to get over the low reef and into the deep water, the rest decided to go back south. Peet and Sandra arrived just as we were moving on and they fished this spot for the rest of the day and did very well, Sandra got 2 nice Tailor and Peet got a few species including a small ray and wobbegong shark, but also had a lot of time that had no bites through the day.





Vince and I went 5km south down the track to another beach track that leads into Sandalwood Bay, we drove the beach and found a nice gutter about 1km south, we set up and fished here till lunch. Again we did not get many bites, I caught a 42cm Tailor about 11am but that was the only fish for my morning.

We went back for lunch, the weather on Saturday was good with light winds and lot of sun, we stayed at camp till 3pm and went back fishing. Vince and I again went to Sandalwood Bay, we fished the same spot and as the tide came in hoped for a good tailor bite, between 5pm and 6pm I caught 3 tailor between 40 – 45cm and Vince got a nice Tarwhine, we packed up after dark and headed back to camp. Dave heard us on the 2 way radio and advise he had caught a 71cm tailor at their spot.

Back at camp we again set up the fire and enjoyed the outdoors as we all chatted and listened to some music, The weather forecast had now changed to a 50% chance of rain early Sunday morning. Early Saturday it was only a 10% chance, well it rained pretty hard at 3am and 4am with showers up till 6.30am. I had decided to take my Stretcher tent to sleep in and discovered that it is not great with heavy rain, the water was pooling at the low end and some dripped through onto my feet, Gary had the same tent and also got a bit wet.

Peet and Sandra had the light tent under the car awning and also had water coming in, we waited for most of the rain to pass before heading out to fish, I went back to Sandalwood Bay with Dave and Rob and fished a different gutter just near the track onto the beach, again not many bites even with a nice gutter, I did catch a nice size Dart about 11am but Dave and Rob got nothing, we went back to camp for lunch.





The sun was out so Gary and I dried out our tent and sleeping bag ready for Sunday night, the weather had improved with mostly sun and the occasional cloud coming over, the wind was a bit stronger than Saturday but still not bad for fishing, we sat at camp with the fire for a few hours, Peet and Sandra had decided to pack up and return home.

We all fished the beach near camp that afternoon, most went south where Dave got his 71cm Tailor, Vince and I went north to a spot we had fished before on Saturday morning but the seaweed had moved in, the weed was now mostly on the beach so we set up for the afternoon. A large group camped nearby behind a sand dune had been fishing here all weekend.

Here the baits got taken by small fish within 10 minutes so we hoped some larger fish would come in, a few other fishers set up as the afternoon went on but no one caught any fish, we packed up after dark and headed back to camp to enjoy the fire and music.

So Lucky Bay was not as Lucky as our March trip, fish seemed hard to find even though we had good gutters and quite a few baits in the water, The people and location made the weekend with lots of laughs, let's hope for more fish next time but for me a fish is a bonus it so relaxing just to be out on the beach.

**Ron fished at Wilbinga** and again showed us all how to find the fish, he managed a great Mulloway of 14.7kg, he also got his bag of Tailor on both days, as usual for this area he saw hundreds of 4WD along the beach as they looked for a fishing spot.

**Mark fished at Bluff Creek.** The fishing at bluff was hard going as the swell was high but he managed to catch and release a 30cm salmon and 6 herring for the hour that he fished on Saturday arvo and didn't catch anything on Sunday. A lot of the beach had been eroded over winter by storms, but some sand is coming back but very soft.

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## Gary's Lucky Bay trip

Well, another fishing trip over this time lucky Bay as Rob said lucky to catch a 🐟, it didn't start off to well when we got to 440 closed off to Northampton. Started the comp Saturday where's the bloody fish getting a bit depressed but how that can change when someone catches a fish. Dave had hooked onto a fish turned out to be a 71cm Tailor. The excitement had started, get the weight get the camera everyone suddenly was on a high but no more so George, Dave, Rob myself back to camp. George started a nice fire which we had each night can't beat a fire to lift the spirits.

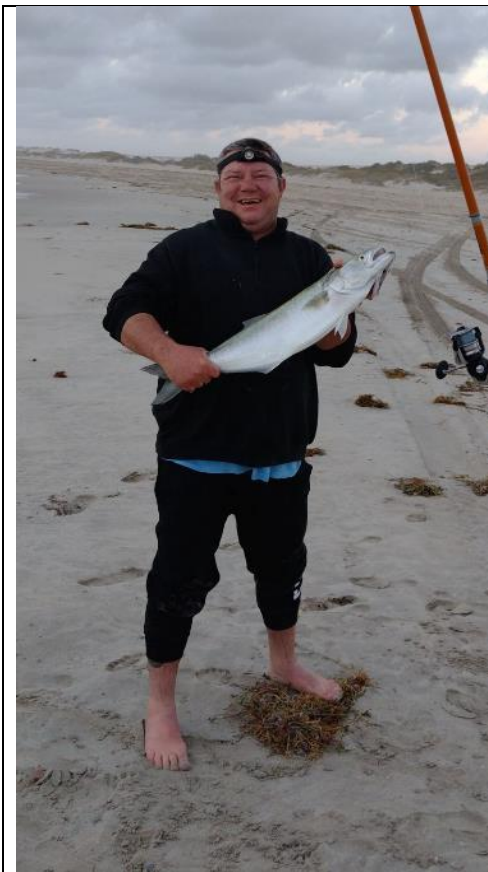
Still a great weekend good company with lots of laughs and that's what a person needs these days.my highlight was Rob and Dave saying they knew a pie shop on the way thinking can't be that good wrong got a pie and sausage roll should of got more, well bring on the next one love this club.















## **Lucky Bay Fishing – September 2021. By Peet Wessels**

With great weather forecasted for the long weekend we made up our minds that we will venture north for hopefully a great fishing weekend out.

We left early on Friday morning and around midday we met up with the rest of our club members at the turn off into Lucky Bay. After paying our camping fees at the honesty box we set off to find a camping spot. We were overwhelmed and surprised to see so many campers already in the campgrounds. After a short while of scouting around we found a great little camping spot close to the ablution blocks, dump station and entry to the beach.

In no time we had our camp setup and it was time to kick back, socialize and relax for a few hours. In the afternoon we decided to go for a drive and see what the beaches looked like. This drive turned out to be quite an adventure, one with some good 4x4 driving that tested man and machine to the fullest.

With a good idea of where we would like to start fishing in the morning we turned back to our camp. Just before sunset we were all back, sitting together and talking about our adventure of the afternoon. Soon it was dark and time for dinner. A lovely campfire pulled us all together and kept us going until late into the night.

Early Saturday morning a car alarm went off, and it kept on going for what felt like a lifetime. By now the whole of Lucky Bay was awake and you could hear all the cursing as the campers showed their appreciation. I got up and started to make some coffee and got back into my swag. Soon our campsite returned to peace and quietness as the Surfcasters disappeared towards the beach.

Waiting for daybreak, Sandra and I started our way down to the beach. We joined some of our fishing group who indicated that the fishing was very slow with no fish landed yet.

We got our first rods ready and with our Tailor Taker rigs in the water we turned to get our second rods ready. A loud yell was coming from Gary. "Peet your rod is going off". I turned around and with a few quick steps I was back at the bending rod. Not long and a beautiful Tailor was flapping on the beach. Thanks Gary!

We fished this spot for another half an hour and came to the conclusion that we had caught the only fish around there. We packed up and ventured further south. We tried another two spots and with no results we decided to turn north to go and try a spot we had marked the previous day.

Arriving at the spot the waters looked very good. The only problem was that there was a rocky reef about 60 meters out, running parallel to the beach. The chances of getting snagged and losing rigs was a concern, but we decided to give it a go. Quickly we each got our Tailor Taker rods ready and with flat aeroplane sinkers tried our luck. The sinkers did not hold bottom and got washed out after a few breakers. We decided to change to bucket sinkers which hold bottom just fine. Soon my rod bent over with a good bite but could not set the hooks.

Sandra saw the action and quickly sent her bait out. She was still busy tightening her line when her rod bent over. Not long after and she had her best Tailor ever flapping on the sand. The action did not slow down and with her next cast she was on again. This time another big Tailor, and her smile got bigger and bigger







In the meantime, I was trying my best to land another Tailor, but all I got was an array of other fish. First it was a big Dart, then I caught an Eagle Ray. The next bite was huge and heavy, and I was convinced I had a Mulloway on. This turned out to be a nice size Wobbegong shark. I kept on trying for another Tailor but landed a few Wirrahs instead.

Around midday the wind started to blow into our faces and we could not get our baits out far and deep enough. We retired our fishing and made a nice lunch and sat back in our chairs and just enjoyed the rest of the afternoon talking and enjoying the beauty of the area.

Just before dark we returned to our campsite, made dinner and sat around a crackling campfire.

During the night it started to rain heavy, and I had to get up a few times to empty the dam of water that was forming above our heads on our tents roof. We got up late and waited to see if the weather was going to improve. Late morning the weather cleared a little and we all decided to go and have a go with the fishing rods.

Sandra and I went to the same area where we had the success the previous day. The wind was pumping into our faces and we found it hard going. I managed one good cast where I could get my bait out behind the reef. Not long and I had a good bite. I set the hooks and started to fight the fish. A beautiful Tailor was jumping and with an acrobatic dive was showing off out of the water. I was so happy and got a big smile because I was sure this fish was mine. Not to be, the next moment the pressure was gone. On closer inspection of my fishing rig, it was found that the fish bit the

line off behind the gang hooks. It was quite a disappointment, and this was the first time a Tailor bit my line off when using a set of gang hooks.

We tried again and again but could just not get out far enough, only managed to land our baits on the reef. After catching only a few more Wirrah's we decided to go and find shelter in our camp.

On arriving at our campsite, we found everything soaking wet. Apparently, there was quite a heavy down pour of rain while we were on the beach. With everything wet and no prospects of better weather for the remainder of the day we decided to pack up and go home.

All in all, it was a memorable weekend with some beautiful fish caught. We enjoyed the campfires, the socializing and the great comradery of the people, just happy to chat and to laugh the nights away.

Tight lines and hope to meet up with some of you on our next fishing adventure.





## **Open fishing competition 2021/22**

The Open Competition is for fish caught between 1 May 2020 and 30 April 2021, other than on Club gazetted Field days, but not in any other AAA affiliated club event on the same dates. Entries for the Open competition close **30 days after capture**. See Competition Rules Section 4.

Section	For	Minimum weight	Entry
1	Most meritorious capture	None	To be awarded by Committee
2	Best shark	4.5 kg	
3	Best mullet	5 kg	
4	Best salmon	3.5kg	
5	Best flathead	0.5 kg	
6	Best tailor	1.5 kg	
7	Best samson fish	5 kg	
8	Best fish on single handed rod maximum 4kg line class (Bait)	Legal size	
9	Best pink snapper	2 kg	3.4 kg George Matrakis, Dirk Hartog Island 17/7/21
10	Best tarwhine	0.5 kg	
11	Best mackerel	4 kg	22.6 kg Martin Wearmouth, Dirk Hartog Island 22/7/21
12	Best skipjack trevally (southern)	1 kg	
13	Best trevally (northern)	2 kg	3kg Vince Tomazin, Dirk Hartog Island 23/7/21
14	Best snook or pike	0.5 kg	
15	Best black or yellow finned bream	0.6 kg	
16	Best scale fish other than sections 3-15	2 kg	3.5kg Spangled Emperor, Justin Rose, Dirk Hartog island 22/7/21
17	Best fish caught on fly rod.	Legal size	
18	Best fish caught using a soft plastic or hard body lure on a single handed rod (4kg line max.)	Legal size	

ANGLER		Species Mulloway	Species Tailor	Species Dart all	Species Wirrah	Species Stingray Eagle	Species Shark Wobbegongs	Species Wrasse Blue	Species Salmon Western Australian	Species Herring Australian	Species Tarwhine	Total weight	No. of Species	No. of fish	F.D. points	Attendance		Total points
																Field Day	General Meeting	
Ron Thomas	Number	1	16															284.9
	Total weight	13.23	9.56															
	Weight of best																	
Peet Wessels	Number		1	1	4	1	1											206.6
	Total weight		1.48	0.88	2.00	4.00	4.50											
	Weight of best																	
Sandra Wessels	Number		2					1										91.3
	Total weight		4.43					0.40										
	Weight of best		2.71															
Martin Wearmouth	Number		4	1														84.4
	Total weight		3.33	0.61														
	Weight of best																	
Mark Hansen	Number								1	6								60.6
	Total weight								0.70	0.66								
	Weight of best																	
David Wilding	Number		1															47.2
	Total weight		2.62															
	Weight of best																	
Vince Tomazin	Number																	36.6
	Total weight																	
	Weight of best																	
Gary Parkinson	Number																	20.0
	Total weight																	
	Weight of best																	
George Matrakis	Number																	20.0
	Total weight																	
	Weight of best																	
Robert Wilding	Number																	10.0
	Total weight																	
	Weight of best																	



Top scores up to September		
Rank	Angler	Total points
1	Martin Wearmouth	1193.3
2	Peet Wessels	1046.8
3	Ron Thomas	985.7
4	Mark Hansen	757.8
5	Sandra Wessels	661.7
6	Vince Tomazin	661.3
7	Sabby Pizzolante	361.7
8	Tino Baiardo	355.8
9	Gary Parkinson	351.1
10	Justin Rose	349.2
11	Chris Stickells	298.7
12	Alan Green	155.3
13	Brad Zaknich (visitor)	148.0
14	George Matrakis	138.6
15	Stuart Waterman	130.1
16	Theo Van Niekerk	109.2
17	Oliver Wessels	75.5
18	Helen Carnell	56.1
19	Ian Taggart	55.0
20	David Wilding	47.2
21	Robert Wilding	10.0

Field day prizes for September			
Section	Angler	Species	Weight
Best scale fish	Ron Thomas	Mulloway	13.23
Best bag of scale fish	Ron Thomas		22.79
Best shark	Peet Wessels	Shark Wobbegongs	4.50
Best bag including sharks	Peet Wessels		12.86

Field Day Sections up to and including September				
Section		Angler	Species	Weight
1A	Best scale fish (1st six months)	0	0	0.00
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)	Gary Parkinson	Dirk Hartog July 2021	5.76
4	Best mullocky (2kg min)	Ron Thomas	Wilbinga Sept 2021	13.23
5	Best tailor (1kg min)	Sandra Wessels	Lucky Bay Sept 2021	2.71
6	Best salmon (3kg min)	Alan Green	Yallingup June 2021	4.91
7	Best skipjack trevally (0.5 kg min)	Sabby Pizzolante	Rottneat August 2021	2.07
8	Best mackerel (2kg min)	Justin Rose	Dirk Hartog July 2021	9.54
9	Best yellowtail kingfish, samson or amberjack (4kg min)	0	0	0.00
10	Best scale fish (Other than above)	0	0	0.00
11	Best bag of scale fish	Martin Wearmouth	Yallingup June 2021	27.82
12	Best bag of mullocky (2 fish min)	0	0	0.00
13	Best bag of tailor (2 fish min)	Ron Thomas	Wilbinga Sept 2021	9.56
14	Best fish on single handed rod (max 4kg line)	Mark Hansen	Salmon Bluff Cr Sept 2021	0.70
15	Best fish caught on fly rod	0	0	0.00
16	Best fish on single handed rod, soft plastic lure (max 4kg line)	Mark Hansen	Salmon Bluff Cr Sept 2021	0.70
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

# Surf Casters Quobba Station safari July 2022

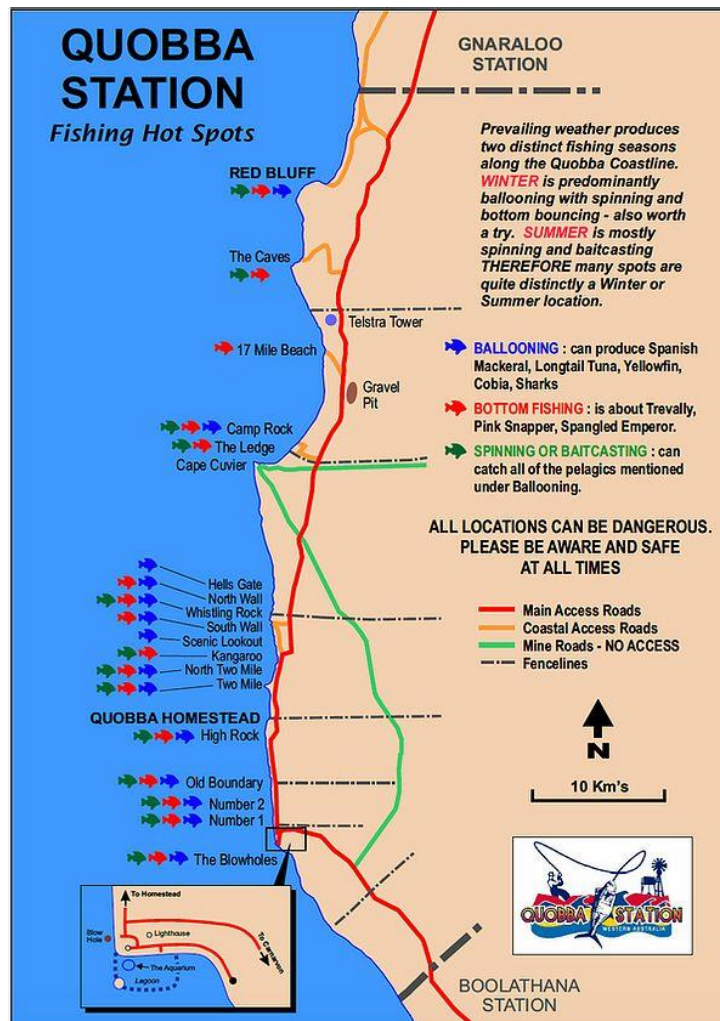
- Check In Date Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2022
- Check Out Date Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2022
- Number Of Nights 8

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

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

\*Bed linen/towels/pillows NOT supplied.

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





# The ugly truth of overloading your Roof Racks

**We are all very conscious about the weight of the gear we shove into our vehicles but, when it comes to roof racks, it seems if it's out of sight, it's out of mind. This is a dangerous game to play!**

*Words and Images by Wes Whitworth and Dean Mellor*

If you've been following our social media pages, both for *Pat Callinan's 4X4 Adventures* and also our sister publication *Unsealed 4X4*, you'll know we've been banging on about loading roof racks for a while now. Chances are you may even have an article we did just over 12 months ago specifically on not overloading your roof for the obvious reasons on *Unsealed 4X4*. It goes into the common sense required to load a roof rack, and even a little about the common sense to own and drive a four-wheel drive.

It would seem that recently there have been a couple of people get on their video soapbox and yell to the masses that there needs to be labels on everything, and they need to be spoon-fed instructions, in short, single-syllable words to be able to understand it.

Where it gets super interesting, is that I (Wes) am a huge fan of Darwinism and taking the safety labels off everything and letting nature run its course. But thankfully, I've got a managing editor (Dean) that inspires me to take the time to try to save the four-wheel driving masses from themselves. With that in mind, let's go over what you can, can't, should and shouldn't put on your roof racks, and why it could end up killing you or someone else.





### **First things first: Safety and common sense.**

It would seem that common sense is becoming less common these days and, well, safety is "someone else's" job. What I mean by that is (especially regarding roof loadings and racks) there's an attitude that unless someone has explicitly told you what you can and can't do, then you can do what you want. If it all happens to go sideways on you, well, it is that "someone else's" fault (from above) for not telling you what and what not to do.

Common sense tells us that we should be cautious when loading things onto the roofs of our four-wheel drives. Weight up high, added to side-to-side rocking while driving the more exciting off-road tracks is going to see us have a bad time fairly quickly. Either our four-wheel-drive will fall over due to the higher centre of gravity or the roof rack and everything we've lashed to it with 600kg straps will part ways with its mounting system. No, it's not rocket science.

So, when you're loading up your roof racks, be conscious of the weights. You shouldn't need to have to weigh everything you put up there to stay within some guidelines but, unfortunately, there are people who do need to be told that.



### **How much can I carry?**

This is where things become cut and dried. See, most vehicle makers list the roof load limit for their vehicles and some variants within a model range can have a different load limit depending on whether they've got a panoramic glass roof, or not. For instance, the Ford Everest lists a roof load limit of 100kg but limits the top-spec Everest Titanium to 80kg because it has a panoramic glass roof.

The limits manufacturers list are dynamic limits, and they include the weight of your rack. Meaning, that's the maximum weight you can have on the roof when driving around (including the roof rack). And by that manufacturers tend to mean driving around town. Have a flick through your vehicle's owner's manual and it might suggest you carry a lot less on the roof when you're driving off-road and that's because there are additional stresses in play, like corrugations – the up and down can cause the dynamic load to impose many times more than the peak dynamic 'static' load on your vehicle's roof.

Here are a few roof load ratings: Y62 Patrol = 100kg, Everest = 100kg (unless it's a Titanium as stated above), Amarok = 100kg, Discovery 5 = 80kg, and HiLux = 75kg. Remember, the rack counts as part of the load too and these can be anywhere in the vicinity of 30kg-60kg.

Now, let's look at some average weights of the stuff we commonly see people storing on the roof. Say, 20kg per full jerry can, 20-30kg for the spare wheel, 12kg swag, 20kg awning, 20kg box of 'stuff', 3kg driving lights, and 20kg alloy rack. Total = 125kg. That's more than the roof load limit on every single passenger vehicle 4X4 on the market right now. Better not grab any firewood or double up on jerry cans. And, then, consider a steel rack might weigh 45kg and a rooftop tent between 45kg and 80kg, and you're dancing with the devil without any other gear.

### The ugly business of overloading your roof racks

It's fair to say most people are carrying way too much stuff on the roof of their 4X4. But there's more to the issue than just exceeding the manufacturers' roof load limit, see, you're reducing the handling ability of your vehicle and also increasing its wind resistance. And while the latter will cost you cash the former could kill you or someone else.

Now let's look at how carrying anything on your roof, be you carrying stuff at the maximum roof load limit or over it, increases your vehicle's centre of gravity. Think of it like this. If you're carrying two 10kg weights (one in each hand) and you turn a corner while carrying the weights, you'll be less likely to fall over than if you were balancing those same weights on your head. In fact, you could carry half the weight on your head and your stability would still be affected to a greater degree.

Nissan NP300 Navara	PETROL	DIESEL			Comments
	DX Dual Cab	PX Dual Cab	ST Dual Cab	ST-X Dual Cab	
Roof Bars / Roof Cross Bars	•	•	•	•	Max. load capacity: 80kg evenly distributed
Roof Bar Accessories:					
Bike Carrier	•	•	•	•	For one (1) bike
Kayak/Canoe Carrier	•	•	•	•	Carries one (1) kayak or canoe. Requires T-Track Adaptor
Load Strap (3mtrs)	•	•	•	•	Universal
Multi-Purpose Holder	•	•	•	•	Can be used in conjunction with T-Track Adaptor, Ski Carrier (to hold ski poles) and Kayak Carrier (to hold paddle)
Roof Pod	•	•	•	•	Nissan branded. Max. load capacity: 63kg. Not compatible with Canopy Roof Cross Bars
Ski/Snowboard Carrier	•	•	•	•	Holds up to 4 pairs of skis or 2 snowboards
T-Track Adaptor	•	•	•	•	

That means if you've got 100kg loaded onto your roof (at 2m above the ground) the effect on stability is the same as if you loaded 200kg into the vehicle (at 1m off the ground). And because you're carrying weight up high and raising the vehicle's centre of gravity you need to corner and brake less vigorously. Indeed, any sort of direction change when your roof is loaded becomes potentially dangerous, and that's regardless of whether you're travelling at high or low speed – around rocks, ruts, washouts and roundabouts.

Then there's the additional wind resistance created by carrying a big load on your roof, or even just by having empty roof racks. Depending on the vehicle and the rack type, you could be looking at a fuel consumption increase of more than one per cent with an empty rack. This will increase once you add a load to the roof because you're affecting the shape of your vehicle and its ability to cut through the air as cleanly as it would without racks and a load.



### **It's not just about the rack**

Contrary to popular belief, it's not just all about the rack's weight limit. See, rather quietly, the vehicle manufacturers have been reducing the roof capacity of their vehicles over the years. For example, look at the Nissan Navara. In 2014 the NP300 had a roof loading capacity of 100kg. Then, in 2015 it dropped to 80kg. Now in 2020, it was 56kg. Mind you, the body of the ute hasn't changed at all. The vehicle manufacturer has been steadily decreasing it for its own reasons. Worth noting too is the prevalence of utes these days; they have nearly half as much roof real estate as the wagons we used to own did, so with a reduction in the roof area and support comes the obvious reduction in weight capacity.

That's not to talk about actually loading your roof rack sensibly, or being able to put weight on your canopy, or tub rack.



### **What can we do about it?**

First thing is to stop loading so much gear on the roof racks. Bear in mind, further along, you'll see what Deano has lobbed onto his rack, still within the safety limits set by Rhino-Rack, and actually using his common sense.

Next off, many of us are driving utes. With a cargo area. Specifically designed to carry... well... stuff. Use it to carry the heavy stuff, like jerry cans, spare wheels and the like. Leave the light swags, camp chairs, and awnings for up high.

If you absolutely need to put the heavy gear up top, like two jerry cans or spare tyres, take them off the roof once you reach camp. Then go for a wheel up that crazy track you've always wanted to give a run. Chances are you'll not need the spares, and if you do, you'll have a mate with you who can run back to camp and get the spare wheel.

### **\*\*\*DEANOS PART ABOUT HIS ROOF LOADING\*\*\***

**I recently fitted a Rhino-Rack Pioneer Platform to my Ford Ranger, mounted to Rhino's backbone system. The roof load limit on a PXIII Ranger is 100kg, and the Pioneer Platform and mounting system weighs 27kg, leaving me with a roof rack payload capacity of**

**73kg. And if I apply Rhino-Rack's advised formula for off-road driving (divide by 1.5) this is reduced to 48.6kg.**

**Now I don't like carrying heavy stuff like fuel, gas bottles or spare tyres up on the roof due to the negative effect this has on vehicle handling (raised centre of gravity). What I do like to carry up top is light gear that I can't fit into the vehicle tub on a trip away.**

**A typical roof-rack load for me (pictured) includes the following:**

**Swag: 15kg**

**Camp bed: 7kg**

**3 x camp chairs: 7kg**

**2 x Maxtrax: 7kg**

**Shovel: 2kg**

**Awning: 10kg (on order so not pictured)**

**TOTAL: 48kg**

**That's bang on the recommended off-road load limit for my roof-rack system. If I want to carry an extra pair of Maxtrax on the roof, I'll find space for the camp bed or the camp chairs in the tub so as not to exceed the off-road load limit.**

I absolutely understand the want to be able to put heaps on our roofs. I've done it in the past, and near rolled a four-wheel drive, so I've learned nearly the hard way; thus I get to impart this knowledge to you.



### **Wes' final thoughts and opinion**

I have all the faith in the world in [Rhino-Rack](#), despite what a fairly spoiled minority have to say about them. First off, Rhino-Rack is a solid Aussie company that's been around for a bloody long time. I've run both the company's crossbars and the Pioneer Platform on my old 80 Series 'Cruiser, and it was perfectly fit for purpose. What you might not know, is that the Rhino gear is predominantly made in Eastern Creek in Sydney, and Rhino-Rack employs about 150 Aussies like you and me, from assembly to engineering to sales and marketing; and all who I've had the pleasure of meeting have been good people.



But my appreciation of Rhino-Rack aside, it's worth noting the company builds a lot of OEM roof racks and roof bars too, for more than a couple of vehicle manufacturers on the market. I can't tell you exactly which ones, but I can say there's a pretty high chance you're driving one at the moment. So, if the manufacturers have been using Rhino-Rack products for well over 30 years without issue, chances are you have been too.

At the end of the day, please use your common sense when you're loading up on your roof. Maybe some folks want this country to be more of a nanny state, with more rules, and more labels, and the way people have been carrying on lately, it seems they want it too. Instead of being able to use their common sense, they want everything to be spoon-fed to them. Well, I don't want it, nor do I need it.

*Extract from Pat Callinan's 4x4 Adventures. "newsletters@patcallinanmedia.com.au"*

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### ***Vale Eric Parker.***



17 November 1949 – 20 September 2021

*It is with great sadness that the Club received news that our long serving Life Member Eric Parker had passed away.*

To all members,

I have been advised that Ric Parker passed away on Monday at home. His neighbour Jerry Driver sent an email to advise of this.

It would appear that he died as a result of either a stroke or a heart attack, but this is still to be determined. It is understood that the Coroner's Office is trying to locate relatives in Australia.

Ric's wife is in Thailand and has been advised of his passing.

At this stage there is no information about a funeral, but as soon as I find out details, I will advise all members.

*John Curtis,  
Secretary, SCAC*

# Items for Sale

## Exhaust Jack New \$120



## Seamaster Fishing Reels \$250 each



## GME TX 6150 UHF CB \$150

Contact Vic Schilo  
0413 152 550

