

REEL TALK

OCTOBER 2022





Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

October 2022 : Reel Talk Contents

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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 2022



With the fuel and rising cost of living I hope our members are coping with the challenging conditions, with the government fuel subsidies now being removed it may be harder to get away and go fishing at our favourite spots. With this in mind I am keen to hear what fishing venues members would like to fish, if you have any ideas can you please let me know, I want to try to include any that may help get more members involved.

Martin Wearmouth; President

October General Meeting

Wednesday 12th October

**Croatian Club in Wishart Street
Gwelup**

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

October Birthdays

Dave Wilding 11 October

Vince Tomazin 15 October

Gary Parkinson 18 October



Fishing calendar 2022-2023

Field day venues for 2022/2023		
Dates	Venue	Boundaries
22 - 23 October 2022 New moon 25th	Yallingup to Preston Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Yallingup to Preston and local as below at bottom of page
26 - 27 November 2022 New moon 24th	Lancelin to Jurien Bay Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Lancelin to Jurien Bay and local as below at bottom of page
10 - 11 December 2022 Full moon 8th	Lancelin to Leeman Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Lancelin to Leeman and local as below at bottom of page
21 – 22 January 2023 New moon 22nd	Open Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Open anywhere in WA
4 - 5 February 2023 Full moon 6th	Lancelin to Jurien Bay Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Lancelin to Jurien Bay and local as below at bottom of page
4 - 6 March 2023 Long Weekend Full moon 7th	Open – Reef Beach Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Open anywhere in WA
8 – 10 April 2023 Easter Long weekend Full moon 6th	Open - Bluff Creek area Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Open anywhere in WA
Local boundaries are from Lancelin in the North to Preston Beach in the South Lines Down on Standard weekends – Saturday 6.00am Lines up on Standard weekends – Sunday 9.00am Lines Down for long weekends and Rottnest – Saturday 6.00am Lines up for long weekends and Rottnest – Monday 9.00am Sign-on / Weigh-in times, possible fish together spots and locations to be decided at the general meeting prior to the Field Day.		

Next field day is on the weekend of 22nd – 23rd October
Boundaries: Yallingup to Preston Beach and local

DRY CASTING REPORT

Well, we finally had a casting day after a few cancellations due to the weather and also lack of attendance. The weather was good with a slight north easterly thus a tail wind and more importantly, the rain stayed away for the whole morning.

There were a few ups and downs for the day, probably more downs than ups, with Mark having a break off in the Art Bait, and Gary having a shocker in the DHA with a break off and a score of 108. I find it hard to believe but it happens. Mark had a good day in both the accuracy events with 137 in the DHA and 33 in the SHA.

The overall winner for the day on handicap was Klaus with 1039.64 points.

I feel the handicap system is working out as well as I thought it would. When we look at these scores, the lowest is Mark with 902.79 but remembering that he had a break off, which left him about 112 points short which would have given him a total of 1015 points which would have made him runner up on the day. Apart from that the rest of the scores are all within 40 points for the day.

Our next dry casting day will be held on the **2nd of October** which will probably be our last Sunday casting day for a while. If there is any change you will be notified.

RON THOMAS D.C.O.

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

DRYCASTING RESULTS – 4th SEPTEMBER, 2022

Dry Casting results

	B	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1				DRYCASTING		DATE					
2											
3	VETS	DHA	H/C	SCORE			SHA	H/C	SCORE		TOTAL
4	GARY	108	0	108			26	5	31		139
5	MAL	93	32	125			12	6	18		143
6	KLAUS	113	61	174			18	7	25		199
7	RON	115	13	128			24	0	24		152
8											
9											
10											
11											
12											
13											
14	SENIORS										
15	MARK	137	38	175			33	7	40		215
16											
17		56GR	H/C	SCORE	ART/BAIT	H/C	SCORE	112G	H/C	SCORE	TOTAL
18	GARY	① 125-72	21	146-72	88-58	13	101-58	137-25	20	157-25	
19		② 124-58	21	145-58	108-14	13	121-14	133-20	20	153-20	964.47
20	MAL	① 85-60	57	142-60	81-33	39	120-33	90-26	53	143-26	
21		② 93-73	57	150-73	76-86	39	115-86	88-70	53	141-70	957.48
22	KLAUS	① 87-93	57	144-93	87-86	35	122-86	94-16	53	147-16	
23		② 92-02	57	149-02	91-51	35	126-51	97-16	53	150-16	1039.64
24	RON	① 144-54	0	144-54	130-81	0	130-81	147-69	0	147-69	
25		② 144-80	0	144-80	122-45	0	122-45	154-41	0	154-41	996.70
26	MARK	① 108-10	31	139-10	—	—	—	105-16	39	144-16	
27		② 113-86	31	144-86	78-98	32	110-98	109-69	39	148-69	902.79
28											
29											
30	OVERALL		WINNER	WITH	H/C	KLAUS		1039.64			
31											
32											

Surf Casters September Field Day 2022

By Martin Wearmouth

I picked up Gary on Friday morning for our drive up to Dongara, we met up with Morris and Stuart and headed up the Brand Hwy; with little traffic for a long weekend we arrived about 1pm and settled into the Breeze Inn accommodation. After some lunch we had a drive to see what the beach conditions were like.

We first drove south along the beach to find a lot of sea weed and very dirty water thanks to the big swells and strong southerly wind; we then headed north of town along the track to find much wider beaches than what we had in January. As we got further north the water was looking much cleaner with less sea weed in some spots.

We fished a spot about 3.5km from the track entrance to try our luck, not too many fish but Stuart had a good hook up and after a short fight landed an Eagle ray. After getting the hooks out we released it; with not much happening we headed back before dark to have some dinner.



At our accommodation we had a fire pit so Morris went to the petrol station and bought 2 bags of firewood. We all had dinner sitting around the fire and enjoying a couple of drinks before heading off to bed.

Saturday morning, we again headed north of Dongara to try our luck. We fished at the same spot about 3.5km down the track; not too many bites until 9am when Morris landed a 44cm tailor, shortly after Gary had a 47cm Tailor and then I got a 50cm Tailor. A few casts before, Gary had pulled in his line to find that he had ½ a nice whiting on his small hook, the back half had been bitten off by a large fish and this was not a small whiting being maybe 25cm if whole. When Gary cleaned his Tailor, he found inside it the back half of a whiting that must have been from the one he had lost, this fish had also then taken the mulie.

We fished until 11am and for the whole morning the rain had been coming down, not that heavy just light drizzle but we were all looking forward to a hot shower once back at the accommodation. Once we had a shower and some lunch, we went to the Dongara Hotel to watch the AFL Grand final match between Geelong and Sydney. Luckily, we managed to get one of the last tables and chairs close to the TV screen as it filled up for the bounce down at 12.30pm.



Well as you will know it was a bit one sided with Geelong winning easily, Alan had arrived to fish with us and met us at the Hotel. The rain had now cleared so we all headed out to the south beach and with a 35 – 40km southerly blowing, the beach conditions were horrible. With milky coloured water and sea weed racing north along the beach, we did try to fish it for 30 minutes but even casting was difficult as the wind seemed to get stronger.

We packed up and headed to the north side and fished a spot about 1km up the track, the water was deeper and not as much sea weed but still very dirty and no protection from the wind so after an hour and no bites we packed up and headed back to the accommodation to get dinner. We had been offered some big logs to use on the fire by the owner so after dinner we stoked up the fire and again sat around enjoying a drink.



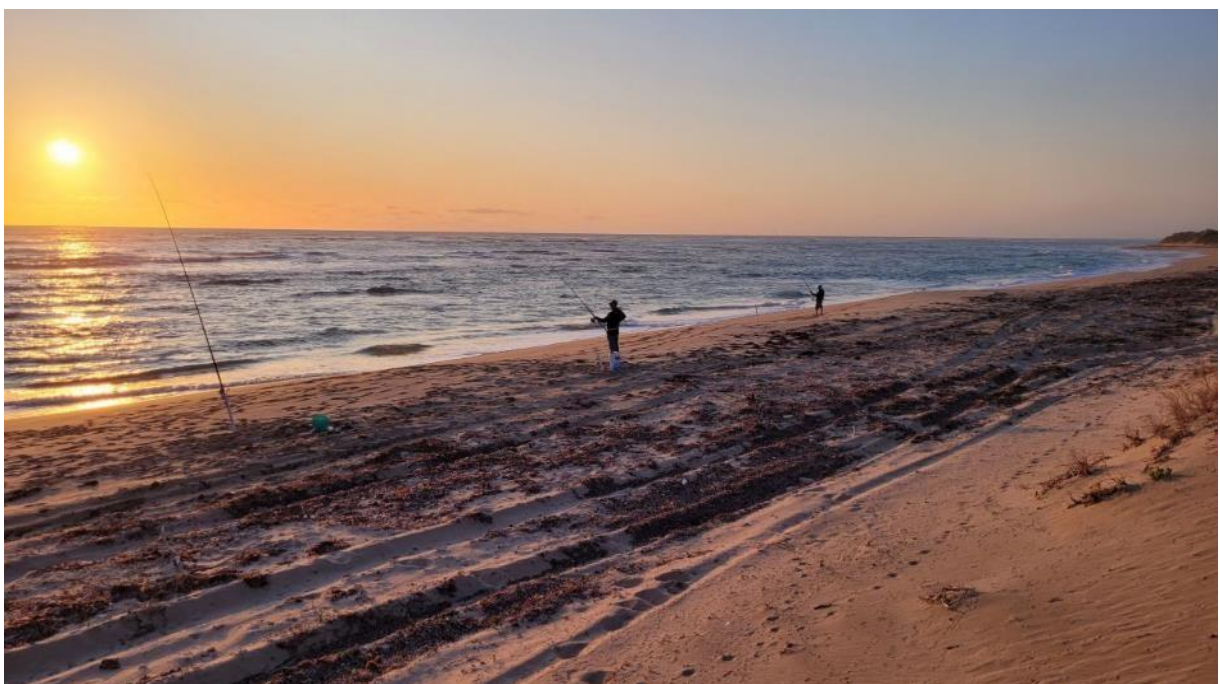
Sunday morning, we headed north along the track and fished a spot about 3.3km north, just before the spot we had fished the day before. No rain, light winds and clear skies, so a much

nicer morning to be on the beach. Gary got the first fish at 7.25am, a 42cm Tailor, then Gary again at 7.50am got a 49cm Tailor.

With 5 rods in the water, to say fishing was slow would be an understatement as even the mulies came back untouched most casts. At 9am Gary caught a small whiting and then at 9.20am Alan landed a 43cm Tailor, at 10.30 I had a solid hook up and line peeling off my reel; but as I took up the fight, I quickly had that bloody sting ray feeling and after working it onto the beach slid an Eagle ray up the beach. After a quick weigh, the ray was released back into the water.



After this we packed up and headed back to the accommodation; Morris had put a bet on for Geelong to win and offered to take us to the Hotel for lunch with his winnings. So we had a shower and walked down to the Hotel for lunch; I had a Chicken Parmigiana which was massive, Stuart also had this, Gary had Fish and Chips with Morris going for a steak, then with full stomachs we walked home ready for an afternoon nap. Stuart wanted to drive north up Brand Hwy to look at a spot he fishes when staying at the S Bend so I went for a drive with him about 20km north to Wakeford road.



Once on the beach we drove north; the water was very dirty and milky with sea weed floating. It did have a gutter close to the beach; we turned around and headed back to the track over the dune and could see a deeper section just south of the track so we drove and had a look. Still had a bit of sea weed but it was fishable, so we decided this was the spot to fish and would come back at 5pm to give it a go.

Once back at Dongara we sat in the sun and waited for 4.30pm to head back to the beach. As the trees started to blow even harder, we kept checking the weather app and as we already knew the winds again were up to 40km and not wanting to be sand blasted. Like the day before we decided not to go fishing and started up the fire to enjoy our last night in Dongara.



Keeping warm by the fire

Alan did fish on Monday morning at the beach in Dongara but only had a few bites and no fish landed. We headed home early on Monday and again had a great run down Brand Hwy with very little traffic.

So another field day done, this one was not great for fish landed but everyone enjoyed getting away and trying a new spot. Like most fishing spots Dongara would be better when the weather conditions are good - it seems lately that Mother Nature has been against us as we always seem to get bad weather on our field days, but with summer just around the corner let's hope things start to improve.



Eagle ray

David fished at Salmon pools beach in Albany; with big swells and strong currents making fishing challenging, he caught 4 species - Salmon, Herring, Tarwhine & Banded sweep.



David with his Salmon

Mark fished at Fremantle on Sunday, but only managed to land some puffer fish.



Our old train accommodation at Dongara



Morris with his Tailor



Gary with his Tailor



Martin with his Tailor



Alan with his Tailor

Surf Casters September Field Day 2022 - Dongara fishing charter

By Alan Green



I decided to add a charter boat trip when I went up to Dongara for the September field day. I could only get on the cray-fishing pot pull (a two-hour trip) with the charter boat operator after the field day finished. I spent Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning fishing with our club crew on the Dongara beaches, then on Tuesday morning I went out with Dan and Kate, from Ocean Addiction Charters. It was a really great experience and I had a good time, they pulled up seven cray pots and everybody on board had a chance to measure up the crays to ensure they were legal size. All four customers on board walked away with a bag of seven crays. I'll definitely be going up there again and going out with Ocean Addiction Charters, hopefully next time on a combined full day fishing and pot pull.



Surf Casters September Field Day 2022 Fishing results

Angler		Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Total weight	No. of Species	No. of fish	F.D. points	Attendance		Total points
		Tallor	Whiting	Salmon Western Australian	Herring Australian	Tarwhine	Sweep Banded	Stingray Eagle	Toadfish weeping Blowie					Field Day	General Meeting	
Martin Wearmouth	Number	1						1								
	Total weight	1.24						12.60		13.84	2	2	180.4	1	1	180.4
	Weight of best															
David Wessels	Number			1	1	1	1									
	Total weight			3.47	0.13	0.27	0.24			4.11	4	4	86.1	1		86.1
	Weight of best															
Gary Parkinson	Number	3	1													
	Total weight	2.69	0.07							2.76	2	4	61.8	1	1	71.6
	Weight of best	1.03														
Alan Green	Number	1														
	Total weight	0.78								0.78	1	1	18.8	1	1	38.8
	Weight of best															
Morris Kolman	Number	1														
	Total weight	0.71								0.71	1	1	18.1	1	1	38.1
	Weight of best															
Mark Hansen	Number								3							
	Total weight								0.15	0.15	1	3	14.6	1	1	34.6
	Weight of best															
Stuart Waterman	Number															
	Total weight													1		10.0
	Weight of best															

Top scores up to September		
Rank	Angler	Total points
1	Peet Wessels	781.4
2	Martin Wearmouth	755.0
3	Mark Hansen	578.3
4	Ron Thomas	542.8
5	Theo Van Niekerk	436.3
6	David Wessels	383.0
7	Alan Green	341.7
8	Gary Parkinson	292.7
9	Tino Baiardo	239.4
10	Brad Zaknich	209.3
11	Vince Tomazin	172.6
12	Sandra Wessels	142.8
13	George Matrakis	95.3
14	Ian Taggart	90.2
15	Norm Vojdinoski	83.5
16	Sabby Pizzolante	63.0
17	Morris Kolman	38.1
18	Paul Terpkos	22.3
19	Stuart Waterman	10.0

Field day prizes for September			
Section	Angler	Species	Weight
Best scale fish	David Wessels	Salmon Western Australian	3.47
Best bag of scale fish	David Wessels		4.11
Best shark			
Best bag including sharks			

Field Day Sections up to and including September				
	Section	Angler	Species	Weight
1A	Best scale fish (1st six months)	Ron Thomas	Gold Spot Trevally	8.06
1B	Best scale fish (2nd six months)	0	0	0.00
2	Most meritorious fish	0	0	0.00
3	Best shark (4.5kg min)	Peet Wessels	Shark Wobbeongs	12.00
4	Best mulloay (2kg min)	0	0	0.00
5	Best tailor (1kg min)	Ron Thomas	Tailor	1.58
6	Best salmon (3kg min)	Alan Green	Salmon Western Australian	4.44
7	Best skipjack trevally (0.5 kg min)	Mark Hansen	Trevally Silver Skippy	1.96
8	Best mackerel (2kg min)	0	0	0.00
9	Best yellowtail kingfish, samson or amberjack (4kg min)	0	0	0.00
10	Best scale fish (Other than above)	Ron Thomas	Estury Cod	4.46
11	Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	0	27.58
12	Best bag of mulloay (2 fish min)	0	0	0.00
13	Best bag of tailor (2 fish min)	Theo Van Niekerk	0	9.60
14	Best fish on single handed rod (max 4kg line)	Martin Wearmouth	Leatherjacket	0.95
15	Best fish caught on fly rod	0	0	0.00
16	Best fish on single handed rod, soft plastic lure (max 4kg line)	0	0	0.00
17	Best fish on single handed rod, hard body lure (max 4kg line)	0	0	0.00
18	Best fish caught using a drone	0	0	0.00



Open fishing competition 2022/23

The Open Competition is for fish caught between 1 May 2022 and 30 April 2023, other than on Club gazetted Field days. Entries for the Open competition close **30 days after capture**. See Competition Rules Section 4.

Section	For	Minimum weight	Entry
1	Most meritorious capture	None	To be awarded by Committee

2	Best Shark	4.5 kg	
3	Best Mulloway	4 kg	
4	Best Salmon	3.5kg	
5	Best Dhufish	4 kg	
6	Best Tailor	1 kg	
7	Best Samson fish	2 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)	0.5 kg	
13	Best Trevally (northern)	2 kg	
14	Best Flathead	0.5 kg	
15	Best Black or Yellow finned Bream	0.5 kg	
16	Best scale fish other than sections 3-15	2 kg	
17	Best fish caught on fly rod.	Legal size	
18	Best fish caught using a soft plastic or hard body lure on a single-handed rod (4kg line max.)	Legal size	
19	Best fish caught by Drone	Legal size	

Friday Night Fishing session – Smoking workshop

John Curtis will be hosting a smoking night on Friday 14th October, demonstrating techniques for hot smoking a variety of foodstuffs. Please RSVP to John for catering purposes.

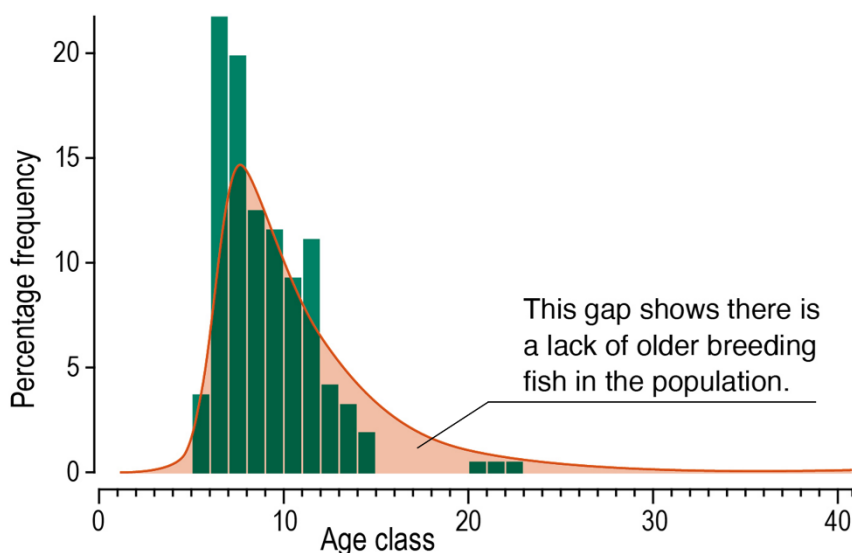
Dhufish and pink snapper fisheries recovery progress

Link provided by Chris Stickells

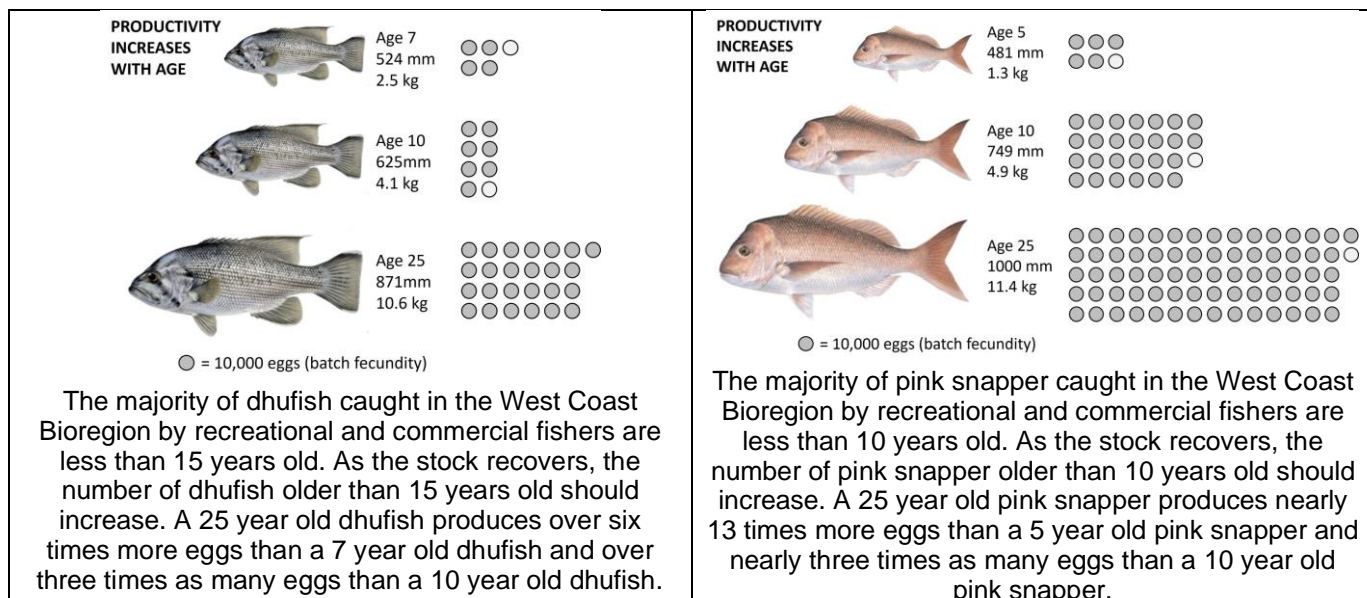
The recovery plan was designed to end overfishing, rebuild the demersal scalefish stocks and ensure long-term sustainability. The science shows the dhufish and pink snapper population is dominated by younger fish.

Dhufish and pink snapper are long lived. They can reach over forty years of age and older dhufish and pink snapper females are the biggest egg producers. Since the recovery plan commenced in 2010, very few of the resulting young fish in the pink snapper and dhufish populations have been able to reach their peak breeding years. This is because fishing pressures are still too high to allow dhufish and pink snapper populations to reach peak breeding age.

The current recovery plan is designed not only to increase fish numbers, but to also allow demersal scalefish to reach older ages and larger sizes.



Example comparison of age make up of WA dhufish in the Mid-West/Kalbarri areas in 2016/17 (green bars) compared to a recovered population (orange shading).



Summer Fishing

By John Curtis



A morning's catch in the Swan River.

Summer is almost here and it is the prime time to be out and about fishing. It is a great recreational pursuit and can be done in the shallow waters of our estuaries and protected coastal waters throughout Western Australia. All you will need is either a light spinning outfit, a handful of bait or half a dozen lures and you can spend a couple of hours relaxing and enjoying what is on offer in the great outdoors. There's always a lot more to see than just fish. Here are a few basic ideas to help you, and your family and your friends enjoy some quality time during the summer period.

I love this time of the year, it means days at the beach, or wandering along the banks of a river or stream or tossing lures at bream, flathead, whiting or herring along a beach or estuary. Generally this time of the year can be fairly hectic, with lots of people on holidays and all looking to catch a few fish. As a result of these crowds, it requires a little forward thinking and planning. The answer is quite simple, get an alarm clock and set it for an early start. The sun is generally up just after 5:00 AM and this means it is fairly light at just after 4:00AM. Get out of bed and get going. You can sleep through the middle, and hottest part of the day, as this will allow you get out and fish the sunset and early evening hours. The Spanish were right - siesta time is for sleeping. It also means at this time of the day; you generally have the waters to yourself. Also, there is generally less traffic about and as a consequence a lot less noise from both road and boat traffic.

It is a great time of the day to be out and wading the flats. Watching the sun rise is something special as it heralds a brand-new day, doing it while fishing makes it even more special. Prior to getting out and going fishing, reading the tide charts will also assist when fishing these areas as it will determine which way the water will be flowing in an estuary. Wading the shallows adjacent to a drop off into a channel where there is deeper water and casting into the flow will bring your lure or bait over fish who are waiting in ambush.

Look for some structure to work around as well, as these will provide shelter, and protection for these predators as well as cause a slight back eddy in the current which means that fish won't have to work as hard to hold station. A bridge or jetty pylon causes the water to flow either side of it and creates a small eddy behind it away from the current flow; this is where a fish will hold 'station' to take any offerings that the tide brings down to it.

Most anglers will generally target the common species found in these locations such as Australian herring, bream, flathead and whiting. All of them will readily take lures as well as a well presented bait. The list of species available in various locations is not just limited to these species. Depending upon your location, there are a host of other suitable species that will readily take a well presented lure or bait. Just think a little and decide on a target species and give it a go. If you are new to the area and not sure of the species available, check with the local tackle outlet as they should have all the information and a selection of suitable lures and fresh bait.

If we take a closer look at the four species listed above, most anglers should be able to capture them readily using light spin outfits. Rods only need to be around 1.8 m in length and rated around 2 - 4 kg. I would recommend using a good quality 4 kg nylon line and a short length of fluorocarbon leader on a small spinning reel that holds around 150 - 250 m of line.

Choice of lures is up to the angler, but I prefer to use blade style lures of 3.5 - 5 g. Soft plastic lures are also the anglers choice but small lures on light jig heads are preferred. For those fishing with bait, use a simple rig using small rolling swivels with a sinker above it and a gang of small hooks suitable for white bait about 30 cm below the sinker. An alternative rig is a double paternoster rig where a small sinker is placed at the bottom of the rig on loop, and two small gangs of hooks are placed around 30 - 40 cm apart above the sinker. Small gangs are baited with whitebait, blue sardines or strips of fish flesh. The size of the sinker will depend on local conditions and be heavy enough to keep the baits on or near the bottom. In shallow water this means around 15 - 20 g.

Flathead are found in most west coast estuaries and along most of our beaches and are camouflage experts. As their name indicates, they are a flat fish (and you can read flounder in lieu of flathead when fishing in estuaries as well) These fish are bottom-dwelling ambush experts who wait for a meal to come to them, so the ideal angling strategy is to keep your bait or lure near the bottom. At this time of the year a lot of anglers are successfully targeting flathead using lures. These include both hard bodied and soft plastic lures. I have a personal preference for metal blade lures, but also use soft plastics around 7 - 10 cm long as well. An alternative bait rig is to use a small bean sinker rigged just above a small swivel with a short 50 - 75 cm length of fluorocarbon leader of around 6 - 8 kg. The main line is generally 2 - 3 kg nylon as

flathead have very small fine teeth and they will shake their head vigorously which will shred fine line very quickly, hence the need for the leader.

Whiting are becoming a very popular fish to target with lures. Most people assume that they are a fairly docile species but don't be fooled - they are super aggressive when it comes to food. A small 3 - 5 cm popper style lure that is skipped across the surface and looking like a prawn will be attacked fairly readily. Also don't be fooled by the size of whiting that are often taken as a by catch on beaches. These little bait thieves' big brothers are out there and only achieving their size by being smart. I have seen whiting of almost 500 g caught in the Swan River on the sand flats in the lower reaches regularly. Both baits and a variety of lures have been successful.

Fishing for them with bait I recommend the use of small size 4 - 6 circle hooks with pieces of prawn skinned octopus or squid. Rigs are as described above; sinker size is dependent on current flow and water depth. Just use a sinker big enough to keep the baits near or on the bottom.

When fishing for whiting in shallow water using lures, keep the lure moving. Don't pause or stop as this will put the fish off. They are seeing the lure as a fleeing prawn and will readily attack it, so keep the lure moving.

Australian herring are found around the southern area of the state and are also another species that can be regularly taken on a lure or bait. Traditionally blowfly larvae or 'wogs' are the bait for herring, however any small pieces of octopus, squid, prawn or fish flesh will work. Rigs are as described above and can provide kids of all ages with hours of fun when fishing for them.

Most small lures, either hard or soft body, as well as metal slices work, for this species. Again, the outfit described above will work and the use of a short fluorocarbon leader will assist if a larger salmon or tailor takes a lure meant for a herring.

It is a similar story for black bream in estuaries. They will readily take a variety of both soft and hard bodied lures as well as baits. Lures can be bibbed diving lures as well as poppers and soft plastics rigged on a small jig head.

Again, think outside the square when it comes to bait fishing. Bream dine out on small crabs, fresh mussels, prawns and shrimp so it stands to reason to use these baits when fishing for bream. White bait, prawns and octopus and squid will also work on occasions.

When it comes to fishing for bream in estuaries most anglers make the mistake of throwing their lure or bait too far. Bream like to shelter where the water is a little more to their liking, where they are not going to be harassed by predators, and where they can get a feed. This means that they are generally found under over hanging trees and in locations where there is some cover.

Lure techniques when fishing for bream are different to that for whiting. When retrieving the lure pause for a short period then start winding again at a steady rate then pause for a second or two then go again. Don't be surprised if you pick up a flathead when using this technique as it works for them as well.

Another species that you may pick up along our sandy beaches or in the estuaries is the tarwhine. This species is a cousin of the snapper and bream and so the same rigs and methods can be used.

When wading the flats in an estuary or on the open beach, walk slowly and cast ahead as you go. Look for any likely structure and give each area where there is some structure, several casts as just one cast won't always catch a fish.

One of the beauties of this style of fishing is that there is a lot more to see than just the fish. There are other marine creatures as well as a variety of sea birds, a variety of crustacea and some spectacular scenery.

Essential gear for this style of fishing includes a broad brimmed hat, a good quality SPF 35 + sunscreen, long sleeved shirt, and shoes suitable for wading. Don't forget that cobbler also inhabit this water and can give you a nasty sting should you not be wearing suitable footwear. Another vital piece of equipment is a good pair of polarizing sunglasses. A good pair of glasses will open up a whole new world underwater to you and are an absolute necessity if you are to see the fish you are looking for.

One alternative style of fishing that has not been mentioned here is that of fly fishing. All of the species are suitable candidates for this form of fishing. It is a very therapeutic way of fishing and can become very addictive. Almost any species that can be taken using bait can be caught on a fly. Anglers do not need to spend large amounts of cash on a starter outfit. A simple 2.5 m #7 - 8 rod with a Weight Forward (WF 7 - 8) floating line, a suitable reel and a selection of flies will set an angler up for the species listed above. Any good tackle shop that has staff that specialize in fly fishing will be able to help an interested angler.

There is only one rule that applies to summer fishing. - have fun and enjoy yourself. It is a great way to spend time out with family and friends and the early mornings and evenings spent on our waters are something special. The added bonus of such an outing is that you may get to eat a feed of fresh fish. Don't procrastinate, get organized and get out and go fishing this summer and take the family.

Whitegum Farm, York Agricultural Show and Dwellingup

By Chris Stickells & Helen Carnell



We camped with some friends from the Wheatbelt at Whitegum Aviation Farm just outside of York from September 2nd to 4th, in line with the York Agricultural Show. It was a good trip despite the weather which was rainy and very blowy – it almost flattened the tent at one stage (cars make good windbreaks). This seemed to keep most people away and made sure there were no flights happening at the air field. It also closed the dam so there was no fishing for the silver perch this trip. The onsite 4WD park was also closed due to the weather, so we spent most of our time at

the agricultural show and in the pub, watching the footy and just generally chilling back. The park has a grave yard of old planes including some old Ozjet planes, as well as some old cars which seem to be the old SJ10 and SJ40 Suzuki Jimny – this made me very excited. The farm is full of quirky stuff such as an old loader bucket for a fire pit and a Loch Ness monster and caterpillar made out of old tyres; it seems to be the owner's preferred style which is nice. We have plans to return and do the tours that weren't available and try our luck at the on-site fishing and 4WDing.



Loch Ness tyre monster



Loader bucket fire pit



Various farm decorations



Ag show – entries from local school students



Ag show - Face painting fun!



Ag show - Unique ideas, and 'man cakes'

We also took a trip to Dwellingup on the weekend of 9 - 11th of September. This was the weekend of the Hotham Valley Railway anniversary and the Dwellingup 100, which we didn't know about until we got there. So it was a very busy weekend in town. We stayed at the Dwellingup Caravan Park – the tent sites were basic but it had all we needed; site ablutions, a camp kitchen, and fire rings. We had a fire both nights; the first night it just didn't want to burn even with the help of the guys on site next to us. The second night we had no problems starting the fire so guess the was wet at first then had the chance to dry out. We spent our time relaxing and exploring in and around the town, and even tried our hands at fishing for red fin perch. I managed to hook a few but unfortunately didn't land any, Helen hooked plenty of snags and lost a couple lures. The plan now is to go and try again but have to learn more first. We also spent a bit of time after we'd finished fishing taking little Jimny off on some of the Forestry tracks to see what was there; nothing that needed us to put her in 4WD although one spot came close, but it was fun hill climbing and splashing in a few puddles caused by the recent rain. On Sunday we went down to the railway to check out the trains and displays. Tours were available but the steam train was booked out, only tours on the diesel engine were still available so we gave it a miss. There were a lot of scale replica tractors and trains; some were even powered by steam which was enjoyable. We dropped into the visitor's centre as soon as we'd set up our campsite, and Helen found a book called Helen written by a local; we were advised it was cheaper at the IGA close by and got a copy there. Some things Just have to be done, right? Overall, it was a good trip, and we look forward to another in future which will hopefully bring better fishing luck.



Our weekend home



Sunset sky from camp



Friday night's fire



Having some fun in the Jimny



Hooking the big one at Bob's Crossing...



... that got away after a fight



Hotham Valley - steam trains exhibit



A carefully built model train