

# REEL TALK



Sandra and Peet at Rottneest

SURF CASTING AND ANGLING CLUB OF WA INC

September 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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### **VALE**

#### **Andy Thorgerson**

Andy, you will be missed. Although I did not know you in your earlier days you were always cheerful and had time to speak to all.

Turning up for the clubs Drycasting day to assist with the sausage sizzle to take the cash for the sausage in a bun and a drink you kept a keen eye on the cash tin.

Times you would turn up asking when are you going to start cooking as I am hungry not having had breakfast and needing some fuel.

General meetings you always had some info on river fishing or what's happening at Mandurah

Andy thanks for all your help and solid club spirit

I am sure your fellow club members send their condolences to the family.

Social Organiser Pat McKeown



## President's Report – September 2017



As members will be aware the committee has for some time been concerned about the financial performance of the Kalbarri property. Many of my previous reports have made reference to the underutilisation of the property by members as well as the modest income received from the general public. Our treasurer Vic Schilo has on several occasions also raised concerns about the financial strain Kalbarri is placing on the club's finances.

At the last committee meeting much time was spent discussing our options with regards to the property. We discussed Kalbarri's many years of financial losses as well as the ongoing costs of maintaining the property. We also considered the very low usage of the property by members and likelihood of somehow dramatically increasing the rental income from other sources. In short it is very difficult to be optimistic about the short and

medium-term future of the house.

An important function of a committee is to ensure the sensible and proper management of the club's finances. I can assure all members that all the committee members take this responsibility very seriously. Due to the foresight and efforts of past and current members we are in what many would consider an enviable position of owning an asset worth a substantial amount of money however, its poor financial performance is making it more of a liability.

With all the above in mind, the committee overwhelmingly felt the best course of action would be to place the property on the market. As members will be aware from other correspondence, this recommendation will be an agenda item at the next general meeting with a motion moved for voting by those attending. It should go without saying that this meeting is a very important one for members to attend.

By the time you read this the postponed Rottneest field day would have been and gone. Poor weather lead to the very sensible cancellation of the event by our Field Day Officer following consultation with those scheduled to attend. Peet Wessels then set about re-organising the event for 2 weeks later and was somehow able to achieve this without any additional cost to the participants. I know this took many hours of work and persuasive telephone calls. As I said at the August meeting, we are all very grateful for this effort. Thanks, Peet.

Finally, it was good to see Ron Thomas back in town after a few month's tangling with some large pelagics up north and also a warm welcome to our new member David Trainor who will officially receive his new member file at the next meeting.

*Shane Wignell; President*

### Thought for the month:

#### *All that Glitters is not Gold*

The original form of this phrase was 'all that glisters is not gold'. The 'glitters' version long ago superseded the original and is now almost universally used.



Shakespeare is the best-known writer to have expressed the idea that shiny things aren't necessarily precious things. The original editions of *The Merchant of Venice*, 1596, have the line as '*all that glisters is not gold*'. 'Glister' is usually replaced by 'glitter' in modern renditions of the play:

O hell! what have we here?  
A carrion Death, within whose empty eye  
There is a written scroll! I'll read the writing.  
All that glitters is not gold;  
Often have you heard that told:  
Many a man his life hath sold  
But my outside to behold:  
Gilded tombs do worms enfold.  
Had you been as wise as bold,  
Young in limbs, in judgment old,  
Your answer had not been inscroll'd:  
Fare you well; your suit is cold.

## **Membership Co-ordinators Report**

This month we welcome David Trainer as a new member.

Hopefully all members and families are well and ready for a bumper year of fishing and Drycasting as a club.

The membership scene has been quiet maybe the warmer weather will bring them out of hibernation.

Don't forget to check out the Facebook page and also keep up to date with events on your website page.

All club events and updates are shown on these sites.

If you have a special piece of info you want to pass on to members you can post on Facebook or contact Peet Wessels who will put it on our webpage.

Why not submit those special photos of your fishing experiences?

Don't forget club shirts and hats are available from Shane our esteemed president.

If you want club car stickers I have plenty in stock.

Be proud and show your club colours.

Well that's all folks...

*Stay well and Enjoy Life    Membership Coordinator Pat McKeown*

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## **Social Organisers Report August 2017**

To date it has been very quiet on the Social scene after all the hustle and bustle of the presentation event.

The next Presentation night has been booked for the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

I am looking at setting up midweek fishing it will be a social event just to satisfy the urges when we don't have a comp going. This will be based at one location each time so bring along a sandwich and a thermos and enjoy several hours fishing. Times most probably will be 10.00am until 2-3pm depending on how it is all going.

It will be held on a monthly basis ocean, river, estuary.

Where ever you want to go it's your decision

We have just purchased more raffle prizes so keep purchasing those tickets and win some great prizes.

Thanks to Slavka for supplying the cake you all enjoyed at the last meeting.

If you have the urge to bake bring it along for the supper break

Dean and Marion Stewart have been visiting China hopefully they enjoyed themselves dodging the cold weather. Any other happy trippers have a safe and enjoyable time.

Why not do a write up on your trip near or far let us know about that special time.

Have you checked the clubs Facebook page? It's managed by Justin who is doing a good job.

Now that the weather is starting to warm up its time to get out Drycasting or Fishing. Isn't that why you are a member of Surfcasters?

See you on the Oval or Beach.

*Social Organiser; Pat McKeown*

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## **September General Meeting**

**When**        Wednesday 13 September commencing at 7.30pm

**Where**        Coolbinia West Perth Amateur Football and Sporting Club room

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## **August Committee Meeting**

**When**        Wednesday 20 September, Commencing at new time of 7.00pm

**Where**        Coolbinia West Perth Amateur Football and Sporting Club room.

Club members who wish to see what's involved in Committee work may attend Committee meetings by invitation as visitors and observers and at the discretion of the President or Vice Chairman. Please contact the President or the Secretary well before the meeting to arrange your invitation.

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## COMING FIELD DAY EVENTS

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

### SEPTEMBER

#### FIELD DAY VENUE

**S-Bend near Geraldton**

#### WHEN

23 - 25 September 2017

#### SIGN ON

At Sept GM or phone FDO or Friday night at S-Bend Caravan Park

#### LINES DOWN

Saturday 23 September, 06h00

#### BOUNDARIES

Greenough River mouth to Dongara Marina wall

#### WEIGH IN

Monday 25 Sept 09h00 at S Bend Caravan car park

#### FIELD DAY VENUE

**Local**

#### WHEN

23 - 25 September 2017

#### SIGN ON

At the General meeting or phone FDO before Thursday evening.

#### LINES DOWN

Saturday 23 September, 06h00

#### BOUNDARIES

Floreat to Lancelin

#### WEIGH IN

Monday 25 Sept 09h00 – Weigh in location to be arranged at GM

### SOLUNAR PREDICTIONS, SUN RISE / SUNSET TIMES AND TIDES FOR SATURDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> & MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> OF SEPTEMBER 2017 FOR S BEND AND FLOREAT to LANCELIN FIELD DAYS

When fishing from the rocks - Don't become a statistic – wear a life jacket.

#### S BEND

##### SOLUNAR PREDICTIONS:

DAY / DATE	PREDICTION	PREDICTED PRIME TIMES		MOON PHASE
SAT 23 SEPT	BEST	12:21 – 14:21	23:58 – 01:58	First Crescent -1.
SUN 24 SEPT	GOOD	13:06 – 15:06	00:44 – 02:44	First Crescent.
MON 25 SEPT	FAIR	13:52 – 15:52	01:29 – 03:29	First Crescent +. 1

These are the predicted MAJOR Solunar periods and have been adjusted to Perth area.

For minor periods add approximately 6 hours 45 minutes.

**Note:** Saturday 23<sup>RD</sup> is the Spring Equinox; Day and Night are of equal length.

##### SUNRISE AND SUNSET TIMES:

DAY / DATE	SUNRISE	SUNSET	MOONRISE	MOONSET
SAT 23 SEPT	06:10	18:18	08:07	21:10
SUN 24 SEPT	06:08	18:18	08:44	22:04
MON 25 SEPT	06:07	18:19	09:22	22:57

##### PREDICTED TIDES.

DAY / DATE	TIME AND PREDICTED HEIGHT							
SAT 23 SEPT	05:55	0.38	12:17	0.59	15:33	0.44		
SUN 24 SEPT	00:19	0.74	06:34	0.36	12:52	0.53	15:37	0.43
MON 25 SEPT	00:46	0.74	07:15	0.38	13:30	0.49	15:54	0.42

**NOTE:** These are the predicted tides for S Bend.

*There may be some variation due to wind strength and direction.*

#### FLOREAT TO LANCELIN

##### SOLUNAR PREDICTIONS:

DAY / DATE	PREDICTION	PREDICTED PRIME TIMES		MOON PHASE
SAT 23 SEPT	BEST	12:11 – 14:11	23:48 – 01:48	First Crescent -1.
SUN 24 SEPT	GOOD	12:56 – 14:56	00:34 – 02:34	First Crescent.
MON 25 SEPT	FAIR	13:42 – 15:42	01:19 – 03:19	First Crescent +. 1

These are the predicted MAJOR Solunar periods and have been adjusted to Perth area.

For minor periods add approximately 6 hours 45 minutes.

##### SUNRISE AND SUNSET TIMES:

DAY / DATE	SUNRISE	SUNSET	MOONRISE	MOONSET
SAT 23 SEPT	06:05	18:13	08:00	21:09
SUN 24 SEPT	06:04	18:14	08:35	22:03
MON 25 SEPT	06:02	18:14	09:13	22:57

##### PREDICTED TIDES.

DAY / DATE	TIME AND PREDICTED HEIGHT							
SAT 23 SEPT	05:05	0.63	12:09	0.74	16:02	0.64	22:33	0.90
SUN 24 SEPT	05:41	0.63	10:40	0.70	16:15	0.64	22:57	0.93
MON 25 SEPT	15:38	0.63	23:27	0.94				

## **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
<hr/>	
<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

## **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

## **Rottnest Island Field Day Report – August 2017**

To our international readers, Rottnest Island is located 18 kilometers off the [Western Australian](#) coast, near [Fremantle](#). The island features in Noongar Aboriginal mythology as Wadjemup, meaning “place across the water where the spirits are”. In the meantime, I have renamed it as Noamunga, meaning “place where the fish are”. For many years Rottnest Island has been the Flagship venue on our fishing calendar and it is a known fact around the Western Australian fishing community that the Surfcasters have dibs on this prime location.

Our weekend started off with the following members gathering at Rous Head, the ferry terminal, for our journey over to the Island; Mark Hansen, Mark Nurse, Peter Osborne, Sabby Pizzolante, Ian Taggart, Vince Tomazin, Theo van Niekerk, Martin Wearmouth, Peet Wessels, Sandra Wessels and Brad Zaknich. Everyone was in good spirit and very excited for the weekend ahead. The weather predictions for the weekend were excellent, sunny days with light easterly winds and a swell height of 1.5 meters.



Saturday morning 11 am the charter bus picked us up and after the compulsory stop at the bakery we set off to our favorite fishing stop at West End. Soon Ian, Brad and Theo disappeared down the hill towards Wilsons Bay with Sandra and myself in tow a few minutes later. Bait casting with Mulies was the way we tried to get that elusive Tailor but to no avail.

Peter, Sabby, Mark Nurse and Martin went in the direction of Fish Hook Bay and took the track down

to the Golden Rock. Mark Hansen and Vince went straight down the goat track in the direction of the Hansen rock.



Fishing started slow as usual with everybody waiting for the 4 pm to 7 pm Radar Reef session. By 4 pm we were all geared up and ready for the much anticipated YTK run. In the meantime Ian and Brad had taken position on the Hansen rock and quietly started to lay into the Yellowtails. It was not long after that and we all got into the action. The Yellowtails were running and it was a great sight to see all the rods bending over. Then that dreaded rifle shot sound as a rod snapped under extreme pressure in 3 different pieces, then another high sticking rod went bang and then another fishing reel went bust and it was just mayhem and madness wherever you looked. The YTK's just kept on coming and this action lasted for longer than an hour. For a few minutes there was a break and then a big hit on my line, could not believe my eyes when that Dhuie broke the water. My day was made and I was dancing on the reef. However there was no time for celebrations as a very big school of very hungry Skippy arrived. The Reef was by now fired up with YTK, big Skippy and the odd big Buff Bream.

Tired and happy I said to Sandra, my wife, "ok last cast and we go back to clean a few fish". Over the years I have had a few memorable last casts and this was another. I caught a really nice, big Skippy with that cast and as it came out of the water Theo and Sandra said to me, "surely you are not going to release this one". I said "yes that is the plan". The wife said "keep this one, it looks like a good one. I said ok and we walked back to our fish cleaning rock.

Arriving at our fish cleaning rock I decided I wanted to release the fish, and so I did. I got a skew look from the side and carried on cleaning the other fish. The next moment there was a splash behind me, and on turning around I witnessed an Octopus catching the released Skippy and off it went into an opening under a big rock. I could not believe my eyes, but decided bugger that Ockie I was going to free that fish. I grabbed the tail of the fish, but the harder I pulled the harder the Octopus fought back. Finally I got the fish and Octopus out. Then with a big squirt of black ink in my direction the Ockie let go. With a big smile I helped the badly shaken Skippy on its way into deeper water. Slowly he swam off as if nothing had happened.



Sunday morning we woke up to another perfect fishing day. Surely I thought, today the fishing can't be as good as yesterday? Now if you think Saturday the fish was fired up, Sunday Rottneest really turned it on. You could throw anything in the water and within seconds there was another fish on. The days fishing was topped by another Dhuie, the fish that nearly got away, this time from Peter Osborne's rod. I tried Mark Hansen's favourite soft paddle tails and caught double headers cast after cast. What a memorable weekend, one that will be in the memory forever. Ok enough of me, let's read what some of the other members have to say.

### **"August Report by Sabby Pizzolante"**

*This was my second time to Rotto after many years. I wanted to return, not just for the fishing but for the camaraderie. I made a great decision.*

*Well, did Rotto turn it on?*

*I was organised, I e-mailed Peet for a list and I was prepared, well almost. I was into my first YTK, I put on the hurt and SNAP. My favourite rod in three pieces. I thought how was I to land any fish with my other lighter rods? Mark Nurse came to the rescue and loaned me his Daiwa 12ft Sensor YTK fighting machine and it didn't miss a beat. I thank you Mark. I know what I'm getting for my birthday.*

*Now one thing I learnt from Surfcasters was not to panic, so after my rod snapped I hand lined the YTK in. It was my biggest fish from the shore. I unhooked and released it. It deserved that much. Well, Karma was on my side because in the last session of the day, I caught the largest YTK of the day, just on 3kg.*

So many highlights, but this I will never forget. We were cleaning the fish and the seagulls came in for the scraps. We noticed a seagull struggling in the water and after an inspection an octopus had it and was pulling it underwater. Captain Marvel, Vince, grabbed the seagull and released it. He also grabbed the octopus but it wasn't so lucky. Let's just say Vince didn't run out of bait.

#### Highlights

An abundant number of YTK and Skippy plus a myriad of other species.

Two dhuis, double header of YTK on plastics, a double header of YTK and a Skippy on plastics, a double header of Skippy on plastics, and two Skippy on a gang.

Don't forget dolphins, a grey nurse and a two-metre wobbegong feeding on the reef.

Did I mention the two dhuis?

Thanks

Sabby “



“Hi Peet, a great weekend. Here is my story

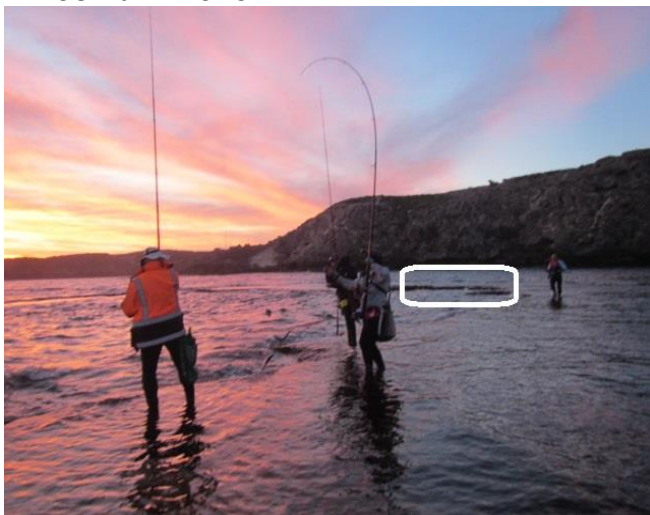
On Saturday, late arvo I and Brad had returned from radar reef to gill and gut fish before our climb up the hill to the bus. There were seagulls everywhere. Brad says to me " that seagull looks a bit funny". Then he says. "Hey, that seagull been caught by an octopus". That's when I turned around to have a look. Sure enough, a seagull was struggling to get away from the octopus tentacles around it. I volunteered to free the bird and kept the octopus for bait. The seagull flew away, landed close by, flapped its wings and on its way, it went.

So, it was a case of octopus catch a seagull, Vince release a seagull and catch an octopus. I need to check the rule book for points earned for release of seagull and catching an octopus. There should also be a prize and trophy, IMO

**Vincent Tomazin “**



#### “Theo van Niekerk



Sunday afternoon while fishing at Radar reef we suddenly noticed some movement at the corner end next to tennis court. When we looked up there was this big wobbegong shark that beached itself on the reef trying to get across from tennis court to radar. It was a huge wobbe. Its head was as wide as from my shoulder to shoulder if not wider and we guessed about 2.5m to 3m long. Because the tide was low the amount of water that over flowed to tennis court was only about ankle deep, but it used that to thrash and wiggle itself for about 3 minutes to get across to radar. It finally succeeded and slipped into our fishing area. We all thought our fish would disappear but they stayed and we fished into the dark."

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## **"Rotto Field Day -August 2017**

### **Peter O's highlights**

All of us were anticipating great fishing results based on excellent wind, swell, and tide forecast conditions for the weekend - the actual event far exceeded expectations. For all the times, I have been to Rotto, I have never seen so many Yellowtail caught.

Saturday afternoon on lines down, started using a lighter rod etc., I picked an easy place to fish on the north side of the Tennis Courts using a paternoster rig with small hooks and bait where I was targeting Western Rock Blackfish and Tarwhine - however only achieved big numbers of Buff Bream and Wrasse. I tried for a while with a mulie under a float but nil action.

Mid-afternoon on observing Ian and Brad fishing from the SE corner of the Tennis Courts, they were hooking into Yellowtail - nice surprise. Hence, I changed to my heavier rod and did long casts across the Tennis Courts to behind Radar Reef. This resulted in my bag limit of 3 good Yellowtail with catch and release of another 3.

Of interest was on seeing all this Yellowtail activity in the Tennis Courts with their backs to us they did not recognize this frantic fishing. They were eventually notified of this activity; hence they walked across Radar to fish in the Tennis Courts with good results. With a good bag of fish, before dark I managed to stumble/ haul this bag of fish up the track to put into my ice box. Being out of oomph and stiff and sore decided not to go back down to Radar. When the rest of the gang did come up they confirmed that the sundown period gave lots of action for both big Skippy and Yellowtail

Sunday afternoon joined Theo at Wilsons and fished for a couple of hours - hoping for a Tailor or even a Snook - absolutely dead. Late afternoon went down to Radar to specifically target Skippy. Managed to get some (I only wanted 4 or 5 to allow an easy climb up the cliff) as my wife wanted to have some Skippy Sashimi - mission accomplished. However, I was troubled with every second hook-up was another Yellowtail. Tough eh! to have to go into catch and release on such prize catches.

One very large fish e.g. monster Yellowtail or Samson picked up my Mulie and immediately headed west on full throttle. Even with spool locked up I did not slow it down, hence when spool was getting very low, I palmed the spool and broke off. I wonder what it was. Usual issue of judgement for catch and release fishing, I kept the 3 fish from Saturday but most of the ones Sunday afternoon that I released were larger.

Vince was fishing beside me, he was getting very frustrated he could not get a hook-up. I some Herring fillets, which great for Skippy, so gave him strip - finger size, whereby he immediately hooked a nice Skippy. His drought was broken and he continued to some Yellowtail as well.

My highlight for the weekend came in the middle of this session.

A good hook-up gave my first thought as was another darn Yellowtail, but not far into the fight with the type of action I was getting, thought this was not a Yellowtail, but could possibly be a large Skippy which felt to be in the 2 + kilo range. The fish struggled down deep and when I got it close to the reef edge, saw a fish a flash and considered my call was correct. I started to work the fish up to the surface and realized that it was silver with black stripes and a very large mouth. I had landed a Dhufish that would have been around 3.0 kg before gill & gutting...



but  
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Thanks to Sabby for the use of his gaff, Sandra for taking this fish back to shore and Mark for carrying this fish up the cliff goat track. Later I found that Peet, on Saturday afternoon, had an almost identical twin of the one I caught.

After nearly 40 years of trying to catch a Dhufish off the shore I had not only managed a smaller one in the Rotto May field day of this year - but to cap it off with another one this field day - **absolutely fantastic**. Rotto lived up to or exceeded our greatest expectations.

Peter Osborne"

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### "My Rotto trip August 2017 by Martin Wearmouth

The real anticipation started when I started packing my gear on Friday morning ready to head off to the ferry, What would this fishing weekend bring? Well I could not have in my wildest dreams even got close, Peet had said when we were all waiting for the ferry that the fish would be on this weekend, I think this was an understatement as nothing could have prepared us for what was about to happen.

Heading out on the bus on Saturday morning everyone was planning there moves and where to fish first, I headed out to Radar Reef with Mark Nurse and got smashed by wrasse for the first hour or 2, but also managed a couple of other species. Mid-afternoon Peet and Sandra joined us on radar reef and started fishing on the northern side of the reef and it was not long till they found the Yellow Tail Kingfish. A few of us moved over and within minutes it was mayhem, I think everyone had a YTK on or was trying to take one off the hook what a sight lots of bent rods. This continued for quite a while with each cast yielding another YTK, In the mayhem 2 fishing rods were broken (lucky I had a spare), one was mine those YTK just go crazy when you are trying to get it off the hook.

When the fishing slowed down we moved back to the Radar Reef hole and enjoyed a long session on the Skippy, I have never seen so many Skippy, again it was a fish a cast,

For me Sunday was not quite as full on but still plenty of YTK and Skippy, this trip was my best fishing ever and one that I will never forget, Thanks to all who attended for the memories ☺"



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### "Ian Taggart – Rotto – Saturday August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Brad and I first fished Wilsons for a couple of hours (again no tailor) and not much anything else either. Brad did manage to land a tarwhine and a sweep from the front gutter. I tried around the corner under the cliff but couldn't lose a bait there. I have caught some nice fish from this spot (black fish, king George, yellow tail, salmon) but not this time.

We then moved on to the tailor hole which again didn't live up to its name. There was a fair bit of white water and with the wind in your face it was difficult to get out into the clear water.

Anyway, off to Radar we went. We got there and found Theo and Sabbi sunning themselves on the rocks with 5 more out on Radar Reef, Peter was on the rocks to our right and Mark was on the reef further around. We decided to fish dry on a rock into the Tennis Courts. First cast I was on to a yellowtail. The 5 on radar all had their backs to us so they were unaware that the fish were behind them. We had landed 4 Yellowtails before Theo went out and let them know .... they then started fishing into the Tennis Court and everyone was on.

The rock we were fishing on is about 1.5 to 2m above water level. To add to the excitement, we had about a 2.5m grey nurse shark circle in right below us. We estimated the width of its head was around 600 to 700mm across.

Sunday – Didn't fish, Brad and I instead went and supported the Eagles at the Pub. And, of course, with our help they managed to get into the finals.



*This field day was my 60<sup>th</sup> trip across to Rotto with the club. My first trip was in 1986. I still reckon it is one of the best fishing spots within close of the metro area. The fish we catch, the water and scenery, and of course the company have always been the best. I look forward to the next Rotto field day."*

Hope the next time I see you is with a bent fishing rod in the hand.

*Tight Lines*

*Peet Wessels, Field Day Officer*

Top scores up to August		
Rank	Angler	Total points
1	Peet Wessels	599.2
2	Sandra Wessels	568.3
3	Martin Wearmouth	536.9
4	Peter Osborne	501.5
5	Theo Van Niekerk	490.3
6	Mark Hansen	319.2
7	Mark Nurse	247.6
8	Brad Zaknich	227.9
9	Sabby Pizzolante	187.9
10	Vincent Tomazin	181.9
11	Ian Taggart	181.6
12	Gary Parkinson	121.5
13	Paul Terpkos	116.5
14	Justin Rose	54.8
15	Pat McKeown	40.0

## Rottnest and Local Field day results for August 2017:

ANGLER	Total weight	No. of Species	No. of fish	F.D. points	Attendance			Total points
					Field Day	Local	General Meeting	
Mark Hansen	14.62	4	16	186.2	1		1	206.2
Mark Nurse	16.76	7	18	237.6	1			247.6
Peter Osborne	15.72	5	10	207.2	1		1	227.2
Sabby Pizzolante	14.79	3	13	177.9	1			187.9
Ian Taggart	7.50	1	3	85.0	1		1	105.0
Vincent Tomazin	9.70	3	10	127.0	1		1	147.0
Theo Van Niekerk	16.90	4	13	209.0	1			219.0
Martin Wearmouth	14.97	6	15	209.7	1		1	229.7
Peet Wessels	20.22	6	15	262.2	1		1	282.2
Sandra Wessels	15.15	4	13	191.5	1		1	211.5
Brad Zaknich	15.79	6	16	217.9	1			227.9
Justin Rose						1	1	20.0

## Rottnest and Local Field day fished weighed in for August 2017:

ANGLER		Species Yellowtail Kingfish	Species Skipjack Trevally	Species Herring, Australian	Species Wrasse (all species) 1 only	Species Western Rock Blackfish	Species Cod (other than listed)	Species Westralian Dhufish	Species Banded Sweep	Species Tarwhine	Species Sweetlip (all species)	Species Leather Jackets (all species)
Mark Hansen	Number	3	8	4	1							
	Total weight	7.70	6.30	0.38	0.24							
	Weight of best	2.60	0.88	0.10	0.24							
Mark Nurse	Number	3	8	2	1		2					1
	Total weight	7.19	6.92	0.22	0.24	0.86	1.10					0.24
	Weight of best					0.86						
Peter Osborne	Number	3	4	1	1			1				
	Total weight	6.70	5.96	0.11	0.20			2.75				
	Weight of best	2.30	0.76	0.11				2.75				
Sabby Pizzolante	Number	3	8	2								
	Total weight	7.90	6.68	0.22								
	Weight of best	3.10	0.63									
Ian Taggart	Number	3										
	Total weight	7.50										
	Weight of best	2.80										
Vincent Tomazin	Number	3	6		1							
	Total weight	5.56	3.86		0.28							
	Weight of best	2.25	0.76		0.28							
Theo Van Niekerk	Number	3	8	1	1							
	Total weight	7.90	8.65	0.11	0.24							
	Weight of best	2.80	1.74									
Martin Wearmouth	Number	3	8	1	1	1						1
	Total weight	7.19	6.92	0.11	0.00	0.51						0.24
	Weight of best											
Peet Wessels	Number	3	8	1	1			1			1	
	Total weight	7.19	8.60	0.11	0.24			2.68			1.40	
	Weight of best		1.22									
Sandra Wessels	Number	3	8	1	1							
	Total weight	7.30	7.45	0.16	0.24							
	Weight of best	2.50	1.11	0.16								
Brad Zaknich	Number	3	8		1	1			1	2		
	Total weight	7.30	6.09		0.24	0.86			0.40	0.90		
	Weight of best	2.90	1.10							0.30		
Justin Rose	Number											
	Total weight											

## 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 mullet (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 mullet (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
Sportsman 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

## Recorder's Report

Martin Wearmouth had a successful session down in the Cottesloe to Swanbourne stretch with a solid Salmon of 5.4kg for an Open fishing competition Entry

Theo Van Niekerk has caught an inaugural club record Blue Bastard on a trip he did to Waroora Station, the fish weighed 5.28kg. Initially I had trouble identifying this fish as it had been damaged at some point in its life that had altered the dorsal fin, so I sought help from the WA museum curator of fishes who were able to positively identify. The Blue Bastard has only recently been identified as a new species for those interested click on the link <http://www.nationalgeographic.com.au/animals/australias-newest-fish-species-fights-by-kissing.aspx>



This Blue Bastard also qualified for the open fishing competition section 16 and a Grandmaster entry, well done Theo.

## Grandmasters

	Salmon	Mulloway	Skipjack Trevally	Flathead	Tailor	Whiting	Tarwhine	Samson Fish	Shark	Snook	Blackfish	Yellow Tailed Kingfish	Bonito	Trevally (other)	Mackerel	Snapper Pink or Northwest	Bream (all)	Free choice	<u>Free choice species entered</u>	<b>Require total 8 to qualify</b>
<b>Minimum weight</b>	4.5 kg	8 kg	1 kg	1 kg	2.5 kg	0.6 kg	1 kg	10 kg	15 kg	1.4 kg	1 kg	4 kg	1.5 kg	4.5 kg	12 kg	3.5 kg	0.6 kg	5 kg		<b>Number entered</b>
Van Niekerk, Theo			1.39 Aug															5.28 July	Blue	2

## Rottnest

Although many fish were caught on another successful trip, the only person to update any records was Sabby Pizzolante.

Sabby Caught a Yellow Tail Kingfish of 3.1kg that was an entry for species and masters.

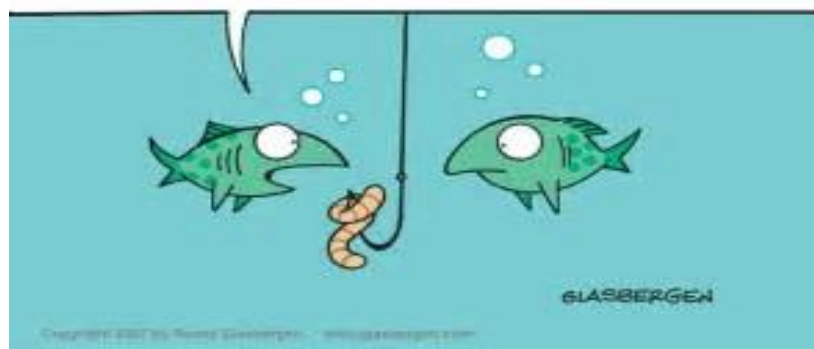
## Species

<b>Name</b>	Bream	Flathead	Flounder	Garfish	Herring	Yellow Eyed Mullet	Mackerel	Mulloway	Pink Snapper	Salmon	Samson Fish	Snook or Pike	Tailor	Tarwhine	Trevally	Whiting	Wrasse	Amberjack	Dart	Banded Sweep	Western Rock Blackfish	Yellowtail Kingfish	Number caught
Sabby Pizzolante		1			1	1						1	1	1	1							1	8

## Masters

<b>Species and number in Competition Rules</b>	Salmon	Mulloway	Skipjack Trevally	Flathead	Tailor	Whiting	Tarwhine	Yellow Eyed Mullet	Shark	Snook	Trevally (other)	Mackerel	Snapper pink or northwest	Bream (all)	Free choice	<u>Free choice species entered</u>	<b>Require total 8 to qualify</b>
<b>Minimum weights</b>	3.5 kg	5.0 kg	0.6 kg	0.5 kg	1.0 kg	0.4 kg	0.6 kg	0.3 kg	7.0 kg	1.0 kg	3.6 kg	7.0 kg	2.6 kg	0.6 kg	3.0 kg		<b>Number entered</b>
Pizzolante, Sabby			0.87		1.0		0.72								3.1		4
			May 2010		Sep 2011		May 2010								Aug-17	YTK	

I'M THINKING ABOUT GOING ONLINE,  
BUT I HEARD IT CAN BE DANGEROUS!



## 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.

Section	For	Minimum weight	Entry
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	

*2017/18 Recorder, Justin Rose*



My apology to Geoff for forgetting to add this photo to the July Reel Talk.

Geoff was staying at the Club's Kalbarri house during June and reported that there were very big swells and conditions were not good.

The only place fishable was Chinaman's and was very fortunate to be able to land this 11.9kg Mullock.

## Dry Casting Results 6 August 2017

### Drycasting results - 6th August 2017

	<b>56 gram</b>					<b>Artificial Bait</b>					<b>112gram</b>			
	Cast	Cast	Total	%		Cast	Cast	Total	%		Cast	Cast	Total	%
<b>Veterans</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>		
BOB HENDERSON	96.46	101.95	198.41	76.61		84.37	82.84	167.21	74.57		104.13	103.55	207.68	72.95
MAL HEAD	93.62	99.50	193.12	74.57		76.11	74.28	150.39	67.07		98.80	103.43	202.23	71.04
ALAN JONES	67.83	55.55	123.38	47.64		72.91	84.15	157.06	70.05		89.84	98.98	188.82	66.33
RON THOMAS	125.34	133.62	258.96	100.00		112.00	112.21	224.21	100.00		142.74	141.92	284.66	100.00
PETER OSBORNE	91.70	98.01	189.71	73.25		77.87	78.55	156.42	69.76		99.81	95.68	195.49	68.67
GEOFF RAFTIS	95.00	101.05	196.05	75.70		78.65	74.53	153.18	68.31		106.09	99.99	206.08	72.39

#### Seniors

MARK HANSON	87.03	70.75	157.78	100.00		81.15	83.61	164.76	100.00		98.76	98.62	197.38	100.00
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#### Double Handed Accuracy

#### Single Handed Accuracy

#### Total

#### Attendance

#### Total

	<b>Target number</b>											<b>Target distance</b>							<b>D/Casting</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>Veterans</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>		<b>L</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>		<b>%</b>	
BOB HENDERSON	18	17	20	22	14	13	7	23	134	91.78		3	8	5	9	25	100.00		415.91	425.91
MAL HEAD	2	8	21	23	0	25	23	17	119	81.50		0	6	0	8	14	56.00		350.18	360.18
ALAN JONES	18	11	19	20	22	2	22	21	135	92.46		2	8	6	5	21	84.00		360.48	370.48
RON THOMAS	19	16	21	12	19	19	19	21	146	100.00		2	8	8	4	22	88.00		488.00	498.00
PETER OSBORNE	23	20	22	3	16	11	20	17	132	90.41		0	0	2	5	7	28.00		330.09	340.09
GEOFF RAFTIS	0	13	19	0	3	17	13	20	85	58.21		0	8	0	8	16	64.00		338.61	348.61
<b>Seniors</b>																				
MARK HANSON	0	16	12	22	20	9	10	14	103	100.00		9	0	8	8	25	100.00		500.00	510.00

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

Longest 56 Gram	139.82M	Ron Thomas
Longest Artificial Bait	120.42M	Ron Thomas
Longest 112 Gram	147.89M	Ron Thomas
Highest Double Handed Accuracy	159	Ron Thomas
Highest Single Handed Accuracy	31	Bob Henderson

#### 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 September**

Sharon Osborne 3<sup>rd</sup>;      Dee Thomas 8<sup>th</sup> ;    Peet Wessels 20<sup>th</sup>;  
Sabby Pizzolante 27<sup>th</sup>

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

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## **August AAAWA Report**

At the August AGM the following were elected:

President:	John Curtis
Senior Vice President:	Vacant
Junior Vice President:	Vacant
Secretary:	Tony Ayrey
Treasurer:	Victor Schilo
Recorder:	John Curtis
Dry Casting Officer:	Ron Thomas

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## **SPINNING FOR BREAM**

*Article provided by John Curtis*

Spinning for bream has exploded in the last few years, as anglers become more proactive with their fishing. An interesting point worth mentioning is the size of fish caught on lures on average is usually far bigger than those taken on bait.

The key to successful bream spinning is to cast the right lure tight in against the structure. However, casting small light lures is not easy and it is important to practice regularly-this will improve your fishing tremendously. Bream fishing with lures is very exciting and offers a whole new range of challenges for anglers.

There are a few tricks to getting bites on lures. The most important thing is to keep the lure in the strike zone, tight in against the structure where the fish are. Small lures between 3 and 7 cm in length that resemble prey species (prawn, shrimp, etc) are the best option.

The colour of the lure does play a role in catching bream, and it is only through experimenting that you can find what colour works best in your area. Reliable colours are gold, black and yellow, silver and black, as well as metallic tones.

There are two types of retrieve that can be effective. The first is an erratic stop-start style. To begin, lower the rod tip and crank the handle quickly a couple of times to get the lure down to its running depth. Once there, stop it momentarily, then twitch it forward, using the rod not the reel. The rod makes the lure work and the reel is simply used to pick up the slack line. It is important to pick up the slack line quickly, because when the lure is stationary it is most likely to be attacked. Once the lure is away from the structure (the strike zone), speed it up slightly but keep twitching it all the way back to the boat. Tight action lures work best with this style of retrieve.

The second retrieve is very simply a dead slow retrieve. Again, crank the handle quickly to get the lure down to its running depth and then very slowly, wind it back to the boat at a constant speed. Admittedly, it can help to occasionally spice up the retrieve with a twitch or two, but not nearly as much as with the stop-start style of retrieve. Wide bibbed lures that have a slow wobbling action are best with this type of retrieve.

Soft plastics are also extremely popular with bream anglers and even more deadly than hard bodied lures. The great thing about soft plastics is there are so many variations to suit all applications. A small 3 cm grub tail on a light lead head will sink very slowly and is perfect for working around moored boats, while a larger lead head and a 6cm jerk minnow is better for working deeper reefs in the channel. Worked extremely slowly, soft plastics will bounce over the bottom and are irresistibly deadly to bream. One advantage that soft plastics offer is that they can be used effectively in deep water well beyond the reach of hard-bodied lures.

If a fish strikes but fails to hook-up immediately, pull the lure away with a short, sharp yank of the rod. The trick is to only pull it a short distance and then to stop it. The theory behind this is that any baitfish would initially try to escape, but if wounded it would then stop a short distance away. Attempting to imitate a stunned baitfish will often encourage the fish to strike again.



## CATCH-AND-RELEASE

*by Sascha Clark Danylchuk*

A couple weeks ago I attended the 8th World Recreational Fishing Conference in Victoria, BC, Canada. This gathering of 380 people from 22 countries included fisheries scientists, managers, students, and other fishy folk. (Recfishwest sent several people). We spent three and a half days giving and listening to presentations on topics such as citizen science, monitoring and assessment of recreational fisheries, understanding angler behaviour, use and challenges of catch-and-release, and engagement of fishers in the management process.

While there was a lot of talk of scientific methodology, statistics, and other topics that could put most anglers to sleep (and has even been known to put fellow scientists to sleep), there were also a number of issues discussed that are relevant and valuable for anglers, especially for those of us that strive to follow 'KeepEmWet' principles and stay informed about fisheries issues.

There were 33 presentations given in a symposium squarely focused on the use and challenges of catch-and-release in recreational fisheries. A few of the highlights are:

- Deep hooking is the single most important factor influencing the survival of fish. If a fish is deeply hooked, it's better to cut the line than try to remove the hook.
- The type of net you use matters – size of the mesh as well as the material can influence slime and scale loss, and fin fraying, but there still isn't a comprehensive review and comparison of net types across a wide range of species.
- Landing steelhead using either a net or tail grab is fine
- Everything we do to fish is magnified at higher water temperatures. For example, while 10 seconds of air exposure may not significantly impact fish when water temps are low, 10 seconds of air exposure at higher water temperatures may be enough to temporarily impair swimming ability.

### Angler Engagement and Involvement

Starting with the keynote speakers there was a lot of emphasis on finding ways to interact with and involve anglers in the science and management of recreational fisheries. Ideas ranged from creating interactive apps that provide data to scientists to having anglers guide research needs and creating partnerships where anglers help manage fisheries.

It was encouraging to hear so many different people echoing this sentiment. Stay tuned for the roll out of several new [KeepEmWet Science Ambassadors](#) in the coming weeks; scientists who also fish and understand the passion and importance of anglers in making fishing sustainable. With this in mind, our goal is for KeepEmWet Fishing to be a platform for anglers and scientists to connect more directly.

### KEEPEMWET TIPS

Following the [keepemwet principles](#) is something everyone should easily be able to do. All it takes is a little preparation and mindfulness before heading out on a trip and while on the water. By incorporating these tips into regular fishing practices, you can eliminate contact with dry surfaces, minimize air exposure, and reduce handling. This list of tips is by no means exhaustive, but rather a starting point of simple and easy steps every angler can take to 'keepemwet'.

#### Tip 1: Reduce Angling Duration

By landing a fish quickly and without playing it to exhaustion, you can dramatically reduce stress the fish incurs. This can be achieved by ensuring tackle is appropriately matched to the targeted species.

#### Tip 2: Follow Local Regulations

Be aware of these regulations to ensure you are acting in accordance with the law. In some places it is illegal to remove certain species from the water, such as wild steelhead, salmon, and bull trout in Washington.

#### Tip 3: Hold Fish Over Water

Fish are slippery creatures and can easily be dropped. So when holding a fish, keep it in or slightly above the water - not over boats or land. That way if dropped, it falls back into the water unharmed.

**Tip 4: Fish Barbless Hooks**

Crimp the barbs on hooks. Not only do barbless hooks cause less damage to a fish's mouth, but they are also much easier and quicker to remove - especially important when one ends up in your ear or finger!

**Tip 5: Fish With Nets**

Nets are not always necessary, but often they help land fish quicker and in deeper water. Nets also help reduce handling by allowing you to keep fish in the water while unhooking, reviving, and photographing them.

**Tip 6: Only Use Rubber Nets**

As opposed to knotted and mesh nets, rubber nets are less abrasive and will not get caught in a fish's gills. Plus, hooks don't snag as much on rubber nets, and they look great in photographs.

**Tip 7: Carry Hook Removal Devices**

Carry easily accessible pliers or other hook removal tools, which enable quick and careful hook removal.

**Tip 8: Photograph Wet Fish**

Photograph fish in the water. If a fish is momentarily taken out of the water, keep it as close to the water as possible and fully submerge it between pictures to give the fish a quick breather. Ideally, let the photographer call the shots – 1, 2, 3...raise the fish....and click.

**Tip 9: Grip Fish Carefully**

Fish have sensitive internal organs, so hold them lightly without squeezing. Avoid placing your hand over their mouth and gills as it obstructs breathing. With larger fish, grip the tail wrist with "A-Ok" finger formation and gently support the body under the front fins.

**Tip 10: Carefully Revive Fish**

An exhausted fish needs reviving. This can be done in a river by submerging the fish and holding its head facing upstream so that the water runs in the mouth and through the gills. In still water situations, move the fish in a figure 8 pattern to simulate this effect. Avoid pulling a fish backwards or pointing it downstream as water moving in the reverse direction can harm fish.

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**Giving a helping hand**

In the club, we have members that give time to others less fortunate than ourselves. They go about it without fuss or bother helping where they can.

This can be from rebuilding wheel chairs to assisting them to get out and have a fish or other activities such as shopping or medical appointments etc.

We are having a sinker drive for those that are starting to learn to fish.

These can be people that need a lift in life and are supported by club members and **YOU** can assist them by donating sinkers.

**Just bring along 6 sinkers to the next meeting to start it off.**

These will then be handed on to the people concerned.

*Social Organiser Pat McKeown*

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***" REMEMBER –THERE'S A FINE LINE BETWEEN FISHING, AND JUST STANDING ON THE BEACH LOOKING LIKE AN IDIOT..."***



## Extreme Fishing Safari – Steep Point - July 2017

My first introduction to Steep Point was in 2008. That year we arrived on wet and slippery roads. We setup camp in a storm and the weather gods were against us! I then said to myself “This is how nature protects itself and Steep Point against unwanted intruders”. Since then I have developed a love affair with this challenging jewel of a fishing paradise. I always felt like this place was made just for me, and it certainly ticks all of my outdoor adventure boxes.

A trip to Steep Point is all about preparation. Basically, you start planning and preparing the day you arrive back from your previous trip. This is what makes this adventure so great, as your mind and thoughts are in a happy place for most of the year.



This year we were really well prepared. We only packed what was really absolutely needed. That said, there was still a lot to pack for a trip of 2 weeks. When you go to Steep Point you have to take absolutely everything you want as there is just nothing there, except a long drop toilet.

First of all, you need a good and reliable 4x4 vehicle. If you tow a boat or a trailer you have to make sure everything is in tip top condition. Carry a well-equipped toolbox with all the emergency spares as the track into Steep is a trailer graveyard. Your car and trailer will be heavily loaded. Make sure you deflate car and trailer tyres to suite the road conditions. On the corrugated sections, we go down to about 25psi. When you get to the sandy sections you will see a sign board asking you

to deflate your tyre pressure down to at least 20 psi. We normally go down to 18 psi. We go slow but steady, stopping often to check our vehicle and trailer. The track in cuts through some beautiful nature scenes and there are plenty of good photo opportunities. Always have your 2-way radio on SCAN to pick up possible traffic from the front. It is a nightmare when 2 vehicles with trailers/boats need to pass in different directions on some of the very narrow and challenging track sections.

This year our adventure started at 2h00 on a Friday morning. After a quick shower and filling up the coffee flasks we were on the road at 2h35. After a few inspection stops we arrived at the 440 service station in Geraldton shortly after sunrise. We topped up the diesel and bought some unnecessary extras. Swapping drivers every 2 hours, we made short work of this distance up north. At midday, we pulled into the Overlander to top up on Diesel for the last time.

The trip on the gravel road and track went very well and was uneventful except for a dust cap on the trailer, which came off on the very corrugated section. Now a dust cap that comes off on the main road is bad, but on a sand track, just absolutely destructive on the wheel bearings. With just 20 kms to go we decided to push through and by 15h00 we arrived at our campsite. We knew the bearings were shot, but that was a worry for a later date. We had more important things to do.... Fish???

Our campsite for this year was Scavengers camp. I really liked this site as it was very spacious for the 2 of us. The beach was very sandy, with a nice little drop-off that made launching and mooring the boat very easy. On arrival, we had a great urge and were very eager to get a line in the water, but somehow we overcame that and decided to do a proper camp setup and do everything right the first time round. As the sun went down that night we sat back and looked at a proper camp and at the boat floating securely on the 3 mooring ropes. We were tired but happy.

In the morning, we were greeted by some singing birds, sunshine and just the best weather –which stayed for the next 2 weeks. For the first time in all the years we could go out fishing every single day.



Soon our daily routine fell into place. Being woken up by the birds at around 6h35, we made turns to serve each other with coffee and rusks in the morning. Then we would make a decent brekkie, do a few camp duties and get ready for a morning fish. At around 8h30 the sun was up high enough and we would be on our way with a few lures swimming behind our boat.

Next stop we would catch some bait for the rest of the day. Depending on wind and sea conditions by 10h00 we would be drifting or fishing on a previously marked spot on the GPS. At around midday we would be back at camp with a few fish to clean and a light lunch. Quite a few tasks happened around mid-afternoon with a nice swim and bath at around 15h00, a short siesta and by 16h00 we would be out on the water towing a few favourite lures at the back of the boat. Between 17h00 and 19h00 we would do our main fishing on known spots. This time was usually the most productive time for quality fishing. At about 19H15 after the boat was cleaned and the anchor lifted, we would navigate by GPS back to camp. This trip back to camp is usually very exiting with the adrenalin pumping in the dark. As we approached shallower water there are normally hundreds of Mullet fish jumping in the spotlights, quite a spectacular sight!

Arriving back on shore at around 19h30, the big work started. Usually you have a good few fish to prepare, dinner to be made and a few stories to tell. By about 22h00 the generator would be silenced and we would be in the sleeping bags charging our bodies for the next day. The days would pass quickly and sooner then you realize you would be back at home again.

In general, the fishing was quite good this year. Only on 2 occasions, did I record a Zero fishing session in my black book. This meant that we got “sharked” or that we did not bring any size or quality fish home. A great concern was the number of Sharks present all day long. We got “sharked” from the morning to the night and lost much of our bigger fish to sharks. At the end of our trip we basically ran out of terminal tackle, 90% lost to sharks. We even lost lures just hanging over the boat while securing other fish! In the end we had to change our way and method of fishing, fishing in shallower water closer to shore and keep on moving. Gone are the days where you could anchor and fish your favourite fishing hole!

Shark Bay truly lives up to its name! The sharks are now in full control - but we still love this place and God willing we will be back next year!!!

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Author - Peet Wessels

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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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### SALTWATER LURES

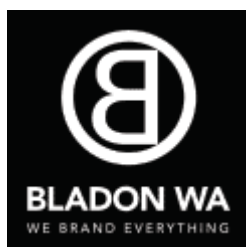


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