

NEXT GENERAL MEETING.

The February General Meeting will be held at the National Fitness Council Pavillion, 50 James Street, Perth on Wednesday the 14th and will commence at 8 p.m. SHARP.

INSTRUCTION PERIOD FOR FEBRUARY.

The Instruction Period for this evening will be a Film Screening of our Dry Casting by Alf Rutland, providing Alf has the film ready for us, for there is quite a good deal of work in getting these Films together and Alf has been pretty busy - but he gives us an assurance that he will do his best for us.

To the new members who have not had their Casting on Film before - be in it - for you should be able to pick up the mistakes that you may be making, and so rectify them in the future.

LAST COMMITTEE MEETING ( JANUARY )

The last Committee was held at the residence of Ted, Glad and Doug. Savage, and to the Savages (I could make something of that) our many thanks for your hospitality, which certainly was generoud, and to Glad and the other ladies, our many thanks for the delightful supper. The business of the evening was concluded at 10.20 p.m.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING (FEBRUARY)

The next Committee Meeting will be held at the residence of Arthur and Mrs Backhouse on the 21st February.

Address:-

64 Pearse Street,  
COTTESLOE.

DRY-CASTING FOR FEBRUARY.

The Dry Casting will be as is printed in the "Reel Talk for January and is as follows:-

Bait L. L. Distance  
Bait D. H. Accuracy  
Weight S. H. Accuracy  
Ladies S. H. Blob Accuracy - 30 yards  
Kids S. H. Blob Accuracy - 20 yards.

The Casting Day is still the same, the First Sunday in February, and incidentally it is good to see Allan up and about again. Which only goes to prove that old saying, "You can't keep a good man down".

RE OUR SOCIAL ORGANISER.

I don't know what is coming over the Committee of our Club and to its Members, as they all seem to be having a bout of sickness troubles. The latest to be smitten is our Social Organiser, Ken Wiggins. Let us hope, Ken, that this is not too serious a complaint that you have and that you too will soon be around and about in your usual sunny self, and don't forget Ken if there is anything that we can do to help you in any way - just give a call.

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GOLDEN BEACH FIELD DAY, 13th - 14th January.

Weather conditions etc:- Gusty Southerly winds. No weed which was indeed a blessing and a relief after our previous Field Day at Quinns Beach. The channel both north and south of the road in was excellent, but did not give the results that we hoped for.

Weight of Scaled Fish caught was 113 lbs, with no Sharks or Rays to liven things up.

37 Members, 1 Visitor and 7 Juniors, plus two junior visitors attended this Field Day which proves that the local venues are always popular.

It was good to see Mike Coleman-Doscas, Noel Knight and Archie Ticklie in attendance and it is a pity that we couldn't put on more fish for you - but that's the way the cookie crumbles - better luck next time chaps.

After erecting the Club Sign, Norm Giles and myself walked over to the beach to have a bo-peep and what a sight greeted us for there were rods and bods evenly spaced, every few yards apart, darn near all the way along the entire channel, and what a surprise the locals got when they came down to see the city slickers all lined up along and in their favourite spots. They must have wondered what was going on.

The name Golden Bay is most adapt for it is truly the cleanest stretch of beach that I have seen for many a long day and that channel sure looked interesting from the anglers' view point though unfortunately only the choppers were about, no doubt the larger Tailer had got the drum or had taken one glance at the imposing array of rods and being a lot more wily then their younger brothers took the hint and departed for safer areas. (Have to find some excuses).

Further up the beach, north, Ron Shirley, Ron Kildahl, Bob Lilly, J. Griffith and Bob Tucker and a few more of the boys were observed landing several Tailer, though the way the lads were

striking I thought they were landing heavier fish than what they were. Ron Shirley and John Griffith had a merry tug-of-war, for, with their drags screaming, they finally discovered that they were only pulling their rigs in opposite directions and several of us standing by nearly died of laughter.

The sea breeze was most enjoyable after the hot week in Perth and I think that we all enjoyed it - that is until it really started to get real cool and that extra jumper was pulled out of the pack, and to make matters worse it continued to blow at about 15 knots right through until the early hours of the morning, which of course, stirred up the sand in the channel.

Most of the boys were on the beach at approximately 4.30 or earlier in the morn, though once again only the choppers were about, and not too darn many of them, though several quite nice Silver Bream were landed.

Les "Snow" Tate caused a riot when he cracked the jackpot by knocking off a double-header of dibs and dabs. (Wished I had seen that Snow. Ed.) Norm Clarke and Noel Knight kept plugging away, working hard to catch up with those finny fellows, but with about the same amount of success as the rest of us, and it was good to see you again Noel on a Field Day, and hope that you will be on more in the future.

I noticed Allan Livesey, Roy Porter, Snow Tate and young Mike Porter enjoying a quiet cuppa in a very cosy position out of the wind. Quite a merry gang of anglers. Though on all accounts Allan isn't very choosy who he bunks down with, for in the morning under his bed-roll he found a great black spider - with fangs on it about a quarter of an inch long. (If that had bitten you Allan, it would have been the best bite all night - though you and "Little Miss Muffet" aren't exactly the same types, you don't scare easily, not quite as good looking either. Ed.)

Alf Rutland, Mrs. Rutland and Phil Evans were comfortably installed in Alf's trailer, which, believe me, is completely fitted out for angling holidays and boy are that mob good on the tooth.

Horrie Muirson and Ralph Hansen are also toothy fellows, for they were observed cooking a mighty breakfast. There is no doubt about that sea air, it certainly keeps the appetite. Though it's a wonder Horrie had the energy to cook or eat a meal. For every time I looked up he was looking for junior. Junior was on the go all the time, and so was Horrie. I bet Mrs. Muirson was glad when they both went fishing, though I don't know whether Horrie will take junior again, but still, I suppose that is what Dad's are for.

Don Beadon and Bob Lilly both weighed in a 10 lb Tailer and so shared the award for the heaviest fish caught on the Field Day, and Ron McQueen with 8 lb of fish caught on the Field Day just beat J. Griffith by a quarter of a pound in weight. John had  $7\frac{3}{4}$  lbs. As has been said there were no Rays or Sharks.

... So closed another Field Day, and even though the Kingies were absent and the Tailer small, I am sure that everyone enjoyed themselves and made the most of the Field Day. At anyrate I think that the majority of the members at least caught a feed to take home as evidence of their fidelity.

My congratulations to the Award winners and I hope that I will see you all again on the next Field Day which is to be held at Garden Island.

The following are boat departure times and details for Garden Island :- First boat leaves at 9.30 a.m. Second at 11.45 a.m. Third boat at 2 p.m. Boats leave from the Palm Beach Jetty. Members to please make sure that they are on time for the various boats. Fares, 8/- Return for Adults. 4/- Return for Juniors. Fares to be paid to the Skipper of the boat.

I will be on the 11.45 boat and Norm Clarke will be in charge of the 2 p.m. boat. Members to pay 2/- to me or Norm for Sweep and 5/- if they intend to sleep in the Hut, this money to be paid in transit. Please arrange to have the right change to pay to Norm or I, which will facilitate matters.

The Garden Island truck will meet the 2 p.m. boat and Members who wish to travel by truck to the North End are to pay Jim Hawkins the 2/- each.

Weigh-in at large hut which we used previously and the weigh-in time will be at 7.30 a.m.

Departure time from Garden Island will be at 9 a.m. Sunday morning which will enable us to be able to get home quite early.

Hut is to be left clean and tidy and Members to assist in loading and unloading Members' gear, and will members also please mark their gear for easy identification. All members must report to either Norm Clarke or myself, otherwise we will have no record of your attendance. Any gear lost or found to be handed to me and I will endeavour to find the owner.

Parking provision at shop, try and park cars together. There is a 2/- Parking Fee payable at shop.

Field Day commences at 4 p.m.

JIM STRONG.  
F.D.O.

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#### OTHER FOLKS' FISHY TASTES.

Some of our lately arrived citizens from older countries declare we pass up as unedible what they rate as delicacies. Octopus, for instance, is probably only bait to you, but in some places (Spain, for one) it is food for gourmets. Usually the tentacles are used, sliced and braized in olive oil. Mutton fish, the fleshy mollusc, is lifted off its rock with a knife, scraped of its lining, and sliced. Dipped in egg and bread-crumbs and fried in butter, it is really something. The Americans call it abalone, incidentally, and hold it in high regard.

FISH CAUGHT ON FIELD DAY.

R. McQueen	10 Tailer	8 lbs.
J. Griffiths	8 Tailer, 1 Bream	$7\frac{3}{4}$ "
R. Shirley	11 Tailer	$7\frac{1}{2}$ "
N. Crouch	6 Tailer, 3 Herring, 2 Silver Bream	6 "
R. Lilly	5 Tailer	6 "
D. Beadon	6 Tailer	$5\frac{1}{2}$ "
R. Jensen	8 Tailer	$5\frac{1}{2}$ "
R. Kildahl	7 Tailer	$5\frac{1}{2}$ "
K. Hawker	6 Tailer	$5\frac{1}{2}$ "
B. Tucker	6 Tailer	5 "
A. Livesey	6 Tailer	5 "
C. Crouch	3 Tailer, 3 Herring	$4\frac{1}{2}$ "
P. Evans	5 Tailer, 1 Herring	$3\frac{3}{4}$ "
A. Rutland	5 Tailer	$3\frac{1}{2}$ "
N. Clarke	5 Tailer	$3\frac{1}{2}$ "
T. Fuller	3 Tailer, 1 Herring, 1 Silver Bream	$3\frac{1}{2}$ "
R. Tichbon	4 Tailer, 1 Herring	3 "
R. Porter	3 Tailer	3 "
M. Doscas	3 Tailer, 1 Herring	3 "
J. Strong	3 Tailer	$2\frac{1}{2}$ "
G. Greenham	3 Tailer	$2\frac{1}{2}$ "
R. Phillips	2 Tailer	2 "
D. Newton	2 Tailer	2 "
P. Neri	2 Tailer	2 "
n. Knight	2 Tailer	$1\frac{1}{2}$ "
B. Klein	1 Tailer	1 "
L. Tate	1 Herring, 1 Bream	1 "

JUNIORS.

Rick Jensen	3 Tailer	$2\frac{1}{2}$ "
Bill Newton	2 Tailer	$1\frac{1}{2}$ "
G. Davidson	1 Tailer	1 "
M/ Porter	1 Tailer, 1 Herring	1 "

VISITOR.

K. Clugston	Herring, Bream	2 "
Total Weight of Scaled Fish $11\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.		

Members who attended Field Day, Singleton, 13th - 14th January.

R. Hansen	N. Knight	A. Tickle
H. Muirson	R. Wilton	N. Crouch
J. Strong	G. Alexander	K. Hawken
B. Jensen	N. Clarke	C. Crouch
N. Giles	A. Rutland	T. Savage
D. Newton	P. Evans	B. Lilly
R. McQueen	G. Greenham	R. Kildahl
G. Griffiths	L. Tate	R. Shirley
D. Beadon	A. Livesey	R. McQueen
B. Phillips	A. Backhouse	B. Klein
T. Fuller	R. Porter	P. Neri
I. McLennan	R. Tucker	B. Payne
R. Pimm		

JUNIORS.

G. Davidson	M. Porter	W. Newton
N. Knight	Rick Jensen	G. Clarke
B. Newton		

VISITORS.

K. Mellowship. Junior Visitors. K. Clugston, S. Omara

AWARD WINNERS.

Heaviest Scale Fish. B. Lilly ) 2 lb Tailer. Dead Heat.  
D. Beadon)

Heaviest Bag of Scale Fish. R. McQueen. 8 lbs Tailer.

Heaviest Shark or Ray. No Entry.

JUNIOR WARD.

Heaviest Bag of Scale Fish. Rick Jensen. 2½ lbs Tailer.

SECTION 1. MOST MERITORIOUS CATCH. (Fish to be nominated by Committee at end of Current Fishing Competition.)  
(Donated by John Bellman.)

SECTION 2. HEAVIEST SHARK. (Wobby's, Carpet, Port Jackson and Fiddle Sharks etc. excepted.)

F. HOLYWELL 176 lb Grey Nurse. Caught at Albany on 35 lb line.  
Length 101½". Girth 37".

SECTION 3. HEAVIEST MULLOWAY. (Donated by Bermuda Boats Supply.)

J. BELIMAN 60¼ lb Mulloway. Caught at Murchison.

SECTION 4. HEAVIEST SALMON. (Donated by Ernie White.)

R. WILTON 10 lb Salmon. Caught at Cottesloe.

SECTION 5. HEAVIEST TAILER. (Donated by Charlie & Nick Crouch and Kevin Hawker.)

M. COLEMAN 9¾ lb Tailer. Caught at Murchison.

SECTION 6. HEAVIEST JEW FISH. (Donated by Ernie White.)

V. DAVIES 33 lb Jewfish. Caught at Rottnest. 44 lb line.  
Length 36 ins. Girth 27 ins.

SECTION 7. HEAVIEST YELLOWTAIL KINGFISH. (Donated by Alan Bunnett.)

As yet no entry.

SECTION 8. POINTS PER POUND.

One point per pound of Scale Fish. Half a point for sharks. (Minimum size THREE fish per pound.)  
Top Ten Scorers Only.

R. Porter	363 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs.	D. Savage	139 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs.
R. Tucker	339 $\frac{3}{4}$	"	R. Kildahl	118 $\frac{1}{4}$	"
N. Cross	295 $\frac{1}{2}$	"	A. Backhouse	116 $\frac{3}{4}$	"
V. Davis	248	"	R. Tighbon	97	"
R. Lilly	147	"	J. Bellman	95	"

SECTION 9. HEAVIEST SCALE FISH OTHER THAN ABOVE.  
(Donated by Ron Flood.)

L. TATE 25 lb Spanish Mackerel. Caught at Murchison.  
23 lb line. Length 48 $\frac{1}{2}$  ins. Bait, Scaly Mackerel.

SECTION 10. HEAVIEST FISH ON ARTIFICIAL LURE. Double or Single  
Handed Rods. (Donated by Ken Wiggins & George Hampton.)

J. DAVIES 15 lb 9 oz Tailer.

SECTION 10a. HEAVIEST FISH CAUGHT ON SINGLE HANDED ROD - USING BAIT.

N. WILKERSON 9 lb. Salmon. Caught at Rottnest. Bait, Mulie.

JUNIOR SECTION - OPEN COMPETITION.

SECTION 11. HEAVIEST SHARK. (Restrictions as per Section 2.)  
(Donated by Stephen Knezy.)

As yet no entry.

SECTION 12. HEAVIEST SCALE FISH. (Donated by Bob Jensen.)

C. HOLYWELL 9 lb 11 oz Salmon. Sand Patch, Albany. Bait, Squid.

FIELD DAY FISHING COMPETITION.

SECTION 1. BOANS TROPHY.

Ten Points for Attendance. One point per pound of Scale Fish. Minimum size THREE fish per pound. Half a point per lb. for all eligible Sharks. The following are members with high points at present:-

R. Lilly	172	R. Kildahl	126	G. Griffiths	116
R. McQueen	153	T. Fuller	123	R. Tichbon	111
R. Shirley	152	A. Livesey	123	D. Newton	109
N. Clarke	143	R. Jensen	123	C. Crouch	98
L. Tate	142	R. Porter	121	A. Rutland	94
N. Crouch	135	J. Strong	120	N. Giles	91
R. Tucker	127	I. McLennan	117		

SECTION 2. Ken Matthews Trophy. Heaviest Scale Fish.

N. Clarke. 47½ lb Mulloway. November Field Day, Moore River.

SECTION 3. Most Meritorious Catch. (To be nominated by Committee at end of Current Fishing Competition.)

SECTION 4. Heaviest Shark. (Excluding Wobbys, Carpet, Port Jackson, Fiddle Sharks etc. Field Day Officer to decide.)

R. Tichbon. 14 lb Blue Pointer. May Field Day.

SECTION 5. Heaviest Mulloway.

N. Clarke 47½ lb Mulloway. November Field Day.

SECTION 6. Heaviest Tailer. (Minimum weight 4 lbs.)

A. Milne 5¼ lb Tailer. September Field day.

SECTION 7. Heaviest Salmon.

I. McLennan 9½ lb Salmon. May Field Day.

SECTION 8. Heaviest Snapper.

As yet no entry.

SECTION 9. Heaviest scale fish other than above.

R. Tucker. 3 lb Silver Bream. July Field Day.

SECTION 10. Heaviest catch of Tailer on a Field Day.  
(minimum weight 20 lbs.)

R. Lilly. 19 Tailer, Weight 28 lbs. September Field Day.

JUNIOR SECTION. FIELD DAYS.

SECTION 1.

Five points for attendance. One point per pound off Scale Fish. Three fish per pound. Half point per lb. for Sharks.

W. Newton	76	G. Clarke	28
R. Jensen	65	G. Wright	14
R. Newton	64	S. Hampton	5
M. Porter	62	N. Knight	5
G. Davidson	38		

SECTION 2. Heaviest Shark.

As yet no entry.

SECTION 3. Heaviest Scale Fish.

Rick Jensen.  $8\frac{3}{4}$  lb Salmon. May Field Day.

SECTION 4. Heaviest Bag of Scale Fish on a Field Day.  
(ALL Fish must weigh at least THREE to a lb.)

Rick Jensen.  $17\frac{1}{4}$  lb. May Field Day.

BALANCED GEAR COULD MEAN MORE FISH.

At the outset of writing an article of this nature I will smartly setp in now and freely admit that I am no "Wise Man from the East" and that I am just as prone to error as the next man on the beach, but I am always willing to learn and listen, and these are some of my views on the relative matter, be they right or wrong or good or bad. At anyrate if these same ideas are worthwhile and help anyone at all in our Club, the satisfaction and effort of trying to put my views on paper has been worthwhile.

Many is the time, a few years back, have I dug my toes into the sand and heaved with all my might (with suspense and foreboding in my mind as to what was going to happen at the finish of the cast - in that split second or seconds from the time the heave started to the time the sinker splashed into the water I never knew what the outcome would be - would it be a cast or would it be a mess of tangled line, even before the sinker dropped, and I can say, in all sincerity, that it was mostly the inevitable - a "birdsnest") in an effort to get my sinker or spinner out where the 'Big boys' were getting theirs. This of course was taking place before the advent of the Fixed Spool Reel, which of course has eliminated such things as 'over-runs' and 'back-lash', so enabling a cast of a reasonable distance to be made, even for the rank amateur who has not held a rod in his hands before, but this is not to be an article on over-runs etc., but more in particular to balanced gear, and how it can be achieved, and to its effects in fishing and casting, and relative to getting out to those far-away holes etc., with longer casts, and possibly less mishaps.

There can be no denying that an angler is never more frustrated than when experiencing or witnessing the ability of other anglers or mates etc. who are placing their bait or spinners into the blue waters beyond the breakers and being aware that you are unable to match his skill and do so yourself especially if the other angler or your mates are catching fish and you are getting Sweet Fanny Adams. This is something that eats into you, particularly if you are using the tackle that can do the job. As one of our prominent Club members would say, "It's enough to make you bite the butt off your rod".

Of course there is always the angler who will argue the demerits on distance casting, stating as a case "Look what so-and-so caught - he was only thirty yards out." Usually that character who argues along those lines is fishing with unbalanced gear and can't cast more than fifty or sixty yards in any case, so he strengthens his argument with such an analogy. Possibly he is right, at times, he could be - but that is not my argument at the moment. I'm interested in the character who wishes to be able to get distance, when he needs it. Besides, I would say in this ambitious age the average angler is not satisfied with short casts, but that he feels the further he can toss his bait or spinner, the surer he feels he can get onto the fish, and I would venture to say that in many respects he could be right, especially where the spinner is concerned, for the spinner is, as we know, a fish lure or finder, and the more water you can cover with that flashing spinner, the better, which of course is only elementary, and that spinner will invariably find them if they are there.

Distance on the beach is a matter of two very important features, tackle and weather. The first is as important as is the other. To get distance, balanced tackle is paramount, a necessity. It is not purely a matter of weight of lead, for it is just as easy to cast a one, two, three, four or more ounce sinker as it is to cast any weight, so long as your outfit is balanced, and of course with the weather - if one one day can cast a 100 yards, the next day if the wind is parting your hair you could not expect to cast to the same distance, so therefore weather conditions to casting does create different situations.

This comment of being able to cast any weight (within reason) could bring a few harsh sounding tones or titters from some, but if logice and consideration is given to various facets it will be realised that the light weights can work a rod that is built for them just as well as heavy weights can work a heavy rod, and I think that it could be understood by all that it would be useless to put a one ounce lead weight on a heavily built rod or a four or more ounce lead on a slight glass rod - they wouldn't be Balanced and would not take your bait from where you're sitting to your back door.

The fact that it is an important feature for distance casting under fishing conditions to have balanced gear, should I think at least impress on some that they should consider:- The weight of lead in relation to the type of rod to be used.

The modern surf reel is made for casting, be it geared reel or fixed spool, and to my mind that is a cardinal point to remember. It definitely is not just a winch to drag in a fish, but more to be considered as a line container. Now the type of line or breaking strain, or diameter of line used will to a large extent determine the distance you will cast. A heavy or thick line will not cast long distances. This is not difficult to understand, for if a heavy line is used by the time the sinker is cast to sixty or seventy yards the average surf reel is well down on the spool. This means that the speed of your geared reel spool can no longer be of assistance to you, or in other words as the line on the spool becomes less, the speed of the spool increases, providing the lead is still in flight, and just when you want the spool to be slowing down, it commences to race - with the result - A hell of a mess! With the fixed spool reel once again the heavy or thick line is a disadvantage, for as the heavy line goes out, and as it is not as soft and pliable as lighter lines the loops as they come off the spool do not level out as readily as do the loops in lighter lines so causing drag against the spool and runners, and of course as the spool of the fixed spool reel decreases so the restricted flow-off of the line is more pronounced, both against the edge of the spool and the runners etc., which combinations do not help in long casts.

So it is to be understood that to get long casts we have determined that whatever type of rod you are going to use, whether it be glass or split cane, your sinker or lead weight must be in balance to it, and that your line must be in balance or proportion to your rod and lead weight, and of course there is the reel, which also must be in balance or appropriate to your rod weight and line, and if you have these various items balanced you're on your own from here on.

To go on from this point in getting long casts with fishing gear it is necessary to work with the reel as full as it is possible to manage. Line diameter as mentioned previously is of the utmost importance. This naturally brings about the question of breaking strain, the amount of weight to be lifted by the line, plus the power of the rod. The average surf reel has a line capacity of approximately 200 to 300 yards of 18 lb or 20 lb breaking strain line, and the angler who can cast such a line to a distance of 90 to 100 yards or further with say a four ounce sinker, plus a fish bait is in my book coming into A Class. A hundred yards is a long cast with a bait under general fishing conditions, but with modern gear that is balanced a 90 yard or further cast is certainly not impossible.

To get a long distance cast out into the surf it is essential to use light lines, that is as light as your balance will allow, and it will depend on the type of rod you are using and the weight of lead that the line will carry. If for instance you were to use a two ounce sinker on a 10 to 12 lb line you will cast a light bait into the 100 yards or more range, provided that you have not got the wind whistling past your ears in the wrong direction to contend with, as I mentioned earlier, and an easy rule for weight to line ratio is an old and tried one of allowing one ounce of sinker weight to six pounds of breaking strain of line, i.e. three ounce sinker 18 lb breaking strain line, of course on this rule you can give and take to a certain degree, for not by any means is it to be taken as a hard and fast rule.

I have yet to see a four ounce sinker cast on a six pound breaking strain line, especially without a leader, and to use a leader for fishing on such lines how do you retrieve the sinker, after it has been buried in the sand, if it is a surf sinker? So it would be unreasonable, with leaders, just to get distance, to use such lines, or how would you handle a fish on it?

Generally speaking leaders are in my opinion the first step towards unbalanced gear, in that if your rod will not cast the sinker and bait without a break-off, you are fishing with a rod too powerful for the breaking strain of the line, or using a weight of lead in excess of what is required to cast the line.

To make a summary on this point of balanced tackle I would say that the question of balanced gear to distance casting is a matter of line strength, rod power, weight of lead and of course the line capacity on your reel, and remember that it is just as possible to cast a one ounce sinker as it is to cast a four or more ounce sinker if you have balanced gear, or everything in proportion, and to us who fish the surf, the lighter the gear the more the pleasure of landing good sized fish gives. If you do get down to light lines etc., remember that your hooks, bait, etc. have to come down in size also, and many is the good sized fish that has been caught on light tackle, as can be evidenced by the achievements of some of our members on this particular point and only recently one of our Club members landed a nearly 16 lb Tailer on one hook of a three-hook-jag of a herring spinner on a single handed rod and light line, which is undoubtedly a noteworthy effort, and an indication of good fishing with light gear.

Our tackle we can balance, our days we can pick, but the weather we can do nothing about.

It amazes me, here I am writing all these words and what happens. I still get over-runs, break-offs, back-lash and anything else that's going gratis, but do I catch more fish than Norrie Cross, Ray Porter, Allan Livesey, Snow Tate, Vic Davis etc., etc. -- No! Though I do catch as many as Ken Wiggins, Alf Rutland, Mike Coleman-Doscas, Ron Shirley etc., etc. and my wife - occasionally.

My last remarks on this subject is to new members of the Club. Don't leave it until you go to the beach to learn to cast, for you may adapt yourself to a wrong or faulty casting style which may take a lot of practice to rectify. Come to Dry casting with your Club, there is always someone there who will "wise you up" and let you know what you are doing wrong. So avail yourself of this opportunity and be in it, and it is at Casting Days that you will really learn and realise the value of good casting, both for distance and accuracy, and I believe that a matter of time we will have as good casters, both as regards distance and accuracy as will be found in W.A., if not the Commonwealth. You could be one of them.

OPEN AND FIELD DAY FISHING COMPETITIONS.

As this year's Open and Field Day Competitions are coming to a close, they finish at the end of April, and with the new ones starting on the 1st May, 1962, it is the Committee's request that members give this most important aspect of our Club their fullest thoughts in putting forward ideas, new or old for consideration.

It is by getting ideas from members, collating them and giving their thoughts for the benefit of all members that your Committee can put forward to you the best possible Fishing Competitions. Surely this is not very difficult, especially if you have already some ideas formulated as to what you would like to see in the Open or Field Day Competitions. So regardless of how bizarre they may look, put them on a piece of paper and hand to any one of the Committee - that's all you have to do.

Every year this request is made to members by the President - every year the result is pitiful or pathetic - a very poor result. Possibly members are happy with the present Open Competition, if so please give your President some indication of how you feel. If you have two or three ideas you would like to see incorporated in the competitions write them down and write the rider - 'the rest of the competition is O.K. by me' - or something like that. We would like everyone to put some idea, or state that they are happy with the competition on paper so that your committee can assess the ideas, etc., and tell you that we have had satisfactory requests etc., and this is what we have come up with.

I have heard members say 'leave it to the Committee, they will fix it' - but, hell, if there is something they don't like in it there's a beef. The committee want to help you make YOUR decisions, not the COMMITTEES' decisions, on these things. It is your Club, not the Committees' Club, and we are only in office to help members in the good ruling and running of it.

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PROSPECTIVE MEMBER.

The following application for membership of the Club has been received. If any member or members have any reason or reasons why the nominee should not be accepted as a member of the Club they should contact the Secretary, or any member of the Committee immediately.

The nominee is :-

Derek Edward BUTT  
57 Harold Street,  
DIANELLA.

CONGRATULATIONS.

To Bob Pimm and his good wife Roseann, we would like to offer our congratulations on your addition to the family. There is an old saying Bob and Rose "may all your troubles be little ones", but I am sure that we would not wish too many on you - one at a time at any rate.

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BE A SPORT!

Remember the old slogan "Gentlemen will replace divots; others must"? It applies to undersize fish. Returning them to their rightful element is a wise precaution, since it....

\*keeps you within the law,

\*ensures the continuance of your favourite sport - fishin

Wet your hands before removing the undersized fish from hook. Handle gently. Do not throw, but place back in water. If hook is deeply embedded, cut the line.

CLUB REPORTS.

I did intend to do a page in "Reel Talk" on Club Reports every month, but it is just as hard to get fishing news out of some of you bods as it is to extract a spinner from a woollen pullover. But I would like to make a comment on Felix's shark which was certainly a whopper stopper and seems certain to take off an Award and also establish a record. Congrats on your good fishing Felix, it will take some beating.

The bait situation is starting to look mighty grim and what with Hec Simpson not having any Mulies and only a few Scalies and the other suppliers running short, it looks as if the price of Mullett will take a rise. Still I can remember the time when Mullett was almost the only bait, especially for Tailer and Mulloway, and it is still O.K. by me.

If I can't write anything about you other bods I'll just have to write about myself and hell I don't like autobiographies. At anyrate last week end I caught a fish or two. I know that there are plenty who will doubt that, especially young Mike D. and Ken Wiggins. They think my wife catches all the fish and that I joined the Club so that I could associate with anglers who get results - but give me time and I'll show them.

Please do not associate the verse below with your Editor. I'm no poet and I know it.

You fix your line and buy your bait  
 And sit upon a rock and wait,  
 And maybe snagged or maybe not  
 Delay in finding out what's what  
 While staring idly out to sea  
 Anticipating fish for tea. That  
 At least that's why you think you're there,  
 But truthfully you don't much care.  
 Perhaps they'll bite. If not, you say,  
 "Tomorrow is another day".  
 So pleasantly you waste your time you say  
 Ah, yet not quite, it takes a rhyme.  
 Be sure you don't waste your time,  
 Be sure you don't waste your time.