



Surf Casting & Angling Club of W.A. (Inc.)

P.O. Box 2032, Marmion W.A. 6020 <http://www.surfcasters.iinet.net.au/>

Club Committee for the Year 2004/2005

President / Dry Casting Officer

Vice President

Immediate Past President

George Holman

Ross Kember

Secretary/Reel Talk Editor/Web Page

Treasurer

Assistant Treasurer

Terry Fuller

All club mail to:-

Paul Thompson

All club mail to:-

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Field Day Officer

Property Officer

Recorder

Malcolm Harris

Vix Alexander

Ian Cook

Assistant Field Day Officer

Assistant Drycasting Officer

Social Coordinator

Peter Stoeckel

Terry Willison

Chas Riegert

Committee Person

A.A.A. Delegates

Bob Henderson

Andrew Aubrey

George Holman

Chas Riegert

Terry Fuller

(is away from Perth and really mobile from mid January, 2005)

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Minutes of General Meeting, 12 January 2005

- Venue:-** Coolbinia West Perth Amateur Football and Sporting Club room
Time 8:00 pm. President Bob Henderson presiding.
- Present:-** 26 members.
- Apologies:-** T Fuller at Recfishwest meeting and will be late.
- Visitors:-** None.
- New Member:-** None
- Previous Minutes:-** As published in the Reel Talk. Moved Jim Strong, seconded Terry Willison, these are a true record. Carried.
- Previous Committee:-** Bob Henderson outlined actions from the previous Committee meeting. No business arising
- Correspondence In:-**
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Wetpac Bank | Bank statement for December. |
| Ray White Kalbarri | Statement for December (unpaid account for cleaning \$107) and list of Kalbarri bookings |
| AAA | Minutes of December AAA Delegates' Meeting. |
| Leader of the Opposition | Recreational Fishing Policy (see Reel Talk) |
| Marine and Coastal Community Network | "Waves" Newsletter |
| Morris Kolman | A "vote" for Bluff Creek for March |
| CALM | Planning Diary Newsletter |
- Correspondence Out:-**
- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Wayne Eldridge | Information about the Club (came to dry casting) |
| CALM | Address for Planning Diary Newsletter |
- Treasurer's Report:-**
- | | |
|--|-------------|
| Paul Thompson reported. Accounts for payment | |
| Western Power, Kalbarri | \$145.30 |
| Water Corporation, Kalbarri | \$12.50 |
| deposit bond refunds for Kalbarri house | \$ |
| Account balance today | \$15,771.04 |
- Moved** Peter Stoeckel seconded Morris Kolman, accounts be passed for payment, carried. \$5,000 to be invested at short term fixed interest.
There were some questions about using the equity in the Kalbarri house to buy another property. To be considered by the Committee.
- Property Officer** House is looking clean. The road has been resurfaced with hot mix and kerbing installed. Thanks to members who help with maintenance while they stay at Kalbarri. Good booking for January and March. Bob thanked Vix for all the work for the house.
- Secretary's Report.** Nothing to report other than covered by correspondence or in general business.
- Field Day Officer:-** Malcolm Harris reported briefly on the November Cervantes and December Field days and coming January field day as in Reel Talk. At North Jurien, they were confronted by CALM no fishing signs which were a shock to see the really good fishing spots which had been closed off, as Terry and George had been taking about for so long.
There was considerable discussion on Bremer Bay or Bluff Creek for the March Field Day including some of the advantages and disadvantages of both venues and the Hans Wytenberg trophy which has been awarded to the winner of the Bluff Creek Field Day for some years. Members voted on the proposal to split the field day and hold it at both locations 9 for and 5 against.
- Dry Casting Officer:-** Bob Henderson reported on the January dry casting as in Reel Talk. Weights were burying themselves into the grass making it hard to get the sinkers out. Heavy leaders are essential to help the markers and to save time and problems with light leaders breaking off and the weights having to be dug out. Please use heavy leaders – 50 pound or more.
Bob Henderson is leaving Perth in mid January. Bob reminded members that some help is needed for setting up and clearing the dry casting equipment and do a bit of scoring. The hot weather is here and this makes it hard and tiring for the few people who do this work, and help is needed when Bob Henderson will not be here.
Roy Killick has advised that he will be retiring from dry casting due to his health.
- President's Report:-** Bob Henderson is leaving Perth for about a year. Vice President George Holman will be caretaker President until the next election. Bob reminded members that George has a lot on and will need help.
- AAA Report:-** George Holman said a meeting will be held at his place on Monday 7 February to discuss arrangements for the AAA National Convention. This meeting is important to arrange how the Department of Sport and Recreation funding for the Convention will be used.
George reported on radio talk back discussions on the Ningaloo Marine Park and recreational fishing and the Coalition Parties' policy.
George reported on the AAA Rock and Beach Championship planned for 28/29 May at Cape to Cape. A booklet is being prepared to advertise the event. A sub committee meeting at the Sportsman's Club Thursday 10 Feb and SCAC people are welcome to come. George like to see more Surfcasters at these events.
The AAA State Boat Angling Championships will be held on 19 March at Hillarys.
An AAA Year Book is being planned for the second half of the year.

Social Organiser:- Marmion Angling and Aquatic Club has been booked for the Presentation night, Saturday 18 June 2005. Peter Stoeckel and Andrew Aubrey will organise this. Terry Willison has offered to carry on the dry casting sausage sizzle.

Recorder:- Malcolm Harris has entered a 4.1kg Morwong (or painted sweetlip?).

Reel Talk Editor:- Nothing to report.

Notices of Motion:- None.

General Business:- George Holman asked club members to support Ric Parker in his lure making efforts. These were the best poppers.
Bob Henderson asked members to support Fleets for Tackle Morley who had always supported the club
Terry Fuller reported on some items from tonight's January Recfishwest meeting and Ningaloo Marine Park. See the more detailed report and articles in the Reel Talk.
Moved Malcolm Harris and seconded Peter Stoeckel the start time for the February Open Field Day would be 4:00am – carried.
Bob Henderson advised that the instruction period for February will be a talk by Paul Willis on fishing for bream and mulloway in the River.

Meeting closed:- 9:40 pm. Members then had a sausage sizzle and drinks to farewell President Bob Henderson.

Coming Club Events.

February Dry Casting.

When:- Sunday 6 February 2005, casting starts at 8:30am.
Where:- Yokine Reserve, Wordsworth Avenue.
Events:- Double handed accuracy, Single handed accuracy, 56 gram distance Artificial bait distance, 112 gram distance.
A Change:- Commencing in February 2005, the order for Dry Casting will be altered slightly.
 Casts will be in the order of: **1. 56 gram, 2. Artificial Bait, 3. 112 gram**, to be the same as the order in both the AAA State and AAA National distance casting events.
All casters please assist Terry Willison with the retrieval and packing up of the casting equipment at the end of the day's events. Help with the setting up at the beginning will also be greatly appreciated.

Bring a Friend to the February Instruction Period.

Paul Willis will talk on bream and mulloway fishing in the Swan River. Paul is a top class speaker. Bring a friend to listen to this talk – it will be very entertaining and very informative.

February General Meeting.

When:- Wednesday 9 February 2005, 8:00 pm.
Where:- Coolbinia West Perth Amateur Football and Sporting Club room, off Wordsworth Avenue, Yokine, about 200 metres south east of the Yokine Bowling Club.
Instruction Period:- Paul Willis, bream and mulloway fishing in the Swan River.
 Paul Willis is a top class speaker. Bring a friend to listen to this talk – it will be very entertaining and very informative.

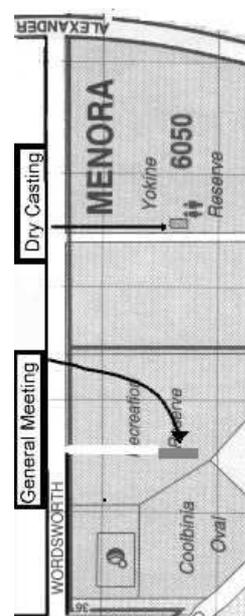
Special Raffle at February General Meeting.

There will be a special raffle at the February General Meeting. See the article on page 7

February 2005 Field Day - Open.

When:- Saturday/Sunday 12/13 February 2005.
Lines Down:- Saturday 4.00 am - yes **4.00 am**.
Weigh in:- Sunday 4.00 pm at G Holman's house. Scales will be available on his back patio. An adult member must witness weights. Field Day money to be left with the scales in an envelope with your name and details written in the carbon copy Field Day book. No Money, no points. Results to be phoned to Field Day Officer by 8:00pm that night.
Boundaries:- all WA tidal waters – But no private jetties, or places needing access through private property are allowed, etc unless these are **also** accessible to **all** SCAC members on the days of the field day. No non-tidal waters, dams, lakes, etc. are allowed.

Tides for	Saturday 12 Feb	0.53m at 6:35 am	0.74m at 1:29 pm	Sunrise:-	About 5:52 am
		0.67m at 4:45 pm	0.75m at 10:29 pm	Sunset:-	About 7:10 pm
Fremantle	Sunday 13 Feb	0.55m at 5:39 am	0.80m at 1:47 pm		
Moon	Saturday 12 Feb	Moonrise:-	About 9:15 am	Moonset:-	About 9:20 pm
	Sunday 13 Feb	Moonrise:-	About 10:20 am	First Quarter-	Wed 16 Feb



Local Field Day for February.

A separate Local field day is not necessary in February - it's an Open Field Day allowing fishing in all WA tidal waters.

March 2005 Field Day – Bluff Creek and Bremer Bay.

When:- Saturday/Sunday/Monday 5/6/7 March 2005.

Sign On:- Saturday 12 noon Bluff Creek camping area. Bremer Bay (see March Reel Talk).

Lines Down:- After sign on.

Weigh in:- Come to February General Meeting or see March Reel Talk.

Boundaries:- Bremer Bay. Point Charles to Reef Beach. Bluff Creek:- As far as you can walk past the rocks at each end of the beach.

Tides for	Saturday 5 Mar	0.29m at 4:38 am	1.10m at 7:57 pm	Sunrise:-	About 5:55 am
Albany	Sunday 6 Mar	0.22m at 4:53 am	1.19m at 8:55 pm	Sunset:-	About 6:35 pm
	Monday 7 Mar	0.20m at 5:15 am	0.79m at 12:33 pm		

Moon	Saturday 5 Mar			Moonset:-	About 3:00 pm
Albany	Sunday 6 Mar	Moonrise:-	About 12:30 am	Moonset:-	About 4:00 pm
	Monday 7 Mar	Moonrise:-	About 1:45 am	Last Quarter-	Thursday 3 March

Local Field Day for March 2005.

When:- Saturday/Sunday/Monday 5/6/7 March 2005.

Sign On:- At the General Meeting or to the FDO by 18:00 Friday.

Lines Down:- Saturday 12 noon

Weigh in:- Monday 10:00 am at G Holman's house. Scales will be available on his back patio. An adult member must witness weights. Field Day money to be left with the scales in an envelope with your name and details written in the carbon copy Field Day book. No Money = no points. Results to be phoned to Field Day Officer by 8:00 pm that night.

Boundaries:- Penguin Island to north wall of the Two Rocks Marina, including the Swan River and both the North and South Moles.

Tides for	Saturday 5 Mar	0.38m at 3:08 am	1.04m at 5:04 pm	Sunrise:-	About 6:10 am
	Sunday 6 Mar	0.35m at 3:41 am	1.07m at 6:38 pm	Sunset:-	About 6:45 pm
Fremantle	Monday 7 Mar	0.34m at 4:15 am	1.09m at 7:45 pm		

Field Day and Dry Casting Fees.

Field Day Fees:- \$7 for an individual, \$9 for families. Dry Casting Fees:- \$6 for an individual, \$8 for families.

2004/2005 Field Day Dates and Venues.

This list was voted in by the members at the April General Meeting.

Saturday/Sunday 12/13 February 2005	Open.
Saturday/Sun/Mon 5/6/7 March 2005 LWE	Bremer Bay. Point Charles to Reef Beach AND Bluff Creek, as decided at January 2005 General Meeting.
Saturday/Sunday 23/24/25 April 2005 Anzac Day LWE	Port Gregory to Kalbarri. Boundaries Hutt River to as far as you can walk north of the Murchison River mouth.

2004/2005 General Meetings.

All at Coolbinia West Perth Amateur Football and Sporting Club room, Wordsworth Avenue, Yokine, starting at 8:00pm.

Wednesday 9 February 2005	Wednesday 13 April 2005
Wednesday 9 March 2005	

2004/2005 Dry Casting Dates.

All are at Yokine Reserve, Wordsworth Avenue, Yokine, starting at 8:30am.

Sunday 6 February 2005	Sunday 3 April 2005
Sunday 13 March 2005, (changed for Field Day)	

2004/2005 AAA State Boat Angling Championships

Location : Hillarys Yacht Club, Perth Metro Area Headquarters : Hillarys Yacht Club
Hosted by : Hillarys Yacht Club, Angling Section Date : Saturday 19 March or Sunday 20 March 2005

Club Competition Rules and Constitution.

Printed copies of the Club's current Fishing and Dry Casting Competition Rules and Club Constitution are available. Contact the Secretary or see the club's web site <http://www.surfcasters.iinet.net.au> for the online versions.

Have YOU Put in YOUR 2005/2006 Field Day Suggestions ?

Do it now, please. Use the pink tear out form on page 18 of the January Reel Talk.

Calendar for Next Three Months.

Here's a calendar showing the dates we will use for Dry Casting, General and Committee Meetings, and Field Days in the next three months.

27	AAA Event																															
1	Dry Casting							11	General Meeting							14	15	Field Day							18	Committee Meeting						
February 2005							March 2005							April 2005																		
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun												
	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3												
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10												
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17												
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24												
28							28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30													

Rottnest Field Days 2005

The club normally runs two field days on Rottnest Island in the months of May and August. These are usually well attended and we have had excellent captures of quality fish over the years. They are great social occasions as well.

We are still waiting for member's suggestions for the 2005/6 field days, but trips to Rottnest need to be organised well in advance, so we can't wait until April.

The committee has proposed that we retain two Rottnest field days for 2005-2006. There have been proposals recently to limit access to fishing this venue so we should utilise the area while we have no more restrictions placed on us. We lost Garden Island to the Navy and this was another magnificent location

The committee is also recommending that we support the AAA State Rock and Beach Championships Cape to Cape on 28/29 May and combine one of our field days with this event. We normally also have a field day on the June Long Weekend.

This gives us options:-

1. We go to Rottnest on the normal weekend of 14/15 May and bring forward our June field day to the weekend of the 28/29 May and combine it with the AAA State Rock and Beach Championships
2. We use the weekend of the State Championship on the 28/29 May as our May field day and then go to Rottnest on the LWE of 4/5/6 June as our June field day. Those are just one week apart.

Whichever dates are chosen, the events are close together, see the calendar.

May 2005							June 2005						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1			1	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
30	31												

Options for Field Days – Normal weekend, Long Weekend, and AAA State Rock and Beach Championships.

The format for the Rottnest field day on the LWE 4/5/6 June would remain the same as we have used before. Cost estimated on 15 persons = \$130 each, 10 persons = \$150 each

The advantages of a LWE are:-

- We get two morning and two afternoon fishing sessions.

- This will allow us to target the productive areas the Sunday afternoon and the Monday morning.
- The costs per day is also reduced

These issues will be discussed and voted on at the February General meeting. We need a couple of months lead time to organise Rottnest Island venues.

I would, on personal basis, like to use the second option because of the additional fishing time available by utilising the LWE in June

It is much easier for members to organise and clean up after a Rottnest field day than a normal away field day. Also you don't have to contend with the suicidal traffic. Temperature in June are still warmer than August. To the best of my knowledge the fishing in June would be similar to May except the chance of catching salmon is less. Give me Yellow Tailed Kingfish any time. I must make trolley for this field day, any spare golf buggies?

Being a LWE there will be more people and we would need to make very specific and concrete arrangements for transport of gear to the units and the bus availability, Also we need to confirm the ferry operators will not try to slug us for our excess luggage as they wanted to on the last field day.

Cheers, Cookie

Happy Birthday to:-

A lot of members haven't told us their birth date, so there may be more birthdays. Dob them in!

Julie Kember, 3 February

Wendy Hansen, 19 February

Roy Killick, 19 February

Dean Stewart, 28 February

Wanted - Aluminium Cans.

Wanted - Aluminium cans. Please bring them along to the General Meeting or to Mal Head's home, but not to Dry Casting. Mal saves them up and takes them to the recyclers when he has enough, and the price is right, and donates all the proceeds to the Club.

New Member Acceptances.

The following application for membership has been accepted, and will be invited to the next General Meeting to be welcomed into the Club. None

New Member Application.

Applications for membership have been received and will come before the November Committee meeting. If any member has any reason why any of the applications should not be accepted, please contact a Committee Member and state the reason. None

Club Polo Shirts, Jackets and Caps.

We now have some stocks of short and long sleeved Club Polo shirts, long sleeved Club Jackets and baseball style caps with a club logo for sale to members. These are in the club colours of Gold (Yellow) and Black, and help to identify you as a "Surfcaster" member. Contact Andrew Aubrey.

Kalbarri House For Rent.

The Club has a house in Kalbarri. The house is situated close to the river, beaches and town. It has two bedrooms and will sleep up to eight (max) in 1 double bed and 3 bunks, has reverse cycle air conditioning and ceiling fans to keep you cool in the summer months. Users need to bring their own linen, blankets and towels, tea towels, etc.

It has a radio and television, stove with oven, microwave oven, crockery and cutlery and all cooking utensils, fridge and freezer. It does not have a washing machine, but there is a laundromat in town. Outside has a fish cleaning facility and a full width verandah. Rates are:-

Public:- Off season \$250 per week, On season \$390 per week } all plus \$50

Club Members:- Off season \$160 per week, On Season \$210 per week } deposit / bond.

Club Members:- Short term \$45 for one night, \$40 per night for two or more nights} plus \$55.00 cleaning

Bookings taken for the school holidays go from Saturday to Saturday (leaving by 10am). Outside of school holidays it does not matter. The club has decided that cleaning will need to be paid for and is \$55.00 extra on the rates above for future new bookings. The club is now being charged GST on the cleaning.

Contact Property Officer Vix Alexander for more details and for bookings.

Check in time is 1pm. Check out time is 10am. Keys can be picked up from Ray White, Shop 1, Kalbarri Arcade. If people arrive after hours, they leave a note on the door of their office with a map of how to get to the house and telling them where the key will be.

If any work needs to be done in, on or around the house, please contact the Property Officer for approval. Members who are staying in the house are not allowed to authorise any repairs or services on the house without authority from the Property Officer, Treasurer or President.

Sponsorship by Yallingup Beach Holiday Park

Special Raffle at February General Meeting.

As you can see by the inside front cover, we have a new sponsor for 12 months. The Yallingup Beach Holiday Park has provided the club with an accommodation voucher to the value of \$250 for two adults for two nights in one of their Malibu ensuite cabins.

The voucher would be ideal as accommodation for the AAA Beach and Rock Championships 28/29 May 2005.

This voucher will be raffled at the February General Meeting.

The voucher is not redeemable during peak periods including long weekends or holidays, and is subject to availability of the accommodation, but if you win you can get in early.

The park has a waterfront location with spectacular views over Yallingup Bay. Opposite is a safe swimming lagoon and an excellent fishing beach plus the world famous Yallingup surf break.

On site accommodation includes ensuite cabins and standard cabins (for the budget conscious) plus plenty of well grassed van and tent sites.

This is an ideal base from which to visit the numerous nearby wineries, go whale watching, take scenic drives and walk trails and visit the spectacular Yallingup Ngilgi Cave, or of course, go fishing!!.

Check the website at <http://www.yallingupbeach.com.au/>

Wanted - Back Copies of Reel Talk.

We are looking for donations of old Reel Talks, or can copy yours if you want to keep them. A few copies, eg all of what we have for the early months of 1982 are not in good condition, so we would take any better copies if they were offered. See the list in the February 2002 Reel Talk.

Life Members of the Club.

Doug Edward, Ric Parker, Jim Strong, Bob Klein, George Holman, Ian Cook.

Member's Stories, Photos, Tips, etc.

Does anyone have any new stories, photos, tips, news items, etc, etc, to share? Please send them in to the Reel Talk Editor. Thanks to Bob Henderson for the articles in this Reel Talk.

Have YOU Put in YOUR 2005/2006 Field Day Suggestions ?

Do it now, please. Use the pink tear out form on page 18 of the January Reel Talk.

Dry Casting Officer – See Ya.

Time to say farewell for a while as I venture on a long holiday. But I would like to say a few words.

Over the past years I have always looked forward to getting to the oval on the first Sunday of each month. It is the early morning air (wet or dry), watching the sunrise, seeing the regulars turn up, standing alongside good friends and cherished mates and sharing friendly banter, a dash of rivalry, some competitiveness, my own personal efforts getting rewards, observing others achieve successes and improving out of sight.

The personal pride of being selected to represent my club in State events, our achievements and sharing them with others. Winning a State championship myself, but also being there when other club members have come out on top too. Having my mate "Roy the Boy" push me along and share casting records with him.

To be selected to represent my State of WA at National Conventions and be part of some great trips. A hell of a lot of fun, some fishing trips, the friends I have met and made from other States, to watch our seniors team win the national championships and share in their celebrations and have many, many nights and days with good mates and friends.

To spend quality time with "Ol Jim" who at 82 years of age can still be competitive. To stand alongside "young Trev" to watch with pride as he tries so hard to do good, to be a part of the comradery with Terry, Mal, AJ, and Alphonse, to encourage the ladies and juniors onto better performances.

The friendly rivalry that helps push us both forward to achieve personal bests with that "old Roy the Boy". His warmth, hospitality, integrity, and friendship has been my big reward. I can go on adding names that will end up as this club's membership list - I can waffle on about him or her, what is right or wrong, what could or could not be done, etc etc etc

I have had a ball and believe that I am one of the richest blokes around because I am a member of the Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA Inc.

The future of the club's dry casting is in your hands and if you stand up and can be counted then it can only go from strength to strength.

Cheers

Hendo

President's Report

It has been very rewarding experience for me personally to take on the role of leading the club for the past 18 months. I was looking forward to doing a three-year stint, but changes in life have put the kibosh on that. The responsibilities have been a learning experience and made easy by a group around me called "The Committee."

Each person that has stepped forward has put their best efforts in to ensure our club runs smoothly. Their efforts sometimes interferes with their personal and business lives, sometimes cost them a quid or two out of their own pockets, creates friction when they do not satisfy individual demands, but great satisfaction in knowing that the club is heading in the right direction and is financially secure.

Has anyone ever said thank you to Mal, Vix, Cookie and Pete for their efforts in running our Field Days? I personally have had a ball enjoying their comradery and friendship on many a trip, can only apologise for my behaviour when overcome by exhaustion, heat, food poisoning, unsteadiness, mental obscurity and vague behaviour which on most occasions was due to dastardly devils with fun on their agenda. The shocking display of actually presenting a fish at a weigh in - but can only put it down to Peter not having a line in the water at the same time.

What about that trim, taut and terrific bloke called "Willo", works tirelessly to ensure everything is ready, helps run the dry casting day and then trudges out to bring in all the dry casting gear.

"So that is his job" you say. If only a few of you stopped back and helped then maybe you would observe the hobbling stagger, the swollen ankles and the pain that he puts up with. He is also one of those who puts his hand into his pocket with no questions asked. How could I fail when I have a bloke like him alongside me?.

What about the other Terry? If anyone deserves a holiday, it's him. Works tirelessly for the club and the AAA. He has encouraged and educated me no end. His door is always open, only a phone call away, nothing is too much trouble, and then there is his hospitality and friendship.

Then there is Cookie, Pete, Aubs, Johnny, Chas and Paul all putting in their efforts for the club and giving me assistance no end. When something needs to be organised or done then they assist.

Last but not the least, I can look at George, a bloke who has been around a long time, done nearly every job in the club and has the biggest heart that I know. Of all the club members that I have been associated with I can only refer to this bloke as my mentor. Taught me what a "Club member" is, educated me no end about fishing and casting (do not blame him for my fishing, blame Stokes) and has been a true personal friend. Take the time to get to know him and it is the most rewarding experience you can get.

I can go back and say many more words about the committee members as individuals, but to this group all I can say is "Thank you my friends"

To all past and present fellow club members, I say thanks for putting up with me, thanks for being a friend and I wish one and all good health, happiness and prosperity in the future.

See you all when I get back.

Hendo

PS. I may have grown older, just a little wiser, greyer and fatter, but absolutely refused to grow up. Why should "youth" have all the fun? Why I was even told that I look a lot better the further I go.

My Opinion.

A new era is sweeping towards our club's environment and it is gaining momentum just like a foul wind.

It is building up into a real stinker, and it is going to lead to a confrontation with the government.

It is fed by the greenies, business interests and the almighty dollar. It uses management manipulation of unreliable mumbo jumbo which is fed to them by intellectual half wits that have all the doctorates, yet lack the most basic item, just common sense.

Not interestedcan't be bothered.

Well over the past few years your own club members have been trying to keep you informed at meetings and via the Real Talk.

Yet there are some comments of "too political, mumbo jumbo, boring, not interested, can't be bothered....."

Well.....

My opinion is:- **If you put your head in the sand, expect your backside to be kicked.**

Think not of yourselves for a while ... what future recreational fishing will your kids and grandkids have?

Support your AAA representatives.

Hendo.

Bring a Friend to the February Instruction Period.

Paul Willis will talk on bream and mulloway fishing in the Swan River. Paul is a top class speaker. Bring a friend to listen to this talk – it will be very entertaining and very informative.

Wetline Review Discussion Papers.

The long awaited reports of the Access and Allocation committees for West Coast and Gascoyne commercial wetline fisheries are out for public comment in three Fisheries Management Papers.

FMP 191 "Access And Allocation Arrangements for the Commercial 'Wetline' Fisheries, Proposals For Discussion"; FMP 189 "Management Arrangements for the Gascoyne Commercial 'Wetline' Fishery" and FMP 190 "Management Arrangements for the West Coast Commercial 'Wetline' Fishery"

FMP 191 Summary Of Proposals.

Recommendation 1) West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery

(a) Access criteria. Access to the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery should be determined on the basis of: Operators who have caught a minimum of 1000kg/year of demersal scalefish by a 'wetlining' method in at least three out of the four financial years during the period 1 July 1993 to 31 October 1997, and caught a minimum of 1000kg/year of demersal scalefish by hand line or drop line in the West Coast region in at least three out of four financial years during the period 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2003.

(b) Allocation criteria. Operators who meet the access criteria in (a) should receive an allocation of entitlement based upon their average catch of demersal scalefish taken by hand line or drop line in each management zone within the fishery. The average should be determined on the basis of the three highest annual catches recorded against the FBL during the financial years from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2003. If the combined allocation to these operators exceeds the sustainable commercial catch for a management zone, the entitlement allocated to each licence holder should be reduced by an equal proportion to achieve the sustainable commercial catch.

(c) Supplementary access criteria. If the overall catch allocation to operators in (b) is below the sustainable commercial catch in a particular management zone and a 'surplus' catch is available, access for additional operators should be considered in accordance with ... (more details)

Recommendation 2) West Coast Inshore Net Fishery. (a) Access criteria. Access to the West Coast Inshore Net Fishery should be determined on the basis of: Operators who have caught a minimum of 1000kg/year of scalefish by 'open access' netting in the West Coast region (as defined in the Management Planning Panel report) in at least three out of the four financial years during the period 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2003.

Recommendation 3) Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Fishery (a) Access criteria and (b) Allocation criteria – similar to recommendation 1)

Recommendation 4) Gascoyne Inshore Net Fishery (a) Access criteria – similar to Recommendation 2

Recommendation 5) The generic access criteria recommended for the West Coast and Gascoyne fisheries be introduced for all other 'wetline' fisheries in WA, particularly the demersal wetline fisheries in the South Coast and Pilbara regions, to avoid the potential for any unregulated transfer of effort between fisheries and to ensure commercial fishing is maintained at sustainable levels.

Recommendation 6) The Minister give consideration to prohibiting all 'open access fishing' in WA to avoid any future unregulated expansion of fishing effort. Access to any new or developing fisheries (not addressed as part of this review) should be assessed through the Developing New Fisheries process.

Important point:- Catch history between 1993 to 1997 is required to get access, so the rapid growth in catches after 1997 is not enough by itself to give access.

FMP 190 Proposed Management Arrangements for the West Coast Commercial 'Wetline' Fishery.

There are 37 recommendations, most of which don't affect the fish shore based anglers can catch. Only the recommendations of interest are covered here.

1) Separate management arrangements be introduced which establish two distinct fisheries in the West Coast bioregion:

- a. A line fishery targeting demersal/reef scalefish species called the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery; and
- b. An inshore beach net fishery in coastal waters north of Moore River.

2) The following management objectives apply for the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery:

b. The management framework provides mechanisms that can contain the commercial scalefish catch within a prescribed allocation under an integrated fisheries management framework;

18) The only permitted gear for use in the fishery be handlines and droplines.

19) A maximum of 5 handlines and 5 droplines be on board, or in operation from, a boat at any one time.

20) A maximum number of 30 hooks (or gangs of hooks) be permitted on any handline or dropline.

23) Metal traces should not be permitted to be used on any gear in the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery.

24) The West Coast Inshore Net Fishery be managed predominately by limited entry, supplemented by gear restrictions and provisions for future spatial and temporal closures if required.

- 25) Fishing methods in the West Coast Inshore Net Fishery be limited to the use of hand haul net, gillnet and seine net. Further definitions around permitted gear should be developed in consultation with those fishers who gain access to the inshore fishery.
- 26) The Panel recommends that access criteria established for entry to the West Coast Inshore Net Fishery should recognise fishers with relatively low levels of catch history.
- 27) Catch levels from the West Coast Inshore Net Fishery should be monitored and specific effort constraints be implemented should catch levels begin to increase beyond historical levels. Consideration should be given to formalising these levels as 'trigger points' for future management action.
- 28) Commercial fishers without any access to the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery should be able to land a 'non-commercial' limit of fish for personal use. These fish may only be taken using an approved recreational fishing method (e.g. use of a handline or rod and line with no more than 3 hooks, or gangs of hooks, attached) and should not be able to be sold.
- 31) The non-commercial component of catch should be managed within the overall target commercial catch established for the fishery while sufficient data is collected to determine an explicit allocation. This figure must be separately identified from the target commercial catch set for the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery.
- 33) The West Coast Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery and the 'non-commercial' scalefish sector be required to report the catch of scalefish on a 'trip by trip' basis prior to landing.
- 35) Validation surveys be carried out on catch returns of all scalefish including both the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Managed Fishery and the 'non-commercial' scalefish sector to ensure the data is robust for decision making.
- 36) All scalefish taken as non-commercial catch that are of the species listed as category 1 recreational fish, must have both pectoral fins removed immediately upon capture.
- 37) Fisheries legislation be amended to permit holders of Commercial Fishing Licences to apply for a Recreational Fishing Licence for abalone and rock lobster provided they do not operate in the respective managed commercial fishery. Fishing activity requiring a recreational licence should not be permitted to be undertaken from a commercial fishing boat.

Dry Casting Sausage Sizzle.

We usually hold a sausage sizzle on every Sunday after the dry casting. Gives everyone a chance to talk over the morning's casting, gear to use, what's coming up, fishing, the state of the world or whatever, over some lunch.

But the sausage sizzle is not free, much as we would like it to be. It has to be paid for somehow, and the prices are quite reasonable compared to what you would pay elsewhere. **Don't forget to put the money in, please.**

Everything is one dollar each. You can get:-

1 drink plus 1 sausage in bread for \$2.00 Extra drink for \$1.00 Extra sausage in bread for \$1.00

January Dry Casting Report.

A strong southwester tried desperately to dishevel Willo's flowing locks as we ran out the ropes, but came in handy later for the distance.

As usual Jim was the first to turn up and had the honour of chucking the dice to select the accuracy distances.

Chas arrived and look ragged as he had just finished a midnight shift and asked to get away early if possible.

Putting Chas through his distance events, I had a lot of trouble digging his sinkers out and was thankful for his heavy leader material. The same can be said for the vet's events but quite a few had too light a leader material and a few broke off.

Please endeavour to put at least a 50 pound leader on. Young Rhys' first cast was a beauty but buried deep and took a while to retrieve.

The blustery conditions had a few of the golden oldies fluffing some casts and the same can be said about couple of the seniors. Alfonse was on fire, Trevor was straight but had a finger problem, and Allan gave up and went home early (really to take Rhys to cricket.)

I had a couple of bulls eyes is to cap off a good morning and my strut as I departed was commented on in unprintable terms. At least I finished with a bang an echo.

Another good morning spent with fellow club members and the sausage sizzle was a treat. Remember gridders are not always the winners. Hendo.

Dry Casting Results, 2 January 2005.

Results for the day		112 gram				56 gram				Artificial Bait				Double Handed Accuracy										Single Handed Accuracy				Day Total				
		Cast		Points	Cast		Points	Cast		Points	Target Number										Target distance											
		1 (m)	2 (m)		1 (m)	2 (m)		1 (m)	2 (m)		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		20	L	S	L
		Cast	Cast	Points	Cast	Cast	Points	Cast	Cast	Points	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		20	1	2	3
Seniors.																																
Gary Gildersleeves	144	135	28	127	129	26	110	109	22	15	21	23	12	16	18	11	131	0	3	6	7	16	223									
Malcolm Harris	144	151	30	142	138	28	114	109	22	22	20	11	23	6	7	8	21	118	0	5	0	3	206									
George Holman	157	142	30	150	0	15	135	0	14	0	14	16	21	7	7	22	23	110	3	8	0	9	189									
Chas Riegert	152	157	31	149	148	30	128	126	25	0	2	17	10	15	13	9	0	66	0	9	3	9	173									
Terry Willison	129	136	27	136	134	27	123	0	12	3	14	19	22	13	0	9	3	83	1	2	9	0	161									
Scott Rolls	0	144	14	0	115	12	119	118	24	5	0	18	15	0	0	0	0	38	9	7	0	6	110									
Peter Stoeckel	95	136	23	118	119	24	117	110	23	0	6	0	0	14	0	0	0	20	1	7	1	9	108									
Veterans																																
Bob Henderson	130	140	27	104	0	10	0	130	13	10	19	21	20	22	14	24	24	154	0	10	10	8	232									
Tony D'Alonzo	126	123	25	103	110	21	115	0	12	14	14	17	20	17	6	22	22	132	8	7	2	9	216									
Terry Fuller	85	100	19	88	85	17	87	93	18	20	20	20	21	12	23	3	16	135	6	7	4	5	211									
Malcolm Head	110	125	24	0	103	10	109	100	21	18	14	9	19	19	2	20	21	122	8	7	0	6	198									
Trevor Stam	81	93	17	0	84	8	99	85	18	3	21	13	22	8	21	22	12	122	2	0	7	8	182									
Jim Strong	83	87	17	78	83	16	79	0	8	21	15	10	18	11	12	11	18	116	6	0	0	6	169									
Allan Jones	120	127	25	115	107	22	0	0	0	19	18	11	16					64	8	3	4	6	132									
Ladies																																
Vix Alexander	81	80	16	73	76	15	85	79	16	0	17	21	6	9	0	18	17	88	0	7	0	2	144									
Juniors																																
Rhys Jones	136	132	27	0	105	11	113	0	11	23	15	0	12					50	8	9	7	4	127									
Event:																																
112 gram Distance	Chas Riegert	31	Bob Henderson	25	Vix Alexander	16	Rhys Jones	27	Junior Winner																							
56 gram Distance	Chas Riegert	30	Allan Jones	22	Vix Alexander	15	Rhys Jones	11																								
Artificial Bait	Chas Riegert	25	Mal Head	21	Vix Alexander	16	Rhys Jones	11																								
Double Handed Acc.	Gary Gildersleeves	131	Bob Henderson	154	Vix Alexander	88	Rhys Jones	50																								
Single Handed Acc	Scott Rolls (Vis)	22	Bob Henderson	28	Vix Alexander	9	Rhys Jones	28																								
Days High Points	Bob Henderson	232																														
January Single Handed Open:- Chas Riegert, 95, 94 metres, George Holman, 77, 84 metres, Malcolm Harris, 75 metres.																																
Apologies to Mal Head for incorrect scores for December cast in the January Reel Talk. The correct scores are:-																																
Mal Head	123	<u>125</u>	<u>25</u>	114	99	21	94	104	20	17	21	13	13	12	12	16	11	115	0	4	10	4	18	<u>199</u>								

January 2005 Field Day.

Golden Bay to Myalup 15/16 January 2005

The forecast for the Saturday afternoon was for a strong sea breeze by the early afternoon. Not the best proposition for a beach with very little in the way of protection.

Such a forecast did not however deter thirteen of our members and one visitor from attending the field day.

After a quick sign on at Dawesville we were soon on the beach at White Hills. Even at midday there were quite a few other vehicles also on the beach. However one of the many good things about the beach from White Hills to Myalup is that over the fifty odd kilometres of beach it does not vary all that much, so there is always room to move even when there are large numbers of vehicles on the beach.

Vix and I headed straight down to the reef about halfway between White Hills and Preston. As the tide was very low we had about a kilometre of reef to choose from. We were shortly joined by Ric, Andy, Peter, Andrew, Morris and his visitor.

At that stage there was no sign of the sea breeze but very quickly a few white horses were popping up on the horizon. Within about twenty minutes it was upon us, roaring in like a freight train. From being able to stand on the reef to cast to being pushed back to the shore was very swift indeed.

It's funny how a fish being landed can take your mind off the weather. Morris's visitor, Nicko, landed a good size Tailor and it was only about 1 o'clock in the afternoon. Our group landed them in dribs and drabs for the rest of the day. It was great to have a few quality fish in the bag so early in the field day. Between us all, we ended up with two bag limits of Tailor and a couple more not very far off the limit. Add to that quite a few Herring and Tarwhine and you have a very worth while fishing trip.

As is the usual summer weather pattern, the wind dropped away in the early evening and swung around to the east but then died completely. Sitting on the beach with the stars blazing, a mere whiff of a breeze and only an hour and a half from Perth, does it come any better?

Not to be out done, Tony and Filomena fished down Preston way and also landed their bag of Tailor each. To back it up they both weighed in a good number of plump whiting, you could almost taste the sweet fillets just by looking at them.

For a venue so close to home this one was superb, and for those of you who couldn't make it, give yourselves a kick and promise that you will make the next one. Speaking of which is the Open on the 12/13 February. So, you have no excuse for not driving south for an hour or so and dropping a line. You can even start fishing at 4.00am on the Saturday, providing of course, you sign on at the general meeting or ring me by 6.00pm Friday night.

See you at the weigh in at George's place at 4.00pm Sunday.

Malcolm Harris, Field Day Officer

Results for the January 2005 Field Day:-

Angler	Weight	Species	Fish	Points
Malcolm Harris	4.65 kg	3	19	126.5
Tony D'Alonzo	5.175 kg	3	30	121.75
Filomena D'Alonzo	4 kg	3	29	110
Morris Kolman	3.85 kg	2	20	108.5
Eric Parker	2.7 kg	2	9	97
Vix Alexander	2.35 kg	2	10	93.5
George Holman	1.05 kg	4	4	70.5
Ross Kember	0	0	0	50
Peter Stoeckel	0	0	0	50
Andrew Thorgersen	0	0	0	40
Julie Kember	0	0	0	40
Andrew Stoeckel	0	0	0	40
Spencer King	0	0	0	20

Have YOU Put in YOUR 2005/2006 Field Day Suggestions ?

Do it now, please. Use the pink tear out form on page 18 of the January Reel Talk.

Sportsperson of the Year Sections and Field Day prizes for January 2005.

Best Scale Fish	Malcolm Harris	Tailor	0.65 kg
Best Bag of Scale fish	Tony D'Alonzo	Mixed Bag	5.175 kg

Field Day Top Ten for 2004/2005 up to January 2005.

	Angler	Total Points		Angler	Total Points
1	Tony D'Alonzo	2074.3	6	Spencer King	385.0
2	Filomena D'Alonzo	686.0	7	Peter Stoeckel	287.2
3	Malcolm Harris	670.0	8	Joe Pullella	274.0
4	George Holman	574.5	9	Grant Taggart	286.0
5	Vix Alexander	562.5	10	Mark Farnay	251.5

Field Day Sections for 2004/2005 up to January 2005.

1A	Best Scale Fish (1st Six Months)	Tony D'Alonzo	Mulloway	10.05 kg
1B	Best Scale Fish (2nd Six Months)	Malcolm Head	Mulloway	2.0 kg
3	Best Shark (4.5kg min)	Joe Pullella	Shark	16.85 kg
5	Best Tailor	Malcolm Harris	Tailor	1.70 kg
6	Best Salmon	George Holman	Salmon	3.65 kg
7	Best Skipjack Trevally (0.5 kg min)	Tony D'Alonzo	Skipjack Trevally	1.15 kg
9	Best Scale Fish (Other than above)	Tony D'Alonzo	Snook	2.0 kg
10	Best Bag Of Scale Fish	Tony D'Alonzo	Mixed Bag	24.575 kg
11	Best Bag Of Mulloway (2 Fish Min)	Tony D'Alonzo	Mulloway	19.85 kg
12	Best Bag Of Tailor (2 Fish Min)	Malcolm Harris	Tailor	5.55 kg

Special Raffle at February General Meeting.

There will be a special raffle at the February General Meeting. See the article on page 7

Bring a Friend to the February Instruction Period.

Paul Willis will talk on bream and mulloway fishing in the Swan River. Paul is a top class speaker. Bring a friend to listen to this talk – it will be very entertaining and very informative.

Club Competition Rules and Constitution.

Printed copies of the Club's current Fishing and Dry Casting Competition Rules and Club Constitution are available. Contact the Secretary or see the club's web site <http://www.surfcasters.iinet.net.au> for the online versions.

Animal Behaviour.

Some of the most memorable times in my view is was the joy of running free with the dog by my side. To have a loyal servant by your side through thick and thin, a slobbery tongue on your moosh when the tears flowed after a fall or an accident, a sleeping companion that supplied warmth and it did not hog the blankets on many cold nights, someone to wrestle with, swim with and share so much quality time with.

My first dog was a hand me down from my granny for her new moggy beat up as this poor sod so the dog went first. A lazy, smelly, bad-tempered mutt that was a bundle of fur, each end looked the same. A bloody Pekinese that had bad breath, smelly body, a foul temperament, snorted all the time, barked a lot and hated kids.

We never really connected (sorry yes we did - when it bit me or my toe collided with its Khyber pass) and it stayed in our household for a few years. It was already at least 100 years old when we got it and when it carked it we carried out a somber burial service and off loaded it under the Geraldton wax tree down the backyard. Mum cried, my sister wailed, Dad had a sad look, my brother could not care less and I got a whack for smiling.

It was not long before Dad brought home "Rex", a cross between a kelpie, a blue heeler and a cocker spaniel. It had the colouring of a blue heeler, the stamina of the kelpie breed, and bloody long ears. I am sure the pup was smiling when Dad gave him to me. Inseparable was him and me and the admiration was equal. When Dad guided me with his training (and I had a few lessons too) and I was a proud and happy owner of a wonderful dog.

Trained him to fetch ball, stand guard, attack (neighbours' cats only), stay behind, run alongside, swim together, stay with my gear, wait outside school, wait while I did footy training and sit in the box on my bike or hill trolley.

A truly memorable time was when we went golf ball hunting in the scrub alongside the fairways. We were not allowed near the practice range or the club house at Royal Fremantle and pickings were slim, until Rex thought up a better way and improved the qualities of the balls.

We were in the tall lupins on the edge of the 18th fairway, just over the ridge from the tee off position. When golfer hit off he ended well over that ridge and the ball ran down the fairway out of his sight. Rex saw the

ball land and roll and chased it up. Me, being as honest as the day I was born, I was born with a secondhand one so that the golfer did not lose a stroke.

Now Rex was the smarty bum and decided to carry out the same activities on the third, seventh and 13th hole too. The dog legs on holes 5, 11 and 17 produced the same results and the sale of good condition golf balls was rewarding. That is till the day Rex had me caught and banned from that golf course ("and for life", said the grumpy old so and so)

Another bad habit Rex developed was stealing mine and everybody else's bait when we went fishing. The smellier it was the more Rex licked his lips. Caused no amount of trouble with others and ended many of my fishing days early. But, the most hurtful thing he did was lay by my feet at teatime, and sure enough, I was the one who had his ears whacked for "being disgusting".

He could pick up a chook egg in his gob and bring it from the chook pen without cracking it. He would carry a bag of stuff home from the corner shop and place it at mum's feet. He would let toddlers crawl all over him, pull his tail, ears and legs, poke fingers in his nose, ears and mouth, inspect his teeth and tail.

He was with me for about five years and our time together was never dull. Always giving yet asking for very little, loving and loyal.

Unfortunately, he or I must have upset a cantankerous neighbour who lashed out one day with his boot and collected Rex in the stomach. It did something to his innards and his stomach swelled up and Rex would not eat. A visit to the vet, the operation revealed he had a big dose of cancer and Rex passed away a couple of months later.

My beloved Rex received the bestest funeral that I could give him. R.I.P. Rex Hendo

PS. The neighbour ended up with problems too because I was a devious little devil in those days.

Political Parties' Policies/Positions on Recreational Fishing.

The promises and commitments from all Political Parties are very important for the future of recreational angling in this State.

These statements of policy/position should be kept so that you know what has been promised by whichever Party you vote for, and whichever Party wins Government at the WA State Election on 26 February.

The State Liberal National Coalition Parties' Fisheries Position Statement is copied below, unedited, for Club members' information. Note the words "For discussion and comment", so these commitments will have to be locked in before the election.

There will also be an environmental statement which will cover Marine planning which is also very important for the future of recreational angling in this State.

Coalition Position Statement (on Recreational Fishing.)

Recreational Fishing in Western Australia For Discussion and Comment.

Introduction. Western Australian waters provide for some of the world's most exciting recreational fishing. From crabbing in the Swan River to game fishing off the North West coast, more than one third of our population enjoys the pastime. The sector contributes more than \$500 million to the State economy each year.

Fishing is a part of the Western Australian lifestyle. Throughout the State people from all walks of life enjoy the simple pleasure that fishing offers and it is vital that future generations have the opportunity to share this experience.

The Coalition recognises that the recreational sector has been cooperating with successive governments to implement conservation based fishing regulations that are supported by high levels of voluntary compliance. In recent years the recreational sector has expressed concern that the interests of anglers are being neglected in marine planning processes, resource allocations and policy formulation.

The Coalition recognises that our fish stocks must be protected to ensure the viability of our fisheries in the years to come and will implement sustainable, sound policies that balance the needs of all stakeholders.

The Coalition Approach. The recreational fishing sector provides a valuable contribution to Western Australia, not only as an economic activity, but also in terms of health and social benefits.

The previous Coalition Government established Recfishwest to represent the interests of the recreational sector, expanded the highly successful Volunteer Fisheries Liaison Officers program and initiated formal resource sharing to develop sustainable fisheries management programs.

The historic Fish Resources Management Act was introduced in 1994 to address issues including Commonwealth-State relations, habitat protection and licensing, and new bag and size limits were established in consultation with the recreational sector.

Recreational fishing licenses. In 2002 there was discussion on a general recreational fishing licence. After public outcry the Government was forced to rule out a general licence, however, in the 2002-03 Budget the fees on existing recreational licences were dramatically increased to take an additional \$540,000 from recreational anglers.

A Liberal National Coalition Government will provide the recreational fishing sector with the funding and recognition it deserves. By adequately supporting the recreational sector, the Coalition will ensure that there is no need to introduce a general recreational fishing licence. A Liberal National Coalition Government will not introduce a general recreational fishing licence.

The Coalition supports the adequate funding of the recreational fishing sector in Western Australia to negate the need for a general recreational licence.

Recreational Fishing infrastructure and amenities. Failure to provide adequate facilities can have major implications for the safety of fishers and the public, as well as risking serious environmental damage, particularly when launching boats.

The Recreational Boating Scheme (RBFS) was initiated by the previous Coalition Government to improve boating infrastructure, including launching ramps and moorings. The scheme is funded through boat registration fees, with projects generally developed in conjunction with Local Governments and State Government departments.

With a growing coastal population, ageing boating facilities are coming under increasing pressure and funding allocated for projects under the RBFS is insufficient to meet the needs of the community. It is evident that additional funds must be provided to finance larger projects and to take into account the need for new, modern amenities. A Liberal National Coalition Government will immediately increase funding to the Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme by \$250,000 per year to a total of \$1 million per year.

Currently there are around 43,000 registered vessels in the Perth metropolitan area. The fact that there are no coastal public ramps between Hillarys and Woodman's Point has been blamed for considerable delays in the launching of boats. One of the most pressing examples is at the East Fremantle river ramp, where dangerously heavy congestion has resulted in confrontations between frustrated boat owners,

To ease the congestion at existing facilities and provide a new, safe coastal location to launch small recreational boats, a Liberal National Coalition Government will fund the creation of a boat facility at Rous Head. The new boat launching facility will be partly funded through the Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme with the remainder of the necessary funding provided by a Coalition Government.

Jetty maintenance & boardwalks. Jetties and boardwalks are important structures for recreational fishers, providing access for young children, the disabled and the elderly. In addition, small boat owners rely upon jetties for mooring and boarding.

Unfortunately many of the State's jetties have fallen into a state of disrepair due to a lack of maintenance funds. A number of these jetties are important historical structures that have been used by Western Australians for recreational fishing and boating activities for decades.

In situations where recreational activities threaten vegetation along shorelines, a number of Local Governments have chosen to develop boardwalks or jetties to protect the environment and maintain public access. Where jetties are impractical or threaten to damage the environment, boardwalks provide a practical solution that preserves public access to aquatic areas for activities such as fishing.

In conjunction with Local Governments communities, a Liberal National Coalition Government will initiate a state wide program to assess the status of existing jetties and boardwalks and identify opportunities for new structures. Following the assessment process a Coalition Government will allocate additional funding for jetty maintenance and for the development of new boardwalks that allow access for recreational fishers.

Signage & measuring stations. Adequate signage is vitally important to continually educate fishers about hazards in the area, as well as to provide information on bag and size limits and specific advice for the particular region. This will help to reinforce the high level of voluntary compliance that currently exists within the recreational fishing community. A Coalition Government will upgrade signage at popular fishing locations around the State to provide information on topics such as bag and size limits, fishing safety and environmental issues.

The increasingly complex nature of fishing regulations has meant that many recreational fishers are not able to confidently assess the legality of their catch. Measuring stations in key locations can help to protect undersize and endangered species by allowing fishers to measure their catch against fish rulers for prevalent species.

To aid in fish stock preservation and help anglers more accurately identify the species and legality of their catch, a Coalition Government will work to improve public education regarding regulation changes and will fund the installation of new measuring stations at popular fishing locations around Western Australia.

Swan and Canning Rivers. Fish stocks in Western Australia's inland water bodies, including our rivers, estuaries and dams, have come under increasing pressure from commercial and recreational fishing, as well as fluctuations in the aquatic environment. As an icon of our State, the Swan and Canning Rivers have provided generations of Western Australians with the opportunity to participate in recreational fishing.

Unfortunately, in its State of the Fisheries Report 2002-03 the Department of Fisheries has identified that catch levels in the Swan/Canning River System are continuing to decline. Although the number of commercial operators in the Swan/Canning System has been reduced substantially since a peak of 32 in 1979, the commercial catch still accounts for approximately half of the total number of fish removed from the river system.

The Coalition believes that the time has come to return the Swan and Canning Rivers to the people to ensure that the river system will continue to provide a quality recreational fishing experience for all Western Australians.

To protect the Swan and Canning Rivers as iconic recreational fishing locations, a Coalition Government will phase out commercial fishing in the Swan/Canning River System and compensate the remaining commercial licence holders.

Crabs. Crabbing is the most popular recreational fishing activity in Western Australia, with around 80,000 participants each year. It is estimated that two million crabs are caught annually; with half of the total catch coming from the Peel-Harvey estuary. The increasing popularity of this activity is, however, placing considerable pressure on this valuable resource, prompting calls from the recreational sector for an immediate review of stock numbers.

A Coalition Government will initiate a detailed research program to examine the status of Blue Swimmer crab in popular crabbing locations, including the Peel-Harvey system, Cockburn Sound and Geographe Bay and recommend measures to protect the long-term viability of crab stocks.

Stocking. As well as protecting natural fish stocks, opportunities exist around the State for the stocking of water bodies that are currently underutilised or have been affected by events such as algal blooms. The Water Corporation is in the process of refurbishing a number of dams in the South West, which may provide new opportunities to expand inland recreational fishing.

The environmentally sensitive development of quality recreational fishing opportunities in inland water will not only reduce pressure on natural fish stocks, but provide a great boost to local businesses through increased visitation to inland regions.

A number of issues must be considered before any stocking programs commence, including the risk of disease, the survival rate of hatchery stock, the impact on the genetic make-up of any wild stock and the ecosystem as a whole. In situations where water from dams is to be used for drinking, fishing would need to be restricted to fly and lure fishing, with boats limited to small electric or manually powered vessels.

In Government, the Coalition will identify opportunities for the stocking of inland water bodies and examine any necessary environmental and infrastructure requirements at these locations. Based upon this assessment, a Coalition Government will also allocate an additional \$290,000 each year for programs to stock and restock Western Australian rivers and water bodies for conservation and recreation purposes, including icon river systems such as the Swan, Canning and Murray rivers,

Fisheries Officers & patrols. Maintaining a visible and proactive presence where people fish is an integral part of enforcing fisheries regulations and educating the public about key fisheries issues.

By far the majority of recreational fishers abide by rules governing subjects such as bag and size limits, however, many responsible anglers frequently request a stronger compliance presence in key areas to protect the long-term interests of the community. It is vitally important that there are enough fisheries officers to not only police fishing locations, but to provide the public with advice and up-to-date information.

A positive relationship between recreational anglers and fisheries officers should be developed, as this will further encourage the community to work together in managing our fish stocks for the future. To achieve this, additional resources must be provided to the Department of Fisheries.

A Liberal National Coalition Government will fund the deployment of additional fisheries officers to focus on recreational compliance and education and a positive relationship with the recreational fishing sector.

Providing additional officers will the Department of Fisheries manage our valuable fisheries, but the large distances between popular fishing locations can also present considerable challenges.

A Liberal National Coalition Government will establish six new mobile fishing patrols for peak fishing periods and popular locations. The new mobile patrols will be equipped to both coastal and inland fishing locations across Western Australia and will focus on educating recreational fishers by providing practical advice.

Voluntary fisheries liaison officers. The previous Coalition Government recognised the value of the Voluntary Fisheries Liaison Officers (VFLO) program by expanding it State-wide. VFLOs provide an important link to the community by delivering education programs and encouraging voluntary compliance throughout the State. VFLOs also undertake surveys, assist people with disabilities to go fishing and attend schools, workshops and major boat shows as part of their activities.

In Government, the Coalition will provide an additional \$125,000 annually to expand the Voluntary Fisheries Liaison Officers program and enhance administrative support.

Promoting fishing tourism. Nature-based tourism continues to grow in popularity around the world and Western Australia's pristine waters and unique fishing opportunities have the potential to attract a significant number of overseas and interstate visitors. Fishing tourism can have considerable flow on for businesses, particularly in regional areas, by encouraging visitors to stay longer and spend more.

Western Australia's "clean" image provides a major competitive advantage over other states and countries in terms of fishing tourism, but the industry is significantly underdeveloped due to a lack of government support.

The Liberal National Coalition recognises the benefits that fishing tourism could provide to Western Australia, particularly in regional areas, and in Government will allocate additional funds for the development and promotion of the fishing tourism industry.

Fisheries catch allocations. The previous Coalition Government implemented formal resource sharing between the recreational and commercial sectors. As part of this process more than 248 commercial licences were removed through Fisheries Adjustment Schemes.

Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) has been identified as the next step in ensuring the protection of our fish stocks for future generations. Sustainability is the guiding principal of IFM and user groups are explicitly allocated target catch levels based upon the total mortality of fish resources resulting from the activities of each group. Economic, social, cultural and environmental factors are taken into account in the allocation process. Despite the completion of the Toohey report into Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) in 2002, funding to initiate the IMF process was only allocated in 2004/05.

The Coalition is firmly committed to providing an equitable allocation of fisheries resources between all stakeholders, but before allocations can be made it is essential that accurate fish stock and catch information is obtained for each fishery. To assist in the resource allocation process and guide decisions regarding fisheries sustainability, a Coalition Government will provide an additional \$500,000 per year for the measurement and monitoring of stock and catch levels, with a focus on the recreational sector.

Using accurate stock and catch data, the Coalition will continue the process of resource allocations within Western Australia's fisheries with an emphasis on equity between sectors. A Liberal National Coalition Government will ensure that all stakeholders are provided with appropriate level of input to the Fisheries Allocation Advisory Committee regarding resource allocations.

To provide certainty in the allocation process, adequate funding must be allocated to enable the status of Western Australia's fisheries to be accurately gauged and changes implemented in line with new management requirements. In its first term, a Coalition Government will provide a minimum of \$6 million over four years to the Department of Fisheries to progress the Integrated Fisheries Management process.

Equity in marine planning. The issue of Marine Park planning has created considerable controversy over recent years. The Labor Government was forced to scrap plans for a no-fishing zone around Rottnest island, while similar plans for Rowley Shoals, Monte Bello Islands, Ningaloo Reef and the Cape to Cape region have sparked outcry from the recreational fishing sector.

The decision to ban recreational fishing activities over a large area of the Ningaloo Reef has proven to be particularly contentious, with the State Government even ignoring advice from our own Department of Fisheries over what level of access should be allowed.

The State Government has also been accused of misleading the public over the level of consultation undertaken regarding the Ningaloo decision. The Coalition believes that political opportunism should not be used as the for marine planning decisions.

At present the Department of Fisheries is responsible for Fish Habitat Protection Areas (FHPA), while CALM has the power to create Marine Parks. In both instances, sections of the protected areas can be designated as no take areas, sanctuaries, marine nature reserves or locations for designated activities, though Marine Parks take precedence over FHPAs.

While priority must be given to ensuring the sustainability of our diverse marine environment, there is concern that current planning processes are resulting in large areas be unnecessarily 'locked-up' from even the most responsible recreational fishers while other activities such as jet skiing and anchoring are still allowed. This is forcing fishing activity to be concentrated in other locations to the detriment of fish stocks and can also push recreational fishers into more dangerous waters.

A Coalition Government will initiate an independent review of the current duplication of marine protection responsibilities between CALM and the Department of Fisheries to improve synergies, reduce confusing cross-overs and ensure that the marine environment is managed for the benefits of all stakeholders.

The Coalition recognises that in certain circumstances recreational fishing should be prohibited to protect spawning aggregations and fragile habitats or to allow for other recreational activities, but believes that the principle of equity should apply in ensuring access for recreational fishers.

While recognising the need to proactively protect our valuable aquatic environment, a Coalition Government will review processes governing the establishment of Marine Parks and Fish Habitat Protection Areas to ensure that decisions to restrict recreational fishing are based upon scientific evidence and not political opportunism.

Recreational fishers have a vested interest in ensuring the long-term viability of our fisheries and have supported numerous measures to protect stocks, including changes to size limits, bag numbers and catch and release fishing. The Coalition believes that greater emphasis should be placed on protecting our fisheries through these measures rather than complete bans on recreational fishing activities.

Representation for recreational fishers. For far too long the recreational fishing sector has not received the recognition that it deserves. Recreational fishers encompass a diverse group of people - from those who travel widely and fish regularly, to the grandparent who takes a grandchild fishing a couple of times a year. This diversity has often made it difficult to present a strong voice.

The recreational sector has, however, expressed anger through both industry leaders and Recfishwest over the poor level of consultation undertaken regarding changes to the management of fisheries. Submissions from the

recreational sector have been overlooked as part of Marine Park planning processes and the recreational sector does not currently receive recognition in State Administrative Tribunal matters.

The Coalition believes that Western Australia's 600,000 recreational fishers deserve equitable recognition and consultation. In Government the Coalition will implement policies that ensure the recreational fishing sector is consulted on all changes to the management of fisheries that will impact upon recreational fishing.

A Coalition Government will also ensure that the recreational sector, through peak bodies such as Recfishwest, has the option to be represented as a party in matters impacting recreational fishers that come before the State Administrative Tribunal,

With the Implementation of Integrated Fisheries Management, it is essential that the recreational sector be well represented to advocate the interests of the angling community. A Liberal National Coalition Government will review peak body funding arrangements to ensure that there is greater equity in the representation of commercial and recreational interests.

Conclusion. Recreation fishing is an important part of the Australian way of life. For decades Western Australians have enjoyed casting a fishing line into the water from the local beach or riverbank. Unfortunately, increasing pressure on fish stocks has meant that casual anglers are often returning home without even a bite.

A Liberal National Coalition Government will acknowledge the valuable contribution made by the recreational fishing sector. Through sound planning decisions, equitable representation and adequate funding, the Coalition will protect our fisheries while maintaining a responsible, well managed level of access for all stakeholders.

For comment, please contact the Office of the Leader of the Opposition on 9222 7351 or email barnettc@loop.wa.gov.au

===== End of Coalition Recreational Fisheries Policy =====

Special Raffle at February General Meeting.

There will be a special raffle at the February General Meeting. See the article on page 7

Bring a Friend to the February Instruction Period.

Paul Willis will talk on bream and mulloway fishing in the Swan River. Paul is a top class speaker. Bring a friend to listen to this talk – it will be very entertaining and very informative.

January 2005 Recfishwest Board Meeting.

Here are some of the main points from the RFW Board meeting on 12 January.

The letter from AAA about not renewing Recfish Australia membership was highlighted at the RFW meeting as indicating the very good relationship between Recfishwest and the Association.

There will be a meeting on Aboriginal Fishing Strategy late January. Norm Halse will attend. The final report to be discussed is quite different from the draft report and has not yet been made public.

There has been lots of media coverage of recreational fishing items such as Marine Parks and recreational fishing. There has been lots of interaction with the Political parties, lots of time on radio talkback shows, and recreational fishing is doing well, so far.

Election Issues. The coalition Recreational Fishing Policy is favourable to recreational fishing and to Recfishwest. RFW expects the Labor Party to match the promises and the policies except for the launching ramp at Rous Head.

There has been little talk about commercial fishing. WAFIC is being told things, not being asked for opinions, which is quite different from the situation at the last State election. Some commercial fishermen asking or telling WAFIC to stay out of the discussions which affect them, particularly Geographe Bay crabs.

The Fisheries Minister has announced extra funding for the "Fish for the Future" fishing clinics program run by the volunteer fisheries liaison officers and by Recfishwest.

The Department of Fisheries is very happy with the outcomes and with the work of Recfishwest in the Marine Parks debates and negotiations with the political parties which has resulted in the Department getting funding which it has been asking for many years for research, monitoring and education.

Integrated Fisheries Management is moving ahead very quickly. Recfishwest is expecting a reply on the request for funding for an additional person to handle Integrated Fisheries Management and ensure that recreational fishing gets everything it needs and deserves. These are very complicated issues and need a lot of time and effort applied to them.

There are many people and groups working on Natural Resource Management which has a component of marine management

Ningaloo Marine Park. The issue is festering away. The legal action proposed is not likely to happen now, but other avenues are being explored.

The coalition Marine Parks and Environment strategy will be coming out in the next few days, and will include wilderness fishing areas.

The green groups are proposing public meetings about the election, and have threatened the coalition opposition parties that they will mobilise 800 people at polling booths to actively campaign against the coalition candidates.

The wetline fishing review papers are expected to be released soon, for public comment until 15 April. The two panels will then reconvene in May to consider the comments received from the public.

The Integrated Fisheries Management draft report for Western rock lobster is expected to be released on 1 February. Meeting is planned on Wednesday 9 February with the stakeholders such as Recfishwest, RFAC, WAFIC, Conservation Council, Aboriginal groups, etc. Submissions from these stakeholders close on 1 May, and then a draft paper will be released on 1 July for a three month public comments period. A similar timetable applies for abalone but about three months later.

Recfishwest will hold a strategic planning session probably in mid-March.

Recfish Australia was involved in an Australia wide phone hook up to discuss Tsunami relief for the fishermen in the areas affected. In a week or so, there will be a call for small dinghies, outboard motors, lines, hooks, small nets and other equipment which can be used by the fishermen.

CALM issues. Jessica Meeuwig who had been involved in the capes marine park planning will be leaving CALM for a Commonwealth Natural Resource Marine Management job, based in Perth and covering South West WA.

The recreational zone before the Jurien Bay Marine Park is dragging on. The Environment Minister is still blaming the Fisheries Minister, but he is resisting using the fisheries regulations and wants Judy Edwards to take the flak from the decision.

The Wilderness Society spokesman on Marine planning matters, Paddy Cullen, has gone radical and is disturbing some of the moderates in that organisation.

There was a public meeting about changes to the boat ramps and parking at Hillarys boat Harbour, but there was another Recfishwest meeting on that same time so Recfishwest people could not attend to find out the exact details of how the discussions went.

There is some action going with the South Coast Salmon Tribunal. The Department of Fisheries believed that herring should not be included in these discussions. More to come out of this.

Samson fish taking off Fremantle is proceeding. Weather has been unkind and windy. A video taken of the fish aggregation has been circulated and shows amazingly clear photos of the fish at around 100 metres and even the shadows they cast on the bottom. There has been a lot of support and a lot of publicity for this work, which is seen as a lead for getting the techniques for research into spawning aggregations of other species.

The fish and fish habitat protection program was discussed, and is seen as not delivering. To be considered after the results of the next State election are known.

Questions were asked about what was happening with the Shark Management Advisory Committee. It seems that the proposals are too touchy and will not be made public until after the election.

The Capes Western rock lobster working group has not been able to reach agreement about the safety issues of large vessels working and leaving ropes and floats close to surf breaks which are popular with surfers. The Minister is aware of the Recfishwest position about the proposals from some of the commercial fishermen to include the recreational boats and rock lobster pots despite the surfers saying this is not a problem at all.

Terry Fuller, Recfishwest Board Member for Australian Anglers Association

Stroke or Heart Attack?

Take a moment for this ... it could be vitally important!! This might be a life saver if we can remember the three questions!

Is it a Stroke?

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster for the stroke victim. A stroke victim may suffer brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say any bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

- * Ask the individual to smile.
- * Ask him or her to raise both arms.
- * Ask the person to speak a simple sentence.
- * If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, call for medical help immediately and describe the symptoms.

After discovering that a group of non-medical volunteers could identify facial weakness, arm weakness and speech problems, researchers urged the general public to learn the three questions.

They presented their conclusions at the American Stroke Association's annual meeting last February. Widespread use of this test could result in prompt diagnosis and treatment of the stroke and prevent brain damage.

Is it a Heart Attack?

Read this ... It could save your life!! Let's say it's 6.15 P.M. and you're driving home (alone of course), after an unusually hard day on the job.

You're really tired, upset, and frustrated. Suddenly you start experiencing severe pain in your chest that starts to radiate out into your arm and up into your jaw. you are only about five miles from the hospital nearest your home.

Unfortunately you don't know if you'll be able to make it that far. You have been trained in CPR, but the guy that taught the course did not tell you how to perform it on yourself.

How to Survive a Heart Attack When Alone

Since many people are alone when they suffer a heart attack, without help, the person whose heart is beating improperly and who begins to feel faint, has only about 10 seconds left before losing consciousness.

However, these victims can help themselves by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously. A deep breath should be taken before each cough, and the cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest.

A breath and a cough must be repeated about every two seconds without let-up until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again.

Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it regain normal rhythm. In this way, heart attack victims can get to a hospital.

Tell as many people as possible about this. It could save their lives!!

Thanks to Roy Killick.

Field Day Golden Bay 12/13 May 1962

Reprinted from the June 1962 Reel Talk.

Weather conditions :- Westerly, backing Easterly in the evening, though Westerly again in the morning. Patches of weed along the beach. Heavy showers during: the night. However most of the lads were in their vehicles etc when the worst of it came, fortunately.

29 members, one visitor (Mrs. Tickle) plus 3 juniors made up quite a good attendance at this Field Day – considering that the weather looked most inclement. Pleased to see you along again Arch, it is quite a while since we have seen you. I did think that possibly Glad might have shown the boys up. Still never mind there is always another day

Ron Shirley was one of the first on the job and once again Ron had himself a field day, with a nice bag of 14 tailor, and I'm sure that he must have had some good oil re the 'hot spot' . Even though he had the company of several other lads, Bob Tucker, etc. Ron had a monopoly on the spot.

Nick Crouch was as busy as a bee, and his 10lb. salmon certainly kept the lads on their toes, in an endeavour to get one also. Under those conditions, weed etc., that was quite good angling to catch and land a 10lb. salmon on 12lb line. Good work Nick. Incidentally Nick finished up with two Salmon and weighed in an excellent bag of fish.

Ted Savage, Doug and Bob Lilly went walkabout further north, where they found themselves a little spot. The results weren't great but they consider it a place for future reference and investigation. Bob got one tailor and Ted got a 8lb. salmon which lit up his face with pleasure.

Ernie White and Tom Robinson were the last to arrive and I believe that Ernie stopped on the way down to cut himself a load of firewood. I think that Ernie has been on plenty of these jaunts before. At any rate what with gear, wood etc., in the back of Ernie's car, I wouldn't have been surprised if he had of pulled out a slow combustion stove. Hell! he had darn near everything else.

Eventually both Ern and Tom headed for the beach and got stuck into the serious business of angling. Where-upon, Tom and Ern got tangled together, and after Tom had freed the lines he mentioned to Ern that he thought he had a salmon on, which of course Ern denied and remarked "only so & so weed" . Picking his rod up and giving a jerk to free loose weed - what a surprise he received, for with a whine his star drag worked and he was in "business" Ern darn near fell over backwards in surprise, though he stood his ground, and it wasn't long before he had a nice Salmon at his feet. To which Tom drily remarked "**** weed, aye!"

In the meantime Hal Neil, George Greenham and Terry De Jussing were battling on without results. However, they kept at it and I'm sure that one of the qualities of an angler is patience and our members have plenty of that.

Allan Livesey and Snow Tate were observed looking out to sea and shaking their heads, they probably were justifiably surprised at the amount of fish at the weigh in . For under the conditions I must admit I was too.

Ian McLennan continued his run of fortune by landing a nice salmon and four tailor, while Terry Fuller fishing alongside him never got a bite. Though I believe that Ian didn't sleep too snugly, for during the night he accidentally knocked the tent fly which was holding about 10 gallons of rain water and which joined him in bed. Helps you to get an early morning start for fishing though, doesn't it Ian.

Alf Rutland was observed wandering around shaking his head, wondering where the fish were, though I guess that he never heard Ron Shirley calling to join him. John Griffith, Doug Newton and the boys reported in with empty bags, and remarked that the south end was very badly weeded up.

A delightful aroma led me to Horrie Muirson's van, where I found Horrie busily engaged in cooking the breakfast. Second to fishing I think that some of our lads enjoy outdoor cooking. Whether they really do enjoy it I really don't know, but some of these characters certainly build up healthy appetites. If they aren't fishin', they're eatin'. Not

wishing to appear personal I think that Alf Rutland really is the best though, for it appears debatable whether he goes to fish or to eat. Still, he has a good time and enjoys himself and that is the main theme with any pastime.

Bob Klein and Ron Kildahl put in quite a few hours of effort, but their effort did not receive the merit they deserved, though Ron did catch quite a nice Whaler Shark. Charlie Crouch was observed wading out to sea and for a while he disappeared. Trying to make those extra few yards Charlie waded out and went into a hole, as he was about to cast, the jar of stepping into the hole and cast broke the bail arm of his reel - so with much muttering Charlie retrieved his steps and spent the rest of the evening cursing his bad luck. That could happen to anyone.

Pushing that bait out into what little channel was left there, took some ability against the Westerly breeze, and I am sure that we all appreciated our Drycasting, for if you were unable to get the distance with your bait, you might as well have sat on the sand with the seagulls. The short distance cast is alright at times, but that was not one of them.

Our next Field Day is at Garden Island and I hope that I will see you all again there. The boat timetable being 9:30 am and 2 o'clock (as printed elsewhere in this edition). I will most probably be taking the early boat and Norm Clark will be in charge of the afternoon boat. Try to have the correct change; 2/- for the sweep, 5/- for anyone desiring a bed, 8/- for return boat fee, Don't forget your wet weather gear chaps, for in June who knows - it might rain!

My congratulations to the Award winners, for they certainly in this instance, well and truly earned them. Nevertheless I am sure that everyone enjoyed themselves and if this Field Day is any indication of those to come during the year, it looks like being most eventful, for some of these chaps are certainly keen, and are prepared to go to any means to obtain a result.

So until next field day chaps - tight lines

Jim Strong FDO 1962.

Special Raffle at February General Meeting.

There will be a special raffle at the February General Meeting. See the article on page 7

Bring a Friend to the February Instruction Period.

Paul Willis will talk on bream and mulloway fishing in the Swan River. Paul is a top class speaker. Bring a friend to listen to this talk – it will be very entertaining and very informative.

Mugs at the Murchison 1962

On Sunday the 1st April our party consisting of Bob Lilly, his wife Margaret, my wife Elaine and myself departed from Perth at 10a.m. and set out for the Murchison River which is about 450 miles north of Perth

The trip up was long and uneventful and we were glad when we reached our destination at 8 30pm. Upon arrival we were met by "Snow" Tate, Mick Doscas, Doug Newton, Ken Wiggins and four other members of our club. We gladly accepted their offer of a cuppa and whilst having same, naturally the talk got around to fishing.

Ron Shirley and his wife were on holiday at the Murchison and Ron informed us that he had landed a 16lb Spanish Mackerel that morning.

After our cuppa and whilst the women were unpacking, Bob and myself rigged up for the morrow's fishing. We were both using Sportex Rods (model 607), Ocean Mitchell Reels. Our lines differed as Bob had 27lb on one spool, and 23lb on the other. I was using 181b. Our rigs were the same, that is 3 6/0 limericks with a 2/0 galvanised jag on the bottom, on an 18" wire trace. When all was in readiness we hit the sack.

I did not need any rocking and was soon asleep. It seemed that I had only just closed my eyes when there was a knock on the door at 6am. In came Bob with a cuppa and biscuits. He informed us that he had been unable to sleep. I then arose and naturally we discussed where we would fish. Being new to the area, we decided to fish the Bluffs, so after a large breakfast we jumped into the car and set off for the Bluffs which were approximately 5 miles south of the Murchison.

There was a good road down and we were able to drive the car straight onto the rocks. It was a perfect day for the rocks, for the sea was flat and they could be fished in safety. We fished from an outcrop of rock which had a sunken reef in front of it.

Occasionally Spanish Mackerel could be seen jumping through schools of small fish. After fishing for about half an hour I had a strike. Bob also had one almost simultaneously.

My fish headed for the bottom as did Bob's, and we wondered what we had hooked. When we first hooked them we thought that we had Mackerel strikes, but if so, where was the fast long run that these fish were supposed to give. However after a couple of minutes my fish broke free so I wound in and grabbed the gaff and waited for Bob to bring his fish in. He also was unlucky for after about 10 minutes he lost his. We continued fishing and were joined by Ron Shirley, his wife and our wives.

Not long after we both had another strike. My fish bit off the hooks almost immediately. This time Bob's fish made a long fast run and soon had a couple of hundred yards of line out. He played him for about 20 to 25 minutes before he managed to bring him into the edge of the reef, where I had the pleasure of gaffing him. It was a Spanish Mackerel and he tipped the scales at 27lb. Considering he was taken off the rocks Bob was well pleased with his catch.

Whilst we had been fishing the Bluffs, Ron Shirley had gone across to Oyster Reef. Ron's gear consisted of a Dam glass rod, Ocean Mitchell reel loaded with 320 yards of 19¼ lb line, and scalies for bait. He had a mighty strike and the fish raced off. He thought he had a Mackerel on, though this fish stayed very deep. At one stage Ron had 4 turns of line left on his spool and to make matters worse a cray boat was coming down the channel. Well this is it, thought Ron. Here goes everything. However, the skipper of the cray boat saw Ron on the reef and he must have seen the trouble he was in for he very sportingly headed his boat for the open sea and did a large circle to enable Ron to go on playing his fish.

After a battle of 45 minutes Ron managed to bring the fish in. As he had moved a considerable distance down the reef he was without a gaff. He managed, however to maneuver his fish into a gap in the reef where he scooped it out after getting wet up to his waist. What a surprise he got for his fish turned out to be a northern Bluefin Tuna, length 45 ins, girth 27 ins., weight 38½ lb. A mighty effort off the reef.

We returned to the hut for lunch, also to photograph the morning's catch. We decided we would fish the beach adjoining the Bluff that night. This we did but our efforts were rewarded by a few small tailor which averaged 1½ lbs, very small for the Murchison.

Tuesday morning we again set off for the Bluffs, this time accompanied by Ron Shirley. Bob was first to have a strike. His fish was very heavy and took off approximately 300 yards of line. At one stage Bob was down to the knot on the spool and had to go right to the edge of the reef to gain a little line to continue playing the fish. Half an hour passed and the fish showed no sign of tiring. After another 20 minutes Bob began to move his fish in. He succeeded in bringing it to the edge of the reef, but unfortunately it must have found a crevice in the reef or succeeded in getting under a ledge, for although Bob could still feel movement on the line he was unable to shift the fish from this spot. Eventually the line went slack.

What a disappointment for Bob as he had that fish on for 1¼ hours. During the time he was playing the fish Ron and I stood by, backing him up when a heavy swell came over the reef and giving him a drink occasionally, 'fie were as disappointed as he. To this day we do not know what it was, but we nicknamed it "The Murchison Monster". Bob was using a 27lb leader and upon examination it was apparent that the fish had swallowed the hooks and the continual chafing of the fish's jaws against the line had eventually frayed it through. There was no indication of a bite off.

Undeterred by the loss, Bob re-rigged his line and tying a balloon about 6ft from his bait he made a short cast and let the breeze take the bait out. This method is very useful as it relieves the fisherman from continuously casting a scalie, and also by using the balloon you can float a bait out 200 yards or more and cover more water. After the bait had been out for 20 minutes Bob started to retrieve it to examine it and see if there was any bait left (the blowies were bad and played havoc with our baits). When the balloon was about 30 feet from the reef Bob got another strike and after 10-15 minutes he said the fish was coming in, but it didn't feel like a Mackerel as it was practically dead weight. Bob brought it in and I gaffed it. It was a Spanish Mackerel, or I should say what was left of it, for it had been bitten off about 8" behind the gills. Not long after I had a strike and the fish peeled 250 yards of 18lb line off my spool but unfortunately the backing gave way and I lost the lot. I refilled the spool with line, cast out and was again into a fish. This time I was successful and after a half hour battle I landed my fish It was a Spanish Mackerel of 30½ lbs, length 4' 3", girth 21".

During playing the fish I had my drag practically right off. After the fish made his first run I used my thumb on the spool to control him, thus having no fear of the fish making a sudden run and breaking the line. It seemed to me that the lighter the drag the less distance the fish would run. When using the 18lb line I had. the drag set tighter, and was stripped of line, but when using the 23lb line and little drag he made the first run of about 180 - 200 yards and then only short bursts as I .was pumping him in. After photographing the fish and celebrating the capture with a tin of Fosters, Bob and I decided we would try Chinamen's Rock for tailor. This we did but soon gave it a way for the blowies were too bad and stripped the scalie to the backbone in a matter of seconds.

Being tired out we did not fish on the Tuesday night. Wednesday morning we borrowed Doug's dinghy and went across to Oyster Reef. Upon beaching the boat on the sand bank behind the reef we observed fish splashing and we could see the tails of fish sticking out of the water We thought at first glance that they were big mullet, but one jumped and conveniently identified himself for us. It was a tailor. We wasted no time in baiting up and Bob's first cast resulted in a fish of 4lb. My first cast produced one of 5½ lb but unfortunately for me when I knelt down to remove the hooks he jumped and pulled a 5/0 Limerick hook into my thigh. What a predicament, the bottom hook of my rig in my leg and a 5½ lb tailor swinging on the end of the rig. I managed to get a firm hold of the fish and Bob helped me to get him off the hooks.

This done it was only left me to get the hook out of my leg. I very smartly declined Bob's offer to remove the hook and told him to go on fishing. As the hook was embedded above the barb and onto the bend of the hook, I had to force the point out approximately 5/8" from the point of entry. I managed to get the point out but was unable to pull the barb through. However taking out my fishing knife (not exactly the best or cleanest of surgical instruments) I made a nick in my leg which enabled me to pull the hook through. I then held the point and barb whilst Bob cut the eye off the hook with a pair of pliers. It was easy then to pull the hook through and out.

After making it bleed I washed it in salt water and recommenced fishing. The tailor were very cagey and did not bite well, though we did manage a few. These were more like the tailor which we had heard the Murchison was famous for. We informed the other lads that the tailor were there and they went across that night and got a few.

Whilst we were on Oyster Reef after the Tailor, Ron Shirley had journeyed to the Bluffs. As the morning was windy Ron floated a scalie out on a balloon. He saw a school of porpoise heading straight for the balloon and as they surfaced on both sides of his balloon it busted and his drag started to run. Struth he thought, I foul hooked a porpoise. However, after a few minutes he found he could turn the fish (?) and then thought perhaps it was a baby porpoise. Well he eventually got the fish - for fish it was - in gaffing range. What a shock he got for it turned out to be a Snapper of 13lb. weight. As he was on his own he had to gaff it himself. He must have looked a sight holding his gaff under his chin while he brought the fish in.

He called in to see us on his way home for lunch and showed us his fish. We told him of the tailor, and then hastily grabbed rods and set sail for the Bluffs for I had always wanted to land a snapper on rod and reel and this looked like an opportunity. Arriving at the Bluff we saw the mackerel jumping in close so I cast out a scalie. It had only sunk a few feet when bang., I had a fish on. This bloke dived straight for the bottom and I yelled to Bob that it could be a snapper. I played him in close but unfortunately he reefed me and I lost him. Bob put on two 6/0 Limericks linked together, and using a spoon sinker, he cast out and was soon into a fish. He gave it no quarter and soon had it over the reef. It was a Snapper of 10½ lb weight.

I then switched to 27lb line and Seascope reel - and was soon into another fish. He was heavy and I was soon bitten off. I had another bite but missed him.

Bob also had two other bites, but lost both fish. The fish were no longer operative after that so we went home and had fresh Snapper for tea.

We fished the beach alongside Chinaman's Rock that night for Kingies, but the only fish caught was a small tailor hooked by myself

Thursday, Friday and Saturday we fished consistently at the Bluffs both on the bottom for Snapper and on the top for Mackerel but we had no further fish from that area, We did manage a couple more trips across to Oyster and succeeded in getting some nice tailor from 2 - 5 lb. On the Sunday we endeavoured to have a last fling at the tailor but a strong Nor-wester sprang up and we had to get back to the mainland before the storm broke.

We packed up our gear on Sunday night and prepared for an early start for our return trip to Perth early on Monday morning,

I must say it was with regrets that we left the Murchison and we all agreed that we would return. Next time we go back we will be better equipped and Bob is looking forward to another encounter with the "Murchison Monster".

We departed from the Murchison at 7.25am Monday morning and arrived home at 6.0pm that night. The trip home was again uneventful except for a few roos and wild goats which we passed.

We thoroughly enjoyed our holiday, the hospitality of our host Hec Mainwaring and the acquaintances we made of other holiday makers at the Murchison.

In closing I would like to say that Snow Tate caught three Spanish Mackerel off Oyster Reef - 12, 13½ & 31lbs. Doug Newton got one of 30½ lb. and I have since then been informed that after we left Ken Wiggins lost one and Mick Doscas lost two. Bob Tucker.

Special Raffle at February General Meeting.

There will be a special raffle at the February General Meeting. See the article on page 7

Bring a Friend to the February Instruction Period.

Paul Willis will talk on bream and mulloway fishing in the Swan River. Paul is a top class speaker. Bring a friend to listen to this talk – it will be very entertaining and very informative.

Have YOU Put in YOUR 2005/2006 Field Day Suggestions ?

Do it now, please. Use the pink tear out form on page 18 of the January Reel Talk.

Samson Fish Tagging Update.

By Michael Mackie, Department of Fisheries WA as posted on the Western Angler Fishing Forum <http://www.westernangler.com.au/forum/>

Latest estimates (at 27 January) are that we are about 45 fish short of the 2000 mark - a great effort by a lot of people, and when you consider how hard it is to catch just one of these critters and how lumpy the conditions have been out there it almost brings a tear to one's eye.....

Anyhow, we're still searching for our target of 3000 fish tagged so that we might get reasonable numbers of recaptures during the second phase of the whole operation. From these recaptures we hope to estimate fish numbers and identify best fishing practises. That means we need another 1000 fish tagged over these last few days of the tagging side of the program. Not an impossibility given we've tagged 500 in one day, but still a tall order given the lousy weather and fact that the fish have been a bit shy of late. Of course we can extend the tagging period a bit - and probably will at least for a few days - but not for too long as this increases the likelihood of tagged fish leaving the schools and disrupting our data.

After the tagging period finishes we'd like to minimise fishing on the schools as much as possible for 5 days to give the fish a chance to recover from the mayhem, and then undertake a 9 day recapture effort (5 – 13 Feb) when we'll

just be catching and recording without tagging. This last bit is every bit as important as the tagging part since it's the ratio of tagged to untagged fish captured during this time that may shed light on fish numbers and fishing practises. Information regarding best fishing practises will also come from general observations made during this current pulse of fishing pressure - eg that the fish are becoming warier of jigs and larger fish are harder to revive. We are particularly interested in gathering more information about the free swimming fish that follow up the caught fish (eg are they also venting gases?).

The biological, ecological and behavioural information that is being gathered by Andrew Rowland (Murdoch Uni), Caine Delacy (UWA) and Rob McCauley (Curtin Uni) will also be used to put the fishing data into context and gain an overall view of the situation. For instance, how disruption to the schools through excessive fishing pressure may affect reproductive output (remembering that these are spawning aggregations).

We've done several hydroacoustic surveys thus far (using that big pole stuck to the side of the Snipe) although thus far we've had more than a few dramas with the video gear. Hopefully the gremlins are sorted, and next break in the weather will see plenty of video action from the Snipe (we'll endeavour to keep out of everyones way but towing that stuff makes us a bit unwieldy). As most people know we dropped a pair of video cameras (attached together on a bar) over the north barge in December (ok, ok I ran over the rope and chopped it with the prop). A few people have hooked onto the rope trailing off these cameras (including ourselves). We've tried unsuccessfully to grapple for the gear, although some other fellows (the guys on the Kon Dios II and Arcada (or something like that)) have taken an interest in getting it as well.

Some interesting observations to date: largest fish so far have come from North Star II (2 fish at 160cm fork length), smallest also from North Star II (71cm). Eight recaptures have been recorded (although not all data sheets are in yet) - half of these at a different school from that which they had been originally tagged, indicating substantial short term movement between the schools (outer patch, north barge and south barge). One fish was caught that had 2 jigs hanging out it's mouth (apart from the one it was caught on), and there has been some shark action but nothing like I thought might happen under the circumstances. A discovery made by the fellows on Greg King's boat - a normal size release weight will get a sambo down if some line is let out and the fish towed slowly astern - seems the pressure forces the fish down until the line gets more vertical and the fish drops off.

Thanks to all the folk who have been putting in a huge amount of effort thus far to keep things cracking along (onya Laurie and the VFLO team in the Control Room in particular). The good nature and responsible fishing behaviour of people on the water has been extraordinary and one of the highlights of the study thus far. We (Paul, Andrew, me) appreciate the fact that people see the long term benefits of this project and are willing to put themselves out and keep good data for the sake of it all. Good stuff! ... Mike

So why all this fuss about samson fish? Well for starters there is growing international and local interest in the sambo sports fishery which targets their large spawning schools that form each year - particularly those to the west of Rottneest Island where our research will be focused. Whilst most of these fish are released after capture, there is concern amongst fishers over the survival of these fish due to the depth (often greater than 80 m) and trauma of capture. Commercial fishers also take a fair number of sambos for the local market, so it is important we gather this biological and ecological information to ensure their populations remain healthy.

It's not just the sambos we're studying though - plenty of other species form spawning aggregations and the methods we develop during the sambo tagging study will be applied to these fish as well. We are particularly interested in snapper, which definitely aggregate to spawn, and dhufish, which may also aggregate but in a less obvious manner. This could be because male dhuies form breeding territories that are more spread out over the bottom, whereas sambos and snapper males are not territorial and mingle freely with other males and females.

The fact that these species have been around a long time clearly shows that schooling together in order to spawn is a successful evolutionary strategy, enabling fish to find spawning partners, synchronise reproductive development and release their eggs at a time and place that maximises their dispersal. However, these species never factored clever fishers and GPS into their strategies, and there is growing evidence around the world that targeted fishing of these aggregations can seriously reduce fish populations.

The sambo tagging study is therefore a crucial component of the broader project into management and monitoring of fish spawning aggregations, and its success requires a well co-ordinated and intensive team effort between scientists and anglers.

We also hope to determine the best way to handle and release the fish by comparing recapture rates of fish captured and released using different methods.

Whilst all this capture and tagging is underway we will also be filming the schools using underwater cameras either towed through or lowered down into the schools. Besides giving us an insight into the behaviours of these powerful fish whilst they are aggregated for spawning, the video will provide us with another estimate of fish numbers and hopefully a better idea of the fate of sambos that have been captured and released.

In addition to all this we'll also be using hydro-acoustic equipment to record fish noises and get yet another estimate of school size. So by the end we should have a pretty good idea of how many fish are in these schools, how they can best be monitored in the future, and how we can maximise survival of released fish.