



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

P.O. Box 1718, Melville South WA 6956
<http://www.surfcasters.iinet.net.au/>

Club Committee for the Year 2006/2007

President

POSITION VACANT

Vice President

POSITION VACANT

Immediate Past President

Bob Henderson

All club mail to: PO Box 1718
MELVILLE SOUTH WA 6956

Email: surfcast@iinet.net.au

Secretary

Scott Maloney

Treasurer

Sandra Wessels

Assistant Drycasting Officer

Bob Henderson

Field Day Officer

Malcolm Harris

Property Officer

Vix Alexander

Recorder

Ian Cook

Reel Talk Editor

Marcia Pekaar

Dry Casting Officer

Scott Maloney

Assistant Field Day Officer

Ian Cook

Social Organiser

Josh Lucocq

Website Co-ordinator

Andrew Stoeckel

Committee Person

George Holman

Committee Person

Peter Stoeckel

Committee Person

John Crompton

A.A.A. Delegates

George Holman

Terry Fuller

Life Members of the Club

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

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Minutes of General Meeting, 11 January 2006

Venue: Coolbinia West Perth Amateur Football and Sporting Club room

Date: 3 January 2007

Time: 8pm

Present: 18 members

Apologies: Ian Cook, Peter Stoeckel, David Maxted

Visitors: Ken Parsons

Previous Minutes: As Published in December Reel Talk

Moved Jim Strong **Seconded** Mark Hansen

Inwards Correspondence:

Snap Printing

Swan River Trust

Swan Catchment Council

Minister for Local Government and Regional Development

Lion Red Snapper Classic

Outwards Correspondence:

Nil

Moved Scott Maloney **Seconded** Malcolm Harris

Property Report: Nil

Secretary's Report: Some email regarding information on types of rods for certain conditions. Email from Peter Osborne saying hi.

Field Day Report: Malcolm gave his report.

Reel Talk February 2007

Dry Casting: Scott gave his report re Dry Casting Results Sheet.

Real Talk Editor: Marcia gave her report.

Recorder: Not present no report.

AAA Report: Nil

Social Organiser: Nil

Treasurer's Report:

Balance \$15,766

Monies Received

M Harris Field Day 15-17-06 \$ 5.00

M Harris and Vix Alexander Kalbarri Rent \$265.00

General Meeting Raffle \$ 31.45

N Allsworth Membership \$ 75.00

Accounts to be Paid

Marcia Pekaar Reel Talk \$418.86

ATO PAYG Instalment \$100.00

Synergy Electricity Kalbarri \$175.70

Water Corp Water Kalbarri \$ 18.25

Mal & Vix Kettle & Cutlery Kalbarri \$ 74.96

Notice of Motion:

Motion: Chas Riegert not be allowed to be involved in any Surfcasting and Angling Club activity.

Moved: Mal Head

Seconded: Tino Baiardo

Carried: Unanimous

General Business:

- Suggested that April Field Day be moved to Rottnest all agreed to move the date
- A thanks to Terry Willison of North Side Lawn Mowers for supplying 4lts of oil free of charge for the trip to Yalata.
- Peet Wessels to take over Web Site and get everything up to date.

Instruction Period: Mal Head showed how to make his burly cages. Thanks Mal.

Next Month John Scott to talk about Safety Spray Jackets.

Meeting Closed: 9.05pm

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.

<u>29</u>	AAA Event																				
<u>8</u>	Dry Casting							11	General Meeting				<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	Field Day		18	Committee Meeting			
February 2007							March 2007							April 2007							
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
			1	2	3	<u>4</u>				1	2	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	30						<u>1</u>	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	<u>5</u>	6	7	8	9	10	<u>11</u>	<u>2</u>	3	4	5	6	7	8	
12	13	14	15	16	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	<u>*14</u>	<u>*15</u>	
19	20	<u>21</u>	22	23	24	25	19	20	<u>21</u>	22	23	24	25	16	17	<u>18</u>	19	20	21	22	
26	27	28					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	

2006/2007 Field Day Dates, Venues and Boundaries

The following is the list of Field Day dates, venues and boundaries.

Dates	Venue	Boundaries and more details
17/18 Feb 2007	Cervantes to Hill River	Southern boundary of Cervantes townsite to 1 km north of the Hill River.
3/4/5 March 2007 Long weekend	Bluff Creek	Reef Beach to Betty's Beach. AAA Rock and Beach Championships are on Saturday and Sunday of this long weekend.
*14/15 April 2007	Capes (North)	Busselton jetty to Margaret River.

* Possible change of venue to Rottneest.

AAA Championships During Our 2006/7 Competition Year

Rock and Beach Championships, HQ Cheynes Beach, Reef Beach to Betty's Beach, Sat/Sun 3/4 March 2007 – Note weigh in Sunday.
Boat Angling Championships, date to be advised in March 2007 at Whitfords

2007 Dry Casting Dates. All are at Yokine Reserve, Wordsworth Avenue, Yokine, starting 8:30am.

Sunday 4 February 2007	Sunday 11 March 2007, (changed for Field Day)
Sunday 1 April 2007	

2007 General Meeting Dates. All at Coolbinia West Perth Amateur Football and Sporting Club room, Wordsworth Avenue, Yokine, start 8:00pm.

Wednesday 14 February 2007	Wednesday 14 March 2007
Wednesday 11 April 2007	

COMING CLUB EVENTS

February Dry Casting

When: Sunday, 4 February

Where: Yokine Reserve, Wordsworth Avenue

Events: Double handed accuracy, single handed accuracy, 56g distance, artificial bait distance, 112g distance

All casters please assist with the setting up at the beginning of the day before setting up your own gear.

Please assist with the retrieval and packing up of the casting equipment at the end of the day's events.

February Field Day, Local

When: 17 & 18 February 2007

Sign On: At the General Meeting or phone the FDO

Lines Down: Check with FDO

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

Weigh In: Sunday, 18 February at George 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.

Reel Talk February 2007

February General Meeting

- When:** Wednesday, 14 February
Where: Coolbinia West Perth Amateur Football and Sporting Club Room, off Wordsworth Avenue, Yokine, about 200 metres south-east of the Yokine Bowling Club.
Sign In: Please remember to tick your name off the attendance sheet which is on the table near the door. And while you are there, what about buying some of the raffle tickets?

February Field Day, Cervantes

- When:** 17 & 18 February 2007
Sign On: At the General Meeting or phone the FDO
Lines Down: Check with FDO
Where: Cervantes to Hill River
Weigh In: Sunday, 18 February, check with FDO
Boundaries: Southern boundary of Cervantes townsite to 1km north of the Hill River.

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

Field Day Sections up to and including January				
Section		Angler	Species	Weight
1A	Best Scale Fish (1st Six Months)	George Holman	Mulloway	6.915
1B	Best Scale Fish (2nd Six Months)	Geoff Raftis	Tailor	1.046
2	Most Meritorious Fish	0	0	0.000
3	Best Shark (4.5kg min)	Malcolm Harris	Shark	8.150
4	Best Mulloway (2.0kg min)	George Holman	Mulloway	6.915
5	Best Tailor (1.0kg min)	Ian Cook	Tailor	2.900
6	Best Salmon (3kg min)	Vix Alexander	Salmon	4.150
7	Best Skipjack Trevally (0.5 kg min)	Tony D'Alonzo	Trevally, Skipjack	0.834
8	Best Mackerel (2kg Min)	0	0	0.000
9	Best Scale Fish (Other than above)	Peter Osborne	Yellowtail Kingfish	2.490
10	Best Bag Of Scale Fish	Peter Osborne	Mixed Bag	12.742
11	Best Bag Of Mulloway (2 Fish Min)	Ian Cook	Mulloway	5.000
12	Best Bag Of Tailor (2 Fish Min)	Peter Osborne	Tailor	8.180
13	Best Fish On S/H Rod 4kg b/s line (max)	0	0	0.000
14	Best Fish Caught on Fly Rod	0	0	0.000

Sportsperson Of The Year Sections for January			
Section	Angler	Species	Weight
Best Scale Fish	Malcolm Harris	Bream	0.300
Best Bag of Scale fish	Malcolm Harris	Mixed Bag	1.000
Best Shark			
Best Bag Including Sharks			

Field Day Prizes for January

Section	Angler	Species	Weight
Best Scale Fish	John Crompton	Tailor	0.250
Best Bag of Scale fish	Malcolm Harris	Mixed Bag	1.000
Best Shark			
Best Bag Including Sharks			

Catch results for January 2007 Field Day

Angler	Total Weight	No of Species	No. of Fish	F.D. Total Points
John Crompton	.250	1	1	63
Melvin Wee	0	0	0	50
Peter Pekaar	.200	1	1	62
Andrew Pekaar	0	0	0	50
Marcia Pekaar	0	0	0	50
George Holman	0	0	0	50
Vix Alexander	0	0	0	50
Malcolm Harris	1.000	2	4	80

Top Ten as of January 2007

Malcolm Harris	1415.71
Peter Osborne	983.3
Vix Alexander	707.71
George Holman	559.77
Melvin Wee	447.82
John Crompton	383.64
Mark Hansen	375.3
Peet Wessels	316.56
Peter Pekaar	274.74
Andrew Pekaar	262.88

Swan and Canning Rivers 13-14 January 2007

This was an opportunity to fish in your own backyard, not too much travel involved, just head down to your favourite spot on the river and wet a line. Just eight of our members took up the challenge but unfortunately as it turned out even less numbers of fish were weighed in. The weather good, a hot day with a slight sea breeze to start with which then dropped away as evening came on, maybe it was too calm (there's always a reason/excuse).

Vix, Melvin, John and I met at the car park for Point Resolution late Saturday afternoon and were soon spread out along a stretch of the shore line; all seemed set for a comfortable evening's fishing. However within the hour we were hemmed in from all directions, lots of other people had the same idea as us. One family of seven got so close to us that they set up their blanket right behind us and were quite content to keep telling their kids to "watch out the man is casting". The other thing that was a standout for the evening was the lack of knowledge or willingness from the other fishers to return what was clearly undersize fish to the water. More education and compliance is required in this area if we are to defend the already depleted fishing rights that we currently enjoy.***

As mentioned, most of our catches were undersize fish however John managed one Tailor early in the session and I landed a Black Bream and then much later in the night I managed three Tailor. John's Tailor was not his biggest catch for the night, however a very good size Blue Manna crab was well and truly hooked and found its way into his bucket, a tasty consolation prize for his efforts.

Marcia, Peter and Andrew tried their luck at a couple of their spots around the river with quite a few undersize Black Bream being returned to the water. Peter did, however, land a size Black Bream and along the lines of their practice of returning all fish caught in the river, this one was put back to see another day.

George headed out late Saturday night to a spot near the Red Herring restaurant in East Fremantle, made himself comfortable in his chair and waited for that first bite. Unfortunately he was in much the same boat as the rest of us, very little to show for a lot of hours. The only excitement for George came as he was packing up for the night, when he was bringing in his light line outfit it suddenly came to life and screamed off at a great rate of knots into the middle of the river but ended with a predictable ping as the line parted. That was as good enough reason as any to head for home.

The weigh in the next day was very short indeed, with only five fish between the lot of us but a cup of tea and a chat made for a pleasant a outing.

The next field day is Cervantes which is always popular, it's not too far from home, easy access with good camping and the fishing is generally good.

The field day after that on the March long weekend is the one that most members look forward to: Bluff Creek. If you haven't been to Bluff Creek yet, start planning this trip, it's a great field day (it is actually two whole days of fishing). It has everything: good camping, miles of beautiful beach and rock fishing up the far end. It even has fresh running water from a spring that runs all year round; it's well worth the drive.

Hope to see you on the beach next time.

Malcolm Harris, Field Day Officer

*****Recfishwest Hotline to report suspected illegal fishing activity: 1800 815 507**

JANUARY 2007 DRY CASTING REPORT

Starting a little later than usual, dry casters faced a blustery wind that took its toll on many a respectable caster. The just out of court and the "where the bloody hell are they" casts had the markers all over the place. Those that kept them low and straight won out.

Gazza and George were quite wayward in the vets but the "Star performer was Vix", straight down the middle with every cast. Her casting was superb and puts her in good confidence for the Nationals. Ric in the seniors also got them all in. "Peter Perfect" really judged the winds right to get a great cast away and achieve 160 metres in the 112gram. Pete also got the longest cast in the Artificial Bait.

There was a great tussle in the Vets d/handed event with Gazza and Mal Head pushing each other to good scores but Mal won the day. AJ and TF also did well. "Perfect Pete" got a clanger and "ponced around" like a jack in the box (so I'm told). Considering the wind factor the scores were a great example of accuracy casting. Again, there was good competition during the s/handed event and Mal H beamed with pride as he strode off the court believing he had won it. Meanwhile, AJ and I were watching Vix put in a steady effort and were pleased to see the final scores. WELL DONE VIX.

The clangers by Gazza, Mal and I failed to give us the edge. Congratulations to Mal Harris in the 56 gram, to "Perfect Pete" on the art/bait and the 112gram events. At least Mal can be proud that he top scored for the day.

Thanks to all that assisted in bringing in the gear, to "Little Johnny" and his efforts in giving us a cold drink and a burnt snag at the end of the day.

A.D.C.O. BOB HENDO

Pst.

We need to co operate with each other to assist our "senior" members with their casting so that the day doesn't drag on.

Dry Casting Top Ten

Total scores up to and including January casting – not including January General Meeting attendance. Only the best 11 months out of 12 count at the end of the year.

1	Bob Henderson	2084	6	Malcolm Harris	1459
2	George Holman	2008	7	Terry Fuller	1338
3	Allan Jones	1848	8	Jim Strong	1210
4	Malcolm Head	1752	9	Mark Hansen	1192
5	Gary Gildersleeves	1586	10	Trevor Stam	1154

Dry Casting Winners for 7 January 2007

Event	Seniors Winner		Veterans Winner	
56 gram Score	24	Malcolm Harris	24	George Holman
56 gram Distance	124	Malcolm Harris	124	George Holman
Artificial Bait Score	25	Peter Pekaar	21	Bob Henderson
Artificial Bait Distance	126	Peter Pekaar	106	Bob Henderson
112 gram Score	31	Peter Pekaar	27	Gary Gildersleeves
112 gram Distance	160	Peter Pekaar	136	Gary Gildersleeves
Double Handed Acc.	108	Peter Pekaar	166	Gary Gildersleeves
Single Handed Acc.	19	Peter Pekaar	26	Malcolm Head
Section Highest Points	205	Peter Pekaar	249	Malcolm Head

Event	Ladies Winner		Juniors Winner	
56 gram Score	17	Vix Alexander	16	Andrew Pekaar
56 gram Distance	84	Vix Alexander	84	Andrew Pekaar
Artificial Bait Score	15	Vix Alexander	18	Andrew Pekaar
Artificial Bait Distance	76	Vix Alexander	92	Andrew Pekaar
112 gram Score	20	Vix Alexander	10	Andrew Pekaar
112 gram Distance	99	Vix Alexander	102	Andrew Pekaar
Double Handed Acc.	94	Vix Alexander	35	Andrew Pekaar
Single Handed Acc.	27	Vix Alexander	17	Andrew Pekaar
Section Highest Points	183	Vix Alexander	106	Andrew Pekaar

Event	Mini Juniors Winner	
56 gram Score	12	Stephen Pekaar
56 gram Distance	64	Stephen Pekaar
Artificial Bait Score	10	Stephen Pekaar
Artificial Bait Distance	52	Stephen Pekaar
112 gram Score	12	Stephen Pekaar
112 gram Distance	63	Stephen Pekaar
Double Handed Acc.	29	Stephen Pekaar
Single Handed Acc.		
Section Highest Points	73	Stephen Pekaar

Event	Overall Winner		Year's best up to January 2007	
56 gram Score	24	Malcolm Harris, George Holman	27	Gary Gildersleeves
56 gram Distance	124	Malcolm Harris, George Holman	140	Gary Gildersleeves
Artificial Bait Score	25	Peter Pekaar	27	George Holman
Artificial Bait Distance	126	Peter Pekaar	136	George Holman
112 gram Score	31	Peter Pekaar	32	George Holman, Malcolm Harris
112 gram Distance	160	Peter Pekaar	164	Peter Pekaar
Double Handed Acc.	166	Gary Gildersleeves	166	Gary Gildersleeves
Single Handed Acc.	27	Vix Alexander	34	George Holman
Day's High Points	249	Malcolm Head	269	Bob Henderson

RECFISHWEST REPORT

There has not been a RFW Board meeting for January. However two very significant announcements have been made recently.

Outcomes of the Commercial Wetline Fishing Review The Minister for Fisheries, Hon Jon Ford, released his proposed decisions for the future management of the West Coast and Gascoyne commercial 'wetline' fisheries.

Details <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/mp/mp221/index.php?0206>

Proposals for allowing a small "recreational" take of finfish by commercial fishers who do not get a licence to wetline fish strike a balance between unrestricted catches, and the approach for many other managed fisheries where if a person did not get a licence then he was not allowed to take **any** of that species from a commercial boat. Example: Rock Lobster.

Terry Fuller said that the proposed outcomes were aimed at managing to a sustainable level commercial catches. Catches had been up to 57% over the target catches for many years, and this raises concerns about a considerable cumulative reduction in fish stocks.

Obviously, stock levels are very important to recreational fishermen, particularly boat Angling clubs and their members. It is important that the clubs and members put in their comments on the proposals for the commercial wet line review, even if the comments are limited to supporting the general principles.

The commercial peak fishing body WAFIC supports these proposed changes in principle. As can be expected, some commercial fishermen who will be affected do not agree with the proposals and can be expected to put in their comments hoping to get some changes.

The community owns these fish resources. Comments in support of what is being proposed will help the Minister come to a decision which is in the best interests of sustainability and use of a community resource.

It is also interesting to note the Fisheries Minister's comments about his preference for some separate recreational fishing zones. The sting for recreational fishermen would be in his comments that this will allow him to better manage the recreational take of fish, and that can only mean tighter controls and more restrictions on recreational catches, but these are all necessary for sustainability.

It is quite clear that the fishing pressure in the metropolitan area is unsustainable, and tighter fisheries management must come for many species.

ROTTNEST ISLAND NO FISHING ZONES

The Minister for Tourism issued a media release on 27 December about the Rottneest Island no fishing zones and said that under the plan, new sanctuary zones would be created at Green Island, West End and Armstrong Bay and existing zones at Parker Point and Kingston Reef would be extended.

All that has been given is a set of statements about changes and some small maps, but the exact details are not clear at all. The maps are not of a large enough scale to be able to see where the new boundaries actually are on the ground.

One change mentioned, but with no real details, is that the West End zone is no longer a sanctuary zone, but is now called a "demersal zone" with a note that trolling is allowed. Trolling is defined as fishing with a lure behind a moving boat. This leads to questions like does it allow casting a lure from a stationary boat while other people on the boat might be fighting a fish? If it allows using lures from a boat in this whole area, why does it not allow using lures from the shore in exactly the same area? If not, why not? Because that's certainly an inconsistency, and shows the lack of identification and management of actual risks to whatever it is they are trying to protect.

There's heaps of potential for plenty of unpleasant surprises and inconsistencies in the details of what's banned.

Previous experience has been that the Rottneest Island authority has not been open about all this, and there is no indication that that approach has changed. The current proposals are being presented as "a Cabinet decision", with few details published on the Rottneest Island Authority website which still shows the now out of date proposals from 2006.

We have noted that RIA's letter said: "The Rottneest Island Marine Management Strategy release is planned for the 1st July 2007, when the legislation for the Sanctuary Zones comes into effect." We hope that doesn't mean that the public won't get any of the details of the final management plan until July 2007, but based on the past history of the Rottneest Island Authority, we fully expect that's exactly what it means.

Until we find out more about what is actually proposed it is hard to comment on or question the details.

Recfishwest has asked for a meeting with the Tourism Minister.

So the question is "**where to from here on Rottnest?**" Terry Fuller said the best thing that recreational anglers and club members can do is to support Recfishwest in this and all the other work they do. He handed out application forms for membership of Recfishwest at the January General meeting, and is on the Recfishwest website at [http://www.recfishwest.org.au/Membership Application Form.pdf](http://www.recfishwest.org.au/Membership%20Application%20Form.pdf) (The gaps in that URL are the underscore character _) Membership costs only \$22 a year, which to put in perspective, was the same cost as a couple of blocks of mulies, a couple of decent lures, or 100 yards of fireline.

Report by Terry Fuller, Recfishwest Board Member for Australian Anglers Association

Websites <http://www.aaawa.iinet.net.au> <http://www.recfishwest.org.au>

Terry Fuller

FLEETS TACKLE: WALTER ROAD, MORLEY

15% Discount To Club Members Excluding Bait. Also fixes reels at reasonable rates.

Contact: Brian Abbott

Tino Baiardo wants to buy a deep spool Alvey.

Please phone 040 779 7759 if you can help.

Recorders Report January 2007

2006 / 2007 Open Competition Results till January 2007

Section	For	Min Weight	Details
1.	Most Meritorious Capture	None	Winner chosen by the Committee, if the Committee considers meritorious enough.
2.	Best Shark	4.5 kg	
3.	Best Mulloway	5.0 kg	
4.	Best Salmon	3.5 kg	Paul Thompson 3.70 kg Swanbourne drain
5.	Best Dhufish	Legal size	
6.	Best Tailor	1.5 kg	George Holman 4.0 kg False Entrance
7.	Best Samson Fish	1.5 kg	
8.	Best Fish on single handed rod, maximum 4kg line class	Legal size	Paul Thompson 3.41 kg Mulloway Swanbourne drain
9.	Best Pink Snapper	2.0 kg	George Holman 3.3 kg False Entrance
10.	Best Tarwhine	0.5 kg	Dave Maxted 0.6 kg Steep Point
11.	Best Mackerel	4.0 kg	George Holman 11.5 kg False Entrance
12.	Best Skipjack Trevally (southern)	1.0 kg	
13.	Best Trevally (northern)	4.0 kg	
14.	Best Snook/Pike	0.5 kg	
15.	Best Black or Yellow fin Bream	0.6 kg	
16.	Best Scale fish other than sections 3 to 14	2.0 kg	George Holman Bonefish 2.8 kg False Entrance
17.	Best Fish caught on Fly Rod.	Legal size	

Please let me know if there are any omissions.

Barron Lure Competition

Heaviest Tailor	1.6 kg	Dave Maxted
Heaviest Salmon	3.85 kg	Mark Hansen
Heaviest Scale fish	are there any entries?	

Mark Hansen caught a Salmon on a 200 gm Raider lure at the May Rottnest Field Day. This was inadvertently missed out sorry Mark.

Mark Hansen has completed the 10 fish species for his Species Badge with a Whiting caught near Nanerup which is east of Albany. Well done - I get to make another presentation.

Species for the Species Badge are not automatically recorded from the FD results. You need to give the recorder a written list of the species and which FD you caught them on. Species caught outside of a field day need to be submitted on the standard application form.

I am sure there are a number of members who will have captured the required species for the species badge but which are not recorded.

MAYBE I WILL MAYBE I WON'T

Subject to the Specialist's report on the 29th Jan concerning Lee's wellbeing I may not be attending the February dry casting day. If we get the "all clear" message then we will be heading back to Pingelly, finish packing the caravan and it's bloody well off down the highway.

A scenic drive over the Nullarbor and a cruise down the West coast of SA. A bit of fishing and crabbing (ask Morrie), some sun bathing and an odd cold drink or two. A slow drive along the coast road into Melbourne and on to Phillip Island ready for the opening ceremony, representing WA fellow team members.

Nickin' off once the convention is over and travelling the coast road around to Bateman's Bay in NSW. Wander over to Canberra to voice my thoughts at Parliament (hey I'm a good buddy of Little Johnny), visit a shrine or two and then follow the Murrumbidgee River back towards SA. Hope it's not too hot to drive up the centre to Kakadu and visit my son Jamie.

Yep, I'm going in the "BARRATHON" again and intend calling on all my experiences to catch that bloody metre Barra and WIN the fishing comp. AND THIS TIME I WILL STAY REASONABLY SOBER IN THE GOLF GAME.

So I might be back sometime in June if the finances and health hold out. I might even try to keep my promises.

HENDO

December Local Field Day

Report from Peter Pekaar

Well, it's Saturday morning, 16 December 2006 and wouldn't you believe it? - I have just put my back out tying up my shoe laces! This can't happen now; we have work to go to and, more importantly, the Local Field Day to attend. Andrew is worried as the field day is looking to be in jeopardy, but I assure him that the medicinal powers of fishing can apparently heal a sore back, as I have proved many times on weekdays. As the day progresses and sign on gets closer, the thought of walking up and down sand dunes to our favourite spot is becoming less appealing. It then becomes apparent that Marcia is going to have to make that disappointing phone call that every fisherman dreads, to say we can't go. It's not because I'm not allowed to go, but a sore back ultimately makes the decision. The first call we made was to John Crompton as we had arranged to fish alongside him at the Field Day.

As it turned out John went on to win the event. Well done John!! Next we called Mal Harris to "unsign" on, as Marcia had called the FDO in the morning to register our attendance. Well, I must say I received plenty of sympathy, nice tea, and a hot bath, but no fish. As Andrew's frown was growing longer than a Port Moresby Nipple, I had to come up with a Plan B. "I suppose we could go river fishing; I wouldn't have to walk far and I could take a stool to sit on and it isn't necessary to cast far". Decided - let's go tomorrow.

Sunday Morning 17 December

I am gently woken to the familiar aroma of the morning cup of tea being placed on my bedside table. As I am positioning myself for the all-important first sip of tea, my back reminds me that it is still sore; too bad, we're going fishing and that's it. Having a hearty cooked breakfast prepared by Marcia is really helping while Sampson and I plan our attack. Out of the house by 8am, get a bag of prawns and we're fishing by 8.30 with a low tide. Sampson's first cast is hit straight away and snapped off and so is my first cast.

Sampson's next cast results in a 24cm bream which is released. His next fish is bigger and this is also released. Today has now turned into a "catch & release" day for both of us so after catching our eight bream, we headed home to tell Marcia how it went. She greeted us at the car with "Where are my fish?"

Monday, 18 December

Back at the same spot, the fish are waiting for us. This time we kept one fish each (just size) and released the others. On the way home, we decided to check out the Canning Bridge and caught some more bream as well as dreaded blowies, which managed to carve through our prawn supply. The mussels which Andrew picked off the pylons helped him to latch onto a beauty that he played really well, but unfortunately broke his hook just at his feet. The bream escaped with the pointy end of the hook, and all poor Sampson could do was watch as it swam off.

Tuesday, 19 December

Again, back at the "spot", bream, sooty grunter and even tarwhine showed up. The water was crystal clear, and as Andrew was retrieving his half prawn from a miss-hookup, we were amazed to see a flathead glide up from behind and take the bait right in front of our feet in water not more than 30cm deep.

On all three days mentioned in this article, we had the pleasure of watching dolphins herd fish into bays not more than 25m away from us. On one occasion, Andrew threw a sooty grunter to one dolphin about 23m away, which was promptly devoured. I believe this is testament to the great condition of our local river system, despite reports to the contrary concerning algal bloom in early 2006.

So there you go; there *are* quality fish in the river. All fish landed were caught within 250 metres of million-dollar homes in broad daylight. All you need to do is get out there and give it a go. ***Private Pete***

Email from Peter Osborne

Hi Marcia & Surfcasters

Am now stationed in Doha city and a construction site at Ras Laffan in the state of Qatar – with the Gulf of Persia being surrounding waters. Don't have much time off work (60 hrs x 6 days a week with a daily 1.5 hr bus ride each way between Doha and the site) however will try and find out what fishing is available over the next few months. The markets have a good selection of mainly tropical fish species so if I can find out the how, when and where should be able to pursue my favourite recreation.

Winter here now, and surprising – very cold. Wasn't prepared so had to go out and buy a heavy jacket.

If you do have the current versions of Reel Talk electronically, would appreciate them being forwarded – (looked up our site on internet but only find Jul 06 on record).

Good fishing.

Regards
Peter Osborne

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. ***Mal Head***

PLEASE NOTE:

From March to April please do not bring cans. Malcolm will be unavailable until May when you can start bringing them again.

IMPORTANT NOTICE RE FUTURE ROTTNEST TRIP

The options will be discussed at the February meeting and a vote taken to decide on the format and number of Field Days. If you are unable to attend the February meeting and you are interested in going contact me well before the February GM. A decision will be made at this meeting on the format, number of trips and timing if sufficient interest is shown. *A deposit of \$50 will be required at or before this meeting if we are to go in April and full payment in March. If May retained then a Deposit will be required in March*
We need a minimum of 10 starters.

The approximate costs are

* LWE **\$175** *Estimate only*

* Extended weekend **\$155** *Estimate only*

Cost includes Ferry, Transport and accommodation.

Full report in the form of a flyer will be available at February meeting.

YALATA

The Mulloway Rules Oh Yes !!

November 2006

Prior to this trip we "The old farts trio æ Bob would say" were salivating at the mouth with anticipation over the articles and stories we had heard about this wondrous place called Yalata. Where a fisher persons dreams became reality. Mulloway to 30 kg could be caught by all those who made the pilgrimage of 3,400 kilometres as well as braved the heat, flies and extreme weather patterns.

Now the cold hard reality!

This was to be an exploratory trip in preparation for the expedition in January 2007. The trio was Morris Kolman, Ian Cook & Derry Barber (former Club member). We took Morris's Diesel Prado towing my trailer. We had planned on spending 5 days fishing at Yalata. We left on Sunday at 09:00 and stayed overnight at Norseman. Monday we drove to the Nullarbor Hotel/Motel for our second overnight stop. Tuesday morning it was up early to drive the last section past the Head of the Bight and then into Yalata Beach. We had a quick look at the cliffs and the Whale Watching Facility. This was closed as it is out of season for the whale migration. From Nullarbor Hotel/Motel to the camp site took approximately 2 hours. The track in was relatively easy and only 18km.

Our camp site was Bob's Kitchen /Jaxsons #3. Finding our camp site took a while. Unfortunately it was in an area of red soil and after the first day everything was coated in red dust and sand. This area of the beach is very popular, with people coming from other camp sites to fish the area

We checked out most of the other camping sites and some are very nice but not suitable for large groups. There are snakes around some camps because of mice coming in for food scraps.

The beaches are made up of very coarse sand which is mainly shell. They are very soft and invariably lead to a bogged vehicle. We only tried this once and spent an hour getting out. Oh Blast and Damn!!! the sand. There are 2 metre tidal variations at Yalata in January. So if anyone gets bogged below the high water mark you are in very serious trouble.

We helped another group retrieve a Land Rover Discovery from the same predicament of being bogged down to its belly. The driver was rather nervous as he was below the high water mark. A vehicle with high clearance and lighter weight such as the Toyota Hilux or similar vehicle may be able negotiate the soft sand. Quad bikes are the only safe option on the beach.

There was a group in the next camp to us on the beach from Port Hughes. This group fish Yalata every year at the same location. Between the seven of them they landed 9 mulloway over 4 days. These were quite large Mulloway of over 1 metre in length. On the morning we packed up to leave, the fishermen on the beach had 8 hits but no hook-ups.

We fished at Bob's Kitchen and The Hilton. A lot of effort was put in with minimal returns. Morris caught a small Bronze Whaler Shark. Derry and I did not get a bite. We feel we just did not have luck running our way over the four days. Mulloway that were caught had stomach contents of crabs. It may be possible to catch crabs in a crab pot and use them for bait. The group currently at Yalata are taking a good supply of South Australian salmon fillets for bait. These were purchased fresh from SAFCOL and airfreighted to Perth for about \$7 per kg. Other bait taken is mulies, herring, mullet. You need a continuous burley trail made from oily fish or burley with a high content of fish oil mixed in. Fixing a burley cage above the rig with an oil burley mix may be another method of attracting fish. Night fishing produces big Mulloway and shark which you can just let go

The Hilton the site for January trip. This is an exposed site near the beach. The area is beach sand. This will allow lots of sea breeze and also easterlies which are hot. There is 1 km of low sand dunes to negotiate to get to the Hilton.

We packed up Sunday morning and drove to Balladonia for our overnight stop. We then drove back to Perth on Monday arriving home about 17:00 hrs.

For those who have not travelled the Nullarbor it is a trip worth having experienced.

This time of year the vegetation was in very good condition with little or no grazing evident. We saw very little wildlife going across the Nullarbor which is most unusual. We only observed about 6 Wedge Tailed Eagles. There were no sheep, cattle, goats or camels. Some of the gear we took would have been sufficient for 6 people and a longer time frame. An example is you need a generator and freezer whether you have 2 or 6 people going. This meant we were towing an all up weight in excess of 1.3 tonne.

The weather was good. Quite cool needing jumpers at night and late in the afternoon. It was windy a fair amount of the time. This will not be the weather pattern for this time of year. January will be HOT with average temperatures around 35 degrees.

The gutters had not formed up well as we were early in the Malloway season. We were informed that the gutters will have improved the beginning of January. The beaches are white sand and look great. The water was slightly turbid due to the sand being stirred up by the waves breaking on the sand bars. There was a very strong east to west drift on some days. This necessitated the use of 6 Ozs of lead or heavier.

The Toyota Prado Diesel GXL Personal Observations

I have used mainly heavy duty Toyota, Nissan and Ford station sedans and tray tops for both work and personal use. The Prado, like the Pajero, is aimed at the large recreational market that requires a vehicle as a 90% family sedan with off-road capability as second criteria. I have been happily impressed with this vehicle in both diesel and petrol form. The petrol returns good fuel consumption figures till you start doing off-road work; it is then that the diesel shines with good fuel consumption.

We travelled at 100 k/h on the cruise control and this made for a relaxed drive. The Prado towed the heavy trailer well and we averaged a little over 6K/L which was good for towing approx 1.3 tonne plus a loaded vehicle. This vehicle has all the creature comforts you would need and is pleasant to drive for long distances. When in motion you are not aware that the vehicle is diesel powered and it is only at idle or under full throttle openings that you can discern the distinct diesel rumble. Toyota has upgraded the automatic gearbox. The new tiptronic style manual gear shifting to 4th makes an enormous difference to the responsiveness and smoothness of the diesel, which would otherwise struggle somewhat with its modest power and torque outputs. It is excellent for overtaking and on hills.

There is a fair amount of body roll as the suspension is tuned for comfort. There is very good rear seat leg room with the front seats adjusted well back on their runners. The Prado probably has less central ground clearance & ramp over angle than vehicles like a Patrol or Land Cruiser. This is partly due to the large 180 litre fuel tank which comes down below the level of the chassis. The fuel tank drags on the sand. We ran a generator located on a base board mounted to the A frame of the trailer to power the freezer whilst travelling. There was no noise in the cabin from the generator which was really great. This meant that fine orchestral music was easy to listen to. There is very effective road and engine noise suppression.

Things we learnt from Derry's observations

1. On return from Yalata you go through a Quarantine inspection control. Read the Quarantine regulations carefully as they will make you access all ice boxes, freezers and food supplies for checking. They also made us open a couple of Nally bins. Do not try to bend the rules as it would be very costly in fines. Things like potato bags are banned.
2. You will need a beach umbrella for shade that will take high winds.
3. Oily fish burley for 5 days. You need to have a continuous slick out all day.
4. No small bait is needed as generally no small fish are in the area.
5. Take some form of crustaceans for bait as substitute for crabs which are part of the Malloways staple diet at Yalata.
6. Fly nets are essential or the bush flies will drive you nuts in January.
7. Lots of sunscreen, insect repellent, lip balm and skin moisturiser.
8. The most common rig used is any form of sliding tailor rig with ganged or snooded hooks depending on bait type. If using Gamatsu use from 7/0 to 9/0 size for strip bait.
9. Saltwater soap.
10. Swim with care as these waters are dangerous due to strong drift and rips.
11. Fish must be labelled with date of capture and your name. Read the SA regulations well as they are quite different from our regs.
12. If you have enough 240Vac power a fan would help keep you cool in the high summer temperatures.
13. Use fluorescent lights to keep bugs at bay by placing the fluorescent light away from where you are working.
14. A digital temp gauge to check that your freezer is working ok.
15. Use 2.4 L fruit juice bottles to freeze fresh water as they can be used in an ice box each day and when unfrozen as drinking water.
16. You need heavy rods but not necessarily extra long.

17. 15 kg line seems to be the minimum others tend to use.
18. Have runners down on rods on roof rack as some branches on the way in are low.
19. Bring reading matter, Ipod etc as there are long waiting times between fish.

The highest cost of Diesel fuel we purchased was \$1.45/litre. Some locations where are higher as (\$1.65). Fuel tank capacity will determine where you can fill up. We filled up at Mundrabilla on the way in and again on the way out. The Prado holds 180 L.

Accommodation at motels cost approximately \$120 a night for 3 people. The quality of the meals we had was good and at a fair price for the location. Our trip cost us each about \$750. This may seem initially high. We would normally allow \$400 - \$500 for a Steep Point trip. We have doubled the distance we have to travel (fuel) and there is also the overnight accommodation costs so it is still a reasonable priced trip. CDMA phones are very unreliable at Yalata and unusable after Norseman going east. VHF radio communication between vehicles is essential on these trips for safety and making the trip easier.

Access to Yalata Indigenous Lands

This is at the 223 kilometre marker over the South Australian boarder. The turn off is on the south side of the road and is not obvious. You go in through a gate in a short section of fence which is hidden in thick scrub. A car park is situated close to the 222 kilometres marker. The track in is approx 18 kms and in good condition There are a number of trees with low branches. Turn right at the T-junction when you come to the sand dunes. Continue on to the Hilton. The last kilometre is through sand dunes and will be hard going.

We will have some new stories on the return of the current group who are currently at Yalata. I was looking forward to participating in the second trip till a prolapsed disc in my lower back has grounded me.

*Tight Lines
Cookie*

SAFARI IN 2008

Members are asked to give consideration to participating in a Safari to Kakadu or Quobba/Cape Cuvier in 2008.

Last Year's Field Days

Below is a summary of our 2006/2007 Field Days.

April 2006:	Emu Springs & Denmark
May 2006:	Rottnest
June 2006:	Emu Springs – changed to Port Gregory/Kalbarri
July 2006:	Margaret River to Augusta
August 2006:	Rottnest
September 2006:	Cervantes/Jurien
October 2006:	S-Bends
November 2006:	Cervantes to Hill River
December 2006:	Standard Local
January 2007:	Swan/Canning Rivers
February 2007:	Cervantes to Hill River
March 2007:	Bluff Creek
April 2007:	Capes North – possible change to Rottnest

SUGGESTIONS FOR 2007 FIELD DAYS

Members are invited to submit their suggestions for this year's Field Day Calendar. Please complete the form below, tear out and mail to the Field Day Officer at the club's post office box or bring along to the next General Meeting and hand to one of your committee members.

The Committee has suggested certain places and dates as a starting point. Please add yours below and return to Mal.

Write down your suggestion(s) and send to Mal Harris at:
PO Box 1718, Melville South WA 6956

Suggested Date	Suggested Location	Reasons for Selecting This Location
April 2007		
May 2007		
June 2007	Rottnest, Emu Springs	
July 2007		
August 2007		
September 2007		
Oct 2007 LWE	S Bends	
November 2007	Cervantes	
December 2007	Yanchep, Seabird	
January 2008		
February 2008		
March 2008 LWE	Bluff Creek	