



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 2005/2006

President / Dry Casting Officer

Bob Henderson

Vice President

George Holman

Immediate Past President

Secretary/Reel Talk Editor/Web Page

Terry Fuller

**All club mail to:-
PO Box 2032,
Marmion W A
6020**

Treasurer

Paul Thompson

**All club mail to:-
PO Box 2032,
Marmion W A
6020**

Field Day Officer

Malcolm Harris

Property Officer

Vix Alexander

Recorder

Ian Cook

Committee Person

Peter Stoeckel

Committee Person

Jim Yeates

Social Coordinator

Josh Lucocq

Assistant Drycasting Officer

A.A.A. Delegates

George Holman
Terry Fuller)

Committee Person

January 2006 Reel Talk Contents.

Minutes of General Meeting, 14 December 2005 ... 2	Member Survey and Questions..... 9
Coming Club Events..... 3	Club Competition Rules and Constitution..... 9
January General Meeting..... 3	Review of the Caravan and Camping Act..... 9
January Dry Casting..... 3	CALM Proposals Steep Point, Dirk Hartog Island. 11
January 2006 Field Day – Preston / White Hills..... 3	Member Survey and Questions..... 11
Local Field Day for January 2006. 3	December Night Cast and Barbecue. 12
February 2006 Field Day – Cervantes. 4	Help the Dry Casting Markers..... 13
Local Field Day for February 2006..... 4	Dry Casting Bullseyes. 13
Calendar for Next Three Months..... 4	Club Dry Casting Records..... 13
2005/2006 Field Day Dates and Venues..... 4	Dry Casting Sausage Sizzle. 14
2005/2006 Dry Casting Dates..... 4	December Dry Casting Report..... 14
Field Day and Dry Casting Fees. 5	Dry Casting Top Ten. 14
2005/2006 General Meetings..... 5	Dry Casting Results, 4 December 2005. 15
Reel Talk Publishing Deadline..... 5	Open Competition 2005/6. 16
Features to Help Reading the Reel Talk..... 5	Barron Lure Competition..... 16
\$50 Prize Competition..... 5	Open Field Day - Rottnest Island Trip. 16
Life Members of the Club..... 7	An Alternative Fishing Competition. 17
Club Polo Shirts, Jackets and Caps. 7	My First Shark..... 17
Donations for Trophies. 7	AAA State Estuary Championships. 18
Wanted - Aluminium Cans..... 7	Some Things Never Change..... 19
Member's Stories, Photos, Tips, etc..... 7	Field Day Quinns Beach 15/16 Dec 1962..... 20
Safari 2006. 7	December 2005 Field Day Report..... 21
Kalbarri House For Rent. 7	Canning River on Extended Local Field Day. 23
Kalbarri House Lounge..... 8	People Urged to Avoid Mosquito Bites..... 23
Sponsorship Yallingup Beach Holiday Park..... 8	RFW Draft Policy for "Catch and Release" Fishing..... 23
New Member Acceptances..... 8	Weighing or Measuring Fish? 26
New Member Application. 8	Recfishwest Board Meeting Report December 2005..... 26
Happy Birthday to:-..... 8	Your Suggestions 2006/7 Field Day Dates/Venues. 27
Advertising in Reel Talk. 8	Heavy Duty Sewing..... 27
Wanted - Back Copies of Reel Talk..... 9	Amendment to Competition Rules..... 27
AAA State Championship Events 2005/2006..... 9	

Minutes of General Meeting, 14 December 2005

Venue:-	Coolbinia West Perth Amateur Football and Sporting Club room. Time 8:10 pm. Vice President George Holman presiding
Present:-	28 members and 3 visitors. 4 members were present outside the meeting but did not attend.
Apologies:-	Trevor Stam, Melvin Wee, Terry Willison, Peter Osborne.
New Members:-	Heather Osborne and Family were welcomed to the club.
Previous Minutes:-	As published in the Reel Talk. Moved Peter Stoeckel, seconded Ian Cook, these are a true record. Carried.
Previous Committee:-	George advised that actions from the previous Committee meeting would be covered under General Business.
Correspondence In:	Westpac Bank Dept Conservation and Land Management City of Stirling Clubs United Melvin Wee Ray White, Kalbarri WA Fish Foundation Australian Anglers Association Various people including from America. 3 members Jim Atkinson by e-mail Correspondence Out:- Review Co-ordinator Joseph Laundry Heather Osborne and family City of Stirling Various Various people including from America. Moved Andy Thorgersen, seconded Peter Stoeckel correspondence be accepted - carried. Treasurer's Report:- Accounts for payment. iiNet Ltd, for Website and email, \$195 00, Bob Henderson, expenses for cane lounge \$80.40. Moved Jim Strong seconded Morris Kolman accounts be passed for payment - carried. Property Officer Vix Alexander reported that the cane lounge suite had been donated by Ross and Julie Kember, collected, repaired and despatched by Bob Henderson. Trevor Stam had investigated costs for recovering and Terry Fuller had stepped in, washed and repaired the covers. Secretary's Report. Will be covered under other headings. Field Day Officer:- Malcolm Harris presented field day prizes for recent Field Days and reported on the December Field Day which was held before the General Meeting this month. Dry Casting Officer:- Bob Henderson reported on the December dry casting. Details as in Reel Talk. AAA Report:- George Holman advised the AAA mid term convention meeting had been scheduled for 25/26 February which gave only short notice for the preparation of agenda items and proposals from WA. George Holman presented trophies won by the club at the AAA State Dry Casting Championships held on 30 October at Yokine. Peter Stoeckel reported on the AAA State Estuary Championship event held at Mandurah Saturday and Sunday 26/27 November 2005. Recorder:- Ian Cook reported new entries for the open fishing competition. Social Organiser:- Josh Lucocq reported on the barbecue and night dry casting for Christmas event held 4 December at George Holman's place. Reel Talk Editor:- Terry Fuller advised that he had only a few replies to the survey / questions sent out with the December Reel Talk. Notices of Motion:- None. General Business:- Ian Cook reported on a fishing trip with Mark Hansen up the Canning River. Special Business:- Bob Henderson left the room. Terry Fuller moved, Morris Kolman seconded that Bob Henderson be elected President as nominated in the December Reel Talk. Vice President George Holman called for any extra nominations. There being no further nominations, Bob was elected by vote of the members present.

Bob Henderson took the chair. Bob moved a vote of thanks to George Holman who had had filled in for the President for most of the last year.

Instruction Period:- Social night with food and drinks. Special thanks to new member Melvin Wee for the trays of sushi rolls. Melvin had another meeting and was not able to attend. The sushi rolls were greatly appreciated and that was a great gesture from a new member.

Meeting closed:- 9:00 pm.

Coming Club Events.

January General Meeting.

When:- Wednesday 14 January 2006, 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.

Sign In:- Please remember to tick your name on the attendance sheet which is on the table near the door. And while you are there, what about buying some of the raffle tickets?.

Instruction Period:-

January Dry Casting.

When:- Sunday 8 January 2006. **Note** Not the first Sunday to avoid New Year's Day.

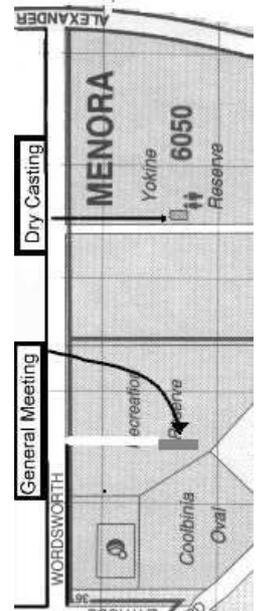
Where:- Yokine Reserve, Wordsworth Avenue

Events:- Double handed accuracy, Single handed accuracy, 56 gram distance Artificial bait distance, 112 gram distance **PLUS** Single Handed Open.

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.

Reminder:- Competition Rules Section 3.6.2 says **juniors still get a score** even if the cast lands out of court. Please remember to measure all junior distance casts and add the "P" symbol if necessary.



January 2006 Field Day – Preston / White Hills.

When:- Saturday/Sunday 14/15 January 2006.

Sign On: 11.00 am Saturday Car park Pyramids Beach.

Lines Down:- 12.00 noon Saturday.

Weigh in:- 12.00 noon Sunday Car park Pyramids Beach.

Boundaries:- Myalup to South Wall Dawesville Cut.

Tides for Saturday 14 Jan 0.32m at 6:15 am 0.94m at 9:00 pm

Bouvard Sunday 15 Jan 0.34m at 6:33 am 0.92m at 9:33 pm

Moon Saturday 14 Jan Moonrise:- About 7:45 pm

Sunday 15 Jan Moonset:- About 7:30 am

Sun Sunrise:- About 5:25 am

Sunset:- About 7:25 pm

Full Moon Saturday 14 Jan

Local Field Day for January 2006.

When:- Saturday/Sunday 14/15 January 2006.

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

Lines Down:- Saturday 12:00 noon.

Weigh in:- Sunday 12:00 noon 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 14 Jan 0.33m at 6:30 am 1.06m at 9:00 pm

Fremantle Sunday 15 Jan 0.36m at 6:48 am 1.03m at 9:31 pm

February 2006 Field Day – Cervantes.

When:- Saturday/Sunday 11/12 February 2006.
Sign On: Saturday 11:00 am at the BP Garage in Cervantes.
Lines Down:- Saturday 12 noon.
Weigh in:- Sunday 11:00 am at the BP Garage in Cervantes.
Boundaries:- Southern boundary of Cervantes townsite to South Point Jurien.
Tides for Saturday 11 Feb 0.40m at 5:22 am 1.03m at 8:22 pm
Jurien Sunday 12 Feb 0.41m at 5:42 am 1.02m at 8:58 pm
Moon Saturday 11 Feb Moonrise:- About 5:45 pm **Sun** Sunrise:- About 5:50 am
 Sunday 12 Feb Moonset:- About 3:40 am Sunset:- About 7:10 pm
Full Moon Monday 13 Feb

Local Field Day for February 2006.

When:- Saturday/Sunday 11/12 February 2006.
Sign On: At the General Meeting or to the FDO by 18:00 Friday.
Lines Down:- Saturday 12:00 noon.
Weigh in:- Sunday 11:00 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 11 Feb 0.39m at 5:37 am 1.03m at 8:30 pm
Fremantle Sunday 12 Feb 0.41m at 5:47 am 0.65m at 12:38 pm

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.

30	AAA Event																				
8	Dry Casting							11	General Meeting			14	15	Field Day			18	Committee Meeting			
January 2006							February 2006							March 2006							
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
30	31					1			1	2	3	4	5			1	2	3	4	5	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28						27	28	29	30	31			

2005/2006 Field Day Dates and Venues.

Saturday/Sunday 14/15 January 2006 Preston / White Hills.
 Saturday/Sunday 11/12 February 2006 Cervantes.
 Saturday/Sun/Mon 4/5/6 March 2006 LWE Split Field Day Bremer Bay / Bluff Creek.
 Saturday/Sunday 14/15/16/17 April 2006 Easter Emu Springs and Denmark.

2005/2006 Dry Casting Dates.

All are at Yokine Reserve, Wordsworth Avenue, Yokine, starting at 8:30am.
 Sunday 8 January 2006 (changed for NY Day) Sunday 12 March 2006, (changed for Field Day)
 Sunday 5 February 2006 Sunday 2 April 2006

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.

2005/2006 General Meetings.

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

Wednesday 11 January 2006

Wednesday 8 March 2006

Wednesday 8 February 2006

Wednesday 12 April 2006

Reel Talk Publishing Deadline.

The Reel Talk is published so that it gets to the members early in the week before the first event held in the coming calendar month. But it also depends what else is going on and what the Editor wants to do with his personal life and valuable personal volunteer time.

The Reel Talk is produced progressively through the month, as stuff becomes available, so that the whole article is on the same page, and to avoid a few lines separated from the rest of the article. Of course Microsoft Word makes it possible to zap the articles to any page, and the list of contents is updated almost automatically. But once the front pages are set out properly, it's just extra and unnecessary work to insert stuff. So items which come in early generally ends up towards the front of the magazine, and late stuff towards the back.

Items received electronically can be put into the magazine in a very short time, subject to space. It's a juggling act, and first in generally has the best chance of getting published that month. The Reel Talk contents is always an even number of pages, and the pages usually have something on them with not too much blank space. Late items which need parts of extra pages and need a rearrangement of other stuff to keep to the "even number of full pages" might just get deferred to a later issue.

The absolute deadline for items for the coming Reel Talks are:-

February 2006 Reel Talk 3 pm Wednesday 25 January.

March 2006 Reel Talk 3 pm Wednesday 22 February. Maybe earlier, check February Reel Talk.

The editor would really appreciate getting items a long time before the deadline, particularly if they have to be typed in, scanned, reformatted, etc.

TerryF

Features to Help Reading the Reel Talk. \$50 Prize Competition.

Really well designed "user interfaces" (damn computer jargon again) are subtle and don't flaunt their features and just do the job they need to do without any fanfare.

It's not until someone really thinks about it, or maybe does a comparison, that all the complexity and the features become obvious. Sometimes "the obvious" is not all that obvious, and users get better results if the features are actually pointed out to them so they know they are there and can use them.

This edition of the Reel Talk has introduced some really innovative features adapted from computer technology and never before seen in any printed magazine.

These features will help all club members, and in particular those people who have particular interests and might dislike reading about or don't have the time to read about some topics and don't want to be forced to read them.

From now on, at some considerable expense to the Club, and at some considerable extra work and difficulty and complexity for the Reel Talk Editor and the copying and collating:-

Every edition of the Reel Talk will have:-

1. A list of the articles and the page number that article starts on.
2. You will **ALWAYS** find this list of articles on the first page of the Reel Talk, (subject to members saying they might want it somewhere else such as on the back page as well or instead.)
3. All pages in the Reel Talk will actually have a page number at the bottom so you will always know what page you are actually viewing. The page numbers will start at "1" and each page will be numbered one more until you reach the last page of the Reel Talk, (unless the printing or copying is messed up somehow and the Editor doesn't notice.)
4. The Reel Talk Editor will now personally guarantee that every Reel Talk will have all the pages, page numbers and articles as listed or he will supply you with a special edition personalised for you and free of any charge and all done in his own personal volunteer time at no cost to the Club.

All future articles will have:-

1. A big, bold, underlined heading which defines the start of the article, like the one above at the very start of this article.
2. A big, bold, underlined heading which describes the actual contents of the article. That's the clue which will help you decide if you want to keep reading on and if that topic is of interest to you.
3. The article will be printed in a font (text size and shape) which looks like these words until it gets to the next topic which will be a new, different, big, bold, underlined heading. There might be some sub headings or tables or pictures inside the article.
4. The Reel Talk Editor will now personally guarantee that every article heading will accurately describe the contents of that article, within the limits of the space available for a heading, or he will supply a special edition personalised for you and free of any charge and all done in his own personal volunteer time at no cost to the Club.

Detailed "How to Use" instructions for these new and innovative features in Reel Talk:-

Option 1. Recommended for the "sequential access" people who like some order in their reading.

1. Turn to page 1 of the Reel Talk and check the list of articles.
2. Pick an article **you** might want to read. If you don't find anything you are interested in, put down the Reel Talk, and do something else.
3. Follow the dotted line in the list to find the page number the article is printed on.
4. Turn the pages to find a page with that same page number on it.
5. Find the big, bold, underlined heading which has the article you found in the list of articles.
6. Start reading the article.
7. When you get to another, different, big, bold, underlined heading, you will know you have reached the end of the article you were reading.
8. If, part way through the article, you decide you don't want to read about that topic, then you can either a) start again at step 1, or b) stop reading the Reel Talk and do something else.

Option 2. Recommended for the "random access" people who like to start at the back or somewhere in the middle of a magazine.

1. Flip through the pages of the Reel Talk until you find something **you** might be interested in. (Don't ask me how - I don't know what you are looking for. You could use Option 1, instead)
2. Continue steps 6 to 8 as for Option 1 above.

Some benefits of these innovative new features.

These features will give benefits to all readers:-

1. People will be able to find everything in the Reel Talk for themselves, and they won't have to ask someone else about (put the subject in here). Have a look, there is a great deal of Club information in the Reel Talks, particularly all the competition and meeting dates, places, times, results, write ups, etc.
2. Most importantly, any people who are offended by, bored by, not interested in, or whatever, some of the articles which are printed in Reel Talk **won't have their valuable time wasted** in reading stuff they are not interested in.

These (number 2) people can then do one or both of the following with all their valuable time saved by this wondrous innovation:-

1. Put down the Reel Talk, pick up a pen or turn their computer on, and write an article of the type they think should be in the Reel Talk, so that all the other members can read it and see for themselves what they have been missing out on.
2. If they get really fired up, they can nominate themselves to be the Reel Talk Editor and then they will be able to put whatever they like in the Reel Talk. There **WILL** be a vacancy for a new Reel Talk Editor sometime sooner or later. And if they put their hand up, it can be sooner rather than later.

A little competition, with a \$50 prize for you.

See, I said really well designed "user interfaces" are subtle and don't flaunt their features and just do the job they need to do without any fanfare. The same applies to some innovations, like this one.

There is a **prize**, of your choice to the value of **\$50**, for the first person to tell me what the changes are to the format, article layout, etc. which have delivered all these wondrous new features for the readers in this edition of Reel Talk. **Hint:-** compare with the last few Reel Talks, but be quick.

I will put the detailed explanation and the winner's name in the February Reel Talk.

TerryF

Life Members of the Club.

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

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.

Donations for Trophies.

We are looking for trophies for this current competition year. Please give us your suggestions for people / companies / etc to contact.

There are some things members can do:-

1. Donate a trophy yourself – particularly if you have been on the on the receiving end in past years.
2. When buying your gear and getting your services from our trophy donors and advertisers, make sure you let them know that you are a member of the Surf Casting and Angling Club, so that if or when we contact them, they will know that this Club's members support them.

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.

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. And if you want some really interesting fishing stories in the Reel Talk, please write some or get your friends to write some.

Thanks to Mark Farnay, Bob Henderson, Roy Killick, Ian Cook and Malcolm Harris for articles.

Safari 2006.

The next opportunity for a club safari is during calendar year 2006. Esperance has been suggested as a possible location. Suggestions for alternative places, dates, etc are wanted, please.

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.

Kalbarri House Lounge

A cane lounge suite (2 single seats and a 3 seater) has been donated to the Club by Ross and Julie Kember. It has been picked up from Coogee and on inspection indicated that some repairs were needed to the cushions before being sent to Kalbarri.

With assistance from Trevor Stam a couple of quotes were obtained and prices of \$300 to \$400 were given with indications that some of the foam should be replaced. Nobody could complete the job before the end of January 2006. We just don't have the time.

In stepped Terry Fuller with a "she'll be right mate" attitude and so I left the cushions in his good hands.

Within 4 days I got a phone call to say the cushion covers were washed, ironed, repaired and ready to go and would be delivered to my house. Minor repairs were done to the cane wrapping, the lot loaded onto the trailer and delivered to Kalbarri Transport in Midvale. The cushions looked brand new and I tell ya "bloody well done".

We now have a great cane lounge suite sitting in our Kalbarri house lounge.

Thanks to Terry and Trevor.

Hendo.

Wanted Committee Members.

There are now vacancies for some Committee jobs. Please contact the Secretary or any Committee member for more details, or get yourself nominated at the next General Meeting.

Sponsorship Renewal by Yallingup Beach Holiday Park

The Yallingup Beach Holiday Park has provided the club with another accommodation voucher to the value of \$250 for two adults for two nights in one of their Malibu ensuite cabins for the new competition year.

The previous year's voucher was raffled at the February General Meeting and was won by Tony D'Alonzo.

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/>

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 next 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. Melvin, Claudine and Samuel Wee.

Happy Birthday to:-

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

John Lee, 9 January

Jim Yeates, 24 January

Di Simpson, 28 January

George Holman 12 December (missed from the last Reel Talk).

Advertising in Reel Talk.

Advertising is available in the Reel Talk. 12 monthly copies are printed, currently 62 copies. Charges are:- Inside and outside back covers are printed black on Terra Yellow paper.

Inside or outside back cover. Full page, \$100.00 per annum. Half page, \$70.00 per annum.

Inside pages are printed black on white paper.

Inside pages. Full page, \$60.00 per annum. Half page, \$40.00 per annum. Quarter page \$30.00 per annum

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.

AAA State Championship Events 2005/2006.

2005/2006 State Boat Angling Championships

Jurien, 4 March 2006

2005/2006 Rock and Beach Championships

Jurien, Saturday / Sunday 25/26 March, 2006

2006/2007 AAA State Dry Casting Championships

Yokine Reserve, Sunday 29 October 2006

Member Survey and Questions.

Was delivered with the December Reel Talk was a set of questions about **YOUR** opinions and needs.

The Committee would really appreciate **YOUR** answers to these questions, so that we can guide the club the way **YOU** want it to go and give **YOU** the things you would like from the club. **PLEASE** answer the questions and send the form back to the club or hand it in at one of the Club events.

Club Competition Rules and Constitution.

Printed copies of the Club's current Fishing and Dry Casting Competition Rules and Club Constitution are available – all you have to do is **ASK**.

The current version of the Competition Rules is dated 13 April 2005, and the Constitution is dated February 2003. If you have **any** earlier version, **throw it away and get a current version.**

Contact the Secretary for a copy or see the club's web site for the online versions – see <http://www.surfcasters.iinet.net.au/ClubRulesMain.html>

Review of the Caravan and Camping Act.

The following has been sent to the Caravan Parks & Camping Grounds Act 1995 Review Co-ordinator.

You will note that I have said that these comments are on behalf of the Club, but that's stretching the truth, because I did not get **ANY** contribution from Club members other than George Holman.

====

"Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the operation and effectiveness of the Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995.

These comments have been prepared on behalf of the members of the Surf Casting and Angling Club of W.A. by the Secretary, Terry Fuller.

The Surf Casting and Angling Club of W.A. (Inc). is based in the Perth metropolitan area and has 79 members. The club has been in existence since 1952 and is affiliated with the Australian Anglers Association which has submitted similar comments.

The Club's main activities include shore based recreational line fishing. The club places great importance on the future of responsible recreational fishing, and the responsible access to the resources fishing depends on in Western Australia.

The Club has a particular interest in the Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act because many of our members need some form of camping in order to enjoy their favourite fishing spots. The great majority of club members are mature, responsible people who have sincere concern for the environment and follow club's stringent codes of ethics.

We have some concerns with regulations 10 and 11, in relation to where people may camp. These are outlined below.

Application of the Act. It seems that some Shires interpret any shelter as a "camp", even a tarpaulin attached to a vehicle on a beach for sun protection. Sometimes even while people are fishing, the rangers demand that people remove any shelter and threaten people with infringement notices unless they remove any shelter on the beach. Considering the current emphasis and publicity about the critical need for sun protection, such actions are really counter to good sense.

Sometimes the distinction between camping and fishing gets a little blurred. It seems it is OK to be actually fishing all night having chairs, tables, meals, drinks, lights and whatever, but if you dare to have a short sleep under exactly the same conditions you are immediately in breach of the Act.

Regulations 10 and 11 in their current form restrict anyone from legally camping anywhere without permission from the land holders (private or Crown Land).

Given the reluctance of government authorities to grant permission to camp on Crown Land, this regulation essentially restricts travellers to camping in gazetted caravan parks or designated camping grounds. If anyone wishes to camp on any land (including beaches) that are not managed reserves, that is an illegal act.

Given the remoteness of Western Australia and the lack of designated camping areas, this regulation has little merit and unfairly discriminates against people wishing to participate in wilderness forms of camping in the remote regions of this state.

Caravan parks and managed camping reserves are not freely available in many regions of the state, the Club therefore believes that the camping on unallocated Crown Land, in particular beaches, should not be managed by such heavy restrictions.

Camping on Beaches. The issue of people fishing at night on beaches and not being allowed to set up a small camp so they can rest prior to fishing the following morning is of great concern to the Club.

Suggestions that people should use existing caravan parks or camping areas when fishing in some areas are impractical in some cases. The reality is that people who have driven down a track and along a beach and fished until well after dark, and who want to fish again in the morning, do not want to pack every thing up, drive along a beach and down tracks in the dark, reinflate their tyres, and find the caravan park late at night.

They do not want to have to get up very early the next morning, pack up all their camping gear again, drive down tracks and along the beach in the early morning dark to get back to the same spot they were in just a few hours earlier in time to start fishing at first light which is just after 4 am in summer when a lot of beach fishing is done.

Any suggestions that caravan parks are losing that business because people will be allowed to camp on the beach needs to recognise the reality that those overnight fishermen are simply not customers for caravan parks because of the timing of their fishing activities.

There is also the issue of driving while tired. There is a very important publicity campaign to advise people of the very real dangers of driving while tired, yet the effects of the caravan and camping act restrictions are that people are expected to or may be forced to drive while they are tired.

The Club therefore believes that greater consideration needs to be made for the public who enjoy responsible beach fishing and wish to camp overnight at their fishing spot to enjoy this pastime.

The Club believes that the granting of permission to camp on unallocated Crown Land should not be left with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DPI), We suggest that the authority to grant permission be delegated to appropriate government officers with a set of guidelines which could then be actively publicised. This would make the opportunity to camp more freely available to the general public without having to go through an application process with the DPI. People could simply contact their local government or shire for an application to camp on a beach for a prescribed period provided they followed certain guidelines.

The Club continues to strongly support the current legislation that allows for 24 hour camping on a road reserve in an emergency situation and believes that this regulation should continue.

The Club supports the recommendation that the period of time that a person may camp on land (with the owner's permission) before being required to contact the local government for permission be extended to seven nights instead of the current number of three nights. This prescribed period of time should be made consistent with the whole of State to reduce potential for confusion amongst the community.

Areas where camping may not be allowed. We do not have any problems with some reasonable restrictions on being able to camp in the dunes where the only vehicle access is from the beach and that vehicle access would lead to damage to the dunes. However, this is really an access issue not a camping issue, and in many places existing extensive tracks run behind the dunes and responsible travel and short term camping in those areas may not cause any damage.

Peripheral issues with camping. Although not covered by the Act in question, two valid concerns are rubbish and pollution, but it is not valid to use these to justify bans on camping.

There are already adequate laws covering people leaving rubbish. However those laws are rarely enforced, despite lots of complaints, and despite it being a really serious social problem. A campaign of enforcing existing laws and fining people who leave rubbish behind might quickly cut the problem dramatically.

Any ban on camping using rubbish as a reason is just using an excuse and is the common cop out that it is believed easier to ban something than it is to properly manage the real problem.

All such a ban does is turn normal average responsible people into lawbreakers, while the people who are really the problem take absolutely no notice and continue doing whatever they want to regardless of the law.

Sealed portable toilets are readily available and could be made a condition of camping in some areas to remove any objections about that type of pollution.

Conclusion. The camping restrictions imposed by the current provisions of the Caravan and Camping have a severe impact on overnight recreational fishing in Western Australia. Changes are needed to ensure that responsible camping is allowed in suitable places.

The alternative is that some people will find it all too much trouble and opt out. That's such a loss and particularly for the children who will miss out on all these experiences.

We hope our recommendations and comments are considered during the review of the Act. Please contact me if I can provide any further information or clarification.

Yours sincerely, Terry Fuller, Secretary, Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.).

CALM Proposals for Steep Point, Dirk Hartog Island.

CALM has released its "Shark Bay Terrestrial Reserves and Proposed Terrestrial Reserve Additions Management Plan".

At http://www.naturebase.net/national_parks/management/pdf_files/shark_bay_hys_issues_paper.pdf

The map of the areas is at - this is only black and white although CALM posted a colour version to me http://www.naturebase.net/national_parks/management/pdf_files/shark_bay_hys_ip_map_bwpdf.pdf

There is no date visible on any of the docs with any deadline for public comments. Seems they are looking for people to "register an interest" so go to it.

The proposed terrestrial reserve additions include:

- former Nanga pastoral lease (176 408 ha) purchased in December 2000;
- former part Murchison House pastoral lease (37 578 ha) purchased in August 2005;
- former Dirk Hartog Island pastoral lease (61 438 ha) agreement to purchase in July 2005;
- part Carrarang pastoral lease (18 772 ha);
- part Tamala pastoral lease (56 343 ha); and
- part South Peron unallocated Crown land (UCL), conservation area to be determined.

Under section 62 of the CALM Act, lands and waters may be classified as "**prohibited areas**", "**limited access**" or any other classification to prescribe conditions of use (e.g. day or overnight use) for the protection of natural and cultural values. **Several islands** and parts of the planning area **may warrant access restrictions** to protect nature conservation values.

Some of the more active existing recreational use is adversely impacting on World Heritage values (e.g. use of the coast for remote four-wheel-driving, camping and **fishing is degrading coastal landforms**) and some activities **require formal visitor risk management assessment (e.g. rock fishing)**. It is essential visitor sites and activities are designed, controlled and managed to prevent degradation of coastal features and other values of the Property.

Visitor fees include camping, entry fees, fees for permits or fees for services (e.g. guided tours). The Department currently **applies a "user-pays" policy** through a system of commercial concessions and the collection of visitor fees.

http://www.naturebase.net/national_parks/management/pdf_files/shark_bay_hys_brochure.pdf says:-

"Public involvement in how the planning area should be managed is an important part of the planning process and a number of opportunities will be provided for this to occur. You are invited to register your interest in the development of the new management plan. In doing so, CALM will notify you of opportunities when you can contribute. All contributions will be carefully considered and taken into account in preparing the proposed management plan.

Although the details of the public participation process are yet to be finalised, it will likely include community workshops, public displays and submissions to the draft management plan. By providing your contact details we can inform you of events/opportunities as they arise and keep you up to date with our progress.

If you wish to register your interest, or register on behalf of a group or organisation, please complete the form on this brochure and post it to the address shown."

If some of those bits don't concern you, then

Member Survey and Questions.

A set of questions about **YOUR** opinions and needs was delivered with the December Reel Talk.

The Committee would really appreciate **YOUR** answers to these questions, so that we can guide the club the way **YOU** want it to go and give **YOU** the things you would like from the club.

PLEASE answer the questions and send the form back to the club or hand it in at one of the Club events.

December Night Cast and Barbecue.

Driving down the road towards George and Kay's place, the rain started to spatter quite heavily onto the windscreen. Where's summer?

Thoughts of poor attendance and an early night crossed my mind. The rain disappeared, the mob turned up and only standing room was left.

Another heavy shower just before dark did nothing to dampen anyone's enthusiasm and the barby was fired up with everyone helping with the cooking.

As the sun went down I quietly went down to the oval and set up a couple of targets.

The call went out for the hopeful to grace the oval with their casting gear and glowsticks. The assortment of glow stick lights flipping through the darkness looked like a family of glowworms on a drunken spree. I can tell you that by the end of the evening quite a few should have been breathalysed (or dope tested).

Talk about wayward chuckers! Some couldn't even get close even though the target was only 10 metres away. Give them a try at a target at a longer distance and "some" actually got close. The gasps of astoundment at some small success carried across the oval.

There's one newcomer to the night casting that destroyed his total score by hitting the poor old marker. The said marker couldn't move fast enough because his pockets jingled with coin.

After a very humorous evening the final outcome saw "Roy the Boy" accept a gracious defeat and came THIRD. The darkhorse "Frightful Fuller" overcame heavy competition to be SECOND.

We have come to the conclusion that the bloke that won has been passing a furphy to us all for years and has silently been practicing. Still he did receive warm applause from all when we handed the trophy to Cookie. First time he's ever won something for casting, so I bet it gets polished regularly.

Except for a short shower, the evening was very enjoyable and I congratulate all those who attended and participated. Watch out fellas, because Tina and Wendy had a ball and will give you curry next time. As usual Pete should have stayed home but he is very trying.

Thanks to George and Kay for their hospitality.

Hendo.

December night casting scores. You won't find the rules for night casting and the target distances in the Club's competition rules, but there's a lot in common. As it turned out, there were 5 casts to "longer" distances which were scored out of 25 using the double handed accuracy measuring tapes, and 4 casts to "shorter" distances using the single handed accuracy measuring tapes.

Adding all this up, the best scores were 48 out of a possible 125 for the longer distances, 31 out of a possible 40 for the shorter distances, and total 69 out of a possible 165 combined. Somehow, 3 bullseyes were scored.

It is not easy to judge the distances in the dark! But it **is great fun**, so remember for next time! TerryF.

Name	Score (maximum possible 25 each)					125	Score (max possible 10 ea)				40	165
	Cast 1	Cast 2	Cast 3	Cast 4	Cast 5	Sub Total	Cast 1	Cast 2	Cast 3	Cast 4	Sub Total	Grand Total
Ian Cook	11	8	4	11	4	38	8	4	9	10	31	69
Terry Fuller	20	3	6	5	8	42	7	10	8	0	25	67
Roy Killick	1	7	8	23	9	48	8	0	9	0	17	65
Vix Alexander	16	7	0	9	0	32	5	1	8	8	22	54
George Holman	17	3	4	0	8	32	9	6	6	0	21	53
Tony D'Alonzo	22	0	2	16	0	40	0	0	7	4	11	51
Scott M	14	4	0	17	1	36	4	4	2	0	10	46
Josh Lucocq	18	0	0	21	0	39	0	0	7	0	7	46
Jim Strong	8	0	4	21	1	34	2	3	3	4	12	46
Mark Hansen	8	0	6	3	7	24	10	7	3	0	20	44
Andrew Stoeckel	0	7	4	24	7	42	0	0	0	0	0	42
Andy Thorgersen	5	4	1	14	6	30	2	0	4	3	9	39
Malcolm Harris	2	8	6	16	0	32	4	0	0	1	5	37
Peter Stoeckel	12	4	0	0	7	23	3	6	2	2	13	36
Gary Gildersleeves	0	5	0	16	1	22	3	4	0	0	7	29
Tina Lingard	7	1	1	0	1	10	9	0	3	3	15	25
Trevor Stam	7	0	8	0	0	15	3	4	2	0	9	24
Wendy Hansen	2	4	0	0	0	6	7	0	0	4	11	17

Help the Dry Casting Markers.

Come on, dry casting people, help the markers in the distance events, and help yourselves.

Anyone who has done any marking in winter or in windy conditions will know what I'm talking about.

Do you want your leaders and your weight mangled? Do you want long delays while the markers search for your weights of dig them out of the ground? No? Well you can easily help. Anyway even if you don't care, the markers do and cooperation works both ways.

Some of the weights bury themselves 150mm into the soft grass making it hard to get the sinkers out. Heavy leaders and a decent sized ring or swivel means the weight can be pulled out backwards. Light leaders and tiny swivels are a pain in the \$%#\$ by breaking off and the weights having to be dug out and mangled.

Please use heavy leaders – 50 pound / 25kg **MINIMUM** and preferably heavier - or else risk damaged leaders and lost weights and frustrated markers.

Independent scientific research has shown that the difference between a cast with a light leader and tiny swivel and a heavy leader and decent sized swivel averages 0.033m, which is much less than the error a tired and frustrated marker might make in rounding your cast distance down to the shorter number of metres rather than up to the longer number of metres.

Weights with short plastic tubing are very hard to find, since only a little bit of the tube is visible when weights bury. Please make sure all of your plastic tubes are close to the maximum length of 250mm. It's also very hard to see short tubes as they come through the air.

When it is windy, it is sometimes hard to find where the weight has landed. If you or any of the watching casters know where the weight has landed, PLEASE indicate to the markers by pointing in the direction and waving the markers further out or closer in.

Terry Fuller

Dry Casting Bullseyes.

Up to and including December casting.

Single Handed Accuracy Bullseyes		Double Handed Accuracy Bullseyes	
Gary Gildersleeves	4	Gary Gildersleeves	4
Terry Fuller	4	Vix Alexander	2
Filomena D'Alonzo	3	Chas Riegert	1
Allan Jones	2	George Holman	1
Nick Allsworth	2	Ian Cook	1
Tony D'Alonzo	2	Janet Hughes	1
Trevor Stam	1	Rhys Jones	1
George Holman	1	Tony D'Alonzo	1
Joe Pullella	1	Trevor Stam	1
Malcolm Head	1		
Mathew Sneddon	1		
Terry Willison	1		

Club Dry Casting Records.

	112 gram Level Line Distance		56 gram Level Line Distance		Art Bait Level Line Distance	
Mens	192m	Keith Heaney	155m	George Holman	159m	Keith Heaney
Ladies	132m	Sharon Osborne	130m	Sharon Osborne	102.84m	Sharon Osborne
Juniors	145m	Rhys Jones	111m	Rhys Jones	131m	Heath Holman
Mini Juniors	100.25m	Rhys Jones	97.45m	Rhys Jones	103m	Heath Holman
Veterans	162m	Bob Henderson	149m	Bob Henderson	138m	Bob Henderson

	Double Handed Accuracy (points out of 200)		Single Handed Accuracy (points out of 40)	
Mens	171	Gary Gildersleeves	38	Andrew Aubrey
Ladies	158	Sharon Osborne	29	Sharon Osborne / Filomena D'Alonzo
Juniors	163	Heath Holman / Steve Pilton	32	Steve Pilton
Mini Juniors	78	H.Saueraker	29	Rhys Jones
Veterans	170	Roy Killick	36	Terry Fuller / Bob Henderson

Dry Casting Sausage Sizzle.

We usually hold a sausage sizzle on 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.

December Dry Casting Report.

One of the few things I missed whilst I travelled around Australia was the monthly gatherings with my fellow club mates on the Yokine oval. The comradery and friendly competition was great. I'm glad to be back.

With plenty of help the casting arena was set out quickly which gave me time to relax and get in a bit of practice and enjoy a cup of coffee. The rain failed to show up and the winds were behind us for a change. The group came together, volunteers grabbed the scoresheets and we headed for the oval.

Being with the Vets on the distance court I was very impressed with the new laser measuring equipment. Having Alphonse and AJ running the ropes and moving us along we completed the distance events. Poor old Trev had a finger problem, Cookie was trying too hard, the "girls" were very competitive. Sharing the honours with AJ and Cookie was just a bit of luck.

The wind was playing havoc with Alphonse's flowing locks but it did not deter him from coming up with the talent and trouncing us all in the single handed event. The bullseyes by Terry and AJ pushed him harder to get one to. He was really on fire and carried his talent over onto the double-handed event also and gave us a fine exhibition of casting to win that event too.

At least the huge grin and that little jump of joy by Vix when she got her bullseye gave us something to smile about. Even Cookie got into the act and scored a bullseye too.

Overall the master of double handed events "Garry" won the day and took top honours for the most points but only just from Alphonse.

Thanks to all for the warm welcome back the assistance in collecting the gear and sharing another enjoyable morning. The cold drink and burnt snag from Peter was a reminder that not much has changed.

DCO Hendo

Dry Casting Results, 4 December 2005.

Event	Overall Winner	Year's best up to December
56 gram Score	29 Gary Gildersleeves, Malcolm Harris	29 Chas Riegert, Gary Gildersleeves, Malcolm Harris
56 gram Distance	147m Malcolm Harris	149m Chas Riegert
Artificial Bait Score	24 Peter Stoeckel, Bob Henderson, Allan Jones	28 George Holman
Artificial Bait Distance	154m George Holman	159m Keith Heaney
112 gram Score	32 Malcolm Harris	38 Keith Heaney
112 gram Distance	163m Malcolm Harris	192m Keith Heaney
Double Handed Acc.	156 Gary Gildersleeves	158 Gary Gildersleeves
Single Handed Acc.	32 Tony D'Alonzo	32 Tony D'Alonzo
Day's High Points	265 Tony D'Alonzo	276 Gary Gildersleeves

Dry Casting Top Ten.

Total scores up to and including December casting. Remember the best 11 months out of 12 will be selected at the end of the year. Tony D'Alonzo is the only person who has attended all dry casting days so far, so he is the only person whose progressive score will be reduced.

1	Tony D'Alonzo	1873	6	Malcolm Head	1303
2	Malcolm Harris	1612	7	Jim Strong	1248
3	Terry Fuller	1565	8	Vix Alexander	1232
4	George Holman	1408	9	Trevor Stam	1224
5	Filomena D'Alonzo	1325	10	Allan Jones	1212

Open Competition 2005/6.

These are the details of the Open Competition Sections up to November. Entries close 30 days after capture. Cookie would like some more entries even if they are for the species competition, please.

Section	For	Minimum weight	Entry
Section 1	Most Meritorious Capture	None	To be awarded by Committee
Section 2	Best Shark	4.5 kg	No entry
Section 3	Best Mulloway	5.0 kg	10.5 kg Paul Thompson, Kalbarri
Section 4	Best Salmon	3.5 kg	5.0 kg John Jardine, Swanborne Drain
Section 5	Best Dhufish	Legal size	No entry
Section 6	Best Tailor	1.5 kg	2.25 kg Tony D'Alonzo, Jurien Bay
Section 7	Best Samson Fish	1.5 kg	No entry
Section 8	Best Fish on single handed rod maximum 4kg line class	Legal size	1.29 kg black bream, Sharon Osborne, Murray River.
Section 9	Best Pink Snapper	2.0 kg	No entry
Section 10	Best Tarwhine	0.5 kg	No entry
Section 11	Best Mackerel	4.0 kg	No entry
Section 12	Best Skipjack Trevally (southern)	1.0 kg	1.0 kg Malcolm Harris, Sandy Point
Section 13	Best Trevally (northern)	4.0 kg	No entry
Section 14	Best Snook/Pike	0.5 kg	No entry
Section 15	Best Black Bream	0.6 kg	1.29 kg, Sharon Osborne, Murray River.
Section 16	Best Scale fish other than sections 3 to 15	2.0 kg	No entry
Section 17	Best Fish caught on Fly Rod.	Legal size	No entry

Barron Lure Competition.

Heaviest Tailor on Lure.	Paul Thompson, Tailor 1.43 kg, Seabird
Heaviest Salmon on Lure.	No entry.
Heaviest Scale Fish on Lure.	No entry.

Open Field Day- Rottnest Island Trip.

Well I hadn't intended to do a Rotto trip this year. I had been feeling a bit lazy towards my fishing and thought I would take a year off. But when Cookie rang me and said he was trying to get a group together to do a trip for the open field day in October, I thought, why not. It was to be a three day trip leaving Friday evening and returning at the usual time Sunday. That would give us an extra half a day fishing, turning Saturday's session into a full day.

We all arrived at Northport ready for a 7:00 pm departure time only to be informed that the ferry wasn't leaving till 7:30. No worries, just enough time to grab a coffee and speculate on all the fish we were going to catch and where we were going to catch them.

I had brought along my deadly treadly, along with my newly constructed trailer so that hopefully I would be able to catch a good bag of fish at West end and then move on to hopefully a hot bite at North Point in the arvo.

I think there were ten of us in the end and by the time we arrived on the island we had all developed a keen appetite and a lack of enthusiasm to do much about it for ourselves, other than to head down to the Tearooms and let someone else feed us. This turned out to be a great night with good food, good company and more talk about the hot fishing that surely lay ahead.

So after a couple of beers and a most satisfying meal it was back to the huts to do a bit of prep for the morning. We hit the hay about 11:00. It was difficult to get a continuous night's sleep due to the fact that I was sharing a hut with a couple of lumberjacks who were intent on - as some like to put it - sawing particularly heavy jarrah logs all night. Haha!

Anyway the morning came around and the bus arrived to cart us off to our chosen destinations. Everyone decided on West End to begin with. After all, it's the pick of the crop, isn't it? Well, after a few hours of baitcasting up and down the reef at Radar all I had in the bag were a couple of herring! Dismal to say the least. Where were all the tailor we were supposed to catch. Not one at that stage.

I saw Bretton Stitfold hook, play and unfortunately lose what was almost certainly a yellowtail kingfish. I also saw Vix land one from the tennis court right behind where Malcolm and I were fishing. That was

followed up with a tarwhine that unfortunately for Vix cost her the rest of her weekend when she slipped over and put a nasty gash in her leg that required picking up by ambulance and multiple stitches. Ouch!

With not much happening on the south side I thought that it would be a good time to check out Cathedral Rocks. It's usually a pretty reliable spot, with fish that can be better quality than those caught at Radar. It was slow going but I was able to spin up two reasonable tailor fishing off the island. The hole was completely dead, probably because the water level was by now fairly low and way too calm. I cleaned my catch and then headed out to Cape Vlamingh and had a bite to eat and a bit of a rest.

By now it was about 2:00 and time to make a move to my afternoon fishing destination, North Point. The last time I fished this place my young nephew landed a Dhufish of very respectable proportions, so I was hoping it might be my turn to have a bit of luck. I jumped on the bike and pointed it east. It was quite easy riding towing the trailer. I found I could get a good head of speed up going down hill and then just coast over the next one. The only time it was hard was when I didn't have enough momentum to carry me over the next hill, then the old legs would be burning trying to get to the top.

I arrived at the spot and humped the gear around the rocks and got set up full of 'anglers optimism'. Conditions looked good. A bit of white water and tide low enough to fish the reef edge easily. How could I miss out? Well someone must have told the fish I was coming because they were obviously elsewhere. I fished away for a couple of hours without a sniff. By now I was feeling pretty buggered so I waded ashore and promptly fell asleep on a nice flat rock for about an hour.

When I awoke it was about 5:00 or so and starting to get a bit darker so I thought I would try again. Prime time, right? I think I should have stayed asleep because there was still nothing about. Oh well, fishing can be like that. On the bike again and back to the settlement, arriving just in time to beat the rest of the mob to the showers. Nice to be clean again and relax with a beer or two.

Sunday morning came around fast with a 5:00 a.m. wake up call. I slept better Saturday night. Probably too tired to notice the snorers. Anyway, I couldn't muster the energy or enthusiasm to be on the bus when it left so I went back to sleep till about 8:00. Ah, luxury! It seemed I wasn't the only one with lazy bones. Half the camp had stayed behind! Bretton had decided to fish down near the basin so after a leisurely brekky I thought I would go and have a look see, just in case he was catching anything. Pretty uneventful down there. Fed the aquarium fish for a couple of hours with nothing worthwhile to show for it.

The weigh in turned up some nice fish, with the boys who stayed behind at Radar mostly weighing in a yellowtail kingfish each and a few more tailor from Cathedral. But considering the effort put in most of the bags were pretty light on. Still it was a good weekend with good company and it's always good to get away to our favourite island. See you over there next year!

Mark Farnay.

An Alternative Fishing Competition.

Here's a suggestion for a bit of a change to our fishing competitions and to add a lot of excitement.....

We should just follow the lead of the Argungu Fishing Festival held in the north-western Nigerian state of Kebbi.

The winner's prize is a brand new bus and one million naira (around \$9500) which goes to whoever catches the heaviest fish. 2005's winning fish weighed 75kg.

The Matan Fada river is small, but it is well stocked. Fishermen only go there once a year on the day of the festival.

Thousands of fishermen line up on the banks of the river, carrying their traditional nets and gourds. At the sound of a gun, they run like crazy towards the narrow river and leap into the water where they have just one hour to catch the biggest fish.

Fishing is accompanied by the beat of drummers who move through the congested water in their canoes.

The annual competition is growing in size. This year some of the fishermen struggled to find space to enter the water. Despite this, the organisers say they are determined that next year's event will be bigger still.

TerryF

My First Shark

Fishing in the Swan river was a real adventure during my youth because you could go anywhere at any time of the day, never interfered with, leave your bike and gear alone and not be concerned about losing it, perfect strangers would talk to you in a friendly manner and offers of advice or assistance were freely given. Behave like a smarty bum and you would be avoided.....

It was during my final year of teens and I still took time out to go fishing in the river as a break from the perils of life like booze, birds 'n' bikes. A respite to catch up on some sleep and rest so that the heavenly body could recoup for future adventures. Footy injuries or self inflicted wounds had time to mend, summer was approaching which meant longer nights out and about.

One of my favourite spots on the river was the old Swan Yacht Club jetty (long gone now) situated just below the new Stirling Bridge. A great spot where good tailor, flathead and mulloway could be obtained

from a deep gutter out front. The shallows held cobbler and crabs, the odd yellowfin whiting or herring. On some previous outings I had experienced the occasional big run and a bust off but put it down to poor gear or inexperience.

With a quick run down to the "A shed" landing (Freo wharf) to grab some slimy mackerel or yellowtail bait, nip under the wharf to scrape some mussels then home for tea and the main fishing gear and you hit the jetty just on dusk, ready to go fishing for the evening. Potluck gave you first choice of which corner of the jetty.

Nobody gave a rats dindaling about the tides, moon phases or a fisherman's almanac thingo. Common knowledge was that mulloway entered the river near the start of November and any deep-water location gave you a good chance. Sometimes small chopper tailor were about and provided a good livebait.

Being a working class lad at the time I had finances to update my gear so a 7 foot cane rod with a bakelite type reel (hazy memory) loaded with 30lb line was my tackle along with the trusty handlines, a pocket full of old rusty nuts (?) for sinkers, a assortment of hooks and the odd oversized swivel. The kero lantern gave good light (and warmth), Dad's Gladstone bag held the tackle, the tatty old army greatcoat kept out the cold and a woolly scarf kept the snoz from dripping. A paper bag held the soggy jaffles and bottles of fanta or coke.

On setting up the handline was baited and lowered alongside the jetty, the rod tackle set up then line was run off along the jetty then chucked out as far as possible. A few yards were run off and coiled around an empty bottle to act as a bite indicator. An old footy sock was placed close to use as a drag system.

Success was very limited on many a night but with the old transistor on 6KY the rock n roll music eased the boredom. A huge bluff bream was my only catch for the night and as curfew time was close I decide to wind in and give it away. A yank off the bottom and I thought I was snagged until the rod was nearly yanked out of my arms and line started to peel off. The rod bit into the family jewels with such force that lumps developed behind my ears, a crosseyed vision had me near in tears and the bloody smelly footy sock was starting to smoke.

The old fart that was alongside me yelled instructions and screamed out "SHARK", give it line ya liddle twit. The line stretched clear out into the middle of the river so I gave it heaps winning and loosing line for at least a half-hour before it tired and was near the jetty. That old soggy sock stunk (or was it the old fart), my arms were bugged, the body ached in funny places BUT I was winning the battle. I eased my way down the jetty towards the sand and cajoled that fish into shore. I staggered back and dragged the shark up onto the sand.

My first shark and it was 2 foot long.....wot u thort it was gunna be bigga?????

Have you ever tried to stab to death a shark with a blunt old butter knife? Try and fillet with same knife and not slash oneself?

Anyway I got it home and was assisted in despatching and filleting it AND was treated like a true blue food provider.

PS. neva cort anuva fangy fish since.....

Hemingway Hendo.

AAA State Estuary Championships.

The State Estuary Fishing Championships for 2005/2006 was held in the Mandurah Peel Inlet and the rivers that flow into it on Saturday and Sunday, 26/27 November, 2005, for teams of club members and for individual club members from clubs affiliated with AAA.

The purpose of the event was to provide an enjoyable outing for members plus an inter club event.

Headquarters for the event was at the Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Club. The club is set at the entrance to the Peel Inlet, surrounded by the well tended lawns and is a perfect setting to run such an event. The organising committee is grateful for the use of the facilities and support that was offered during the event by Gerry Pietersen.

Competitors fished in seriously rough conditions. I cannot remember such rough conditions for a State Estuary event that has been run in November.

A gale force east wind blew for the duration, easing only around dawn. The event was accompanied by a long period of nearby lightning, a torrential downpour overnight and a heavy hail storm. On Sunday the temperature peaked at 33 degrees.

Thanks to the organising committee for their efforts in putting the event together. Special thanks to:- John Ward as organiser of the prizes for the event, Don Cox as the Field Day Officer, Peter Stoeckel for organising the trophies for the event, Sharon Smith as Photographer for the event, Gerry Pietersen for assistance during the event and for the use of the Headquarters facilities, and Andrew Stoeckel for assistance in running the computer scoring system.

The Patron's Cup was won by Melville Amateur Angling Club.

Kevin Hughes, Chairman, AAA Rock and Beach and Estuary Subcommittee.

Individual winners' catches were:-

Name	Club	Weight	Species	Fish	Total Points	
Kevin Hughes	Bunbury	3.81	4	14	69.2	Mens.
Steve Bruhn	Melville	2.77	4	14	65.1	Mens runner up.
Filomena D'Alonzo	Surfcasters	1.47	4	8	53.9	Ladies.
Sharon Osborne	Surfcasters	1.28	4	7	52.1	Ladies runner up.
Peter Osborne	Surfcasters	3.02	5	12	74.1	Veterans.
Tony D'Alonzo	Surfcasters	1.95	4	11	58.8	Veterans runner up.

Winning Teams were:-	Mens Winner	Ocean Reef Sea Sports Club
	Mens Runner-up	Melville Amateur Angling Club
	Ladies Winner	Surf Casting and Angling Club
	Ladies Runner-up	Melville Amateur Angling Club
	Veterans Winner	Surf Casting and Angling Club
	Veterans Runner-up	Melville Amateur Angling Club

Heaviest of species caught were:

Black Bream	670g	Mick Burgin	Melville Amateur Angling Club
Whiting	200g	Kevin Hughes	Bunbury Angling Club
Herring	330g	Natalie Cass	Ocean Reef Sea Sports Club
Tailor	510g	Kevin Hughes	Bunbury Angling Club
Tarwhine	345g	Peter Osborne	Surf Casting and Angling Club
Salmon	475g	Peter Osborne	Surf Casting and Angling Club
Skippy	380g	Tony Bresnan	Melville Amateur Angling Club

Some Things Never Change.

Read this little article below. And then note that it was NOT written by the current 2005/6 committee. In fact it was written by the 1962/63 committee for the January 1963 Reel Talk. That's 43 years ago.

All Club Competitions - Drycasting and Field Day. As this year's competitions are rapidly coming to a close, they finish at the end of April, and with the new competitions starting on the 1st May, it is the Committee's sincere request that members give these important aspects of your club's activities their fullest thoughts and cooperation by putting forward ideas or suggestions, new or old for consideration.

It is by getting ideas from members, collating them and giving their suggestions for improvement to club competitions, of benefit to all members that your Committee can put forward the best possible competitions. Surely this is not so very difficult, especially if you have already some ideas formulated as to what improvements you would like to see made in either one or all of our competitions. So regardless of how bizarre they may appear, put them on a piece of paper and hand them on to a Committee member. It's as easy as that.

Every year this request is made by your President - every year the results of this request are poor indeed. Possibly most members are happy with the present competitions. If you have suggestions send them in, if you are happy with things the way they are please say so. This is the only way your Committee has of really assessing the value of the competitions to members.

Members have been heard to say "Leave it to the Committee, they will fix it, that's what they are there for". This is not completely correct. The Committee wants to help you make YOUR decisions not the Committee's decisions. This is your club, your responsibility, and we are only in office to help members in the management and good ruling and running of it.

As members have nearly four months from now to think and do something about alterations or additions to our Competitions, please, make an endeavour over that period to do something of a constructive nature to help yourself and your club.

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The heading of this 2006 article says "**Some Things Never Change.**" And that seems to be true because nothing has changed in the plea in that article which is **EXACTLY** the same as the plea and the comments we have this year.

Or will they, in fact, actually change this year?

You have a chance to say what you think in the questionnaire and the call for suggestions for field day venues which was included with the December 2005 Reel Talk. Will **you** use that chance?

Snippet

Fishing - The art of casting, trolling, jigging or spinning, while freezing, sweating, swatting or swearing.

Thanks to Roy Killick.

Field Day Quinns Beach 15/16 December, 1962

Weather conditions :- Fresh gusty southerly winds - causing weed to move along the entire beach area which made angling extremely difficult though not impossible to our lads. They carried on regardless. The breeze however did not drop until after 11 p.m. By that time many of the lads had retired to their bedrolls or were having a bit of a yacka on you can guess what topic before doing so - so that they could have a fairly early night for an early morning effort.

Thirty nine members and thirteen juniors made a good attendance. The south area returned the best bags of fish and straight down from the parking area except for an odd tailor, shark and ray. The fishing was very slow. The north area also returned a few nice fish, though nothing really of note, which certainly wasn't for the lack of trying by members. If the fish had been there the lads who were there would have had them kicking sand mighty quick.

On arrival at Quinn's Beach, Norm Clark and myself set up headquarters where the Club sign was erected and the scales set in readiness for the weigh-in. (I must commend our two stalwart members Jim Strong and Norm Clark on their efficient and effective manner in which they organised and help, and their readiness to hand on information on these Field Days of ours. 1962 Ed.)

Shortly after 3 pm the lads started to arrive. The two Rons, Ron Shirley and Ron Kildahl were the first to arrive on the scene and after a look-see at the main beach area they decided for better or worse to head north, though once again they found weed and after a brief conference decided to lay up and take it easy until the breeze abated and then give it a go,

With the departure of the Rons there was a constant stream of arrivals and having been "booked-in" on the Field Day and hasty discussions taking place between themselves as to where the "hot spots" would be - off they ventured to the place of their choice. It is good to see and hear these chaps freely discuss the pros and cons of what they think on different fishing places, without being secretive in case anybody else knows where they are going.

Snow Tate, Allan Livesy, "Tiger" Lilly, Tom Smith, Bob Tucker and also Hugh Gregory all decided on the south area and their choice of venues proved correct for it was from this area that the best bags were returned. Though they certainly had to work mighty hard for them. The weed in this area was also thick which made fishing a difficult and tedious effort. There is no stopping these lads and a short walk of two or three miles is all part of the game to them.

Shortly after 4 p.m. both Norm and myself made our way down to the beach where we had our gear in readiness, though the fishing was very quiet,. Terry Fuller was noticed playing a tailor in and for a while we all lived in the hope that the tailor would make a run along the beach. But this was not to be so, and as the blowies were terrific cleaning the mulies off the hooks in a few minutes we all started to taper off after a while and take it easy.

Noticed that several of the members meant to be as comfortable as possible. Phil Neri had erected a beach umbrella which gave himself and young Gary some measure of protection from the breeze, also that Bill Utting had erected a small beach tent for himself and the lads he had with him. That is one thing about these local venues, you can bring along a few of the comforts which make angling so much more enjoyable.

Quite a few of the lads inspected the Landrover which had done the trip to the "Edge of the Wedge" that was in last month's issue of Reel Talk. By the look of it it doesn't inspire confidence to go anywhere - but Ken reckons that It's not appearance that makes a motor go, and he should know. At any rate the last we saw of it was in the morning disappearing around the corner with an ugly looking shark chasing it.

During the evening Nick Crouch was observed playing a shark through the weed, but it takes more than weed to stop Nick from beaching a fish. Also Norm Clark had a few anxious moments when he also picked up a shark, and as Kevin Hawker was wearing waders he was elected to do the honours with the gaff, which he did very smartly. Bob Tichbon also caught a school shark about the same time and on this occasion Jerry Windus was the man with the waders and the wielder of the gaff which he did without effort. (Remember when gaffing to strike under and up into the soft under belly of the Shark. Take your time and one strike will be enough with a good sharp gaff.) .

Shortly after 4am the beach was alive with activity as the members did their utmost to fill their bags though once again the tailor were conspicuous by their absence, and all too soon the B- blowies took over. By about 6.30am most of the lads had had enough and returned to have breakfast and await news of the catches from the north and south areas. As far as I know there was only one tailor caught in the morning off the main beach and that was by Mick Doscas.

Eventually the boys started to report in to weigh their captures. "Tiger" Lilly, Bob Tucker and Tom Smith arrived all smiles (though tired) with quite good bags of both tailor and Mulloway which made their efforts worthwhile,

Bob Jensen, Cec Houghton and Rick arrived and once again the weigh-in was on. Bob made fourth place with his bag of fish. Some of the tailor and mulloway amazed many of us and has given us a fresh hope for the future for there was some good sized fish caught.

It was good to see Bill Bridger and Ken Wiggins along and I am only sorry that conditions could not have been better for them and the fish more plentiful. Still better luck next time.

Ralph Hansen was happy with his ray capture as it put him in the money and a 25lb ray through that weed was no mean effort on his behalf. Good work Ralph. Ernie White was observed cutting the flaps off the ray to take home. Up until Ralph caught his 25lb ray it looked like Cec Houghton had this section. Still that's the way it goes.

Bert Payne and Pearl and also a friend attended the Field Day, though Bert found conditions almost impossible where he was and they returned during the night.

So closed another happy Field Day. Even though fishing was, to say the least, difficult, it was a pleasure to be there and have a chat to the many members present. There is never a dull moment with these lads. Though I think that Jerry Windus was really baffled when, on returning from the beach he found an ugly looking Port Jackson shark straddling his motor scooter. Never mind Jerry, it took a good photo for the club album.

My congrats to the award winners and many thanks for the assistance given to both Norm and myself, and I hope that I will see you all along in the New Year to bigger and better Field Days.

The next Field Day is at Golden Bay which is on the way to Mandurah. It cannot be missed for there is a large sign advertising the place on the right hand side of the road. Follow the road to the parking area where the Club sign will be erected. Fishing areas are north and south as far as members wish to walk. Any new information in regard to this venue will be advised at our next General Meeting. Fishing commences at 4pm and the weigh-in will be between 8am and 9am.

Wishing all members a Merry Xmas and a bright and prosperous New Year with whips of fish and plenty of free time to go fishing.

Jim Strong, FDO 1962.

Fish caught on 15/16 December 1962 Field Day

Bob Tucker	3 mulloway, 3 tailor	18 ¼ lbs	Norm Clark	blue whaler shark	9 ½ lbs.
Bob Lilly	1 mulloway, 3 tailor	13 lbs.	Hugh Gregory	1 tailor	1 ½ lbs.
Tom Smith	1 mulloway, 2 tailor, 2 snook	7 ¼ lbs.	Allan Bunnett	2 snook, 1 herring	1 ½ lbs.
RickJensen	4 tailor, 1 flathead	5 ¾ lbs.	Mick Doscas	1 snook, 1 tailor	1 ½ lbs.
	7lb fiddle shark (not eligible)		Ron Shirley	1 tailor	1 ½ lbs.
Allan Livesey	1 mulloway	4 ½ lbs.	Dennis Rogers	1 tailor	1 ½ lbs.
Eric Sullivan	2 tailor	3 ¾ lbs.	Jim Strong	1 snook, 1 herring	1 ½ lbs.
Terry Fuller	2 tailor	3 lbs.	D. Butt	1 tailor	1 lb.
Cec Houghton	2 tailor	3 lbs.	Bill Utting	1 tailor	¾ lb.
	1 ray	20 lbs.	Bill Bridger	1 herring	½ lb.
Bob Tichbon	1 tailor	½ lb.	Don Webb	1 tailor	½ lb.
	blue whaler shark	10 lbs.	Ian McLennan	1 snook	½ lb.
Nick Crouch	1 tailor	¾ lb.	Ralph Hansen	1 ray	25 lbs.
	school shark	6 ¾ lbs.	Juniors		
Les Tate	1 tailor	1 ¾ lbs.	Rick Jensen	2 tailor	3 lbs.
Total weight of scale fish 77½ lbs.		Total weight of rays 45 lbs.	Total weight of sharks 23 ¾ lbs.		

December 2005 Field Day Report

Extended "Local", boundaries Golden Bay to Seabird on 10-11 December 2005

Just eight of our members struggled out of bed to take advantage of the extended boundaries and fishing times for this weekend. The weather on the Saturday could not have been better, glassy calm water, (a little too calm for tailor as it turned out) but it was just magic to be on the beach at first light.

Sunday was a different matter entirely with a front moving in overnight. The wind was up and the rain came down but still fishable if you were keen enough.

Josh, Peter and George fished the Metro areas with a good range of species between them. Peter did particularly well with eight species from the one location.

Ian and Mark elected to fish the up and down the Canning River. A couple of black bream and a few that got away was all their reward.

Tony fished north around the Moore River and Vix and I did the same. It's funny who you meet on the beach at times, or should I say scary. Vix and I had identified our spot and arrived while it was still dark to give us enough time to set up for first light. We drove down to the beach and killed the lights then proceeded to assemble our fishing gear in the back of the vehicle.

Then out of the dark and very close to my ear comes a "G'day." After I climbed down from on top of the vehicle and my vision cleared I recognized the unmistakable figure of Tony enjoying my discomfort. He had arrived before us and was sitting behind a rock waiting for the light to come up and we had driven to within a few meters of where he was sitting without seeing him. It seems that at times no matter how early you think you are someone else is going to be there before you.

The weigh-in was held at George's place on Sunday afternoon and it was good to see Terry and Ric attend even though they did not fish. By the number of species that was weighed in you could be mistaken for assuming that the field day was held in more productive waters than that around Perth.

Twelve species in total, herring, tailor, skippy, tarwhine, flathead, pike, whiting, garfish, break sea cod, slimy mackerel, wirrah and wrasse.

There was one bag of tailor, 5 dozen herring, and a couple of each of the other species. It just goes to prove that we are very fortunate to live in a city that has easy access to good fishing right on its door step. With the co-operation of all fishers hopefully we will keep it that way into the future.

Another good fishing weekend, a fair catch and all so close to home

The next field day is another close one, Preston/White Hills on the 14/15 January 2006, so hopefully it will tempt more people to attend.

Hope to see you on the beach next time.

Malcolm Harris, Field Day Officer.

Here is an update with species details which were not included in recent Reel Talks.

Species caught on the September Field Day were:- herring, tailor, mulloway, flathead.

Species caught on the October Field Day were:- herring, tailor, trevally, skipjack, yellowtail kingfish, breaksea cod, wrasse, western rock blackfish, tarwhine, snook, flathead, pink snapper, mulloway.

Species caught on the November Field Day were:- herring, tailor, salmon, flounder, skipjack trevally, flathead, tarwhine, snook, shark, mulloway.

Results for the December 2005 Field Day.

Angler	Weight	Species	Fish	Points
Malcolm Harris	7.41 kg	7	30	184.1
Tony D'Alonzo	6.75 kg	6	30	177.5
Peter Osborne	3.1 kg	8	14	161
Vix Alexander	4.45 kg	5	19	134.5
George Holman	2.05 kg	2	8	90.5
Josh Lucocq	0.85 kg	1	5	68.5
Ian Cook	0 kg	0	0	50

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

Best Scale Fish	Vix Alexander	Tailor	0.675 kg
Best Bag of Scale fish	Malcolm Harris	Mixed Bag	7.41 kg

Field Day Sections up to December 2005.

1A	Best Scale Fish (1st Six Months)	Tony D'Alonzo	Mulloway	4.750 kg
1B	Best Scale Fish (2nd Six Months)	Vix Alexander	Mulloway	1.700 kg
2	Most Meritous Fish	Decided by Committee		
3	Best Shark (4.5kg min)	Peter Osborne	Shark	5.025 kg
4	Best Mulloway (2.0kg min)	Tony D'Alonzo	Mulloway	4.750 kg
5	Best Tailor (1.0kg min)	Tony Ong	Tailor	2.005 kg
6	Best Salmon (3kg min)	John Romano	Salmon	3.850 kg
7	Best Skipjack Trevally (0.5 kg min)	Tony Ong	Trevally, Skipjack	0.825 kg
8	Best Mackerel (2kg Min)		No entry	
9	Best Scale Fish (Other than above)	Ian Cook	Yellowtail Kingfish	4.0 kg
10	Best Bag Of Scale Fish	Tony D'Alonzo	Mixed Bag	27.855 kg
11	Best Bag Of Mulloway (2 Fish Min)	Tony D'Alonzo	Mulloway	9.0 kg
12	Best Bag Of Tailor (2 Fish Min)	Tony Ong	Tailor	6.350 kg
13	Best Fish On S/H Rod 4kg b/s line (max)		No entry	
14	Best Fish Caught on Fly Rod		No entry	

Field Day Top Ten for 2005/2006 up to December 2005.

	Angler	Total Points		Angler	Total Points
1	Tony D'Alonzo	2073.7	6	Vix Alexander	601.8
2	Peter Osborne	881.8	7	Filomena D'Alonzo	499.8
3	Malcolm Harris	871.3	8	Ian Cook	465.3
4	George Holman	747.6	9	Mark Hansen	356.7
5	Tony Ong	654.0	10	Dale Coates	325.3

Canning River on Extended Local Field Day.

I was having a chat on Saturday morning with Mark "Big Foot" Hansen about fishing in general. The conclusion was that two novice fishermen would go reconnoitering for black bream in the upper reaches of the Canning River.

On arriving at Hester Place Reserve I found I had my beautiful new bream rod but had left the reels on the bench!! Wendy kindly brought down two spare reels. There was no action here so we moved down to below the Kent Street Weir which is still overflowing.

We immediately started getting bites but the bream we landed were small. Large schools of mullet moved up and down the river close to the bank very regularly. We walked down to Castledare Boys Home and had a look at the miniature steam trains. While chatting to a member he told us that he has seen mulloway caught at the landing. These fish have been caught during the day. The fish would have been 5 -8 kg.

We have decided to explore the area down stream of Castledare to the Riverton Bridge on a future trip. A lot of this area is hard to access so we feel it might be productive. Any tips for Spencer and Tony Ong would be welcomed. It was good relaxing morning's fishing in nice surroundings. Except for the sounds of civilisation you could have been forgiven for thinking you were somewhere down south.

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to all members and their families

Cheers, Cookie.

People Urged to Avoid Mosquito Bites.

More than 50 cases of Ross River virus have been reported since July, most in December, with Rockingham, Mandurah, Murray and Waroona the worst hit areas.

It appears there is a focus of activity in the Peel region, and people in that area in particular, need to be aware of the risk of Ross River virus and avoid being bitten by mosquitoes.

Recfishwest Draft Policy for "Catch and Release" Fishing.

With the push for more catch and release fishing as part of the Club's competitions, and the review and setting of our fishing competitions for the 2006/7 fishing year, it is perhaps timely that Recfishwest has prepared a Draft Policy for "Catch and Release" Fishing. This is a draft which has been released for public comments before a final policy is prepared.

There are many issues with releasing fish which would not be obvious to many people until they have them pointed out.

This policy is for the information of anglers, so that people who want to fish for the future and catch and release fish responsibly can do it in a way that the fish have the maximum possible chance of survival, and the angler is aware of the impact he might be having on fish stocks.

These "best practices" for fishing to ensure maximum survival are covered in many places and publications, and are being continually updated with the latest information. For example, see the National Strategy for the Survival of Released Line Caught Fish at <http://www.info-fish.net/releasefish/>

There is no intention to propose or make any new rules about how people should fish. But having said that, with Integrated Fisheries Management, and allocation of catch shares and then the need to manage the catch to within the allocation, everyone needs to be aware of the following very important points.

The Department of Fisheries doesn't care how many fish you **catch.**

They only care about how many fish you kill.

That fish death can be because you kept it for a feed, or because your catch and handling methods lead to the death of the fish, whether deliberate, incidental or accidental. So mortality from releasing fish **WILL** be included in the measure of the amount of fish taken by recreational anglers. And **THAT** might lead to changes in the rules or the bag limits.

Summary: Recfishwest supports catch and release fishing as part of the legislative requirements and legitimate aspirations of recreational fishers.

Recfishwest recognises that people release fish for a variety of reasons; because they are required to do so by legislation relating to bag or size limits; because the fish is not suitable or desirable to eat; or because they wish to be able to capture that fish in the future.

Recfishwest will promote a set of guidelines which will describe careful fishing practice to minimise the risk of harm to captured fish and will describe best practice handling and release procedures that increase the survival of released fish.

Recreational Fishing. Recreational fishing as an important activity has changed dramatically over the last 15 years. As available leisure time increases, activities such as recreational fishing have also increased in popularity. The community benefits of recreational fishing as an integral part of the Western Australian health and well being is being increasingly recognised.

However, the overall impacts of a growing population and increasing urbanisation means that the resource must be increasingly tightly managed to ensure that it is sustainable and that the community recognises the role that fishers play in management and protection of the environmental integrity of our fragile coastal environments.

Recreational fishers have long recognised the need for management controls. Since 1990 when the first major review of recreational fishing was undertaken, there have been four or five major reviews of recreational line fishing practices alone.

Whereas previously recreational fishing was primarily motivated by the desire to catch sufficient fish to feed oneself and family, many fishers are motivated by the desire to relax or enjoy the company of friends. The national recreational and indigenous fishing survey (2003) listed the three main reasons for going fishing as – relax and unwind (28%), to be with family (20%) and to fish for sport (18%). Only 11% (equal 4th) rated fishing for food as their main motivation for going fishing.

Recreational fishers are also driving increasingly complex management rules such as maximum size limits or seasonal closures which require increasing understanding of the need to catch, handle and release larger fish in a way that maximises the likelihood of survival. These rules are necessary to ensure that the resource is not over-exploited, can be shared amongst more anglers and recognises the increasing importance on the value of large fish within a population.

Ethical considerations. Recfishwest believes that we are justified in opposing most of the most radical anthropomorphic views with respect to fish. There is no evidence that fish have imagination or self-consciousness. Studies suggest that fish do not feel pain in the same way as humans. To be more specific we can consider the impact of hooks in the mouth of a fish. Most of the fish sought by anglers are higher order predators and must be used to grabbing things in their mouth that have spines, spikes, shells and other “uncomfortable” characteristics.

Recreational fishers are all agreed, by common sense as well as national and international obligation, that we must not endanger the species for which we fish. Further than this we should not reduce its abundance below a certain prescribed level agreed by scientific and stakeholder consultation.

Any fish that is taken diminishes the resource for the other “users”, which could be seabirds, commercial or recreational fishers, or people snorkelling. Although we have accepted that we can take fish within the community’s rules we should not waste them unnecessarily. The practice of catching fish and leaving it to deteriorate in quality such that it must be discarded can no longer be accepted.

This issue of incidental mortality as a result of our fishing activity is one that needs careful consideration. Recfishwest believes that fish destined to be released should be captured as quickly as possible, handled as little as possible and released using the best available methods to increase the likelihood of survival. It will never be possible to eliminate incidental mortality but good practice should be adopted and promoted widely and research programs should continue to work to improve survival of fish released by statute or choice.

To summarise:- Recfishwest believes there is a thoroughly defensible basis for recreational fishing. Humans have been catching fish to eat since prehistoric times. It has a cultural value, it has practical dietary value, and it maintains our traditional links with our original subsistence mode of living. The activity of fishing promotes mental and physical health. The use of the fish resource must be managed to meet objectives of sustainability and equity with other users.

Sustainability, equity and ethics in fishery management. Fishery management is concerned primarily with sustainability. It is also concerned to some extent with equity. This is much more evident in commercial fisheries whereas in recreational fisheries a few fishers catch a large proportion of the fish.

Fishery management has not largely been directly concerned with ethical behaviour as it is largely seen as secondary to sustainability and could be argued to be the responsibility of the community itself. The current fishing behaviour of recreational fishers is very much an outcome of the rapidly changing culture.

As a peak body, Recfishwest should not resile from adopting a policy because it will be hard to ensure compliance. For example we all realise that “high grading” is a bad practice, which is difficult to police, but it should not stop us from proposing a fishing code of ethics that proscribes it and doing everything possible to see that stopping unnecessary wastage becomes a part of the culture of recreational fishing.

Incidental mortality in fishing. The term fishing has been used generally in this paper but the real emphasis is on fishing with a hook on a line because this is the dominant practice in recreational fishing and particularly in relation to discussions of catch and release. When fishing with a hook on a line there is always a danger of catching a fish which cannot be kept due to prevailing regulations. Such fish may be illegal because they belong to a proscribed species, are too small or too large or you already have the bag limit in your possession. In such cases the fish must be returned to the water.

The legal situation is clear. Whether the fish is alive or dead, or regardless of whether it will survive, it must be returned. However, if the fish dies it contributes to incidental mortality and will ultimately be included in the total allowable catch and will see a reduction in the catch available to be retained.

Recfishwest encourages recreational fishers to fish in such a way that increases the survival of all released fish. This includes the use of the release weight where barotrauma is a factor or fishing in as shallow water as possible for the targeted species.

An issue which needs to be addressed is that all fishers, irrespective of their motivation and retained catch, must acknowledge that they have an impact on the resource. It is that impact on the resource which must be managed, as well as meeting the sometimes differing aspirations of individual anglers.

We know, for example, that tailor survive release very well from work by Dr Suzanne Ayvazian. An angler who catches one legal sized fish for tea and then leaves has a total mortality of one fish. An angler who catches and releases 40 fish with an incidental mortality of around 3% has had a net mortality of 1.2 fish which is greater, even though they may feel that they have had no impact as they let all their fish go. Future fisheries management will make rules and allocations based upon the combined impact of both of these different anglers.

Catch and release fishing. An increasing number of recreational fishers choose to release fish that they could otherwise retain. Research shows that in many cases, especially in shallow water, the incidental mortality is very low. Many catch and release proponents choose to fish with lure or fly or use circle hooks where the hook related mortality issues are greatly diminished.

The relative impact of food fishers releasing gut hooked undersized fish versus larger lightly hooked fish on a lure is being investigated and will help the overall education to reduce total mortality. Rather than worry about the motivation of individual anglers, the proper role for Recfishwest is to develop strategies that reduce incidental mortality in all its forms.

Some types of catch and release fishing include -

- Big game fishing. This is virtually always for catch and release. Big game fishing providing a lot of recreational and economic activity from an extraordinarily small direct take of a fish resource. Many fish are tagged and released as part of an often angler funded research program. Much of the scientific information on movement and growth of these species has been derived from these research programs, some of which have had commercial fishing implications. It must be acknowledged that there is an impact on the resource through some incidental mortality. Game fishing however, has evolved a set of performance criteria based upon strike rates or hits which, by definition provide a very conservative catch rate relative to more traditional commercial fisheries management strategies.
- Catch and release sport fishing. This is practised in inland water as well as the ocean by anglers who catch fish for recreation, while keeping none or a few, to take to eat. This can be done in a remote locality with excellent fishing or in heavily fished areas where taking each fish caught could have a significant impact on the stocks and fishing quality. One motivation is to enjoy the availability or abundance of fish while having less impact on it.
- Fishing where a large proportion of the fish have to be returned. This often occurs where there are many undersized or unwanted fish that have to be returned. Many estuaries have juvenile fish or species such as blowies and Recfishwest strongly advocates for methods that reduce or remove the by-catch of these fish. The total mortality of these fish will ultimately be included in the overall allocation and reducing the impact will greatly benefit future sustainability. Recfishwest has an obligation to take a lead role in reducing point source incidental mortality through education or if required, regulation.
- Continuing to fish and releasing the fish after the bag limit has been achieved. The total mortality continues through released fish and is to be discouraged, particularly with methods where incidental mortality through deep hooking or barotrauma is high.
- Competitive fishing. Competition fishing can take many forms including both informal (a couple of mates in the boat) or formal (organised events) situations. Organisers are strongly encouraged to manage the total mortality, quality of the catch and encourage participation rather than total kill based prizes. Most competitions in Western Australia are extremely responsible and Recfishwest has an obligation to work with organisers to ensure that their practices do not reflect adversely on the wider recreational fishing community.

Special areas for catch and release fishing. The recent debate about marine parks has brought to the surface the possibility of setting aside some areas for catch and release or low impact fishing. This provides for the opportunity to study the biological and stock implications of a variety of management tools which also provide for a wider spectrum of recreational fishing expectations and motivations.

Recfishwest believes that the most appropriate way in which coastal areas could be zoned for the benefit of catch and release fishing is the identification of "Wilderness" zones or "Low Impact Fishing" zones. A characteristic of such zones would be that either all fish would need to be released or that no fish could be taken away from the area. (see the Recfishwest Policy for Wilderness or Low Impact Fishing zones)

APPENDIX 1 Appropriate and inappropriate fishing methods for catch and release.

It is suggested that there should be an extensive list of fishing practices prepared and this requires wide discussion. To start consideration of this list, which could be part of a publication on this topic, some suggestions are given below.

Catch and release fishing should have the following practices:-

- Single hooks should be used where possible.
- Hooks should be barbless or should have small barbs.
- All recreational fishers have an obligation to minimise the chance of deep hooking fish which is a major contributor to post capture mortality.
- Anglers are encouraged to move from areas where there are large numbers of undersized or unwanted species.
- Hooks should be appropriate to the size of the fish being targeted. Fish should not be allowed to swallow the hook if possible before setting the hook.
- Due to the lower deep hooking rate, lures or flies may be preferable to bait and circle hooks (particularly those with an offset of less than 15 degrees) may be advantageous.
- Lines should be strong enough to bring the fish quickly to the boat before it is exhausted. Exhaustion can cause irreversible lactic acid metabolism which kills fish.
- Fish must be able to be landed carefully. Fishing from high cliffs, spearfishing and use of gidgies for example requires special consideration of the difficulties associated with releasing fish.
- High grading, or returning dead smaller fish to keep a larger fish within the bag limits increases the total mortality and is opposed by Recfishwest. Continuing to fish after bag limits are reached, irrespective of any high grading also increases total mortality and should not be undertaken.

Weighing or Measuring Fish?

The weight of a fish has generally been used as a measure of the size of a fish. However recently there has been some shift to the use of length to indicate the size of a fish for some species. This is particularly the case where fish are intended for release.

Measuring Fish. It is often easier to measure the length of fish than it is to weigh it. Sometimes measuring is required anyway to determine if a fish is of legal size. Measuring rather than weighing limits the stress on fish which are to be released. It is also generally cheaper to buy an accurate ruler compared to an accurate set of scales.

To measure the length of a fish you should have a ruler handy, preferably one which has a stopper at one end to place the jaw of the fish against. The ruler should be horizontal on the ground on a wet towel or wet surface. The fish should be fully supported and placed on the ruler, the length measured and then the fish should be released.

Weighing Fish. Weighing fish on conventional scales generally results in the fish being hung on the scales by the jaw. This method should not be used for fish which are to be released.

Hanging the fish vertically by the jaw can damage the jaw or gills and the weight of the fish puts stress on the backbone and internal stomach organs. Remember the fish is used to being in water where it is weightless.

In some cases with larger fish this can cause the backbone to stretch and sometimes vertebrae will actually snap or become disconnected. The fish may swim away when released but it will die in the next few days.

Landing Nets or Gaffs. Knotless landing nets should be used. Knotted landing nets should be avoided because they remove the protective slime from fish and damage scales. A gaff should never be used on fish that are to be released.

Fish grips. Fish grips can be used to help restrain a fish, however care should be taken how these are used. Avoid grips with inbuilt scales and avoid the temptation of holding the fish up by the grip to measure its weight or place it on a ruler.

Recfishwest Board Meeting Report December 2005.

Here are some of the main points from the December 2005 Recfishwest Board Meeting.

Recfishwest has prepared a draft policy covering catch and release fishing which will be released for public comments before a final policy is prepared.

Recfishwest has prepared a draft policy on artificial reefs and habitat enhancement.

Recfishwest has advised the Minister for Fisheries that it does not support any changes in the limits for recreational shark catches because these are only a very tiny proportion of the commercial shark catches and changes in recreational catches would have no beneficial effect on sustainability of sharks.

Recfishwest has supported the proposal to reduce the slot limit for tailor to only 2 over 500 millimetres and has asked for tailor to be a recreational only species for the West Coast.

The Western Rock Lobster Integrated Fisheries Management (IFM) process is causing some concerns about the percentage catch share which will be allocated to recreational anglers. This is likely to lead to restrictions within about five years unless a share is bought from the commercial sector. This would require some millions of dollars and would have to be paid by the recreational sector, and could lead to WRL licences increasing from around \$30 to around \$130. The WRL IFM process is the first IFM species and will be setting important precedents.

Of great concern is the great difficulty in getting many recreational WRL people to be involved in the discussions. Already the Minister, the Department of Fisheries, and individual managers within the Department are getting the idea that IFM is not an unimportant issue for recreational anglers and that RFW's very detailed and thoughtful submission is not supported by the general recreational angling public. Contrast that to the greater amount of interest and involvement by the WRL commercial fishers, and it is obvious that there is the potential for recreational anglers to get a poor deal.

A RFW submission has been put in on the Abalone IFM paper.

After WRL and Abalone, the next species to be handled by the IFM process are the West Coast Demersal scale fish, including dhufish, pink snapper, baldchin groper, etc which are of great interest to the boating anglers, and will potentially have great impact on future recreational fishing.

A Ministerial inquiry has been announced into the Fish Resources Management Act. The inquiry was initiated by the Opposition parties, and the Minister allowed each to have one nomination for people on the committee. Separately two commercial fishermen were nominated by the two Opposition parties. Recfishwest has objected to this and requested that the chairman of Recfishwest be appointed to the inquiry.

Recfishwest has opposed the proposal to close the Logue Brook Dam to recreational fishing when it becomes a water supply dam. Related to this, comments have been put in on the Fisheries Management Paper dealing with future management of Marron.

Recfishwest is chasing up Government action on the new boat launching ramp in the Fremantle area promised in the election campaign.

The Fisheries Minister has advised that he supports the concept of separate fisheries management for the Perth metropolitan area, but this will not be done until the Commercial Wetline review decisions and until fish stock assessments and recreational catch surveys in 2006. The outcome of the commercial Wetline review had been expected in November but are now not expected until early 2006.

Your Suggestions for 2006/2007 Field Day Dates and Venues.

A tear out form for your suggestions for the 2006/2007 Field Day dates and venues was included in the December 2005 Reel Talk. Please fill it out and send to:- Secretary, SCAC, PO Box 2032 Marmion WA 6020, or hand to Terry Fuller at any Club event.

The deadline is before the January Committee Meeting, Wednesday 17 January 2006, but really we want it as soon as possible, please. **DO IT NOW, PLEASE !!**

Heavy Duty Sewing.

Contact Terry Fuller if you need some heavy duty strong sewing. The sewing machine can handle reinforcing or repairing tarpaulins, rope edging (ask George Holman for a reference), plastic, canvas, leather, shade cloth, webbing, straps, buckles, etc, for tent flies, windbreaks, bags, covers, etc.

Amendment to Competition Rules.

I give notice that I will move an addition to the Competition Rules as follows:-

Section 1.1.9. Amendment to These Competition Rules.

The Club's "Competition Rules" are different from the "Rules of the Association" as set out in the Constitution

All proposed amendments to the Competition Rules must be notified to members in writing before the meeting at which voting takes place.

All amendments made to the Competition Rules must be notified to all members prior to the commencement of the first affected event in any competition year."

The Competition Rules may be amended and applied part way through a competition year providing this is notified to and is endorsed by members of the Club, by a majority vote from eligible financial members present and voting at the meeting.

The Competition Rules must be confirmed or may be amended at a General Meeting held prior to the commencement of each competition year, voting as above.

TerryF.