

REEL TALK

JANUARY 2024



Official newsletter of the Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc)



Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc)

Reel Talk – January 2024 Contents

Cover picture – John Curtis and Ian McGillivray fishing from East Street Jetty in Fremantle. Photo courtesy of Chris Stickells

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LIFE MEMBERS

Ian Cook
Bob Henderson

Terry Fuller
Mal Head

Peter Osborne

Deceased life members

Vic Davis
Doug Edward
Lloyd Dunn
Dudley Brown

Noel Knight
Les Shand
Ron Kildahl
Bob Klein

Jim Strong
Eric Parker
George Holman

CLUB COMMITTEE

September 2023 – August 2024

All club emails should be sent to secretary@scac.net.au and all correspondence posted by mail should be addressed:

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



On the club's behalf, I wish all members a happy, relaxing year with plenty of fishing, food, and celebrations.

Helen Carnell; editor - on behalf of Ron Thomas; President

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 10 January, 2024

Address: Croatian Club in Wishart Street, Gwelup

Doors open no earlier than 6:45pm

Meal at 7.00pm with meeting at 8.00pm

Please RSVP to secretary for catering purposes by

NOON SUNDAY 7 JANUARY

January birthdays



Paul Terpkos

January 6

Pat McKeown

January 18

Emma Wignell

January 27

FISHING CALENDAR

Competition year June 2023 – May 2024

Field day dates have **mostly** been set as the weekend immediately following each General Meeting
Long weekends have been noted

| DATE | VENUE | BOUNDARIES |
|--|--|---|
| January 13 – 14 Australia Day LWE Friday 26 | Wilbinga / Guilderton and local Full moon – January 26 | Local boundaries will be determined at the general meeting before the field day |
| February 17 – 18 | Cervantes / Hill River and local New moon – February 10 | Local boundaries will be determined at the general meeting before the field day |
| March 2 – 4 Labour Day LWE | Reef Beach and open New moon – March 10 | Open – no boundaries. Please fish together for safety |
| March 30 – April 1 Easter LWE Anzac Day April 25 | Bluff Creek and open Full moon – April 25 | Open – no boundaries. Please fish together for safety |

Standard weekends

Lines down Saturday 0600
Lines up Sunday 0900

Long weekends and Rottnest

Lines down Saturday 0600
Lines up Monday 0900

Suggested local boundaries

Cervantes to Jurien (LWE)
Cottesloe Groyne to Quinns Rocks
Floreat Groyne to Yanchep
Ledge Point to Wedge Island
Moore River mouth to Three Mile Reef
North Mole Fremantle to Two Rocks Marina
North side of Peel Estuary to North Mole Fremantle
Penguin Island to Mullaloo Point
Preston Beach to Mandurah Cut
Seabird to Lancelin

Seabird
South side of Mandurah Cut to South Mole Fremantle
South side of Mandurah Cut to north side of Bunbury
Cut
Swan and Canning River upstream from railway bridge
Swan and Canning River including the inside (harbour
side) of the North & South Moles Fremantle
Yanchep to Lancelin
Yanchep to Ledge Point

ROTTNEST FIELD DAYS 2024

The scheduled dates for club field days on Rottnest for 2024 are:

June 22 – 23

August 3 – 4

The cost for each is \$170 per attendee, which includes accommodation, bus transportation, and ferry crates.

Members can travel in a group to Rottnest or make their own way over. Details of club and group arrangements will be organised closer to the dates.

DRY CASTING

December 11, 2023

The Polo Club now have an on-site caretaker / grounds man and boy has he delivered a fantastic competition ground for us to enjoy. We are blessed with a fabulous casting area. Well done to the Polo Club.

It was a quick set up and into the casting on a beautiful morning. Ron took the honours in nearly all events, a cast of 137 m in the 56 g, 128 m in the Art Bait, and 161 m in the 112 g. He then trounced us all in the DHA with 151 points but had some stiff competition in the SHA where I share the win with him.

For the first time this year Ron scored an "out of bounds"; blaming himself.

One thing I have learnt during my years with the SCAC and that is when you compete together as a group in the Club events, it is sheer enjoyment sharing the camaraderie and friendly competitions with your fellow club members alongside you. At the end of the day a friendly chin wag and a sausage sizzle ends the day on a high note.

Bob 'Hendo' Henderson; Dry Casting Officer

Results

| Name | DHA | H/C | SCORE | SHA | H/C | SCORE | TOTAL |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|-------|-------|
| VETERANS | | | | | | | |
| Gary Gildersleeves | | 0 | | 0 | 24 | 24 | 24 |
| Bob Henderson | 116 | 10 | 126 | 29 | 28 | 57 | 183 |
| Mal Head | 135 | 35 | 170 | 13 | 23 | 36 | 206 |
| Ron Thomas | 151 | 18 | 169 | 29 | 14 | 43 | 169 |
| Mark Hansen | 111 | 29 | 140 | 23 | 17 | 40 | 180 |

| NAME | 56g | H/C | SCORE | ART. BAIT | H/C | SCORE | 112g | H/C | SCORE | TOTAL |
|----------|--------|-----|--------|-----------|-----|--------|--------|-----|--------|---------|
| VETERANS | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gary G | 0 | 11 | 11 | | 9 | | | 15 | 15 | |
| | 0 | 11 | 11 | | 9 | | | 15 | 15 | 94 |
| Bob H | 123.23 | 12 | 139.39 | 106.16 | 15 | 121.56 | 134.07 | 15 | 149.07 | |
| | 126.39 | 12 | 138.39 | 113.82 | 15 | 128.82 | 120.84 | 15 | 135.84 | 996.07 |
| Mal H | 91.80 | 50 | 141.80 | 71.51 | 39 | 110.51 | 87.73 | 52 | 139.73 | |
| | 89.56 | 50 | 139.56 | 76.13 | 39 | 115.13 | 86.46 | 52 | 138.46 | 991.19 |
| Ron T | 126.84 | 0 | 126.84 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 154.86 | 0 | 154.86 | |
| | 137.63 | 0 | 137.63 | 128.27 | 0 | 128.27 | 162.86 | 0 | 162.86 | 879.46 |
| Mark H | 108.50 | 32 | 140.50 | 75.66 | 34 | 109.66 | 114.92 | 41 | 155.92 | |
| | 108.86 | 32 | 140.86 | 105.91 | 34 | 139.91 | 120.41 | 41 | 161.41 | 1028.26 |

Overall Winner with Handicap: Mark Hansen 1028.26

Dry casting is held once a month at:

Perth Polo Club

Meadow St

Guildford WA 6055

Please contact Bob Henderson if you are interested in joining in

Reel Talk

January 2024

FIELD DAY

Chidley Point, December 16 - 17

Yes, Mark and I decided to give Chidley Point another go but unfortunately a group had taken over the area for a private Xmas party, so we moved 50m down the cul-de-sac, followed the steps down to Green Park area. It has changed for numerous boat moorings have been added very close to shore, so this curtails long casts for a hookup would have you wrapped around the moorings. It has a small jetty, grassed areas and good for kids.

The blowies were thick and stripped a bait quickly. As the sun went down, we encountered numerous hookups from small snapper all 12 to 15cm in length. They are great little fighters and had you wondering if you had a decent bream on line. No other species were caught. That's a fishing day for you!

Around 7pm we fired up the burner and burnt some snags, had a cold drink and then sat and watched a brilliant display of lightning over the hills east of Perth. Bright flashes while others were dulled by the low clouds. There were many crabbers walking the Preston Point sandbank.

Sometimes you do, sometimes you don't but hey you gotta have a go.

Cheers

Bob Hendo

Results

| NAME | KG | SPECIES | NUMBER CAUGHT | FIELD DAY SCORE |
|----------------|----|---------|---------------|-----------------|
| Bob Henderson | 0 | 2 | 16 | 36 |
| Malcolm Harris | 0 | 2 | 7 | 27 |
| Mark Hansen | 0 | 2 | 2 | 22 |

Top scores up to January

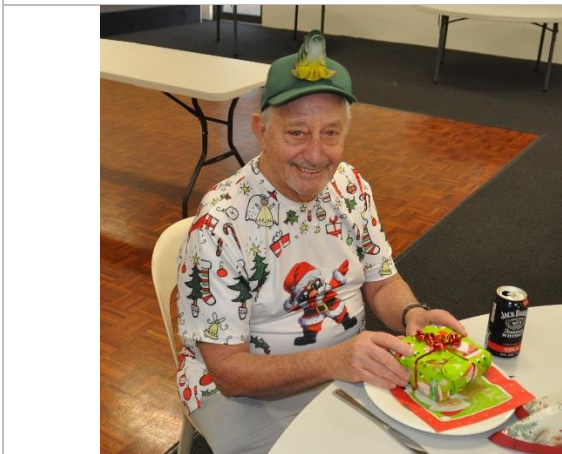
| Rank | Angler | Total points |
|------|------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Peet Wessels | 659.5 |
| 2 | David Wessels | 652 |
| 3 | Sandra Wessels | 587.5 |
| 4 | Mark Hansen | 531.8 |
| 5 | Martin Wearmouth | 524.1 |
| 6 | Sabby Pizzolante | 482.5 |
| 7 | Vince Tomazin | 374 |

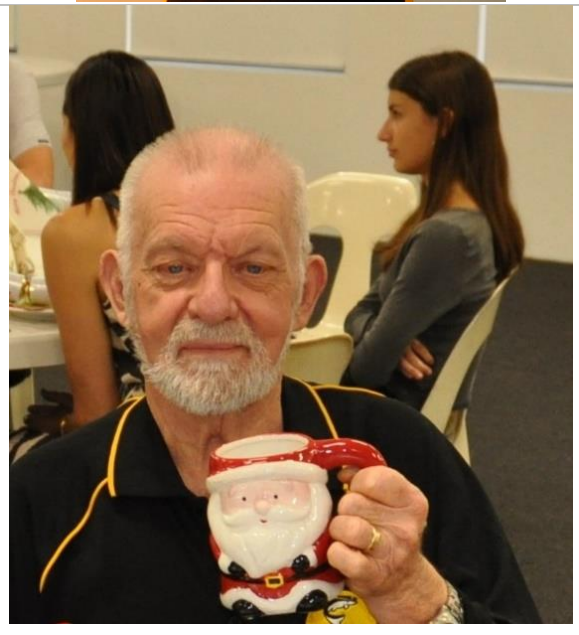
| | | |
|----|-----------------|--------|
| 8 | Malcolm Harris | 335.5 |
| 9 | Ron Thomas | 296.26 |
| 10 | Oliver Wessels | 133.5 |
| 11 | George Matrakis | 121.4 |
| 12 | Brad Zaknich | 90 |
| 13 | Bob Henderson | 58.3 |
| 14 | Bruce Davies | 22 |
| 15 | Chris Stickells | 11 |

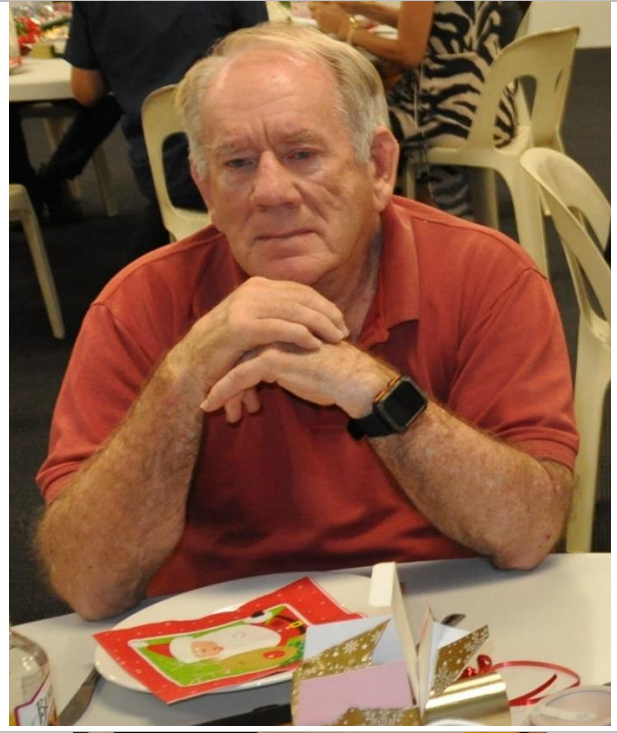
Peet Wessels; Recorder

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL MEETING Photos

Here's some creative time!!! Thanks to the Wessels family for sharing their photos.









Blast from the Past

Field Day, Penguin Island (Reel Talk August 1953).

Last Saturday we set off to beat up the local population at Penguin Island. We were armed with every fishing aid known to science, and some that had never been thought of before, and we were fairly confident. We even went light on food because we were going to catch so many fish we wouldn't have time to eat. Well, that's the kind of bland optimism that makes fishermen such a happy race. An angler is a grown man with the experience of years, and the heart and irrepressible enthusiasm of a school boy. So off we went on a falling barometer, a rising sea and a ten foot plywood boat. We got to Penguin Island O.K., wet through with spray, but undaunted. We thoroughly enjoyed the rough trip over and decided that since it was as rough as it could possibly get, we were over the worst of it. How little we knew! Five minutes after the landing we were all fishing flat out for fish, points and honour. Next morning at first light we were off again; it was now blowing a full gale and fishing was worse. Some pilchard and flathead were caught, but casting into the wind the greatest distance we could get was two feet behind us, and casting with the wind there was a danger of hooking up on the rabbit proof fence. So at 10 a.m. we packed up and prepared for home. Then Felix

(the menace) Holywell had a bright idea, and threw all the sharks and the ray into the sea, Poor old Vic, when he heard of this he held a small committee meeting with himself and decided unanimously that we should divide Felix up for shark bait. However, they finally wrested the meat cleaver from him and after that relations between them settled down on a friendly basis. At 4 p.m. Nelson Smith, Paul Kunzlie and Reg Wertheimer, in the 10 ft. dinghy, and Bob Agnew in his own boat, took advantage of a lull in the storm and headed for the mainland. As no boat could return, Sunday night was a grim night for those left on the Island. Fishing was impossible so all went to bed at dark and stayed there until 11 am. Monday. Bob had taken the only edible fish back with him, and we were just drawing lots and sharpening up the meat cleaver, when Vic produced 12 packets of dehydrated soup and one Port Jackson shark which had escaped Felix, and the situation was saved. Next day we had one cup of soup, two square inches of shark, driving rain, a 90 mile gale, and very little hope. We rescued four Fairy Penguins, which had been blown down a well. We released these and chased a rabbit all round the island all day until our strength gave out, We retired Monday night empty and forlorn, and at midnight the gale was at still blowing. Tuesday morning brought a lull in the storm and local fisherman, Mick Warne, in his boat. He set us ashore, and we headed for home. What a life !!

Vic Davis.

Another Story of Penguin Island (R/T August 1953)

Dear Bill, I apologise for me grammer and me spellin' but I likes to write the way I talks. Getting' any lately? I guess you've 'eard enough about me jewies - any'ow I uses 'em for bait these days - but there's a few things worth mentionin' - about the Club's weekend at Penguin. I'm not goin' to burden you with the whole story 'cause there's others as probably got different versions and I'd like to ear 'em. You know Bill, it seems to me we're never too old to get sillier - some of us any 'ow. It was like this. On the Friday night afore the weekend I rings up the Sec. and sez that seein' as 'ow the weather don't look too promisin' it might be as well if 'e tees up about a place to stay at Safety Bay (in case it's too rough to get across to the Island). He sez 'e will, so I leaves it at that and tootles off down on Fridy night. Reel Talk January 2003 Copyright 2003 Surf Casting and Angling Club Page 10 I spends Satd'y mornin' fixin' up me boat and gear and listenin' to the radio bloke givin' out storm warnin's every ten minutes or so. I thinks to meself "Any mug who'd go over to the Island in this weather oughta be certified" (but I keep on getting' ready). About two o'clock I'm at the meetin' place and some of the mob arrives soon after. She's already blowin' a bit but not too bad. 'Alf 'eartedly I mentions the storm warnin's and urges caution, but I'm just wasting me breath. They 'ires a 10 foot dinghy that'll 'old about three blokes with their gear and I've got me own little boat wot'll just 'old me. You know, Bill, I've always been a bit proud of me little red boat wot I built meself 'bout sixteen years ago. (She's gotta 'alf 'orse motor in 'er now). I've always treated 'er babylike and this time I painted 'er up special for the occasion. (I mentions this 'cause I got somethin' more to say later.) Well, I thinks to meself "You silly B's, (includin' meself) and we pushes off. She's a bit wet but we gets over O.K. and one of the blokes starts the ferryin' business to get the rest across. Meanwhile us takes a look around. The caves we meant to use proves a washout, so we parks in a cupla huts, all comfy like with beds and mattresses - a real 'ome from 'ome and everythin's sweet. Out comes the fishin' gear and we moves off to start the competition. Well, Bill, seein' as 'ow we're all mates I shows 'em all your best fishin' places and they takes their pick. I gets teamed up with Smithy and we fishes a 'ole where I've 'ad some good bream and skippy in me day. This time I can't take a trick Bill. First I 'ooks a beauty and afore I can even get me drum payin' out 'e shoots through with the lot. Then I gets a decent bream and tries to lift 'im straight out - 'e breaks me 'ook, and sez ta-ta. Meantime Smithy's fillin' the 'ole with lead and leavin' it there (I reckon I just about got Smithy converted to using me corked up 'ooks by now). After a while I gets a small bream and by this time we've just about 'ad enough. We decides to 'ave tea and come back later. On our way to the hut we runs into the skipper bloke with three sharks alongside 'im and another one on 'is line. (His mates down below, 'alf drowned in the surf tryin' to get 'is fingers in its gills to land it for 'im). We sez 'ello friendly like to the skipper but 'e's so darned busy with 'is shark that 'e just mumbles somethin' and then forgets we're there. It's then, Bill, that 'e remembers 'ow we changed the rules at the last meetin', to make sharks and rays count equal with respectable fish. I also remembers 'ow when our spinnin' expert, Vern, reckoned the change weren't fair to the dinkum anglers, the skipper waved 'is 'ands virtuous like and sez as 'ow no bloke would 'go after sharks or rays just to win a competition. Well, Smithy and me goes back to the Hut and there's the rest of the mob comparin' notes and nobody's done any good. There's one of these blokes named Felix - you outa know 'im - 'e's the tall slab as always as a grin on 'is dial and never sez a word out of place. Well Felix ain't lookin' 'is usual self - 'e's been spinnin' all round the flamin' island and ain't 'ad a strike. Then I thinks of the skipper out there gloatin' over 'is sharks and thinkin' 'e's got the money in the bag. Innocent like I tells Felix about a place that's just lousy with big rays. I notice 'is face brighten up and it ain't long before 's sidles off and I don't need two guesses where 'e's 'eadin' for. Mind you, Bill, I ain't got

nothin' against the skipper bloke, but you gets a bit brownd off when 'e keeps on winnin' all the competitions and I'm just 'opin' that this time Felix 'as some luck. Smithy 'an me 'as our tea (just can't 'elp the poetry, Bill) and goes back to our 'ole again (we're dinkum anglers). We pelts some more lead in without doin' much good and finally gives it away. When we get's back to the hut, there's Felix with 'is old familiar grin again. He's got a 40 lb. ray. Blimy, Bill, you shoulda 'eard the skipper's language when 'e cum back and found Felix 'as thieved 'is jackpot. Next mornin' the wind starts to rise good and proper. It ain't long before she's blowin' a gale and the boys starts askin' me wot I thinks about gettin' back to the mainland. Well Bill, seein' as 'ow you and me more or less talked 'em into this trip and as 'ow you've exercised your superior intelligence by stayin' 'ome, I feels a bit responsible an' I gotta say the right things. I thinks we can probably get across alright if we travel light, but I got me doubts about gettin' back for the ferryin' business. Any 'ow I advise 'em to 'old their 'orses and go fishin' till she pipes down a bit. When lunch time comes, it's just as bad and we're feelin' pretty 'ungry, so we 'as a round up to see 'ow the tucker situation is. I gotta few cheese crackers, Mack a slice of cake and Felix a cupla dog biscuits (wot 'e saved from the last time 'is wife put 'im in the kennel). Things looked a bit grim and 'ere Bill is where I gotta do the right thing by the skipper bloke. You remember me slingin' off about 'is soup? Well, I takes it all back. I 'umbly apologises. When 'e sees 'ow things are 'e starts scratchin' around in 'is cabin trunk and out comes the soup - packets and packets of it - chicken noodles, onions and gawd knows wot. Believe me Bill, soup never tasted so good before and after this I'm goin' in for it in a big way (especially, if they ever kids me into 'another storm trip to Penguin Island.) Well, we feels a lot better but the boys is gettin' very restless. I can see 'ow they're beginnin' to think about wot their wives will say and then I remembers as 'ow I promised me own I'd be 'ome in time to take 'er to a square dance I don't feel so good meself. Any 'ow she's still blowin' like 'ell and I keeps stallin' them off. Then when I thinks some of 'em might take the bit in their teeth and do somethin' silly, I does it meself. Thinkin' they might 'ave 'me summed up I sticks me neck out proper and sez that if the worst comes to the worst I'll get across on me own and let their wives know the score. (Soon as I said it, I takes a quick look at then rollin' white 'orses and sez a prayer). Reel Talk January 2003 Copyright 2003 Surf Casting and Angling Club Page 11 About four o'clock there's a bit of a lull an' I'm bringin' meself round to push off when three of the mob decides to give it a try in the dinghy. Here, Bill, is where I've gotta square off. There's a newspaper bloke 'as got onto the story and writ up a bit about me pushin' off to stand by when the dinghy was in trouble. Well, Bill, it sounded good, but I ain't no 'ero. When I seen 'em start off in the dinghy, I thinks Cripes, seein' as 'ow I was goin' anyway I might 'as well 'ave company and I shoots through quick as I can to catch up with 'em. (Matter of fact Bill, I'm in such a 'urry that I goes off with the fish I'd cleaned for their tea!) Well, we 'as a few anxious moments in the crossin' but we're O.K. till we gets to the beach. I'm alright - I shoots a good wave and runs up dry, but the dinghy gets a dumper and ships a lot of water. Anyway we've made it and 'ere's where I've gotta say somethin' about Smithy. 'Ere we see the fruits of 'is mother's inspiration when she named 'im Nelson. 'E throws out 'is chest and sez "I'm goin' back for me men!" We empties the dinghy and Smithy mans it like an admiral. He sez " 'and me me telescope (or a periscope will do), start me motor and give me a shove." Well we're 'angin' on 'alf drowned but we gets 'im goin' and you never seen such a rodeo. The ruddy dinghy's buckin' the waves like a prize bronco. 'E gets about fifty yards out and she just about stands on 'er tail. Then she spins around and the motor comes loose. Sriith's been 'angin' on to 'is cocked hat an' 'is periscope and now e's got the motor on 'is 'ands too. Well, altogether, she's a bit too much even for the 'admiral and 'e 'as to give it away. We drags 'im back up the beach. There's nothin' more we can do so we goes back to the shack. We 'as steak and eggs for tea, listens to the radio, (still givin' storm warnin's) and turns in. Next mornin' she's blowin' worse than ever so we fixes up with Mick Warne to pick 'em up as soon as 'e can and then we pushes off 'ome. You know the rest. Sorry Bill, I seem to 'ave drawn this out a bit after all, but wot I really started off to tell you was wot the newspaper bloke 'ad the cheek to say about me beaut little red boat. "Well, 'e calls 'er "me nine foot COCKLESHELL". Bill, I 'angs me 'ead in shame ! "Old Timer"

GETTING THE BEST OUT OF YOUR EMAILS

Article provided by John Curtis

Some rules to follow so that you can get the best out of your email messages (and not annoy others!). Give yourself a real name in your email system. Emails from e.g. "Fred" will leave people wondering "Fred who?" Set up your system so emails are identified as coming from your full name e.g. from "Fred Bloggs".

Give your emails **a meaningful** and unique subject line. A subject line like “fishing” means nothing or little. Make it “Fishing trip Jurien Bay in August” so that the receiver can see what the email is about and can find it later.

When replying, edit the original subject line if needed. Don't start a different session with the same email header. It causes confusion and leads to problems.

Set up your email contacts so that you need only type in their name and then the email system adds the actual more complicated email address. That is, associate the name of the recipient with their simple or complicated email address.

Add your full name, address, phone number and email address as a footer to your emails.

This is important!

Use Blind Carbon Copy (BCC) when multi addressing some emails to hide other people's email address from other people.

This can prevent a lot of spam and is important to keep other people's email addresses private. It takes only one careless email for confidential stuff to get splashed around and this is how virus' are spread.

Don't click on “Reply to all” unless you really mean to do that. The unwanted extra addresses can be deleted so that YOUR reply goes only to the people YOU want it to go to.

By following the above you can save a lot of angst and prevent your emails from ending up in the trash folder or being used by someone unauthorised to do so.

INTO BREAM

Article provided by John Curtis

Get back to basics with one of our most loved recreational fish.

Bream fishing has always been a favourite of mine. In my early years in the West, a good friend and I would head down to Fremantle Fishing Boat Harbour to sit on the rock wall drifting baits down. We used bloodworms or fillets of mulie and fished for fish cruising the edges or holding up under the moored fishing boats. We also fished the Moore River and the Swan and Canning in a variety of locations. From this early beginning I've been fortunate enough to fish for bream right across southern Western Australia.

While there are many tried and proven techniques that remain staples while chasing these awesome fish, as with all things fishing there have been some real game-changing new techniques and technology that make catching bream a whole lot easier.

What I really love about bream is they are fickle fish that require good presentation and angling skill to get a bite, but there is always a way to fool enough to have a great day out on the water. In this article I'd like to share the techniques I like to employ to catch this fun species.

Where To Fish

Before going into the details of each technique, it's probably a good idea to run through some areas that are worth targeting. Sadly, our humble bream is another fish that has copped pressure from commercial fishing and is not around in the numbers it once was, but there is still plenty of opportunity and areas where you can have a great chance at a good fish.

Western Australia has a large number of water bodies holding good stock of bream. These extend from Israelite Bay in the south-east, around the south and west coast to the Murchison River at Kalbarri. Many locations are in small water bodies that really present a challenge to the angler, but when the fish is captured, photographed and released you can feel pleased with yourself having won the challenge.

Any detailed map of the South-west will show a vast net-work of streams, giving the impression that the region is well-endowed with inland fishing waters. This is a false impression however, as many of the larger rivers are saline and a host of other streams only flow in winter.

Where fishing is available the fisher will generally be surprised by the quality of the fish, although in some waters they may be hard to find unless the right methods are used.

Western Ausrlia suffers from a lack of river systems and this is most evident along the lower west coast. In the south-east of the state there are no major river systems. East of Esperance there is the Thomas river which is a short systemthat feeds directly into the southern ocean. Othere smaller systems either feed directly into the ocean or feed into other feeders and are often blocked by sandbars at the ocean and only flow in times of heavier rainfall.

West of Albany the major systems are the, Frankland, Warren Donnelly and Blackwood Rivers. Several smaller systems either feed into these or directly into the Southern Ocean. These systems occur due to the

heavier rainfall experienced by the south-west corner of the state. As a consequence the available water allows for an appropriate increase in availability of species in them.

Systems such as the King, Kalgan, the Hay, Denmark, Kent, Deep, Shannon, Gardner, Scott, Margaret Capel, and Preston all provide angling opportunities for both fresh and saltwater angling species. The systems north of here include the Collie, Brunswick, Harvey, Murray, South Dandalup, Serpentine, Swan and Canning system Helena River, and the Moore River at Guilderton.

GEAR FOR BREAM

What I like about fishing for bream is that you can have one set-up that will cover all bases for the waters you will find across southern Western Australia. My favourite is a 2.1 m, fast action 2-4kg spin stick with a 1000-size spinning reel matched to it. The reel is loaded with a thin 2-3kg brightly coloured braided line. The only variation on this outfit is the leader attached to the end, which changes with the areas fished. This is either to do the angling pressure or the size of the fish.

While sight fishing for large fish in the locations such as the King and Kalgan Rivers or under the trees in the Swan at Maylands, I will always opt for a 4.5kg quality fluorocarbon leader. When fishing locations such as the Murchison in Kalbarri, where you also may come across an occasional mangrove jack, I will also use the heavier leader. The reason for this is that usually it takes a very long time to find these large fish, which fight really hard, and the last thing I want to do is have them bust me off in the snags. Moving into waters where large fish are not a regular occurrence, I will fish either a 2.7kg or 3.6kg fluorocarbon leader. The general rule of thumb is if you are not getting bites, downsize the leader until you do.

When fishing in still waters, that is on the top or bottom of the tide where there is no water flow, I will drift my baits without weight.

SKIPPING PLASTICS

Skipping plastics is not a new technique, but one that is still as important as ever. Whether you're fishing under-cut river banks, under man-made structures or below rocky banks, being able to get your plastics into the shady areas is a big key to getting a bite. Bream absolutely love sitting right in cover, and this is the only way to get the lure into the zone. There are a few different things that will make this process easier, the biggest of which is the lure selection.

Just like skimming rocks across water, you want to pick a soft plastic that has flat sides and that will ensure it skims nicely across the surface of the water.

While I've used plenty of different models over the years, my favourite of late has been the Z-Man 2.5inch PrawnZ. This is an incredibly durable soft plastic that skims easier than any other bait I have used. I like to rig it on the lightest jig head I can get away with, as bream will often eat the lure as it is sinking in the shade. Using a nice low rod angle and sharp flick, it is possible to get the plastic metres back into the pockets with ease. From there it is super important to get in touch with the bait, but not move it or impede the sink by winding the line. You'll either feel the bite through the braid and graphite of the rod or see the brightly-coloured braid bounce up, indicating a fish has grabbed it.

If a bream doesn't eat during the drop, I'll let the lure get near or onto the bottom before lifting it up with a couple of flicks of the rod tip and winds of the reel before repeating the process. (Tip: If you are right handed cast using your right hand and wind with your left. This will mean that you can catch more fish and not lose as many. You can do it – it just takes some practise!) Rather than fishing out the whole cast, I usually just retrieve it rapidly after it passes out the shady zone and then cast to the next spot.

SIGHT FISHING

Sight fishing for big trophy bream is, without a doubt, the most rewarding way of catching these fish. Usually, shots can be few and far between, so you need to be prepared to do a lot of staring into the water before one fish or a school may materialise. Good quality polarising lenses are an absolute must. Brown lenses work well in salt water and blue in freshwater.

The biggest key to this style of fishing is the weather, with still and sunny days the best option by far. The other thing to consider is the time of year; in summer the sun has a much larger arc over the sky and will give you a much longer period of prime sight fishing. During sunny winter days it is still possible to sight fish, but the window of opportunity is far less. All my sight fishing is done in sandy tidal creeks that have good visibility during the smaller tidal movements when water clarity is at its best. The trick is to commit totally to sight fish, as there can be a long time between shots, but when it all comes together, it is super rewarding.

My favourite lure for this style of fishing is a Z-Man 2.5inch bloodworm grub, as it is rarely refused by big bream. Depending on the conditions, I'll fish it on either a 1.7g or 1.4g jig head. It's important that you can cast the lure far enough, but also that it lands softly enough to not spook the fish. Try to get the lure to the

fish so that it sees it, but not so clumsily that it spooks the fish. Small twitches can induce a bite, but also spook the big cagey ones, which adds to the excitement and frustration of it all.

FISHING WITH BLADES

Blades have been around for years now, but it still amazes me how they catch fish so consistently. These are my go-to lures for fishing any deep water. Most commonly I'll use blades that are around 40mm in length and weigh 2 - 3g. One thing that you don't have to worry about with fishing blades is the colour, as all of them will catch fish, although sticking to the bright lure/dirty water or natural lure/clear water rule of thumb is a good one. The retrieve involves simply getting the lure to the bottom and hopping it back using a consistent and fluid lift and wind technique. You can expect bites on both the drop and the lift, so it is important to stay in touch with the blade at all times. Your tackle box should always hold some blades

There is no doubt many anglers have cut their teeth chasing the humble bream and I, like my others, still love to catch them as much now as ever. Hopefully, you've picked up a few tips in to broaden the range of techniques in your arsenal - or I've at least inspired you to go and catch your very first!

Invasive mussels lead to discovery of 128-year-old shipwreck

Husband and wife team, Yvonne Drebert and Zack Melnick, who specialise in underwater videography, were filming a documentary when they made the discovery

Amelia Neath

Article and link provided by Chris Stickells

A team of documentary filmmakers discovered a long-lost shipwreck — all thanks to thousands of invasive mussels.

Husband-and wife-team, Yvonne Drebert and Zack Melnick, who specialise in underwater videography, were filming a feature-length documentary when they made the discovery.

They found the vessel, named “The Africa”, about 275 feet down on the bed of Lake Huron near the Saugeen-Bruce Peninsula in June.

The sight of a mass of quagga mussels were what caught their attention.

“We received a tip that scientists doing an offshore fish survey had noticed an anomaly on their sonar readout, basically an unusual bump on an otherwise flat lakebed,” Mr Melnick said in a statement.

Ms Drebert didn’t expect to find anything special but thought it would at least be “a fun Saturday boat ride.”

“We honestly expected to find a pile of rocks,” she said.

The film-maker spoke to *The Independent* about the discovery.

“We spend a lot of time on the water, looking around with our ROV. We’ve come across some pretty amazing underwater landscape and aquatic life, but honestly - nothing can really prepare you for coming upon a shipwreck that no one has laid eyes on in 128 years,” she said.

“The more we began to understand that we’d really stumbled on something extraordinary.”

They used a remotely-operated vehicle (ROV), which carries a high-resolution camera system.

“We were down for only a few minutes when a huge structure loomed up from the depths – it was a shipwreck,” said Mr Melnick. “We couldn’t believe it.”

Yet while the invasive mussels were the trail to the ship's discovery they are also the reason that the wreck will eventually be destroyed.

The mussels have been attaching themselves to every single wreck in the Great Lakes - an issue that the couple's documentary, titled *All Too Clear*, was focused on.

Archaeologists say that the mussels burrow into the wood and build on top of each other until they eventually crush shipwrecks. They also produce acid, which can corrode steel and iron on the ships.

Ms Drebert told *The Independent* that their documentary took on a new perspective when they realised how invasive mussels were impacting the waters' history.

"We'd really focused our work on the ecological impact that the invasive quagga mussel has had on the Great Lakes - home to 20 per cent of the world's freshwater, and hadn't much considered their impact on cultural heritage, until we found the 'Africa'."

Local maritime historian, Patrick Folkes, and marine archaeologist, Scarlett Janusas, researched the ship and said it was most likely *The Africa*.

The Africa was built in 1873 and subsequently repurposed in 1886 as a steam barge to haul cargo, according to a statement.

On 4 October 1895, *The Africa* set sail from Ohio with a crew of 11, loaded with coal and bound for Ontario, Canada.

The ship was towing another barge called *The Severn* but neither reached their destination.

The Severn was discovered broken up on the Bruce Peninsula and the crew was rescued.

The Africa and its crew were never seen again.

That is until Ms Drebert and Mr Melrick used their high-tech underwater camera system in June.

Based on measurements and deposits of coal found on the lakebed, the team have been able to conclude it was the missing *Africa*.

All Too Clear is set to air in 2024.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/shipwreck-invasive-mussels-lake-huron-b2434252.html>



CONFORMITY

WHEN PEOPLE ARE FREE TO DO AS THEY PLEASE,
THEY USUALLY IMITATE EACH OTHER.

