

REEL TALK

Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA Inc



JUNE 2018

Acknowledgement of Donors

The club gratefully acknowledges the support from companies, organisations, club members and families for the donations towards our Presentation night and prizes for winners of our fishing and dry casting competitions.

Donors of prizes and giveaways for 2017/8

Club Members:

George Belin, Mal Head, Bob Henderson,
Peter Osborne, Gary Parkinson, Victor Schilo,
Shane Wignell
And
Sandra Wessels for the ladies' gifts

Special Thanks
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John Curtis
and
Ron Thomas

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*Thank you for
your valued
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Club Committee for 2017/8

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Now part of the Treasurer's duties

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Committee Person

Vince Tomazin

Assistant Field Day Officer

Martin Wearmouth

Recorder

Justin Rose
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Committee Person

Gary Parkinson

Committee Person

Sri Srigandan

AAAWA Delegates

Victor Schilo, Pat McKeown

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

PO Box 2834, Malaga WA 694

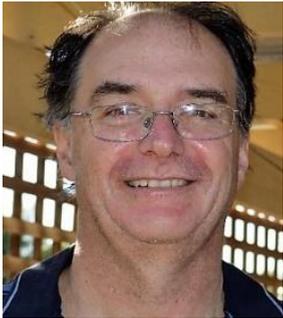
The Website Co-ordinator, Property Officer, AAWA Delegates, Reel Talk Editor, Dry Casting Officer, Assistant Dry Casting Officer, Field Day / Assistant Field Day Officer, Social Organiser and Membership Co-ordinator and Recorder are Committee functions and not extra Committee positions.

SCAC Life Members

George Holman, Eric Parker, 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

President`s Report June 2018



At the time of writing the annual Presentation Night is nearly upon us. As always, our Social Organiser Pat McKeown has been working hard and diligently to ensure it is as successful as in previous years. As most of you will know I will be away on holiday on that evening, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone else who has assisted Pat in the planning and running of the night. For those attending I am sure you will have a great evening.

At the last committee meeting we did discuss the possibility of widening the range of topics for our instruction periods. There seemed to be some interest in looking at some fishing related as well as non-fishing related topics. We may be able to encourage and invite some guest speakers to come along and share their knowledge. Even members giving presentations about interesting places they have visited or other hobbies they have could be fair game. The potential list is endless. As always, I would ask members to think about how they would like the instruction periods to run and let the committee know of any ideas they have.

The Kalbarri property continues to provide problems with us now looking at a bill to fix[replace] the back fence which was last seen heading towards Northampton. Whilst the steady trickle of maintenance costs is no surprise, given the age of the property, it is nonetheless disheartening to see money flow out of our account with no real benefit to the members. Public interest in purchasing the house has been minimal despite several months on the market. I think we need to think hard about what our expectations are with regards to the sale of the property.

Finally, the current term of this committee is coming to an end which of course means we need to elect a new committee at the approaching AGM. At the time of writing I don`t know the intentions of all the current committee members however we will endeavour to let members know in the near future. Could all members please consider their own intentions and certainly don`t be shy about putting your hand up.

Quote for the month:

“One finger in the throat and one in the rectum makes a good diagnostician”

William Osler (1905)

William Osler was a Canadian physician and medical historian who has been described as the father of modern medicine. He radically changed the way that doctors were taught and was the first to take medical students out of the lecture theatres and onto hospital wards, where they were encouraged to examine patients thoroughly and to talk and listen to them about their symptoms.

Membership Coordinator`s Report

The membership enquires have gone into winter hibernation at this time of year, but I am sure will pick up once the warmer weather returns.

This time of year, it`s difficult to motivate going to meetings when you are warm and comfortable at home. When you go along to the meeting and see fellow members there giving a nod and a smile it`s worth it. So support your meetings, you never know you might even get a special piece of cake from our champion cake cooker, I won`t drop the name as Slavka is very shy about that sort of thing.

The instruction periods have been lacking lately but our man Vince is sorting that out.

Go Vince!

Membership Coordinator Pat McKeown.

Social Organiser's Report



Hello fellow club members it's time to write up another report from the social scene.

Well really not a lot has been happening on writing this I am still organising the Presentation Night.

It is finally all coming together nicely. Everything is in place for a great function good location and the food is so yummy, nice cold beer and wines what more could you ask for?

The company as always just fantastic with lots of door prizes.



As stated previously, I am retiring from all my duties as Social Organiser and Membership Coordinator.

Don't be shy about coming forward you will have all the help and support needed to carry out these tasks.

The committee are very supportive and willing to help.

It can be very rewarding seeing the smiles from members for your efforts.

See you all at the upcoming presentation night on the 9th June 2018 cost at a bargain price of \$32.00 still have tickets available.

Social Organiser Pat McKeown

June General Meeting

When Wednesday 13 June commencing at 7.30pm

Where Coolbinia West Perth Amateur Football and Sporting Club room

Field day venues for 2018/19.

Dates	Venue	Boundaries
16-17 June 2018	Rottnest Island	All non protected waters around Island.
16 - 17 June 2018	Open	Go anywhere WA.
14 - 15 July 2018	Open	Go anywhere WA.
11 - 12 August 2018	Rottnest Island	All non protected waters around Island.
22 - 24 September 2018	Bluff Creek	As far as you are willing to walk on both ends of beach.
13 - 14 October 2018	Cervantes to Sandy Cape	South side of Cervantes beach to north end of Sandy cape beach.
17 - 18 November 2018	Cervantes to Sandy Cape	South side of Cervantes beach to north end of Sandy cape beach.
15 - 16 December 2018	Moore River to 3 Mile	From Moore river mouth to north end of 3 Mile beach.
26 - 28 January 2019	Open	Go anywhere WA.
16 - 17 February 2019	Preston / White Hills	From Preston south beach to northern end of White Hills.
1 - 8 March 2019	Esperance Safari.	Around Esperance area. Poison Creek (Sandy Bight) ect.
19 - 22 April 2019	Bluff Creek.	As far as you are willing to walk on both ends of beach.

Note: The May 2018 Rottnest Island Field Day was cancelled due to Ferry cancellations and severe swell and weather conditions. The FD was rescheduled for 16 – 17 June 2018. Bus transport and accommodation are booked and confirmed for this week end. There were a few booking cancellations and if anybody is interested in filling one of these places you are most welcome to contact your FD officer for further details

Local boundaries are from Lancelin in the North to Point Peron in the South

Lines Down for long weekends – Saturday 6.00am

Lines up for long weekends – Monday 9.00am

Lines Down on Standard weekends – Saturday 9.30am

Lines up on standard weekends – Sunday 9.00am

Sign-on / Weigh-in times, possible fish together spots and locations to be decided at the general meeting prior to the Field Day

Wet Drycasting Day



Dry Casting Report 6 May 2018

For the six members that turned up for casting, many thanks, as a lot of work and time goes in to these events, and this makes it worthwhile although it would be nice to see a few more faces next month.

The weather report was not very encouraging for the day, especially with quite a bit of rain prior to the start, but this cleared up to give us fine conditions for casting.

I won't bore you with the results as they are published in the Reel Talk and besides it is getting a little embarrassing, unfortunately.

I am sure that the few that did turn up enjoyed the day, and I hope to see them all next month, along with a few more faces.

Ron Thomas – Drycasting Officer

DRY CASTING DATES FOR 2018

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW VENUE

Competition casting starts at 8:30am

Guildford Polo Ground

Held on Sunday of:

**June 10: July 1: August 5: September 9: October 7: November 4:
December 2:**



SURF CASTING & ANGLING CLUB
Dry casting results - 6th May 2018

	56 gram				Artificial Bait				112gram			
	Cast	Cast	Total	%	Cast	Cast	Total	%	Cast	Cast	Total	%
Veterans	1	2			1	2			1	2		
ALAN JONES	89.61	100.78	190.39	65.96	91.56	84.48	176.04	67.71	99.92	107.42	207.34	63.86
RON THOMAS	140.00	148.66	288.66	100.00	134.59	125.40	259.99	100.00	158.30	166.35	324.65	100.00
MAL HEAD	101.83	OUT	101.83	35.28	90.13	94.80	184.93	71.13	111.09	104.37	215.46	66.37
DEAN STEWART	63.02	61.04	124.06	42.98	81.87	80.35	162.22	62.39	89.15	94.15	183.30	56.46
PETER OSBORNE	100.51	102.52	203.03	70.33	102.89	99.63	202.52	77.86	102.79	108.64	211.43	65.12
JOHN CROMPTON	OUT	103.14	103.14	35.73	88.16	93.69	181.85	69.94	106.79	107.60	214.39	66.04
Seniors												
MARK HANSON	OUT	109.18	109.18	100.00	97.37	105.13	202.50	100.00	110.20	117.85	228.05	100.00

SURF CASTING & ANGLING CLUB

Dry casting results - 6th May 2018

	Double Handed Accuracy										Single Handed Accuracy						Total	Attendance	Total
	Target number										Target distance								
	3	3	1	1	4	4	2	2	Total	%	L	S	L	S	Total	%	%		
Veterans																			
ALAN JONES	15	20	25	9	8	12	16	11	116	78.91	6	2	8	3	19	90.48	366.92	10	376.92
RON THOMAS	20	21	23	23	17	5	20	18	147	100.00	3	8	6	4	21	100.00	500.00	10	510.00
MAL HEAD	22	3	19	18	13	5	14	11	105	71.43	0	7	4	5	16	76.19	320.40	10	330.40
DEAN STEWART	12	18	12	18	20	16	6	20	122	82.99	0	4	5	1	10	47.62	292.44	10	302.44
PETER OSBORNE	18	22	20	17	9	15	20	9	130	88.43	0	9	0	7	16	76.19	377.93	10	387.93
JOHN CROMPTON	10	18	19	0	23	5	0	21	96	65.30	0	7	4	5	16	76.19	313.20	10	323.20
Seniors																			
MARK HANSON	17	21	17	17	1	8	7	19	107	100.00	7	7	3	4	21	100.00	500.00	10	510.00



Not a very happy Ron



I know that it's here somewhere

Veterans Best Casts for the Year 2018 -2019			
LONGEST 56 GRAM	148.66	RON THOMAS	
LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT	134.59	RON THOMAS	
LONGEST 112G	166.35	RON THOMAS	
HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY	147	BOB HENDERSON	
HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY	21	RON THOMAS	
SENIORS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2018 -2019			
LONGEST 56 GRAM	109.18	MARK HANSON	
LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT	105.13	MARK HANSON	
LONGEST 112G	117.85	MARK HANSON	
HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY	107	MARK HANSON	
HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY	21	MARK HANSON	



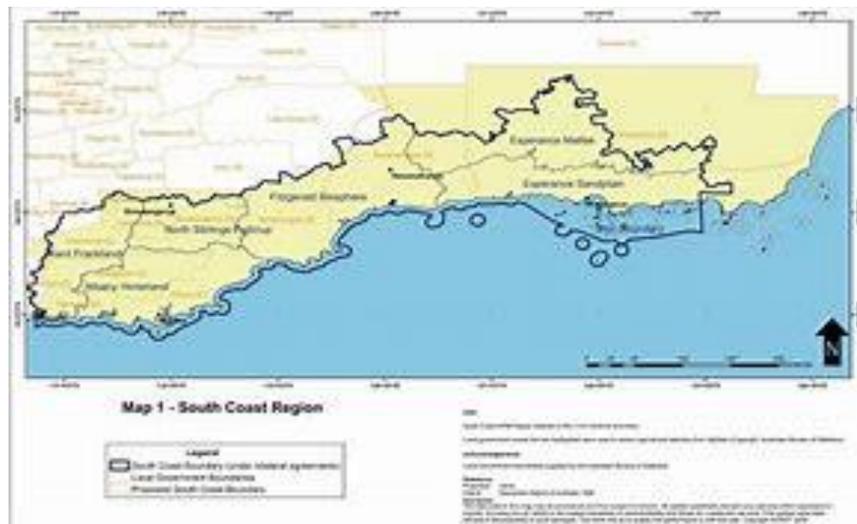
Birthdays for June

Helen Tomazin 9th; Chris Stickells 11th; Geoff Raftis 13th;

Adam McFarland 20th; Jane Pekaar 24th; Mark Nurse 26th.

We wish you all the best for your special day

ESPERANCE SAFARI 1 – 8 March 2019
Book your holidays



May 2018 local field day fishing – Martin Wearmouth

As the weekend approached the weather forecast was not looking great at all, Thursday saw a storm front hit and wind and swell making fishing difficult, This made our local fishing options very limited, Gary and I decided to fish north mole not a favourite of mine but due to the swell the beaches were a no go.

Gary and I headed to North mole at 2pm on Saturday to find it was closed, so we headed to the Rous head ferry terminal and fished from the rocks there, a few fishermen had the same idea and about 20 were already fishing, first bait hit the water about 3pm, the water looked ok and fishing was not too bad the wind was strong about 20 knots but no rain about so we settled in hoping for a snapper or 2.

Only 2 fish where caught that day I got a wrasse and Gary got a Tarwine both got released, not many bites or hook ups and we did not see any other fish caught by others but most were using big baits for snapper, we did notice that even though the North Mole was closed about a dozen fisherman had walked to the end of north mole and were fishing, very keen for sure.



With not much luck Gary and I decided to try again on Sunday afternoon, we headed out again at 2pm on Sunday and went back to Rous head as the north mole was still closed, a lot less fishing there this time with only about 4 there before us, a lot more bites and hook ups but only small fish around 15 to 20cm, I caught about a dozen small skippy, and a few small snapper (20cm) and tarwine.

We left about 6pm on Sunday as the wind started to pick up to 30 knots and some rain was coming in, no addition to the bag so 1 fish each was the total, let's hope for better conditions at the next field day.



Extreme Fishing Safari – Steep Point – May 2018

Wow the years are passing so fast as I get older! Can't believe another Steep Point adventure has come and gone. To accommodate friends our usual July expedition was changed to May. This year Sandra also made sure she was part of the expedition team, and it was great to have an able and willing team mate to help me through the challenging 2 weeks.

We left on a Monday around noon, Sandra still had some important jobs to do at work and I had to do the final logistics for the trip north. We met up with our other group in Geraldton and stayed over at the Winter Sun Hotel for the night. From here we set off at 6 am the next morning and had a good journey up to the Overlander. We were travelling with 2 Land Cruisers with a boat behind each. We just packed the absolute necessary food, water, fuel and camping gear for the 2 weeks ahead, but still we were heavily loaded. Our Land Cruiser was Diesel and the other one was Petrol and Gas. Soon we realized that the Petrol Cruiser would not have enough fuel on board to run in and out to Steep Point, it was absolutely gobbling up fuel. We bought extra petrol jerry cans at the Overlander and hoped that this would be enough for the journey ahead.

The road from Overlander to Carrarang Station was great, the gravel sections were neatly graded and we made very good time. I started to think about an afternoon fishing session. But boy how wrong I was! A trip that normally took us 3 hours quickly ballooned out to 7 hours.

A short overview as the day played out from Carrarang:



At the Carrarang Cattle Bridge we did our usual stop to deflate the car and trailer tyres. We knew from experience that the section from there to the Causeway was badly maintained and that the corrugation was as bad as it could get. We progressed slow but steady and after a terrible hour of shaking and bouncing we reached the Causeway. Our Cruiser got there first and stopped to do the usual deflating of tyres down to 15 PSI.

When I looked back I could see the other Cruiser coming in with the trailer hanging badly to the left side. On the left side there was no tyre left and the rim was totally destroyed. I checked the wheel valve and realized the valve had not been securely replaced at our previous stop. Elementary error number 1. Luckily the trailer was equipped with 2 spare wheels. Carrying a trolley jack with plenty of tools the trailer was fixed in good time.

From the Causeway the track became very sandy and with a steady uphill from here required a good high clearance 4x4. The track was in the worst condition I have seen it in the last 10 years. Our car went first and soon I realized that the track was a novice off roader's worst nightmare.

I had to stop and change from the normal H4 drivetrain to the L4 drivetrain with diff lock engaged to get the car and boat to the top. Stopping at the top we were waiting for the other Cruiser, which just did not arrive.

I drove on to find a parking spot where I could park our car clear from the track. There was no reply on the 2 way radio so I realised they are still a far way behind. At long last I decided to walk back to go and see what was going on. I walked and walked and walked and finally found them bogged down to the car's belly. They had hardly made 20 meters up the sand hill. The next moment I heard a car behind me, turning around there were 2 cars with trailers coming out of the bushes. I stopped them immediately and explained the situation. Wow I thought to myself, this is going to be a fun afternoon. The next 2 hours was fun and games and it is too a long story to go into detail of how we eventually got them up the hill.

The biggest problem was that the bogged Cruiser had a gas tank sitting too low and was bottoming out too quickly for this track. In short I had to do 2 trips from here, first signing in at the Rangers house, dropping off my boat and trailer and going back to fetch the other boat, after winching the bogged Cruiser all the way out of trouble. Later it became apparent that there was a lot more damage done to the ill-fated trailer, and actually we were very lucky not to lose the boat all together as the U-bolts on the front carrying the boat had all broken off. On closer inspection we also noticed that there was no tail lights or number plate present.



As the sun started to go down we were finally all at our campsite. We camped at Tip camp, my favourite campsite for a small group with boats. We decided to setup a quick camp for the night, basically just the tent, stretchers, swags and sleeping bags. I went for a quick dip in Shelter Bay as I was so dirty and covered in sand and sweat. The water was cold but refreshing. The howling wind made it a short swim. All warmly dressed we sat around for a few well deserved sundowners. Later

I was lying in my swag thinking about the day. Wow what a day it had been! Tired but happy I fell into a very deep sleep.

I woke up with a bird singing outside. The sun was up high already. Everybody around me was still snoring away. I got the kettle going and woke Sandra with the usual coffee and rusk. The wind was blowing strongly and I knew we were up for a challenge to set up a proper camp. With 4 of us hanging onto the gazebo and tents we managed to get everything secured with extra ropes and sandbags.



The next challenge was to get the 2 boats securely moored. With a few years of Steep camping experience behind us we got the boats well and securely moored in no time. In the afternoon the wind became moderate and we decided to go out for our first afternoon/night session of fishing. With GPS fishing hotspots marked from previous years we thought we would get into the fish quickly.

It soon became clear that the fish were in different locations at different times of the year. Oh well we just needed to find them again. We split up and each boat hunted around to locate them. Very soon we found them and managed to get a few very good fish for our first session.



For the next 2 weeks the weather improve daily. We managed to locate some good fishing spots. Drifting down the deep channel in the mornings also produced some very good fish. Up the eastern side of Dirk Hartog Island we found some new spots that all produced very well. We managed to catch a few big Pink Snapper, but not the same amounts we caught in the previous July. We did however find big schools of big Emperors and quite a few Spanish Flags. The Baldchin Gropers was very scare and we only caught a few of them. A big nuisance once again was the Sharks and we were heavily taxed by them. We also had a problem with a few North-western Blowfish, they seemed to have a liking for Rapala lures. We did however turn the Blowfish into some good bait and caught some of our best fish on them.

With the weather turning good the swell went down and we were lucky enough to take our small boats out on a couple of days trolling for Pelagics along the cliff faces of Steep Point and Dirk Hartog Island. We had great success trolling for some quality Spanish mackerel, Wahoo and some cracker Tunas. We were however heavily taxed by some hungry sharks and we basically lost all of our quality Rapala and Halco lures.



There was some unforgettable moments trolling. On a few occasions we hooked on to some big Spanish mackerel, the aerial display behind the boat as they tried to get away from the sharks was astonishing. They were leaping high into the air for 4 to 6 times before they eventually got smashed by the shark. Within a few seconds there would be nothing left of that beautiful fish and your lure. They don't even leave much for the seagulls trying to get a few crumbs.



My best experience trolling came from a big Wahoo. The fish took my lure at a very high speed and my reel was absolutely screaming. I could see the 300 m fishing line fast disappearing and got Sandra to chase the fish down and tire it out that way. Sandra did a great job keeping the boat at a fighting angle and I managed to get the fish to the boat. The fish was tired but heavy, looking down I could see this black monster of a shark close on its tail. I kept on fighting and pulling and hoping for the best. When the fish surfaced, our team work and experience came in handy. Sandra put the boat into Neutral, grabbed the big net and netted the front half of the fish. I put my reel into free spool and gaffed the tail section. Together we managed to lift it into the boat. What a relief and what a beautiful fish. This one the sharks did not get.

Running out of our Deep diver lures we only had a few fast trolling Mac and Halco lures left. We adjusted our speed to a fast troll and all of a sudden we started to catch some monster big Tunas. With our freezers becoming full due to all the big fish we released most of these beautiful Yellow fin tunas. My biggest fish from this trip came from one of these beautiful speedsters. Not once were the sharks interested in these Tunas. They must have a liking for only Spanish mackerel and Wahoos.





Very soon and too soon this trip came to an end. The fishing was so good we never got a chance to do a bit of squidding or sightseeing. Then all of a sudden we realized we would have to pack up and get all and everything out of Steep Point again. It took a whole day to break up camp and pack up boat and cars. With only swags left out we fell asleep under one of the clearest nights I have ever seen. I stayed awake for a long time, stargazing, rethinking and reflecting back on the last 2 weeks.

Then I fell asleep knowing that there was one hell of a day lying ahead, and that it was! But that is just another long story to be told at a later date. Can't wait to get back there again!

Author - Peet Wessels

SHOULD FERRO-MAGNESIUM HOOKS BE BANNED?

Rolly McKay, Curator, Queensland Museum. Former member SCAC of WA.

About a year ago I purchased a large selection of fishhooks from a shop in Woolloongabba, Brisbane. The salesperson assured me that they would remain perfectly sharp for the complete life of the hook. The theory being that as the point of the ferro-magnesium hook corroded, it became covered with a fine layer of Magnesium Oxide. The point remaining very sharp. In fact, with corrosion in a damp tackle-box, the point of the hook actually became needle-sharp with time and never needed sharpening. Being quite fanatical in keeping my hooks sharp, this new, locally manufactured hook seemed to be the answer to my problem. I would not need to waste time at the fishing spot sharpening hooks whilst other fishers wet their lines.

The hook was exceptionally strong, light, with the right set and of the newer, curved, partly circular rotating variety similar to a suicide, but more circular with a curved beaked point. The only slight disadvantage was the lack of an eye in the hook, having a flattened shank in the manner of the old commercial snapper hooks. As I prefer the shank to lie along the line, this was actually an advantage in my opinion, so I purchased every size available from 24 to 8/0.

After fishing with the hooks inside Moreton Bay, I found them to be outstanding. They remained exceptionally sharp, showed no signs of rusting, were easily covered with bait, and the rotating action and slight offset on the hook permitted me to set the hook in the fish's mouth with a very gentle strike, merely a flick of the wrist. I returned and purchased \$350 of their hooks; enough to last me a lifetime.

Some months later, my assistant and I were collecting fish specimens off the tip of Hook Reef, off Magnetic Island, Townsville. We had set a mist net in the shallows next to the reef and while waiting for it to enmesh specimens, had driven the dinghy to the tip of the reef in deeper water to fish. We could see the reef through the glass-bottomed bucket and to our amazement, saw a school of sweepers, often called bulls-eyes that were unfamiliar to us both. The tips of the caudal fins were bright lemon-yellow. Probably a new species of Pempheris. Dropping the anchor, we started to fish. I used fresh green prawn bait and a number 22 rotating ferro-magnesium hook on a 1Kg very clear line, minus a sinker.

The bait had almost moved within range of the sweepers when a very small honeycomb rock cod took it and snapped it off. Bending on another hook I lowered again. The same cod took the second bait immediately and snapped me off a second time. This called for a new strategy. Thinking that the cod had taken enough, I cast over the school of sweepers and let the bait drift down. To my assistant's great amusement, the little devil of a cod darted out, took the bait again and cut me off. Whilst I admired his audacity, I wanted a sweeper, not a cod, so I switched to a paternoster rig with a very fine shot sinker. Down to the bottom this time and as I watched through the bucket, the damn cod took the bait and hook again.

Now very frustrated, and feeling that I had been outwitted, I was determined to have the last word. Choosing a number 12 hook and a slightly heavier line, I baited up and called on the cod. He took it and rushed back home. I broke off again and then rigged for the sweepers knowing that the cod was unlikely to try again. The bait had hardly reached the school when a small sweeper darted up to take the fly hook and I had him. The frantic sweeper tried to re-enter the school when the bloody cod took him and swallowed my specimen. Now enraged, I used a heavier line, and using a number 10 hook, targeted the cod.

He moved out of the hole and took the bait for the seventh time. This time I had him and was looking forward to retrieving my lost hooks when a red bass swallowed him and broke me off. My assistant thought this was very amusing but was himself having difficulty with another red bass that kept taking his new ferro-magnesium hooks one after the other. It was developing into a bad day. Baiting up for the sweepers once again I managed to hook three before losing them to red bass this time. We had lost many hooks and decided to move away to seek another school of the new species of sweeper.

We were determined to secure at least one. An hour later, without locating further sweepers, we returned and found the school again. I lost another two sweepers and my assistant had three taken by the red bass. We rigged heavier gear and decided to dispatch a few of the useless red bass. I had hardly hooked one of the bass when a medium sized Graceful whaler *Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos* took him and broke my line. I then used a heavy line with an 8/0 ferro-magnesium hook and a full prawn. The shark took it as soon as it reached the bottom, swallowing my hook and cutting me off. We decided that it was time to pull the net and we would return next day to get the elusive sweeper.

This time we planned to use a small quantity of ichthyocide and employ hand spears to collect a few sweepers for identification. Donning our diving gear, we moved down to observe the school that had returned to rest up near the overhang of the reef. This time we speared several of the larger sweepers and put them into preservative. My assistant then noticed one of the red bass behaving in a most peculiar fashion.

As it swam around head downwards it emitted a steady stream of very fine bubbles from its anus. We watched it for some minutes, during which time the stream of bubbles continued to pour out; the fish occasionally releasing several larger bubbles of gas from its anus as it moved into deeper water. Another red bass was in trouble, and as we watched, it rolled belly up to expel a considerable quantity of gas from the vent. It then righted itself only to swim in a disoriented fashion with a column of fine bubbles pouring out from the anus.

We returned to the dinghy to fetch our spearguns to shoot one of the red bass. Other red bass in the area were behaving quite normally without emitting gas. Both fish were ridiculously easy to spear, one releasing a mass of gas from the anus as soon as transfixed. Then, to our stupefaction, a small graceful whaler swam by with some difficulty, a steady stream of bubbles rising like a curtain of air from the anal orifice. We startled it and it actually farted a huge bubble of gas into the water before rolling belly uppermost at the surface.

My assistant speared it through the head and we pulled it aboard the dinghy. What was very noticeable about the shark was the greatly distended stomach. How could the shark generate gas? Sharks, unlike many bony fishes, do not possess a swim bladder. On gutting the shark ashore, we found the gut contained one bloated red bass and my 8/0 hook. The shiny ferro-magnesium hook was giving off a mass of bubbles as it lay in the digestive fluid. We used a plastic collecting bag to collect as much of the digestive fluid as we could and placed the hook into the bag. Within seconds, the hook commenced to froth violently as it dissolved in the low pH fluid.

The swollen red bass contained two sweepers, one inflated rock cod, and two 6/0 hooks my assistant had used the day before. Both sweepers had a hook inside the jaws, and the cod had seven. All hooks were bubbling inside the open gut of the red bass and frothed up when placed into the plastic bag. The other red bass contained only three sweepers with ferro-magnesium hooks in their jaws.

We were surprised to observe that a few hooks could cause so much gas to be generated inside the fish. The bellies of the red bass were greatly distended by hydrogen gas and would, in our opinion, have caused the early demise of both fish. This finding has very considerable relevance to recreational fishers concerned with ever-dwindling fish stocks.

A search of the literature failed to show that some alloy hooks could generate gas when exposed to low pH gastric fluid. This phenomenon has been previously noted back in 1963. The angler noted that if a mulloway

swallowed a titanium or magnesium alloy hook along with a brass swivel and an aluminium or copper coated stainless steel trace, the resulting electrolytic reaction in association with gastric juices below pH 3.4 resulted in the rapid generation of hydrogen gas. This forced the fish to rise to the surface at an accelerating speed so that it sometimes left the surface of the sea and fell into his boat, or exploded violently on contact with the air.

Being much younger and much less knowledgeable, I was inclined to disbelieve him. I now wish to record my indebtedness to his important observation. As a result of these observations I am recommending that ferro magnesium hooks not be used as they will cause damage to fish if lost.



CLUB 4X4 SAFETY SERIES – DASHCAMS

Not sure about you all, but I grew up in an age where video cameras were few and far between and they usually had to be hoisted up on the shoulder and supporting with the hand on that same shoulder – so they were BIG. Then, you'd take the VHS cassette (remember those?) out of the machine, so you could watch your home videos on your TV screen with all the family around, back then it was amazing and new. Many fun holidays, trips and memories were captured this way in my family, and those old tapes are still lying around collecting dust, somewhere.

Nowadays, cameras are absolutely everywhere. Phone camera's, street cameras, cameras on cars documenting the streets, on your laptop and the big eyes on the sky monitoring us by satellite. Watching the news, real-time details of a crime are broadcast

through the footage from a security camera on the victim's domestic property; many of us laugh at the latest "fails" compilation on a social media site and others pull out their phone to take an instant photo to share with friends or family. It's a little frightening to think about what can be done with all of these teeny tiny lenses, recording each passing second of our daily lives – but nevertheless they are part of modern life and in some ways, can add value to our lives.

Enter the dashcam. A small windscreen mounted camera which records and stores footage of what's going on around your vehicle while you drive. These nifty little devices are not new; gaining popularity overseas and with law enforcement to start with, then being used by those of us who spend most of our time on the road, like truckies and now they are filtering through to the domestic market. The application of the data collected from these devices can be as broad or as limited as you'd like it to be. For some users it's about having footage which may help to determine liability in an incident; while for others it's just out of interest to document travels and adventures. One thing is for certain, if you can overlook the paranoia-factor, it's a very useful tool to have on board.

We've been trialling a unit from Uniden – the iGO Cam 40. Nicely packaged with almost everything you need to get going, the iGO 40 was a real breeze to set up. The main unit attached to a really high quality suction cup mount which we positioned behind our rear view mirror to minimise line-of-site interruption and allow space for our Tyre Pressure Management System display screen. Powering up was easy, if not frustrating – the old OCD I've mentioned in prior articles made the sight of power wires dangling down to the power outlets in the lower console of the GU painful and messy to look at. I have heard of people hardwiring them in – this might be something I'll consider into the future – but aside from dropping the headlining, I can't see how it would be a neat installation.

One thing that frustrated me to no end was the fact that there was no SD card included – in essence until I purchased one I couldn't use the unit. Whilst it was well marked and I found that most units on the market were the same I still couldn't help but feel a little deflated when I first discovered this. Once I got over that I found a really well designed, feature filled unit in the iGO 40. Customisable to a fault, the core is a full HD 1080p lens which records at 140 degrees width and displays live recording on a 2 inch screen on the reverse of the compact and sleek unit. One feature that I was really excited about was the Parking Mode – essentially the gyro inside the unit can detect sudden vibrations which will actually wake the unit up and automatically commence recording. The idea is to record someone tampering with your vehicle when you're away from it – any extra security is gladly taken around these parts.

While I haven't yet had to download or transfer footage from the unit, my understanding is that it is as simple as popping the card into a reader and selecting the appropriate file – which can be selected to record into time based chunks, I've got mine looping at 5 minutes currently.

I've been really impressed with the concept and the Uniden unit – easy to use, well designed and packed full of features. Whilst it hasn't been put to practise as of yet, I think I'd be really pleased to be able to look back on footage should I be involved in a collision or an issue where such footage may be the difference between paying an excess or not (yes – I still have to pay excesses too).

As for the privacy bit – I've always been one to take things on the chin if I've done something wrong, so I'm happy to wear that but I take comfort in the knowledge that I have evidence that may help me with finding an equitable and fair solution should something go wrong. Now I need one facing backwards out of #MobileHQGU!

Happy Touring

Reprinted from Club 4X4 thecampfire@club4x4.com.au



TYRE PRESSURES – WHY THEY ARE SO IMPORTANT

Tyres are often one of the first mods anyone with a 4x4 will do. Offroad tyres will provide better grip in trying conditions and are often larger in diameter to improve clearance.

But the thing not as regularly talked about is managing these tyres when on the vehicle. Every tyre manufacturer will have their own stated ideal pressure for a tyre on different vehicles which will account for the weight of the vehicle. Managing these tyre pressures on road will ensure that you maximise your tyres life.

But often these manufacturers and retailers won't make mention of what pressures you should be running offroad – and often this is because it's something the user needs to decide on, based off conditions.

Dropping your tyre pressure is a simple affair and using something like the [Ironman 4x4 Speedy Deflator](#) will get you down to the right pressures quickly.

General 4WD Tracks:

As soon as you hit the tracks it's always a good idea to drop your tyre pressures from you usual road pressure. Road pressures are matched to driving on the blacktop which is smooth, but tracks, be they gravel, dirt etc, aren't generally as smooth or consistent.

Dropping your tyre pressures will allow the tyre to more easily conform to the inconsistencies of the track – providing a more comfortable ride, more grip and most notably better tyre wear as you'll have less chipping and cutting in the tread blocks as the rubber is able to conform.

Pressures of around 25psi are generally a good point to start at, though this will vary depending on vehicle. At this pressure it's still safe to do some high speed driving, but will allow the tyres to conform to the road providing a smoother, more comfortable ride and better grip.



Sand Driving:

Ideal tyre pressures in sand can vary quite significantly depending on the softness and water content. Wet sand is denser and better supports vehicles, but if you do dig in, you'll stick harder due to suction. Softer sand will dig more easily, hampering momentum, but is relatively easy to recover from.

As a rule of thumb anywhere from 15psi – 20psi is always a good place to start. If you find you're still struggling at these pressures, drop down 2-3psi at a time until you come to a point where you are able to "float" over the sand rather than "dig". Don't go much lower than 10psi except for emergencies as any lower and you are at high risk of rolling the tyre off the rim and also damaging your rim.

Mud:

Similar to wet sand, drop down to 15-20psi if you're having issues at higher pressures of 25psi and try and maximise your potential grip. If you have skinny mud tyres you may also run a higher pressure (mid 20s) to "cut" through the mud and reach the harder surfaces at the bottom (if there is any!).

Most importantly when you're back on the road, pump up your tyre pressures again ASAP! Not only is it not nearly as safe to drive with low tyre pressures on road, it will cause pre-mature wear of your tyres. A [portable air compressor](#) will get you back up to road pressure in no time, and saves the slow drive to the nearest servo!

Article from [ironman4x4](#) Reprinted from Campfire 4 x 4



How to choose a squid jig

By Sami Omari | 30 May 2018 – Fishing World



These clear daylight squid conditions would suit a natural or more subtle colouration with a slow sink rate.

I LOVE targeting squid; they're great fun to catch, are good on the plate and even better used straight out of the water as live bait. Over the past year I've probably spent more time chasing southern calamari than ever before. With this increased focus came an inquisitive line of questioning that saw me better understand the multiple layers of colour, reflection and luminescence that come together to form visible

combinations to suit light or water conditions, along with aggression levels in feeding squid.

A squid jig is a lure like any other

I've pulled jigs apart, weighted them and lightened them in an attempt to alter buoyancy and sink rates. A squid jig is a lure like any other at the end of the day and understanding the characteristics of the lure and the best application for each size and colour is a key determinant of success. Squid are aggressive creatures and though never a walk in the park, they aren't as difficult to target as many people think. The key is to buy the best quality jig you can afford and select the right colour, size, weight and style for the conditions. Read on to learn more about the specifics of squid jigs.



Understanding the inner workings of a squid jig will help you catch more. **Base or body colour**

Understanding colour starts with the body, which is that first layer that introduces colour characteristics of a squid jig. There's more to the plastic body of a jig than meets the eye. A transparent body forms a clear base layer which allows for subtle, more natural layers of colour to be overlaid. A UV body on the other hand has enhanced visual presence in the presence of UV light, which helps in deeper water or on overcast days

with an elevated UV index. The final body colour is glow which provides a luminous radiance when charged by natural or artificial light. That characteristic green glow provides illumination, which is useful when fishing in low light conditions or in dirty water.

Tape or under colour

The better-quality jigs can feature a layer of tape that provides reflective or silhouetting characteristics for all times of day and light conditions.



It therefore stands to reason that the tape colour you use is influenced by the amount of ambient light in the atmosphere. Dark red, purple and pink tape are suitable for low light applications (during dawn, dusk or on overcast days), whereas silver and gold provide strong reflection and can capture a squid's attention on a bright day. Rainbow coloured tape provides a combination of flash and silhouette so is a good all-rounder.

Cloth or top colour

The final visual attraction is the cloth or outermost layer. The cloth colour is generally going to be vibrant like a bright orange, or a more subdued colour such as a khaki dull green tone. The cloth colour should mirror the mood of the squid you are catching. If they are aggressive and battling one another for your jig then a vibrant colour will rile them into action. If they are more subdued or if the vibrant colours aren't working, a toned more natural hue like a brown or olive.

Selecting the right squid jig for the conditions can result you catching thumpers in the middle of the day.

Jig sizes

Squid jigs have obscure sizing conventions to the uninitiated. They commonly range from sizes 1.6 to 4.0, but it wasn't until I did some research that I found the sizing generally refers to the length in inches from the eye of the jig to the end of the body, just before the prongs. Weights and sink rates can vary, however the smaller jigs are commonly used in shallower estuaries while the larger jigs are used in deeper coastal waters. Another good tip for which size jig is based on time of year. Southern calamari have short life spans and will be preparing to spawn in winter, which indicates a larger jig would suit, whereas juvenile squid are more prevalent in summer and are well suited to the smaller jigs.

Altering sink rates and sink angles

Some of the cheaper jigs use too much weight or aren't optimally balanced and so sink vertically, appearing somewhat artificial. If you do happen to have some cheaper jigs you can trim back the lead slightly to slow down the sink rate and help the jig sink more horizontally and naturally. Increasing the tail weight of the cheaper jigs by wrapping some solder near the prongs also helps to even out the sink angle. Some of the better jigs have holes in the chin weight which allow you to attach special weights to help the jig get down in deeper water or in windy conditions with a fast drift. I like to keep things simple and use a running ball sinker to the jig, and as with all sinkers I use the lightest possible weight to get down.

It pays to experiment where possible. I accidentally cut off too much of the lead from a squid jig and ended up criss-crossing a length of solder on the body to form a pattern, albeit a weighted one! Interestingly, the jig swam horizontally and was a star performer one afternoon when fishing a lengthy sea grass bed in 5 m of water.

Some jigs come with no pre-defined weight and are weighted by clipping specially designed sinkers to the nose of the jig depending on conditions. While these provide the most flexibility in terms of jig length and weight combinations, they do tend to tumble when cast long distances, causing the line to foul around the sinker and clip.

Finally, you can also use a float rig if drifting shallow weed or kelp beds out of a boat. The rig should be setup to stop the squid jig about a foot of the bottom, allowing you to stick the rod in the holder and fish it passively without snagging the bottom.

When the squid are aggressively feeding, a bright orange jig with a silver tape is ideal.

The most common squid jig will have a keel shaped chin weight that makes the jig sink steadily with a head down attitude at an angle of roughly 45 degrees. These chin weighted jigs are what you'll see most people using and are a good general purpose jig. Head weighted jigs feature a tow point on top of the jig and are forward weighted. They tend to cast better and sink faster, making them ideal for shore based jigging with more violent actions. Thinner profiled jigs lend themselves to faster jigging whereas jigs that are wide will have more buoyancy and slide from side to side with a subtle retrieve.

Finally, there are some jigs have smooth slick body without cloth. The rationale for a smooth finish is that the squid jig glides through the water with less effort, resulting in faster sink rates and better action. A smooth body jig can have a more lifelike or vibrant colour scheme, potentially providing enhanced visual appeal.

Putting it all together

Based on the above, the ideal colours for dawn or dusk would be a glow body with a red tape and a dark cloth to start off with. Gold seems to reflect well in low light so a glow body with gold tape and a brown or olive coloured cloth would also be a reasonable option. If fishing in the middle of an overcast day, a UV body with a silver tape and pink cloth would make sense. During the middle of a bright day, however, a clear body with silver or gold tape and an orange or pink cloth would also suit. It stands to reason that a rainbow tape can be substituted for any of the tapes mentioned above given its dual characteristics. If you're fishing deeper coastal waters, in heavy currents, windy conditions or are chasing the big brutes during the cooler months, a large jig would be ideal. Conversely, the shallow kelp beds in more sheltered estuaries like my home waters of Sydney Harbour, come alive with smaller squid in the warmer months. These kingfish candies are a sucker for a small, slow sinking jig. Some of the inshore reefs I fish for kingfish and snapper have a rocky, kelpy bottom. Not surprisingly they'll often be teeming with squid before the sun comes up, so a running ball sinker fished straight to the tow point on a lumo body jig generally comes up trumps.

Whether you're catching them for bait or for a feed, squid are a great year-round option that aren't always easy but are well worth the effort to target.

