

REEL TALK

Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA

March 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

to

John Curtis

and

Ron Thomas

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*Thank you for
your valued
support.*

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Now part of the Treasurer's duties

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AAAWA Delegates

Victor Schilo, Pat Mckeown

**All club correspondence posted by mail should be addressed to:
PO Box 2834, Malaga WA 694**

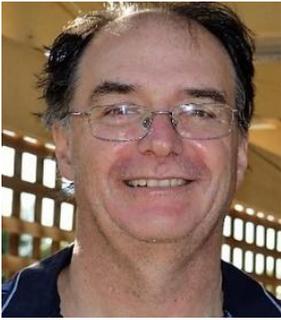
The Website Co-ordinator, Property Officer, AAWA Delegates, Reel Talk Editor, Dry Casting Officer, Assistant Dry Casting Officer, Field Day / Assistant Field Day Officer, Social Organiser and Membership Co-ordinator and Recorder are Committee functions and not extra Committee positions.

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:



This is the time of the year that most attention is turned towards discussing and finalising Field Day locations for the next competitive season. As stated in my last report we were looking at trying more generous local boundaries to try enticing more members who for various reasons are not opting to fish at the away venues. The thinking is that at the General Meeting prior to the Field day, there will be a discussion about where most members who are fishing would like to fish and try arranging a location to meet and fish together. Worth a try I would have thought.

Due to various reasons it had been some time since my daughter Sarah and I had been able to attend a full Field day together. The stars all aligned at the February Preston Beach event and we were both reminded of what a privileged experience it is to fish our magnificent coastline and sleep with the sound of the waves in the background and breath the fresh salty air. Sarah was 10 when we first joined the club and we have been able to enjoy several memorable weekends away with the club at Cervantes, Preston and Bluff Creek over the ensuing years.

I have memories of endless casting, racing Sarah to the bent rod in the rod holder, removing tailor from hooks flying everywhere in the diminished light, the gentle and not so gentle ribbing from other members when Sarah's tally outnumbered mine. Mostly I remember the looks of delight on Sarah's face as she enjoyed the wonderful time spent with her father and that look of anticipation that anglers have when they optimistically cast the line in to the water.

Of course, both Sarah and I agree that the whole experience is a lot better when the fish come out to play!

Our Drycasting Officer Ron Thomas, reports that the Drycasting events are gathering momentum with the move to the new venue and association with the Beachcombers. Let's keep this up.

We are only a few months away from our Presentation Night so please give Pat McKeown all the support he needs but mostly try make sure you can attend

Quote for the month:



God be thanked for books. They are the voices of the distant and the dead, and make us heirs of the spiritual life of past ages.

William Ellery Channing was a US clergyman who was a life long activist against what he regarded as the greatest evils in the world – slavery, drunkenness, poverty and war.

Membership Coordinator's Report

Membership Coordinators Report March 2017

This month we welcome Derek Smith as a new member and will receive his welcome pack at the next meeting.

David Trainer a new member and keen as mustard was seen to showing off his new club shirt and cap.

Looking good David that should attract the fish.

The raffle is attracting good attention and creating interest with good prizes.

New Membership applications from Sean McFarland and Adam McFarland have been received.

The meeting concluded with lots of chatter about the Bremer Bay Trip hope it all went well.

It truly is a beautiful spot for a relaxing and enjoying a good fishing session.

Membership Coordinator Pat McKeown.

Social Organiser's Report

Not a lot has been happening on the Social Scene lately.

This is partly due to being occupied with other club issues.

The committee has been occupied with the sale of Kalbarri and the associated issues that have arisen with this.

Fortunately, we have a very strong and wise executive, who with the committee are able to steer us through these hiccups.

We are a strong club with solid membership, who love their fishing and Club.

This year's Presentation night is being organised.

Date: - 6th June 2018 @ 6:30pm

Where: - Croatian House Wishart Street GWELUP

Menu: - Roast Beef, Chicken Schnitzel, Battered Fish, Pasta, Steamed Vegetables, Roast Potato, Garden Salad, Desert, Tea and Coffee

Cost \$32.00 per head.

Drinks: - Purchase at the bar.

Submit all ticket payments to the club Treasure.

Tickets will be available at the March meeting.

Any donations for the night are more than welcome.

TROPHIES

It is time for all trophy holders to clean and polish the trophies ready to be handed in by the **May General meeting.**

Please bring them all in as I don't want to be chasing them up for engraving.

Keep Fishing Social Organiser Pat McKeown

March General Meeting

When Wednesday 14th March commencing at 7.30pm

Where Coolbinia West Perth Amateur Football and Sporting Club room

COMING FIELD DAY EVENTS

Members please take note of the new sign on and weigh in times

APRIL 2018

FIELD DAY VENUE	Bluff Creek
WHEN	31 Mar – 2 Apr 2018
SIGN ON	At the General meeting or phone/message FDO
LINES DOWN	Saturday, 06h00
BOUNDARIES	Bluff Creek as far north and south you willing to walk.
WEIGH IN	Monday, 09h00 Camp site close to Creek.

FIELD DAY VENUE	Local
WHEN	31 Mar – 2 Apr 2018
SIGN ON	At the General meeting or phone/message FDO
LINES DOWN	Saturday, 06h00
BOUNDARIES	Floreat to Moore River
WEIGH IN	Monday, 09h00 Location to be decided on at GM

Rottnest Island Field Day bookings for May 2018.

Rottnest Island Field Day accommodation and bus transport for the weekend 25-27 May 2018 is all booked and organized.

The tides over the weekend are favourable for a good low tide around prime fishing times on Radar Reef. It is now the time to book your spot by contacting your FDO and paying your \$100 deposit. Please pay your deposit into the clubs bank account (see details below)and let the Treasurer and FDO know you have done so. Money can also be paid at the next General meeting.

Total cost for accommodation and bus transport is normally estimated at \$240 p/p.

MAY 2018

FIELD DAY VENUE

WHEN

SIGN ON

LINES DOWN

BOUNDARIES

WEIGH IN

Rottnest Island

26 – 27 May 2018

At Rottnest Island

Saturday, 12h00

All non-protected waters around Island

Sunday night shortly after bus drop off

FIELD DAY VENUE

WHEN

SIGN ON

LINES DOWN

BOUNDARIES

WEIGH IN

Local

26 – 27 May 2018

At the General meeting or phone/message FDO

Saturday, 12h00

Lancelin to Point Peron

Sunday night. Location to be decided on at GM

Preston Beach - Field Day Feb 2018

Peter O's story



Our scheduled field day for February was Preston Beach - Our last monks fish at this location gave very poor results but again taking into account for previous years' experience where this location gave good results we still optimistic of a successful fishing experience - but not to be.

On the Friday I packed the car and headed to our holiday house at Yunderup for an overnight sleep and to allow making a comfortable start (i.e. - a bit of sleep-in) before heading to Preston. I arrived at 8:30 am, so immediately let down tires and with the rest of the troupe headed north along the beach. I.e. The troupe consisted of Peet and Sandra leading us to a favourite bit of shallow reef followed by me, Gary, Vince, Sri, Sandra, and Peet.

Mark Hansen had decided to fish the beaches south of the carpark. Shane and Sarah were to join us later in the afternoon.

The following discussion will pretty much mirror his field day report; hence the following is my perspective of how events unfolded

Shane Wignell and his daughter, arrived a little later and drove up to our location and fished on the south side of the group

I fished at the southern end of the group, with Vince immediately to my left and Gary immediately to my right. Peet had taken us up to a reef. Peet fished at the northern end of a significant bit of reef.

Where he fished the reef was fairly wide and required a fair cast to get out far enough and care taken in retrieving to avoid getting snagged. I later was told by Peet they were absolutely plagued by tiny Tarwhine.

I didn't feel this bit of reef was an easy place to fish, hence turned around and went 400 m south to the tail end of the reef - just small sections in close and gaps between these sections of rock/reef.

No sooner parked when Gary came up behind me and expressed dismay as I had taken the spot he was going to fish, Tough eh Gary, however he fished only 5 to 10 metres to my right.

As I drove north I took note that the water appeared free of weed with only a few clumps weed washed up on the beach, an easterly was blowing so only small waves and clear water. Hence on selecting my spot I immediately set up the car annexe, chair and table and I set up and immediately started fishing - i.e. my long rod with two sets of ganged hooks baited with mulies and a light rod with a small set of ganged hooks for small mulies and a small hook to use either baits such as prawn, squid or a cube of herring.

A couple of hours later and with a light change to the SW, I had a hook up and thought a chopper Tailer. But when I beached it saw it was a small Salmon. Within the hour I landed a couple more - a good start for me. Much to their disgust for some unknown reason, both Gary and Vince, on setting up with similar mulie rigs did not get a touch from this school of salmon



Must take my hat off to Gary, he noticed that in less than half metre of water, on the inside of the reef, only a couple of metres out, some Whiting were swimming up and down. He took out his lighter rod - put on a rig comprising a single small hook and light sinker. With effort and persistence Gary landed some respectable Whiting.

Shane and Sarah fishing on the south side of us, and they managed to land a few Herring, again surprisingly the rest of us could not get any action with Herring during the afternoon.

The easterly had changed to a light SW before midday but as the afternoon and evening wore on the wind got even lighter with nearly flat calm on Sunday morning. Tailor runs generally require an appearance of a SW wind creating white caps.

Late afternoon I managed a couple of Tailor on the big rod loaded with two sets of ganged hooks baited with mulies. All of went through lots of bait, especially mulies as very small fish (Tarwhine and Whiting and Blowies) resulted in

a head and backbone being bought in on the ganged hooks. This required continually checking and rebaiting. Then on my light rod - a hit which I thought was going to be a chopper Tailor. But no, turned out to be one of the largest Yellow Fin Whiting I have ever caught.



We decided to fish to after dark, but nothing happened. The others retired about 9:00 pm, but I held to my plan to fish to 10:30 pm. At about 10:00 with still no action from the dusk till dark, I thought of turning in but with a couple of baits left in my bait box, I rigged up my light rod with a these baits - a small mulie and a piece of squid. I then retrieved my heavier rods with big baits to put it away for the night however, just as I completed this, the light rod started to bounce and immediately grabbing it and with a bit of care landed a double header of a Tailor and a Herring. Good way to end the evening fish.

Getting up the following morning just as it started to get light on my light rod, I managed to immediately land a size Tarwhine. I then put out a Burley bag to try and stir up Herring. This was only very mildly successful as only a few Herring came in. I put out a live Herring on my big rod but as was most of the weekend, an hour later I pulled it in only to find the small fish had chewed this live bait to bits. Again the morning fish was also very slow.

Hence about 9:00 am on Sunday, we packed up and had weigh-in at Peets vehicle on the beach and then headed home.

While I had a few fish to take home for a feed, the rest of the troupe only had less than a handful of smaller fish of various varieties. See following pages on Reel Talk for individual capture details

Hope to see you at the March field day at Bremer Bay and trust we have a few more participants and a good showing for all of us with captures of Tailor, Salmon, Skippy and Herring..



Field Day Sections up to and including February				
	Section	Angler	Species	Weight
1A	Best scale fish (1st six months)	Sandra Wessels	Yellowtail Kingfish	8.20
1B	Best scale fish (2nd six months)	Ron Thomas	Tailor	0.80
2	Most meritorious fish	Sandra Wessels	Yellowtail Kingfish	8.20
3	Best shark (4.5kg min)	Peter Osborne	Shark	5.29
4	Best mullock (2kg min)	0	0	0.00
5	Best tailor (1kg min)	Martin Wearmouth	Tailor	1.98
6	Best salmon (3kg min)	0	0	0.00
7	Best skipjack trevally (0.5 kg min)	Theo Van Niekerk	Skipjack Trevally	1.74
8	Best mackerel (2kg min)	0	0	0.00
9	Best yellowtail kingfish, samson or amberjack (4kg min)	Sandra Wessels	Yellowtail Kingfish	8.20
10	Best scale fish (Other than above)	Peter Osborne	Westralian Dhufish	2.75
11	Best bag of scale fish	Sandra Wessels	Mixed bag	26.08
12	Best bag of mullock (2 fish min)	0	0	0.00
13	Best bag of tailor (2 fish min)	Martin Wearmouth	Tailor	4.28
14	Best fish on single handed rod (max 4kg line)	0	0	0.00
15	Best fish caught on fly rod	0	0	0.00
16	Best fish on single handed rod, soft plastic lure (max 4kg line)	0	0	0.00
17	Best fish on single handed rod, hard body lure (max 4kg line)	0	0	0.00

Field day results for February 2018:

ANGLER		Total weight	No. of Species	No. of fish	F.D. points	Attendance			Total points
						Field Day	Local	General Meeting	
Peter Osborne	Number	3.92	6	14	99.2	1		1	119.2
	Total weight								
	Weight of best								
Shane Wignell	Number	0.89	1	6	18.9	1		1	38.9
	Total weight								
	Weight of best								
Sarah Wignell	Number	0.30	1	1	13.0	1			23.0
	Total weight								
	Weight of best								
Mark Hansen	Number	0.63	2	6	26.3	1		1	46.3
	Total weight								
	Weight of best								
Gary Parkinson	Number	0.32	1	3	13.2	1		1	33.2
	Total weight								
	Weight of best								
Vincent Tomazin	Number					1		1	20.0
	Total weight								
	Weight of best								
Peet Wessels	Number	0.65	3	3	36.5	1		1	56.5
	Total weight								
	Weight of best								
Sandra Wessels	Number	0.30	1	1	13.0	1		1	33.0
	Total weight								
	Weight of best								
Oliver Wessels	Number	0.22	1	3	12.2	1			22.2
	Total weight								
	Weight of best								
Sri Srigandan	Number	0.28	1	2	12.8	1		1	32.8
	Total weight								
	Weight of best								
Martin Wearmouth	Number	0.82	2	3	28.2		1	1	48.2
	Total weight								
	Weight of best								

Field day fished weighed in for February 2018:

ANGLER		Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Species
		Tailor	Herring, Australian	Garfish (all species)	Yellowfin Whiting	Tarwhine	Banded Sweep	Salmon Australian
Peter Osborne	Number	3	4	1	2	1		3
	Total weight	1.50	0.48	0.20	0.34	0.30		1.10
	Weight of best	0.60			0.26			
Shane Wignell	Number		6					
	Total weight		0.89					
	Weight of best							
Sarah Wignell	Number					1		
	Total weight					0.30		
	Weight of best							
Mark Hansen	Number		5		1			
	Total weight		0.55		0.08			
	Weight of best							
Gary Parkinson	Number				3			
	Total weight				0.32			
	Weight of best				0.14			
Vincent Tomazin	Number							
	Total weight							
	Weight of best							
Peet Wessels	Number		1			1	1	
	Total weight		0.15			0.30	0.20	
	Weight of best							
Sandra Wessels	Number					1		
	Total weight					0.30		
	Weight of best							
Oliver Wessels	Number				3			
	Total weight				0.22			
	Weight of best							
Sri Srigandan	Number		2					
	Total weight		0.28					
	Weight of best		0.18					
Martin Wearmouth	Number	1	2					
	Total weight	0.60	0.22					
	Weight of best	0.60						

Fishing Field day competition section up to end February 2018:

Field Day Sections up to and including February				
Section		Angler	Species	Weight
1A	Best scale fish (1st six months)	Sandra Wessels	Yellowtail Kingfish	8.20
1B	Best scale fish (2nd six months)	Ron Thomas	Tailor	0.80
2	Most meritorious fish	Sandra Wessels	Yellowtail Kingfish	8.20
3	Best shark (4.5kg min)	Peter Osborne	Shark	5.29
4	Best mulloway (2kg min)	0	0	0.00
5	Best tailor (1kg min)	Martin Wearmouth	Tailor	1.98
6	Best salmon (3kg min)	0	0	0.00
7	Best skipjack trevally (0.5 kg min)	Theo Van Niekerk	Skipjack Trevally	1.74
8	Best mackerel (2kg min)	0	0	0.00
9	Best yellowtail kingfish, samson or amberjack (4kg min)	Sandra Wessels	Yellowtail Kingfish	8.20
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11	Best bag of scale fish	Sandra Wessels	Mixed bag	26.08
12	Best bag of mulloway (2 fish min)	0	0	0.00
13	Best bag of tailor (2 fish min)	Martin Wearmouth	Tailor	4.28
14	Best fish on single handed rod (max 4kg line)	0	0	0.00
15	Best fish caught on fly rod	0	0	0.00
16	Best fish on single handed rod, soft plastic lure (max 4kg line)	0	0	0.00
17	Best fish on single handed rod, hard body lure (max 4kg line)	0	0	0.00

Top scores up to February		
Rank	Angler	Total points
1	Martin Wearmouth	1041
2	Peter Osborne	973
3	Peet Wessels	716
4	Sandra Wessels	655
5	Theo Van Niekerk	490
6	Mark Hansen	443
7	Gary Parkinson	380
8	Mark Nurse	248
9	Vincent Tomazin	236
10	Brad Zaknich	228
11	Sabby Pizzolante	188
12	Ian Taggart	182
13	Ron Thomas	172
14	Shane Wignell	136
15	Paul Terpkos	117
16	Sarah Wignell	112
17	Pat McKeown	60
18	Justin Rose	55
19	Oliver Wessels	46
20	Sri Srigandan	33
21	Dean Stewart	20

Birthdays for March

Maureen Wignell 22nd; Rita Pizzolante 25th; Jason Zerella 30th
George Belin 31st

We wish you all the best for your special day

Dry Casting Report 11 February 2018

Another great day for casting with a light east to south east wind behind us along with a perfect sunny day. Twelve casters turned up on the day along with some new faces that we haven't seen for a while, like Gary Gildersleeves, Terry Willerson, Sri Srigandoan and Klaus Schonwolf. Thanks for your attendance and hope to see you again next month.

Bob Hendo had a below average day in the DHA with 132 which is about 20 or 25 under his norm. Gary came in with 154 and I must say, it's not very often this happens, but I beat Gary along with my best ever score of 167. Peter Osborne also had a good day with 138.

Although the wind was not strong, it still had a lot to do with the distance casting. Chas had a good day in the distance events, especially the 112g with 169 metres and 149 metres in the 56g. Bob took out the SHA with 29 followed by Alan Jones with 25.

Gary took out the honours for the day with 452% followed by myself with 431%.

Casting was all over by 11am, which gave us plenty of time for the sausage sizzle and a get together after for a chat about whatever fishermen talk about.

Many thanks to the helpers on the day, especially Mark with much of the laser work. Many thanks to Geoff Raftis for filling in with Mark on the laser. We really do need another one or two people to use the laser, which is quite simple. This will allow people like Mark to cast when it's his turn, rather than have to cast to catch up.

A few changes to the way I set the course now makes it faster and easier. If anyone has any complaints, please let me know and I will rectify it.

Hope to see you all next month. March 18th for an 8am start. April will be back to 8.30am start.

Ron Thomas – Drycasting Officer

SURF CASTING & ANGLING CLUB **Dry casting results - 11th February 2018**

	56 gram				Artificial Bait				112gram			
	Cast	Cast	Total	%	Cast	Cast	Total	%	Cast	Cast	Total	%
Veterans	1	2		%	1	2		%	1	2		%
BOB HENDERSON	102.2 0	91.87	194.0 7	70.33	103.0 6	OUT	103.0 6	40.25	OUT	112.2 2	112.2 2	37.78
MAL HEAD	106.9 4	106.4 6	213.4 0	77.33	83.46	92.62	176.0 8	68.76	110.0 8	102.2 4	212.3 2	71.48
PETER OSBORNE	94.43	110.2 3	204.6 6	74.16	82.68	89.27	171.9 5	67.15	93.71	97.66	191.3 7	64.43
GARY GILDERSLEEVES	136.8 2	139.1 4	275.9 6	100.0 0	114.8 2	105.1 9	220.0 1	85.92	136.2 5	134.3 6	270.6 1	91.11
RON THOMAS	OUT	142.7 1	142.7 1	51.71	125.1 7	130.9 0	256.0 7	100.0 0	146.9 6	150.0 6	297.0 2	100.0 0
JOHN CROMPTON	96.74	OUT	96.74	35.06	88.69	99.32	188.0 1	73.42	102.0 7	OUT	102.0 7	34.36
SRI SRIGANDAN	76.52	82.93	159.4 5	57.78	78.78	85.19	163.9 7	64.03	102.7 5	86.80	189.5 5	63.82
ALAN JONES	91.48	91.04	182.5 2	66.14	89.39	85.64	175.0 3	68.35	96.33	88.47	184.8 0	62.22
KLAUS SCHONWOLF	104.5 3	93.84	198.3 7	71.88	90.12	92.6	182.7 2	71.35	107.7	97.82	205.5 4	69.20
Seniors												
MARK HANSON	94.98	94.80	189.7 8	100.0 0	100.2 2	108.5 4	208.7 6	100.0 0	112.6 4	118.1 0	230.7 4	100.0 0

SURF CASTING & ANGLING CLUB																			
Dry Casting results - 11th February 2018																			
Double Handed Accuracy											Single Handed Accuracy					Total	Attendan	Total	
Target number											Target distance					D/Castin		Points	
Veterans	3	3	1	1	4	4	2	2	Total	%	L	S	L	S	Total	%	%		
BOB HENDERSON	22	14	17	22	14	18	9	16	132	79.04	6	6	8	9	29	100.00	327.40	10	337.40
MAL HEAD	19	10	18	20	0	12	8	9	96	57.48	0	7	8	0	15	51.72	326.77	10	336.77
PETER OSBORNE	23	14	19	24	7	22	20	9	138	82.63	1	5	0	0	6	20.69	309.06	10	319.77
GARY GILDERSLEEVES	17	23	24	21	10	15	22	22	154	92.21	7	4	7	6	24	82.76	452.00	10	462.00
RON THOMAS	21	22	23	25	19	15	25	17	167	100.00	7	8	0	8	23	79.31	431.02	10	441.02
JOHN CROMPTON	15	15	16	14	0	0	0	0	60	35.93	8	0	7	0	15	51.72	230.49	10	240.49
SRI SRIGANDAN	0	0	5	0	0	8	0	13	26	15.57	7	0	6	2	15	51.72	252.92	10	262.92
ALAN JONES	14	17	17	21	16	0	18	16	119	71.26	9	0	7	9	25	86.21	354.18	10	364.18
KLAUS SCHONWOLF	0	2	20	25	0	0	0	13	60	35.93	4	9	5	3	21	72.41	320.77	10	330.77
Seniors																			
MARK HANSON	7	19	18	12	0	13	17	24	110	100.00	0	0	6	3	9	100.00	500.00	10	510.00

VETERANS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2017 - 2018											
LONGEST 56 GRAM										142.71	RON THOMAS
LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT										130.90	RON THOMAS
LONGEST 112G										162.33	RON THOMAS
HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY										168	BOB HENDERSON
HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY										33	RON THOMAS
SENIORS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2017 - 2018											
LONGEST 56 GRAM										115.29	SHANE WIGNELL
LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT										115.43	JEFF HEWTON
LONGEST 112G										135.14	JEFF HEWTON
HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY										134	MARK HANSON
HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY										25	MARK HANSON



ROLL YOUR OWN

How to make a popper suitable for salmon

With the salmon season coming up shortly it is time to spend a bit of time with minimum effort and make some poppers that can help you catch some salmon this season. Great thing is that not only are poppers ultra-effective, but they are inexpensive and cheap to make. Construction materials are simple - a length of dowel, fine gauge galvanised wire for eyelets, 24-hour Araldite, a selection of quick drying aerosol spray paint cans, some fine and coarse sandpaper, a large diameter nail, split rings and trebles. There is no need for fancy tapered or concave fascia shaping either. Essential tools are a drill, hammer, bench vice, fine-tooth wood saw, a pair of wire cutters and pliers.

The template for 2-4kg plus salmon is a 100mm length of standard 16mm diameter dowel. Cut the front fascia at a 45-degree angle. Suitable dowel can be obtained from a hardware store and if cut appropriately you can get two lures for one cut. It is vital that the cut is vertically symmetrical and not offset, otherwise the popper will spin. Round and shape the tail with coarse grade sandpaper, then smooth it and the fascia off with a finer grain.

Three popper eyelets are needed. Use 0.9mm galvanised wire tie (readily available from hardware stores). It is easy to work with and super strong. Clamp a 3 or 4 mm diameter nail in a vice, wrap a short piece of wire around it and tightly twist to about a 20mm length below the eye that will be formed. Straighten the twisted section with pliers and hammer the eyelet flat on a piece of metal so that it is not offset. It is easy to make many of these quickly using a battery powered drill and after cutting the wire to appropriate length, bend evenly in two around the nail and place the ends of the wire in the drill and give it a quick spin.

Match a drill bit to the diameter of the eyelet twist for a snug fit. Carefully drill a 20mm deep hole in the fascia, centred, but 6mm down from the top. This keeps the nose elevated when retrieving. Drill to the same depth in popper tail, but this time ensure it is absolutely dead-centre.

Pencil a centre-line from the bottom of the angled fascia along the belly to the tail so that the eyelet can be positioned correctly.

Drill a 15mm deep hole 57 - 60mm from the popper tail and at a 45-degree angle back towards the rear. The angle prevents drilling through the top of the dowel and provides additional eyelet holding strength. Wrap some masking tape around the drill bit to mark the desired depth.

Afterwards, sand the drill holes smooth. Test the length of the eyelets in all holes and clip off the tag twist ends with a cutter until the bases fit in neatly, exposing no twist. The next step is to mix some Araldite, poke it into the drill holes with a piece of wire until full, coat the eyelet twists, push them in and then carefully align everything. Wipe off any excessive residue and sand smooth later. The bottom of an egg carton makes an excellent cradle for the Araldite drying process and supports poppers horizontally, belly upwards. Simply cut 16mm diameter holes in the flat carton top for the vertical gluing of fascia and rear eyelets.

The painting process is simple. Tear the top flaps off a carton and use it as a mass production spray box by stringing a piece of coat hanger wire across it as a rack. Shape pieces of 0.9mm wire tie into S-hooks to suspend the poppers. Place some strips of cloth on wire supports at the back of the box to act as a baffle and absorb overspray.

Spray with two even coats of combination primer/undercoat aerosol paint, following the manufacturer's drying instructions in between. Simply reverse the hanging hooks to complete unpainted sections. For the final coats choose a bright blue enamel colour for the popper topside - a proven salmon enticer - and a white gloss for the belly. Hang the lures with bellies squarely facing you and apply the white spray first. Make sure to include the front fascia and eyelets. Turn them around and apply the blue along the top section of the lure. Speckled over-spray takes care of the sides and there is no need to be fussy as long as the paint covers. Two coats assist with durability. If you wish to add a bit of a pattern you can use a small strip of fly wire and place over the lure before spraying to give a scale pattern.

Over time, fish and the belly treble will scuff paint work and touch-ups can be done in a jiffy. Try to source robust hardware from your local tackle outlet. I prefer to use commercially available 'assist hooks' or 'in-line' barbless hooks. Contrary to popular opinion you will not lose fish using barbless hooks. If you have to use trebles I recommend something such as size 5 extra strong Mustad or Eagle Claw trebles, either stainless or nickel coated. Split rings like size Superflex 5 or 6H, preferably stainless steel, are first rate and won't let you down.

Complete with hardware, the popper weighs in at around 17gm and is probably best suited to spinning reels, although with a tail breeze, baitcasters are fine. If fishing the south coast I would recommend that you consider making your lures a little larger and a little heavier to aid casting the distances required.

Always rinse your poppers in soapy fresh water and dry them after use, which helps to retard hardware and eyelet corrosion. Smaller 55mm long stubby popper versions are equally efficient for smaller salmon up to 1.5kg-plus and big herring, too. To make the smaller lures use the similar diameter dowel, template design, construction and painting procedures outlined above. The only differences are that no belly treble is required, and hardware is scaled down to suit smaller fish. The mini popper weighs just under 10gm and falls into the domain of ultra-light spinning outfits. Both popper patterns are also very effective when trolling, providing that your rod is positioned vertically to keep the nose up high, eliminate line belly drag and induce a skittering surface action.

There's a real buzz and a unique sense of satisfaction about catching fish on a personally fashioned home-made lure. Stalking salmon and the explosive visual surface action associated with this type of salmon fishing is the icing on the cake.

Article supplied by John Curtis



With nearly 30 extinct species under its belt, and a now-official Australia-wide spread, how can this introduced species possibly be stopped?

Up until a few hundred years ago, our entire landscape was rich in wildlife of all sorts – particularly our unique mammals. A simple walk through one of our semi-arid areas would have had you witnessing scores of lizards and small mammals. At night, there would have been even more scurrying around. Australia is a special place. An isolated continent that has seen the evolution of animals unlike any others of Earth.



A camera trap captures feral cat that has killed a small native mammal. Credit: Australian Wildlife Conservancy HR



But that changed. Until a few hundred years ago there were no foxes, rabbits, invasive ants or many other non-native pests; well there were dingos – they had been around for a few thousand years. Nor was there any sign of a cat – the most destructive of all invaders. There are only two continents on Earth that have not evolved with cats – Australia and Antarctica – but they were deliberately introduced and released by Europeans to control mice and introduced rabbits. Now a recent report by Threatened Species Recovery Hub has revealed that our continent is in fact right now 99.8% covered in them.

So is it any wonder that, given our unique fauna has not developed defences against this alien predator, we are the world leaders (losers) in mammal extinction rates? Rates which are showing no signs of abating. It is a dismal outlook. The feral cat has become well and truly entrenched in Australia and seems set to eat its way through our ecosystem.

The Predator

Felis catus. The Feral Cat differs in no way to the much-loved pet variant. In fact according to the Department of the Environment and Energy, a feral cat is defined as an animal ‘that lives and reproduces in the wild and survives by hunting or scavenging; none of its needs are satisfied intentionally by humans’. In other words, cats can readily transition between domesticated, stray or feral. Other than dogs or dingos they have no natural predators. In the wild they are predominantly solitary, nocturnal, opportunistic and mostly carnivorous feeders; almost solely reliant on live prey. They can adapt to every environment we have, from alpine to arid; and they’re reclusive, stealthy and difficult to detect. They are well equipped predators. Once mature (12 months) they will breed in any season – up to two litters per year – and if conditions are favourable, they can ‘breed like rabbits’. Each cat will eat at least two to 10 native animals per day.



A radio-collared feral cat

Estimating the cat population is extremely difficult due to their wide-ranging and stealthy nature, but this recent report (derived from over 40 scientists and using data from over 100 separate studies across Australia) suggests that the population stands between 2.1 million and 6.3 million feral cats. Based off this report, which is the most earnest effort to date in recording feral cat numbers, that means at least 4.2 million (to worst case 12.6 million) mammals, reptiles, birds and other animals are being consumed by feral cats every 24 hours. Regardless of 'exact' population numbers there is a scientific consensus that the population of feral cats is between 1 million and 11 million.

The Prey

Over 30 mammal species are now extinct and the feral cat was a primary driver in destroying almost all of these. They had not evolved with the defences to meet the introduced threat and had become easy pickings. But it is not only mammals on the menu; birds (mainly ground-nesting), lizards, frogs and insects have all felt the impact too ... and continue to do so. With any further growth of the feral cat population, it is fair to say that our ecology, which has evolved over millennia and has seen a real shock over the last century or two, seems set for more troubled times ahead. Even without the growth of our feral cat population, our native fauna will continue to decline.



Endangered numbat or banded anteater Myrmecobius fasciatus in the mallee woodland of Yookamurra Wildlife Sanctuary, Murray Lands region of South Australia, site of endangered species recovery projects conducted by the Australian Wildlife Conservancy.

The Measures

The problem with eradicating any pest is complex. Some may simply say 'shoot 'em or poison 'em' but the problems lay a little deeper. We are lucky to have many conservation groups (like Australian Wildlife Conservancy and Bush Heritage Australia plus scores of others) that have people who do 'wildlife' for a living. People who spend their lives looking for the 'elixir'; the 'cancer cure' if you will. Even our Federal Government has invested solid resources to look at the issue.



The impact of feral cats on native wildlife cannot be underestimated.

Fencing, baits, ground shooting and trapping are all options that are currently being applied or have already been used. Each has its issues. Fencing requires maintenance, is subject to topography, and can act as a barrier for a small number of non-target species. Ground shooting is expensive and largely ineffective, leaving many cats undiscovered due to their widespread and elusive nature. Luring and trapping is difficult due to seasonal diets (an abundance of mammals or lizards is preferable) and particular cats simply not being interested. Baiting is subject to State laws, and has to be done carefully to ensure only target species are selected; and it also carries the problem of cats not being interested in baits. To take the problem further, a localised reduction in cats may increase numbers of rabbits or other vermin; and even reduce the number of dingos (the only predator). Everything has an effect. And this is the problem ... gaining the understanding and developing a holistic approach that is effective. In most cases this means that not just the cats but also other invasive species need to be targeted for reduction at the same time – with each species having its own flow-on effect.

Today the Government and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) are all working hard to eliminate feral cats. As usual, funding is the big issue. While the Government could save millions by reducing overseas junkets and ridiculous MP super, benefits and pensions, our wildlife organisations (many of whom rely on volunteer work) could beneficially use either the money saved (unlikely) or the recognition and support of volunteers and donations.



A feral cat caught on a camera trap in the wild.

The Outlook

Currently, both the Commonwealth Government and NGOs are doing some great work to reduce the feral cat problem. Multi-faceted cull/conservation programs are underway across Australia in various shapes and forms. Support is being given to landowners and leaseholders in the form of direct measures (baits) and education. The NGOs are setting up tracts of protected land and taking serious measures to protect (in particular) the currently endangered and nearly extinct animals. There are several NGOs which are purely focused on protection, and

cat-free areas and islands have been set up purely for relocating and saving species from extinction (Dirk Hartog Island and Christmas Island are two examples). Nobody is making claims about ridding Australia completely of the pest. The best that can be hoped for is the continued survival and regeneration of our remaining native species.

Author: Sam Purcell – printed March 10; 2017

I thank Pat Callinan of 4x4 Adventure Magazine for permission to use this important article.

Pat has a number of excellent publications which are available on line. Please take time to check them out: patcallinanmedia.com.au

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