

REEL TALK - MAY 2023

Official Magazine of the Surf Casting & Angling Club of WA Inc.





**Surf Casting and Angling Club of W A Inc.
May 2023 Reel Talk
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Cover Picture: Bob Henderson getting an Artificial Bait cast away at Dry Casting.

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S C A C Life Members

Ian Cook; Terry Fuller; Bob Henderson; Mal Head; Peter Osborne.

Deceased Life Members

Dudley Brown; Vic Davis; Lloyd Dunn; Doug Edward; George Holman; Noel Knight; Ron Kildahl; Bob Klein; Eric Parker; Les Shand; Jim Strong.

Note from the A/g Editor

We currently have two vacancies on the Committee, being that of Vice-President and the Field Day Officer. Shane Wignell resigned as Vice President as he is travelling in the eastern states over the next few months and will not be available and felt that he should step down rather than not actively contribute. We thank Shane for his support of the club over the past years and look forward to his continued input upon his return.

Martin Wearmouth recently resigned as President and Field Day Officer. Ron Thomas has stepped up to take on the position of President, but we need a person to perform the duties of Field Day Officer. There is a specific need for a person to act as Field Day Officer for the May Rottnest Field Day.

For the Club to operate effectively we need to fill this position. It does entail a little work in recording Field Day captures and Heaviest of Species in Club Competitions but following changes to the Club Competition Rules in April the scoring system is now a lot simpler.

If you are fishing please keep in mind the Open Competition for species captured outside of club competition. this year; if you catch any eligible fish please let the club know. Just take a photo with a length and weight please and send it to Peet Wessels at Peetwessels@gmail.com or the club secretary, John Curtis, at secretary@scac.net.au until further notice.

John Curtis A/g Editor

May General Meeting

Wednesday 10th May

Croatian Club in Wishart Street Gwelup

Meal at 7.00pm with meeting commencing at 8.00pm

Please RSVP with attendance or apologies to secretary by noon on Monday 8th May.

May Birthdays

Malcolm Harris	3 rd
Robert Pekaar	11 th
Thomas Wearmouth	29 th
Victor Tomazin	30 th

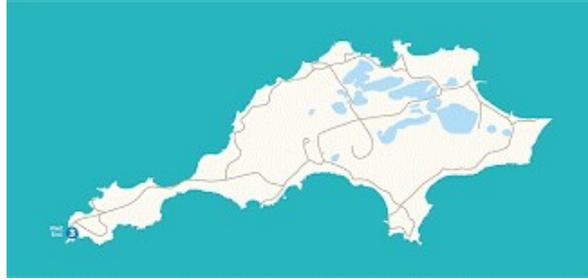


A REMINDER:

During the June General Meeting we will hold our Presentation Night.

Please keep the 14th of June free so that you can get involved with this night.

Friends and family are welcome to attend.



Save The Dates – Rottneest 2023 weekends

Saturday 20th May to Monday 22nd May

Saturday 19th August to Monday 21st August

There is still one vacancy for the May Field Day to Rottneest.

Please advise the Secretary if you are interested.

DRY CASTING REPORT May 2023

We are now into the Winter Dry Casting season and we now cast on Sundays at the Perth Polo Club ground in Meadow Street, Guildford. Casting commences at 8:30AM and members are asked to be prepared and ready to cast at that time.

The next casting day is to be held on **Sunday the 7th of May** and all members are invited to come and either participate or come and socialize with the other members casting.

Scores for the 22 / 23 season have been finalized and from these, the handicaps for the 23 / 24 season have been set. If you do not have a handicap score you can attend dry casting for 3 consecutive casting days and from your scores a handicap will be set.

The handicap system has seen several different casters win on the day and is proving to be quite effective. Several different casters have won the casting day since the introduction.

Due to several casters not being able to attend, the April casting day was cancelled. Bob and Gary were away in South Australia, casting at the AAA National Angling Championships held in Port Lincoln. Both did quite well in the accuracy event, but an out of court and a break-off cost them the chance of winning the overall competition.



Ron Thomas casting in the 112g distance event.

BLUFF CREEK - APRIL 2023 FIELD DAY

Mark Hansen

(Pictures supplied by Mark Hansen and Chris Stickells)

Good Friday morning Wendy, Mark and Chris left Armadale joining the mass exodus of Perth's population heading away from the city for a little R&R over the Easter break. There was lots of traffic and the obligatory road works that seem to be perpetually present on the Albany Highway. After refuelling at Mt Barker, we made our way to Bluff Creek via the Porongorups and Manypeaks then onto our usual track that takes us directly to the eastern end of the beach, however there, affixed to the access gate, was a freshly installed NO TRESPASSING sign warning of grave and certain prosecution, so we turned around and went back to the old Bluff Creek Rd turn off, a track that I hadn't driven on for 15 years. Many people had set up camps behind the dunes and on the beach.

The sand was very soft, tyres were deflated into the low teens, we drove east crossing a couple of creeks and avoiding cliff edges that were eroded into the beach. We had to take the track behind the dunes because the swell was washing onto the first set of rocks, this tested our 4WD driving skills as the sand was soft and steep, with a little encouragement with a snatch strap we made it safely to our destination by the headland on a protected, level bit of beach at 3.30pm. The rest of the afternoon was spent setting up camp, unpacking rods, reels and fishing gear, then getting them ready for the Saturday kick-off [or should it be "flick-off"]

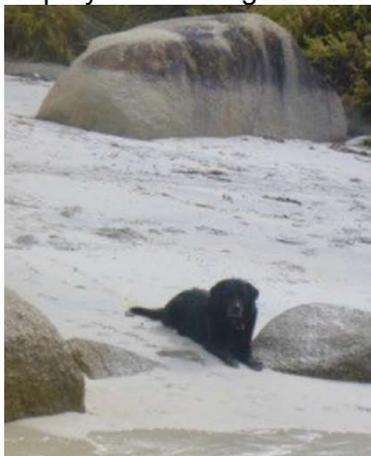


Mark and Chris at Cookie's skippy hole



Fishing the gutter

Saturday morning, the wind and swell was up a bit and there was the odd, brief shower of rain. After a hearty breakfast we climbed the headland and followed the mountain goat trail for 800 metres to Cookie's Skippy spot, where Mark Nurse passed away in September 2019. The onshore winds and increased swell made fishing there too dangerous, so we returned to the protected rocks next to the campsite. Herring keenly took the hooks and there were some flathead on the bottom, with banded sweep by the rocks. Occasional schools of salmon could be seen 200 - 300 metres offshore, well beyond casting distance. After lunch Chris and I fished the gutter in front of the camp, this gutter had a constant water flow to the east and had scoured out basins along its course until it reached the submerged boulders with deep water around them due to the rip running past. Some flathead were in the basins, but most were laying in ambush in the deep water around the rocks. Chris fished with bait while I used soft plastics on 4lb line, "Douglas" was determined to catch the released fish, which he occasionally did and took his catch to the beach. By mid-afternoon I'd bagged out on flathead and herring, after cleaning the catch the day was getting late, so we had dinner and settled by the fire, under the awning out of the odd shower. We went to bed and were gently rocked to sleep by the wind against the rooftop camper.



Dougie with his catch



Kettle and soup on the fire

Sunday morning, after a breakfast of porridge and toasted hot cross buns the fishing resumed at the beach rocks, the flathead were still on the bite as well as herring till noon. Then bacon and eggs for lunch then a little more fishing for an hour or so. We decided to end the Field Day competition early so we could get around the rocks at low tide in the afternoon/evening. We were packed up and departed by 3.30pm. Because of the constant traffic over the Easter Long Weekend , the beach had well-worn tracks of compacted sand, making the exit much easier than the entrance, we reinflated tires to highway pressure then continued onto Mt Barker for fuel and food. Here we parted company and drove home avoiding the very heavy traffic that was certain for the next day.



Sixteen flathead that came home



Chris with a flathead



From the rocks looking West



Beach adjacent to the rocks



Not Happy – Gate locked and a No Trespass sign



Bugger - Bogged

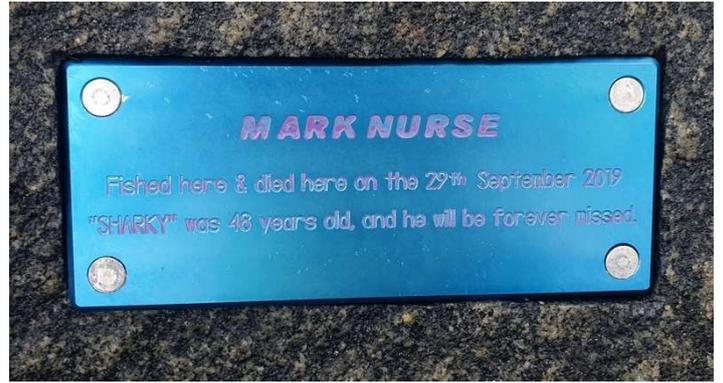


Cookie's skippy hole



Pumping up tyres for the trip home.

Fishing from the rocks into deep gutter



Mark Nurse Memorial Plaque



Campsite under the dune.

MARCH 2006 BLUFF CREEK FIELD DAY



Bluff Creek Campsite 2006



John Crompton's capture



2006 Bluff Creek 'Team'

April Field Day Results

ANGLER		Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	No. of Species	No. of fish	F.D. points	Attendance		Total points
		Tailor	Herring Australian	Whiting	Pike	Flathead (all species)	Trevally Silver Skippy	Dart all	Sweep Banded				Field Day	General Meeting	
Ron Thomas	Number	5	15	23	14	6	2			6	65	255.4	1	1	275.4
	Total weight	3.04	2.93	2.05	2.56	1.20	1.26								
	Weight of best														
Martin Wearmouth	Number	12	2			1		16		4	31	207.6	1		217.6
	Total weight	4.92	0.85			0.40		7.49							
	Weight of best		0.43					0.85							
Mark Hansen	Number		28			16		2		3	46	195.0	1	1	215.0
	Total weight		4.19			5.95		1.76							
	Weight of best					0.55									
Chris Stickle	Number		10			6		3		3	19	104.2	1	1	124.2
	Total weight		1.40			1.75		2.37							
	Weight of best														
Gary Parkinson	Number	1						3		2	4	42.1	1	1	62.1
	Total weight	0.41						1.40							
	Weight of best														

Field Day Sections up to and including April			
Section	Angler	Species	Weight
1A Best scale fish (1st six months) May - October	Ron Thomas	Gold Spot Trevally	8.06
1B Best scale fish (2nd six months) November - April	Martin Wearmouth	Salmon Western Australian	5.62
2 Most meritorious fish		0	0.00
3 Best shark (4.5kg min)	Peet Wessels	Shark Wobbegongs	12.00
4 Best mulloway (2kg min)	Martin Wearmouth	Mulloway	2.63
5 Best tailor (1kg min)	Dale Coates	Tailor	3.00
6 Best salmon (3kg min)	Martin Wearmouth	Salmon Western Australian	5.62
7 Best skipjack trevally (0.5 kg min)	Mark Hansen	Trevally Silver Skippy	1.96
8 Best mackerel (2kg min)		0	0.00
9 Best yellowtail kingfish, samson or amberjack (4kg min)		0	0.00
10 Best scale fish (Other than above)	Ron Thomas	Estury Cod	4.46
11 Best bag of scale fish	Martin Wearmouth	Sandy Cape Jan 23	42.85
12 Best bag of mulloway (2 fish min)		0	0.00
13 Best bag of tailor (2 fish min)	Ron Thomas	Wilbinga October 2022	9.85
14 Best fish on single handed rod (max 4kg line)	Martin Wearmouth	Mulloway	2.63
15 Best fish caught on fly rod		0	0.00
16 Best fish on single handed rod, soft plastic lure (max 4kg line)	Mark Hansen	Flathead (all species)	0.55
17 Best fish on single handed rod, hard body lure (max 4kg line)		0	0.00
18 Best fish caught using a drone		0	0.00

Field day prizes for April			
Section	Angler	Species	Weight
Best scale fish	Martin Wearmouth	Dart all	0.85
Best bag of scale fish	Martin Wearmouth		13.66
Best shark			
Best bag including sharks			

OLD AGE

Little Poem For Seniors, So True It Hurts!

Another year has passed
 And we're all a little older
 Last summer felt a little hotter
 And Winter seems much colder.
 There was a time not long ago
 When life was quite a blast.
 Now I fully understand
 About 'Living in the Past'

We used to go to weddings,
 Football games and lunches.
 Now we go to funeral homes
 And after-funeral brunches.
 We used to go out dining,
 And couldn't get our fill.
 Now we ask for doggie bags,
 Come home and take a pill.

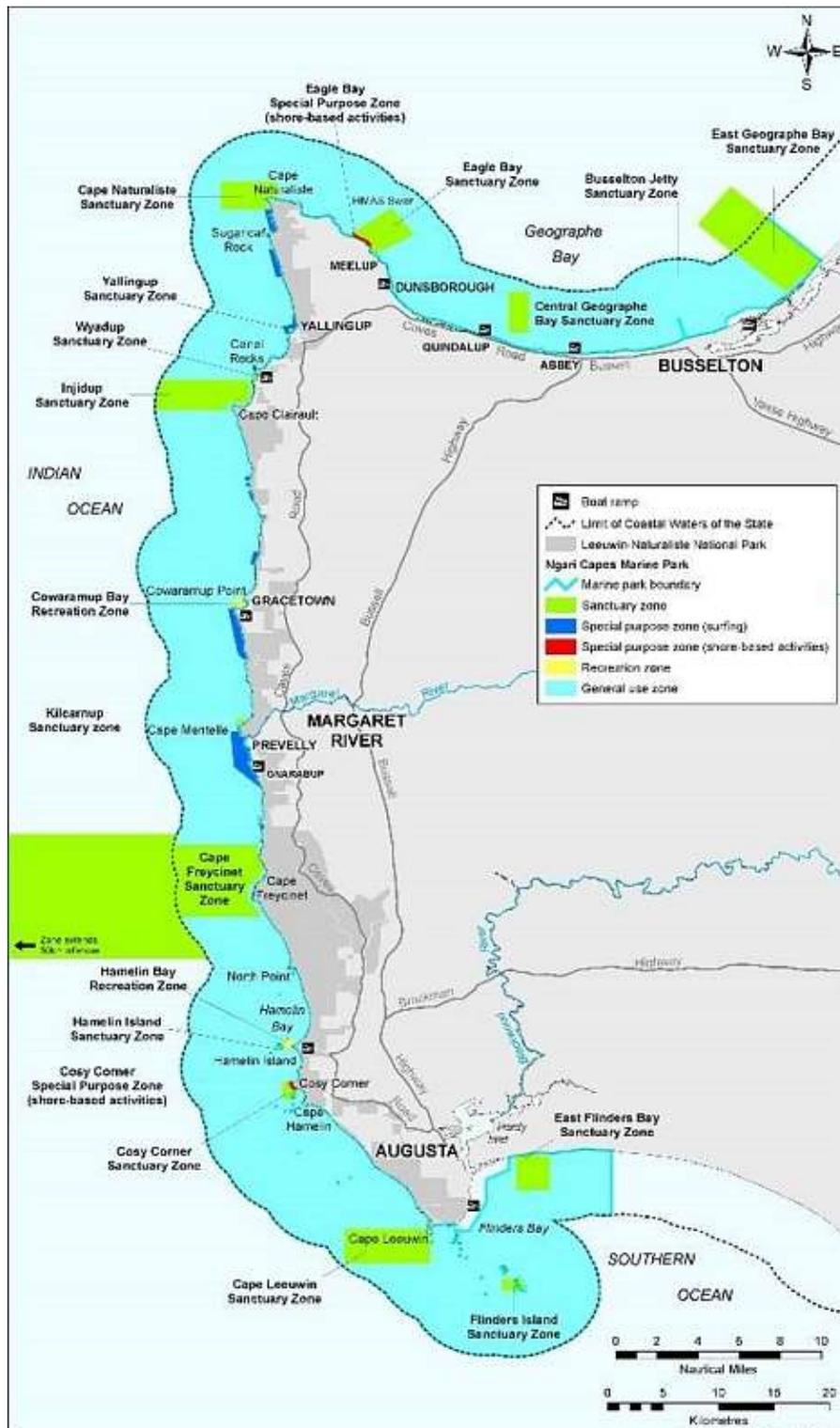
We used to often travel
 To places near and far.
 Now we get sore asses
 From sitting in the car.
 We used to go to nightclubs
 And drink a little booze
 Now we stay home at night
 and watch the evening news

That, my friend is how life is,
 And now my tale is told.
 So, enjoy each day and live it up
 Before you're too damned old.

Do You Know About Marine Park Sanctuary Zones?

Before visiting any marine park, it's important to always 'know your zones' and find out what you can do in each zone. Since April 2020, the Ngari Capes Marine Park zones have been enforced. These zones cater for a wide range of user groups from fishers, scuba divers and snorkelers, to surfers and kayakers. While allowing sustainable recreational and commercial activities, zoning also provides for conservation by establishing sanctuary zones for undisturbed nature study and passive enjoyment of the natural environment.

The map below is a great guide, however, if you require more information about the zones and what activities are permitted for marine parks around the capes or anywhere off the WA coast, please download the Marine Parks WA App or call the Parks and Wildlife Service Busselton office on 9752 5555.



BLAST FROM THE PAST

“True Lies” at Emu Springs.

Women, once a male calls on them to show grit and determination at his moment of glory, but the endeavours sometimes lack equality. 'Tis true, cos this is his story.

Spending countless hours fishing alongside each other with only limited success, our illustrious leader suddenly produced the goods. With a yell of jubilation at the sight of his capture dancing along the top of the briny, he battled doggedly to bring his prize to shore. A fair sized fish was rolling in the wash.

Although fully fitted out with warm clothing, wet weather gear and a beanie, sheer thoughts of her own safety were of no concern to our lovely Julie. Dropping her own fishing tackle onto the sand, she raced to assist her man. Plunging headlong in to the surf, Julie endeavoured to get a firm grip on her man's tackle (especially the strong leader) so as to haul the magnificent catch to shore.

Now, we all know that any time a woman helps a man, we can be assured that the job will be done properly. Cross my heart, I know this is true, but only if the man's equipment is of a high standard.

With the screaming noise of “get it”, get it” ringing in her ears, personal safety was forgotten and Julie was head down and bum up in the surf grappling with said catch. But alas, someone's tackle was not up to scratch and it parted, allowing said catch to return to the briny.

Staggering to shore, soaked to the skin, a look of utter disappointment on her dripping face, Julie turned to her beloved and dried herself quickly on the heat being generated by the look on “you know who's” face. No words were said. Utter silence, except for the sound of the wind and the surf. The breeze was icy.

Returning to camp, this episode was related to us all as we sat around the campfire and enjoyed a drink or three. No anger or contempt was displayed, consideration was applauded, commiseration was given, but the chairs were slightly apart. Estimates of the size of the fish were close by both parties, and if success had eventuated, the prize would have delighted one and all. The only discrepancy was that it could have been a tailor or a salmon - it was big and green.

As a group, we congratulated both of them on their endeavours and consideration was given to whether we would recognise their efforts as a combined “catch and release”. Nah!

The Sequel.

Once again our gallant duo ventured on to the beach and we were there to observe the next capture, although lovely Julie had been banished to way up the beach.

With assistance from a real fisherman (George), our number one landed a good sized salmon, and the grip he had on it as he walked up the beach must have wrung its neck and stretched this fish just that bit more.



The smile on his dial said it all.

Reminisce. - to talk or think about things that happened in the past.

Way back in November 1989 I was fishing off the reef at the Yanchep lagoon. A bloke in a yellow T-shirt wandered up close and asked how I was going. As usual I told him a fishing lie ("nuffin") and he then introduced himself.

Hi, I am "Derry Marba" – (well the wind was blowing through my ears, and that is what I thought he said,) we shook hands and then shared conversation on fishing. He mentioned that he belonged to a fishing club and spoke of the benefits of being a member. He invited me along to a meeting at the church in Tuart Hill area on a Wednesday night.

Next week I turned up but no other bugger turned up - I had the wrong night. Found the phone number in the book and rang up and got the correct night to attend.

Turned up on the correct night, walked in and the first person I was introduced to was the "Cookie monster" had my head filled with hope and wonderment, and I still value his friendship. Met many a new face and started a journey that has given me so many good times, many truly valued friends and mates, so few fish.

A bloke called George casually mentioned that I can get what I want out of the Club and its members and move on if I want to, but put something back and you will get more than you thought. How true.

Nearly 15 years later, I am about to take a break from the club for at least 12 months. There is no way I will cancel my membership and I hope to stay in touch. Maybe I can send in a few lines of where I am and what I am up to. Anyway I will catch up with some of you at Yeppoon in Queensland in August 2005.

I could continue to waffle on for a few more pages on how good the club has been for me. But I have only one message to my fellow club members, (except the golden oldies) **Read what George said.**

So, until I bless you all with my presence again, may you all stay in good health, keep a quid in your pocket and catch a good fish one day.

The Teacher.

Over the years I have had a very special friendship with the oldest Club participant, James Strong. I have fished, eaten and travelled with this gentleman on numerous occasions and in this time I have learnt a hell of a lot about the Club and its past and present members.

If you ever want a real education on past fishing ventures, what it used to be like, Club protocol and history and share quality time with one of life's true gentleman then may I suggest an hour or two with this bloke.

I hope the Reel Talk editor continues to bring his escapades back into print.

Thank you Jim

Hendo

For those of you who think
the **only** thing I like to do is
go fishing...

this is totally untrue.

I also like
talking about fishing, and,
hanging out at tackle shops.

YANCHEP 'OPEN FIELD DAY'

I picked up Pete early on Saturday morning and we headed for Yanchep and a location called The Spot. On the way there we noticed Macca heading back to Perth and a quick call over the CB had Macca telling us that the coastline was covered in weed, the wind was blowing a bit and that he was heading home. We decided to continue on and when we arrived at "the Spot" we realised that Macca had understated it.

Still, we knew that Hans was trying a spot just north of Two Rocks so we ventured on up the coastal tracks. Caught up with Phil and Murray who were not happy with conditions also. Our never give in attitude convinced them to join us so I led the way.

Leading the pack (no not going the wrong way) I came face to face with a young bloke on a quad bike and asked if he had seen a red Nissan 4x4 but got a curt reply before he took off. We hadn't moved before we heard a loud bang and a shout from behind us.

Turning around and rounding a bend we saw that the quad had run into Phil's 4x4. The rider was just sliding off the bonnet with Phil giving him a tongue-lashing whilst Murray was extracting the bike from under the 4x4. The bloody twit just said "agh sorry" rubbed a sore spot then kick started the bike and took off without even asking if any damage had been done. Consoling Phil because of the scratched bumper, quietening down an irate Murray we said "let's carry on" but the lads said to hell with it and headed for home.

We finally found Han's hidden down between some sandhills just past the "Loony's Hut" and parked alongside him on the beach. Lashing the vehicles together so they didn't get blown away we decided to chuck a line in. Cast out towards Freo, swing the bail arm over and wind like hell to get the slack in, look down and see if you have had a bite because the line was at your feet or 50m way past you covered in weed (felt right at home). Try this 20 or 30 times and the fishing bug dies a bit. Still Hans somehow did catch a reasonable sized mulloway and a couple of tailor. Pete and I played conservative fishermen and fed the little ones and kept the weed away for Hans.

We gave up at dusk had a quick bite to eat and a couple of stiff drinks to wash the sand out of our mouths then dossed down for the night. The wind blew like buggery most of the night. The call of nature hit me as dawn broke so I headed for the Sandhill's. The breeze had dropped and there was not a cloud in the sky with the sea was as smooth as a baby's bum.

Finding the right spot I bent down with not a care in the world, a million miles away and gazing over the ocean...

That's when a "a bloody cold and wet thing touched my bum". My leap and blood curdling scream could be heard for miles, why I jumped so high I could see the traffic on Wanneroo Road. Han's and Pete turned towards me in surprise but fell over backwards in a heap. On landing I spun around to meet my attacker and found Han's dog Rex sitting there wagging his tail and a bloody great smile on his dial.

I refuse to discuss what I said to that dog, I'm a bit peeved at my two "mates" that nearly died laughing and I can say that I reckon that I aged a couple of years that morning. "Bum buddy" like hell.

After the hysterics had died down and I had composed myself we had breakfast then tossed in a line but only fed the wee ones. After packing up we headed back to the metro area and on to George's place to the weigh in. Of course, my "mates" had to relay the event to one and all.

PS just who's spreading the rumour that I'm full of it, so I need to go all the time?

Hendo

RECIPES

4 Versions of Fish and Chips



Making a good fish batter is probably what most people find a challenge but obtaining the right thickness and consistency is vital to protect your fish and ensure its quality taste.

Ingredients

Version 1 Beer Batter Ingredients:

1 cup plain flour
2 tsp baking powder
1 egg
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup Lemonade or Beer
Salt and pepper to taste.
Note: Dark beers like Guinness work well.

Version 2 Favourite Batter Ingredients:

1 cup plain flour
1 tsp baking powder
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup water

Version 3 Light Batter Ingredients:

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup plain flour
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt
1 cup cold water
3 egg whites
1 pinch cream of tartar.

Version 4 – Tempura Batter Ingredients:

2 egg yolks
150 g cornflour
150 g plain flour
300ml sparkling ice cold water
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup plain flour

Method

Version 1 Beer Batter:

Beat egg in a bowl. Sift in flour, baking powder, salt and pepper stir through egg, then slowly add beer or lemonade mixing gently to make a thick batter.

Version 2 - Favourite Batter Ingredients:

Mix flour, baking powder and salt together. Add milk and water slowly, then beat until batter is smooth.

Version 3 - Light Batter:

Mix flour and salt with cold water until smooth. Set aside and let rest for at least 30 minutes. Just before you are ready to fry, beat 3 egg whites with a pinch of cream of tartar until they form medium peaks. Gently fold the whites into the flour-water mix. Use immediately

Version 4 – Tempura Batter

Beat the egg yolks and icy cold water together until light and fluffy. Add the flour and cornflour to the egg mixture and mix together quickly. Do not over-beat mixture. The secret is to not mix all of it together but leave some lumps.

Cooking the Fish:

Coat the fish lightly in seasoned flour. When ready, carefully hold the fish fillet at the tail end and dip it into the batter. Wipe excess batter of the fillet on the side of the bowl.

Cook in a deep fryer or a deep frying pan generously filled with oil. You know when your oil is hot enough because it will start to spit.

Serving Suggestion: Serve with a side of chips and / or salad.

AGED SALMON SASHIMI



Ingredients

1 large salmon
Mustard
White Soy

Method

As soon as you have caught the salmon, iki-jime the fish and bleed it out. Then gill and gut and wash out any blood or gut contents thoroughly with salt water only.

Do not use fresh water on salt water fish at any stage of preparation.

Ice the fish down in salt ice or an salt ice slurry till you are back home then paper towel dry the fish and place in your chiller hanging by the tail(use a meat hook or cooking twine or similar).

Your chiller MUST be well ventilated (good internal fans) and sitting at around 4 degrees Celsius. The air flow must be able to circulate around the hanging fish. Do not overload the chiller with fish.

Hang for 7 to 10 days. Remove the fish and fillet. Use the upper part of the fillet and shoulder as sashimi sliced in generous pieces.

Plating Up

Serve with a spoonful of mustard in the centre of the plate as a replacement for wasabi and white soy on the side. Use standard soy if white soy is not available.
Serve with a chilled beverage of choice.

Humour !

Animals are superior to human beings.

If twenty horses are in a race, 5 thousand people will go to and see it. But if twenty people are in a race, not one horse would go to see it.

Q: What is a ghost?

A: An invisible object that can only be seen at night

How do sick sparrows land safely?

They use a sparrow-chute

When a fortune-telling midget escaped from jail, what did the headline say?

Small medium at large

BARBECUED BREAM WITH SPRING ONIONS LEMON AND CHILLI



Prep:20 mins; Cook:30 mins

Ingredients

1.5 - 2kg whole bream, cleaned and descaled (or use 2 smaller bream)

½ onion thinly sliced

2 lemons, 1 sliced, 1 halved

500g new potatoes halved and boiled

For the topping

2 spring onions trimmed

1 large garlic clove unpeeled

2 red chillies

3 - 5 tbsp olive oil

Method

Light the barbeque. Season the inside of the bream and stuff with the onion and lemon slices. When the coals are ashen, carefully spread them out in a circle about 30cm in diameter. For the topping, put the spring onions, garlic, whole chillies and lemon halves, cut-side down, onto the grill. Cook for 10-12 mins, turning halfway through, until the veg starts to colour and soften.

Rub a little of the olive oil over the outside of the fish and lay on the grill. Do this carefully, as the oil on the fish skin may start to catch and burn.

Remove the veg and lemons from the grill. Finely chop the spring onions and chillies (remove the seeds if you don't want it to be too hot), tip into a bowl and squeeze the garlic from its skin. Squeeze over the barbecued lemon and drizzle with the rest of the oil.

After 8 - 10 mins, carefully turn the fish using tongs and a fish slice, if needed to prevent it breaking apart. Cook for another 8 mins, then check the fish is cooked through by pulling a piece of skin away – the flesh should be opaque.

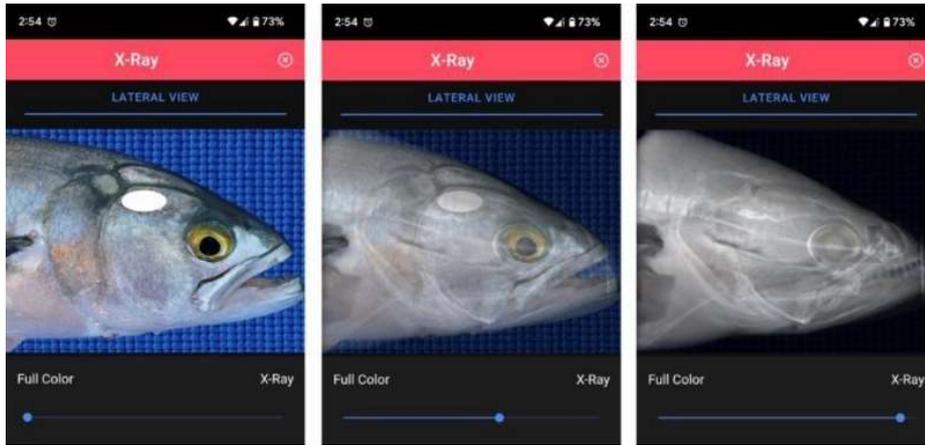
When the fish is ready, remove to a serving plate and pour over the veg topping. Season and serve with the new potatoes.

For children, flake the fish onto plates, checking for bones as you do.

'If you want to go fishing, use a lure.

If you want to catch a fish, use the freshest bait.

IKI-JIME TOOL UPDATE NOW ONLINE



Dr Ben Diggles from DigsFish Services has recently updated the 3.0.0 version of the Iki-jime Tool phone app which is now available online at [Google Play](#) or the [Apple App store](#).

This unique app provides brain location information for humane dispatch of over 165 species of fish from Australia and around the world. This latest version includes bug fixes, improved download options, as well as links to valued sponsors and partner organisations like [Keep Fish Wet](#).

Besides the app, don't forget your Iki-jime tool or a good old spike or sharpened screwdriver and you have everything you need for "best practice" humane dispatch of the fish you catch.

Editor's Note:

I have been using this 'app' for some time now on a variety of fish and it is very helpful in determining the location of the fish's brain to ensure a quick humane dispatch of the fish.

TIPS FOR PHOTOGRAPHING FISH

Anglers are justifiably proud of their fishing prowess, particularly after the capture of a good fish.. When a picture is to be taken to record the event, the following will assist in getting a good clear photograph of the fish.

Here are a couple of tips that will assist in ensuring a good clear picture that can be printed and put up on the trophy wall.

The photographer should have the sun at their back to ensure there is good light on the subject (the fish). Colours are typically much better if the fish is in sunlight rather than in shadow. Shooting into the sun will render anything other than the background as silhouette. The angler should remove their hat and sunglasses so that facial shadows are removed and we see their face.

The photographer should 'fill the frame'. We are not really interested in pictures of an angler with their mates with a fish, or the country side where the fish was captured. We are only interested in the fish. So please fill the frame of the picture with the fish. (In focus of-course!)

Digital cameras have gotten faster, cheaper, and a whole lot more powerful. Almost everyone owns a camera and therefore, everyone can be a photographer. Often when fishing, anglers only carry a simple 'point and shoot' style of camera, which is not suitable for taking a good clear photograph close up.

Most mobile phones are capable of taking good clear pictures, some now have the capability to take photographs in reduced light with the aid of a flash. Just ensure that you fill the frame with the fish.

Learn how to hold a fish for a better picture – we don't want a picture of grubby fingers with a fish in the background. Don't waste the shot by holding the fish awkwardly. Here is a foolproof method for getting the best shot of your fish.

Drop your arms to your sides, face your palms out. Now think about the fish resting on just the very tips of your fingers and letting your thumbs slide behind the fish, partially obscuring them from view. Place your

hands behind the head and in front of the tail. If the fish is larger and you need a little bit of elbow grease to hold it, simply switch the position of your tail hand to the front of the fish grasping with your entire hand around the front of the tail. This covers a bit more of the fish but still shows the tail and makes it a bit more manageable to control large fish.

Get closer to your subject. Fill the frame with the fish. As a general rule, get twice as close as you normally would and take a couple of shots. In fact take a bunch. With a digital camera you can always erase them.

Photographs of fish need to be taken as soon as possible after capture. Many fish radically change colour soon after capture. If you want 'brag' photos, take a few moments to get the angler and fish set up correctly to show the fish in its best presentation. Wipe or wash any blood from the fish.

Other points to consider include;

- Place the fish in a position so that there are no shadows falling on the fish when you photograph it. There is no problem in taking the photo in subdued light.
- If you have a light fish on a dark back ground you may get over exposure. Similarly a dark fish on a light back ground may be under exposed. You should take a photograph 1 stop either side of the indicated readings to ensure accuracy of exposure.
- Use a flash to fill in. There are some advantages of using fill in flash. This will remove the possibility of any shadows being on the fish. It is only to enhance the photo, or for use on a very dull day. It is preferable to photograph in the morning or afternoon as the midday sun light is a little harsh.
- Try not to photograph fish at night if possible. If photographing at night make sure the background is none reflective or poor exposure will result. You tend to get flare from the fish.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A FISHING ROD IS STRUCK BY LIGHTNING



An American Angler has had one of the scariest moments of his life recently. Five friends consider themselves lucky to be alive. Apparently they were catching bait in Jupiter Florida when Billy's rod was struck by a bolt of lightning. One of his friends was sitting on the seat that got struck and Billy is pretty sure if it wasn't for the slicker jacket she was wearing there would have been a different outcome.

"I cannot describe how lucky I feel that no one was hurt," says Billy. "I think my boat is going to be out of commission for a while though. I definitely have a new found respect for Mother Nature. "Being stuck in the middle of a lightning storm with no power to anything after being struck was the most helpless feeling in the world!"

There is a lesson there for all boaties and anglers!

CLOSE CALL FOR BROOME ANGLERS



A fishing rod after having been hit by lightning off Broome.

Anglers in Broome have received a frightening reminder to stay safe out on the water. "If in doubt don't go out!" Broome Volunteer Sea Rescue had a busy morning last week rescuing four vessels that ventured out in stormy conditions.

The pic above shows a G Loomis rod from one of the boats that was smoked by a lightning strike.

Fortunately the rod was in a holder and no one was hurt.

The same applies to beach anglers using carbon fibre rods or composite built rods containing carbon fibre. It is a conductor and you can be killed. Don't fish in stormy weather.

WARNING ON IMPORTED SEAFOOD

By Dr Ben Diggles

If you care for our marine environment, please not use any supermarket bought frozen seafood as bait.

The massive 1995 and 1998 pilchard kills along Australia's southern coastline were due to a herpesvirus which probably arrived in Australia in imported pilchards. Upon reading an article in Fishing World December 2022 edition, on frozen bait was struck by how times have changed.

Twenty to thirty years ago around 80% of the seafood you could buy in the shops was locally produced in Australia. However, today, due to globalisation of trade, around 80% of seafood in supermarkets is most likely imported from various international locations. This situation has several consequences, particularly for biosecurity. Products which have been cooked are generally OK and pose little biosecurity risk because the high temperatures tend to kill or inactivate microbial disease agents like bacteria and viruses. However, if the product is uncooked, the chilling or freezing process tends to preserve, not kill, microbial disease agents.

These preserved microbes may remain viable after long periods of freezing, and even after one or two freeze thaw cycles, which makes them a biosecurity threat at their destination. Indeed, it is widely accepted that frozen imported seafood has caused several disease incursions into Australian waters in the past. The huge pilchard kills that occurred along Australia's entire southern coastline in 1995 and 1998 were probably due to a herpesvirus that was introduced into Australia with frozen pilchards imported to feed tuna in South Australia.

More recently, the incursion of White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV) into South East Queensland followed a biosecurity breach at the international border where greedy unscrupulous seafood importers circumvented quarantine regulations liberating thousands of tonnes of heavily infected frozen prawns into Australian supermarkets.

Having diseased imported uncooked prawns on retail sale is one thing, but it gets worse. From there, surveys have shown that between 20 and 25% of recreational anglers in SE Queensland use supermarket bought frozen uncooked prawns as bait. This means they were placing the infected imported prawns directly into our local waterways. In the case of Moreton Bay it appears that this is the most likely process by which white spot disease outbreaks emerged in not only aquaculture prawns, but also wild prawns and crabs sampled along the Logan River and in Moreton Bay.

Clearly these poignant lessons show that use of any frozen imported seafood as bait is potentially dangerous for our environment, fisheries and aquaculture industries. This is due to risks from not only

WSSV, but several other known and new/emerging diseases of fish and crustaceans that we do not have in Australia at present.

What makes things difficult for recreational anglers is that the consumer is seldom, if ever, properly informed that the product sold in the supermarket is only intended for human consumption and should not be used as bait. Also, country of origin labelling at the retail point of sale in supermarkets is notoriously unreliable and can depend on which staff are rostered on for any given day.

Current biosecurity risk analysis by the Australian Federal Government is also technically inadequate – unfortunately we can't rely on them to keep out a range of new aquaculture diseases which continue to emerge overseas. The contrast between the situation with imported seafood and the rapid Federal Government response to the recent foot and mouth outbreaks in Indonesia is stark.

All of these factors mean that, if you can take home just one message from all of this, it is please do not use any supermarket bought frozen seafood as bait. Purchase your bait from local bait suppliers, or even better, collect your own before or during your fishing trip.

From the WAFIC Newsletter April 2023

This article is from WAFIC, the commercial fishing industry organization in WA, but it highlights the concerns we as recreational anglers should have with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and their approach to establishing marine parks.

PLENTY OF CHALLENGES AHEAD

There is a diverse range of very important issues facing WAFIC at the moment, requiring significant levels of consultation with industry participants, as well as various levels of government.

An immediate challenge has been presented from the deeply-flawed marine park planning processes for both the Marmion and South Coast areas, where the interests of the commercial fishing industry and small coastal communities have been shamefully put at risk by the eco-zealots infiltrating the corridors of DBCA. The public consultation phases will soon begin and throughout this process they will most definitely be challenged and held to account - and we will do absolutely everything possible to protect the potentially impacted fishers and communities from heartless consequences.

There are also broader challenges at play for our industry from the cumulative impacts across the State from the loss of productive waters. On the one hand, it is by ridiculously conceived marine park sanctuary zones, while on the other it is the impacts of seismic surveying, planned offshore windfarm exclusion areas, expansive solar salt projects in Pilbara inter-tidal areas, desalination plants and suchlike. Collectively we are looking at the potential loss of many thousands of square kilometres of critically important areas, and the consequences will soon show at the consumer level when fish & chip shops cannot source local products and WA will have to import even more unsustainably-sourced seafood products from overseas. It's a complex mix of issues, but we are pushing ahead to ensure the fishing industry is heard and considered. [Read the full story here.](#)

Following this article another media release was issued on April 19 2023.

WAFIC issues urgent warning over South Coast Marine Park fiasco

This new podcast sets out WAFIC's urgent warning over the unfolding South Coast Marine Park fiasco. The package includes a PDF newsletter covering the overwhelming number of issues impacting the marine park consultation, as well as some of the inconvenient truths about the flawed consultation process.

The flawed engagement and untrustworthy behaviour of DBCA has now placed the future of the south coast fisheries at serious risk, and the supply of fresh local fish will be crushed if the current proposals are accepted.

The situation is reminiscent of the "Kelly affair" in 2019, (this situation caused Dave Kelly the then Minister to be relieved of the fisheries portfolio) when attacks were launched upon the very heart of the western rock lobster fishing families, and industry forces had to be joined to mount a bitter public fightback.

The livelihoods of our south coast fishers are currently at high risk of damage, so WAFIC cannot and will not back off. DBCA will be publicly held to account for its broken 'consultation' process with clearly pre-determined outcomes.

WAFIC will continue to release regular bulletins and podcasts on this matter to expose the DBCA process shortcomings and broken promises.

Read the full story on the [WAFIC website here.](#)

As recreational anglers we need to be aware of what is going on and what is happening in government. It is the intention of the WA Labor government to have 30% of the coastline under marine parks in some form. E.g. Ngari (Capes) National Parks where several popular recreational angling spots became sanctuary

zones with no fishing. Also the changes to the marine park in the Pilbara/Kimberley which became a no take fishery. You can fish but you can't take any fish away from the area.

GETTING TECHNICAL Which Knot To Use?

Without doubt, one of the most important skills if you are to further yourself as a fisherman is developing the ability to tie reliable knots. Many can find this a daunting challenge, but it doesn't need to be.

Knots are generally accepted as the weak link between you and a hooked fish, and it pays to know a bit about them and have confidence in them. It doesn't matter how many rods and reels you own, they are useless without being able to attach 'things that catch fish' to the line that can be thrown into the water. By attach, I mean attaching in a way that maximises your chances of staying connected and not having heart-in-mouth experiences while hoping your handywork holds out.

Even the bare basics will hold you in good stead. I can handle losing a fish due to gear failure or a fish cutting the line over structure, but losing a fish due to knot failure is devastating. Why? Well, how you attach your leaders, rigs and lures is something the angler can control. Be it small herring or large samsonfish, tying appropriate knots with appropriate gear certainly tips the odds in your favour and instils confidence in your ability to land fish.

There are thousands of different knots at our disposal for all different scenarios, with countless tutorials on YouTube, differing opinions on Facebook and forum sites, and all levels of difficulty - sometimes for the same knot!

It can be relatively overwhelming to know what is best practice. Nobody needs all that clutter and complication, so I like to employ the KISS principle (Keep It Simple and Straightforward), especially when helping people.

Why do we need to talk about the importance of knots? Because the vast majority of fishermen I meet around the traps have a misconception about the difficulty associated with common fishing knots. This is probably due to an overload of information, creating a perception of it being all too complicated. To be as helpful as possible, I have decided to put this article together in an attempt to simplify the process and use simple terminology, rather than being a technical purist.

I learnt the art and importance of tying knots as a kid. I started out basically, making herring and garfish rigs and tying on squid jigs. Then came rigs for yellowfin whiting along the metropolitan beaches, as well as working out how to deceive bream in the river.

Where I fully learnt how important it is to tie appropriate and strong knots was during my forays into land-based game fishing and surf fishing - to this day my two favourite forms of fishing, although targeting salmon and tailor off the beach would have to be up there too.

This had me in good shape once I became a casual deckie on a local charter boat, where my knots have been subjected to quizzical, curious and sceptical stares by customers. I, along with my knots, have to withstand the pressure. I never worry about whether a knot will hold these days, and I'm fully confident that certain knots tied correctly will never fail you. This is a good position to be in for any angler chasing dream fish.

There are many other ways and methods to achieve a connection between lure or rig and your rod and reel combination of choice apart from those described here. Much of the information here should be generally reflective of a large portion of the more serious angling community. I am not going to describe how to tie knots here, as there is already plenty of that information on line, in magazines and knot books. Instead, I'll discuss the merits of certain knots in various situations.

Tying knots is an art form, and when they come together it can be quite impressive. However, rather than feeling all these knots need learning to be successful, as many media forms and super experienced anglers would have you think, stick with a few proven performers and understand them well.

Tying knots in your lounge room is one thing. Tying them while on a beach, in low light conditions, in windy, rainy conditions with cold hands and under pressure from a hot bite is another thing. More complex knot variations are achievable, if so desired, once a good base of effective, relatively simple knots is already there.

The knots I use most often include the hook snell, the Centauri knot, the uni knot, the figure-eight loop knot, the Rapala knot, the bimini twist, the FG knot, the albright knot and the locked half blood knot. Really not many! There are several variations of these knots, but the underlying principles of each and their general strengths make them both very effective and reliable.

There is a plethora of other knots to try, and many of them are effective and well worth learning. However, it is the knots mentioned above I will further explore here, as they are very popular, they are extensively tried and tested, and I find myself using them and demonstrating them the most. There are probably some club

+members out there who are already arguing with me on what are the best and worst knots, so I stress again this is about helping those who want to further understand knots and their purposes rather than changing experienced opinions.

Snelling hooks

Snelling hooks encompasses a variety of ways of attaching a hook to a length of monofilament along the hook shank without just tying onto the eye. If you Google 'snelling hooks', plenty of different methods present themselves. I do it one way only, and that is where both the tag end and the mainline run under the loops on the shank.

I have seen people attach hooks in all sorts of weird and wonderful ways, some of which work and others result in the dreaded 'curly bits', which is a sure fire indication of the knot pulling. The heartbreak and devastation of people becoming disconnected from their dream fish through their own actions lead to classic examples of anger and much cursing - and wry smiles from the fisherman who does the right thing, which is further infuriating.

Snelling your hooks to monofilament or flurocarbon trace properly is relatively easy to learn and definitely works; there can be no doubt it is the best way. A handy tip when snelling hooks and pulling them tight is to wet the line by either applying some saliva to the knot or wetting the line. This stops abrasion and line burring, which weakens the overall breaking strain when you slide the knot tight. You can snell hooks on quality line up to a maximum of 150 pounds breaking strain, but butterfly crimping is the best method after that.

When snelling hooks that have a turned back eye, the line can be run through the eye. However, if you were to snell a couple of where the eye of the hook is straight, do not run the line through the eye, as it will kick the hooks out on a weird angle and make bait presentation more difficult.

The Uni Knot

The humble and ubiquitous uni knot is basically a glorified slip knot. The beauty of this knot is that it can be used on both braid and mono and retains almost all the quoted breaking strain of the line. It has superseded the blood knot, mainly due to its strength of over 85 cent of original breaking strain. This knot can be used to tie basically anything to the end of a length of line, be it a lure, jig head, swivel, sinker or even hook (instead of snelling when whiting or gar fishing).

Many use a double uni to tie braid to mono to create a casting leader. I would avoid this, however, as braid will cut through mono; one strand of braid pulling against one strand of mono can sometimes give way for this very reason. I extensively use the uni knot in smaller line classes (under 80 pound), and usually only tie to a swivel. If you only ever fish for 'bread and butter' species and mainly use bait rigs and occasional squid jig, you would probably only ever need to know the uni knot and the figure-eight loop knot, as you can tie to anything with these.

Centauri knot:

This knot is not actually a knot but a hitch. The beauty of this knot is that it can be tied in any line class, the only variation being the number of turns used in the knot. For lines under 4 kg I use 6 turns, from 4 – 8 kg I use 4 turns, 8 – 10kg I use 3 turns and for lines over 10kg I use 2 turns. When using this knot in braid I add a couple of extra turns and have yet to have a knot failure. The knot is used to tie terminal tackle, lures, leaders and to tie line onto a reel spool.

Figure-eight loop

This is a really simple knot, which is basically a double 'granny' with line doubled up to create a loop of any desired size. It is a strong knot when using nylon, but I would avoid using it with braid. It can be used both in line and at the end of a length of line. I use it to attach hook droppers and looping a sinker on so I can easily change sinker weights. This knot would only usually be used on bait rigs and hook droppers, and works well for line classes up to about 100 pound breaking strain.

Rapala knot

The Rapala knot and its variations, including the no-name knot and non-slip loop knot, are very similar to each other. They serve the same purpose and all are equally effective. This knot is a 'must know' for the lure fisherman, as it is extensively used for attaching hard-body lures, micro jigs, soft plastic jig heads and squid jigs to the leader- probably why it became known as the Rapala knot.

Why not use the uni knot? Well, the uni is great, but the Rapala knot has an advantage in that it adds to the action of a lure by allowing for more play, which this is very important when using artificial baits as the fisherman imparts the action on the lure. This knot is effective only on mono and up to line class of about 100 pounds - again after which crimping is the preferable method.

FG knot

The FG knot is perhaps the most misunderstood knot out there, with a general perception of being time consuming and difficult. It connects your braid to leader in a way that is streamlined and able to be wound and cast through the guides on a rod. It is by far the best knot to tie braid to nylon leader. Upon demonstration, most people I show it to are pleasantly surprised how simple and quick it is to make; I don't know where the unnecessary confusion and misconceptions about the FG have been generated.

This knot is right up there with the PR knot, which is largely used in New Zealand, only you do not need to invest in a bobbin to form it. The NZ-based TV show "Big Angry Fish" has the best YouTube video on how to tie this knot effectively, and I suggest it is definitely worth checking out, but I do a couple things a bit differently.

I can't rate this knot highly enough, having tied probably a thousand over the past year without one letting go.

I never use a lighter to melt the leader tag, which is dangerous practice as just the heat can damage the braid. For peace of mind sometimes I will just use the tiniest dollop of Superglue on the half hitches so the top few do not loosen. Do not worry about the corrosive properties of Superglue; before it's going to become a problem, another FG will be tied.

The beauty of this knot is the more pressure exerted on it, the more the braid grabs the stretching mono, effectively making it strong and tighter. Like the old timber hitch, the harder you pull, the tighter it gets! You won't lose many fish to this knot in a lifetime.

Bimini twist

The Bimini twist is one of only a rare few knots that does not weaken the line in which it is tied. Its purpose is to double up line and/or create a loop to which a wind-on leader can be attached and be wound and cast through the guides on a rod effortlessly. It can be used in both nylon monofilament and braid, where monofilament needs at least 20-30 initial twists and braid at least 40-60 initial twists.

The Bimini is commonly used in game fishing on monofilament to create a loop to which a wind-on leader is attached where club anglers fish line class for points. However, it is just as good, if not better to tie in braid, and this is much more common practice these days. It is a 'must know' knot if you use wind-on leaders or attach a swivel straight to braid or if you are drycasting.

The Bimini twist is a very impressive knot, with fishermen employing many crazy techniques to achieve it. I personally do the twists, sit down with the loop under my foot and tighten the twist over my knee, then use my foot as a pedal to draw the twist back over itself before locking it off with the ever faithful half hitches. It truly is a great knot and a 'must have' in the arsenal of any serious fisho!

Albright knot

The Albright is another great knot for attaching braid to monofilament leader and is comparable to the FG knot. It is best achieved by first doing a bimini twist and doubling up the braid before completing. The Albright is a little easier than the FG to master, but is also bulkier, as the monofilament is folded on itself, doubling the diameter of the knot. However, it is still quite streamlined and can be wound and cast through most guides. I would also say it is less reliable than the FG knot, as it has to be locked off perfectly before use to ensure it will not slip. I have had some Albrights slip on me, usually because I am rushing and have not locked them off properly, so bear this in mind. I am still not afraid of backing this knot in against big, prized fish, as it holds firm almost always.

Locked half blood knot

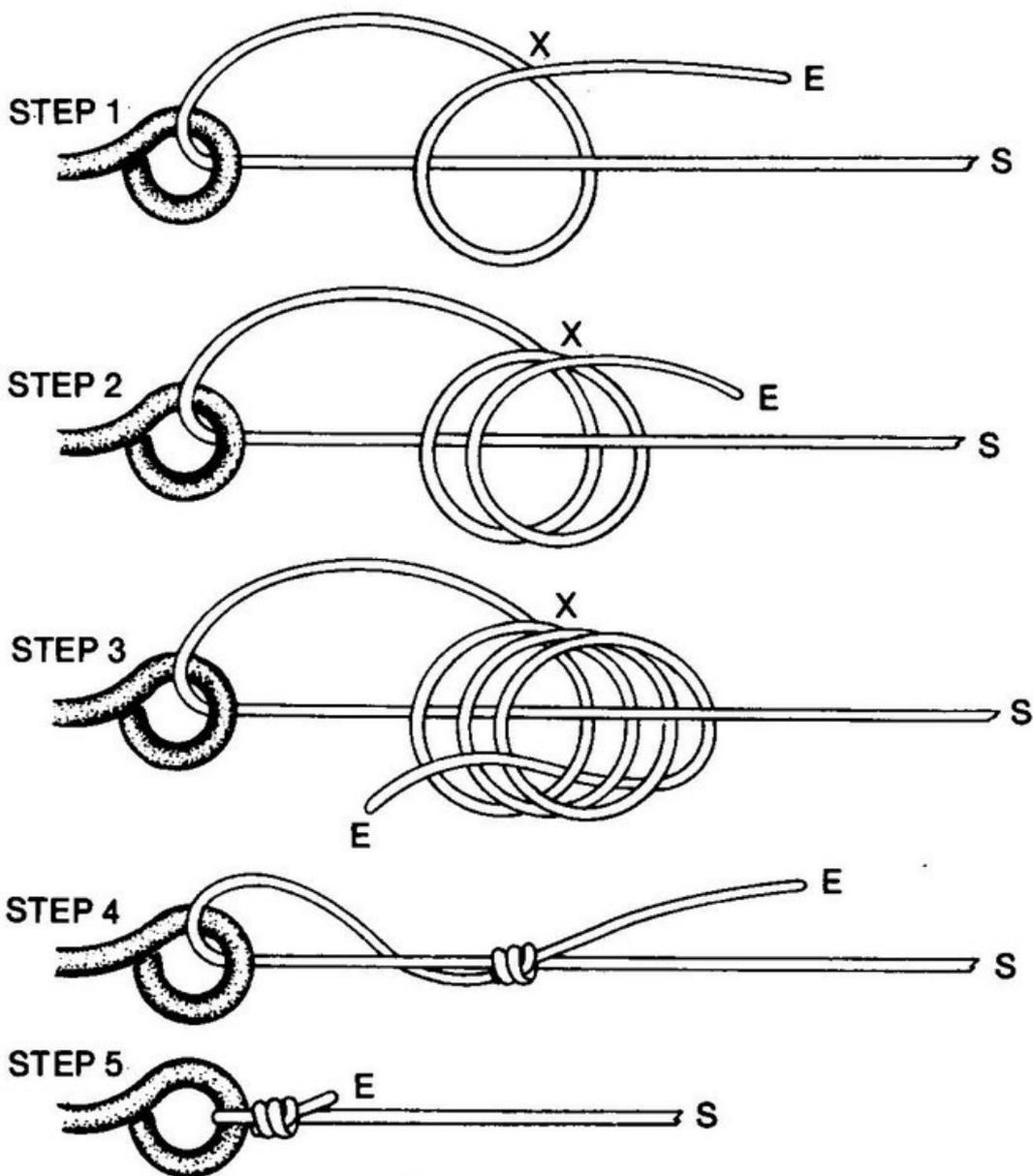
The locked half blood knot is one of the most famous old school fishing knots and is always worth a mention. It is great for tying almost anything to the end of a length of nylon monofilament in your general day-to-day fishing. It hardly needs describing. The reason why I feel like mentioning the locked half blood is to say **NEVER** use it with braid, as it will slip more often than not. It staggers me to see so many fishermen still reverting to this knot in braid; fish will be lost and, more often than not, the biggest of the day. I have seen it all too often. Do yourself a favour and shelve the locked half blood when it comes to braid; tie a uni knot instead. I also suggest that it is never tied in mono greater than 10 kg as it will slip.

You cannot discuss all these knots without at least touching on the products used in tying them. Here in WA we pretty much exclusively use nylon monofilament and braid and their variants – topics for discussion on their own, so that will be saved for another day. Nylon monofilaments have differing degrees of stretch, however braid has zero stretch, and it is properties like this that, when a well tied mono leader is essential when using braid main line understood, explain why certain knots are better than others.

Nylon stretches, absorbs shock, is kind to your rod and reel, has great abrasion resistance and slides over structure. Braid does not stretch at all, does not absorb shock as well (thereby putting greater pressure on your rod and reel), offers minimal abrasion resistance and tends to snap indiscriminately as it catches on

structure. One might now think braid is useless after all that, but you could not be further from the truth. Braid has way more advantages than mono when spooling up a reel; it casts infinitely better, you feel more connected with your lure or bait, it floats and it catches less wind and current, just to name a few. Mono leaders, long or short, on the business end of the line is where the real advantage of nylon lies. Reels of all types can be spooled up with either braid or mono, but leaders, traces and rigs should always be mono or fluorocarbon (a special type of mono). It is the connections that need to be made via knots that are important in ensuring the whole process is smooth, reliable and effective while maximising the strength of these joins.

Finally, with regards to brands of braid and monofilament, there are many choices on the market, and I have certain opinions formed over time about what is best to use and tie reliable knots with. I will just mention that it is hard to go past Platypus as a braid to use, both as value for money and reliability, and with monofilament leader, Platypus, Jinkai and Black Magic are right up there.



The Centauri Knot