

REEL TALK – AUGUST 2023



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



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Reel Talk – August 2023 Contents

Cover picture – David Trainer with a fish trophy

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CLUB COMMITTEE

September 2022 – August 2023

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General Committee Members

Gary Parkinson



SCAC Life Members

Ian Cook, Bob Henderson, Terry Fuller, Mal Head, Peter Osborne

Deceased life members:

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

President's Report

Another year has passed us by and probably one that we would like to forget for different reasons.

This month is the Annual General Meeting for the Club which, to me, is the most important meeting of all. We are looking for some new faces to fill Committee positions, so please if you can help out please nominate for one of the positions.

Without a committee, we don't have a Club, and we don't want that to happen. Please don't leave everything to the few workers, because the Club will not run the way it should be run.

If we don't get a Committee, particularly the Executive, then the September General Meeting will be a Special General Meeting to wind the Club up. Please don't let this happen.

Ron Thomas, Acting President

AUGUST GENERAL MEETING INCORPORATING AGM

Wednesday 16 August 2023

Address: Croatian Club in Wishart Street, Gwelup

Doors open no earlier than 6:45pm

Meal at 7.00pm with meeting at 8.00pm

Please RSVP to secretary for catering purposes by **NOON SUNDAY 13 AUGUST**

August birthdays



Reel Talk

Alissa Pizzolante	August 6
Theo Van Niekirk	August 7
Allan Jones	August 8
Bob Henderson	August 8
Rhi Harvey	August 9
Ian Taggart	August 24
Gary Gildersleeves	August 31
	August 2023

FISHING CALENDAR

Competition year June 2023 – May 2024

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

DATE	VENUE	BOUNDARIES
August 19 – 21	Rottnest Island and open New moon – August 16	Open – no boundaries. Please fish together for safety
September 23 – 25 King's Birthday LWE	Lucky Bay / Wagoie and local Full moon – September 29	Local boundaries will be determined at the general meeting before the field day
October 14 - 15	Swan & Canning Rivers Full moon – October 29	Including the inside (harbour side) of North and South Moles
November 11 – 12	Tim's Thicket / Preston Beach and local Full moon – October 27	Local boundaries will be determined at the general meeting before the field day
December 16 – 17	Open anywhere in WA New moon – December 13	Open – no boundaries. Please fish together for safety
January 13 – 14 Australia Day LWE Friday 26	Wilbinga / Guilderton and local Full moon – January 26	Local boundaries will be determined at the general meeting before the field day
February 17 – 18	Cervantes / Hill River and local New moon – February 10	Local boundaries will be determined at the general meeting before the field day
March 2 – 4 Labour Day LWE	Reef Beach and open New moon – March 10	Open – no boundaries. Please fish together for safety
March 30 – April 1 Easter LWE Anzac Day April 25	Bluff Creek and open Full moon – April 25	Open – no boundaries. Please fish together for safety

Standard weekends

Lines down Saturday 0600
Lines up Sunday 0900

Long weekends and Rottnest

Lines down Saturday 0600
Lines up Monday 0900

Suggested local boundaries

The south side of Mandurah Cut to South Mole
North Mole to Two Rocks Marina
Cottesloe Groyne to Quinns Rocks
Yanchep to Lancelin
Swan and Canning River upstream from railway bridge
Ledge to Wedge Island
Seabird to Lancelin
Penguin Island to Mullaloo Point
South side of Mandurah Cut to north side of Bunbury Cut

Moore River mouth to Three Mile Reef
North Mole to Two Rocks Marina
Preston Beach to Mandurah Cut
North side of Peel Estuary to North Mole
Yanchep to Ledge
Cervantes to Jurien (LWE)
Floreat Groyne to Yanchep
Swan and Canning River including the inside (harbour side) of the North & South Moles
Seabird

DRY CASTING RESULTS

July 2, 2023

Name	DHA	H/C	SCORE	SHA	H/C	SCORE	TOTAL
VETERANS							
Gary Gildersleeves	157	0	157	24	5	29	186
Bob Henderson	86	10	96	24	1	25	121
Mal Head	113	35	148	12	9	21	169
Ron Thomas	119	18	137	17	0	17	154
Mark Hansen	114	29	143	28	3	31	174
SENIORS							

NAME	56 g	H/C	SCORE	ART/BAIT	H/C	SCORE	112 g	H/C	SCORE	TOTAL
Gary	127.48	11	138.48	113.91	9	122.91	146.76	15	161.76	
	-	-	-	115.41	9	124.41	145.70	15	160.70	894.26
Bob	119.73	12	131.73	102.00	15	117.00	135.29	15	150.29	
	128.91	12	140.91	92.67	15	107.67	138.06	15	153.06	921.66
Mal	87.26	50	137.26	82.15	39	121.15	99.30	52	151.30	
	969.59	50	146.59	88.04	39	127.04	106.27	52	158.27	1010.61
Ron	137.58	0	137.58	119.66	0	119.66	147.69	0	147.69	
	134.95	0	134.95	107.65	0	107.65	142.82	0	142.82	944.35
Mark	99.09	32	131.09	88.58	34	122.58	116.59	41	157.59	
	104.75	32	136.75	100.13	34	134.13	115.12	41	156.12	1012.26

Overall Winner with Handicap: Mark Hansen 1012.26

Ron Thomas; Dry Casting Officer

Dry casting is held once a month at:

Perth Polo Club
Meadow St
Guildford WA 6055

Please contact Ron Thomas if you are interested in joining in



CLUB ELECTIONS

Surf Casting & Angling Club of WA Inc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To All Members;

The Annual General Meeting date has changed and is due to be held on August 16th 2023. At this meeting we will elect a new committee to manage the affairs of the club for the forthcoming year.

All positions will be declared vacant and we will need to elect members to the following positions;

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer and Public Officer.

The functions of these positions are defined in the Rules. They form the Executive of the Club. These positions are required to be filled under the requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act 2015. Without them being filled the club cannot operate.

We will also require persons to fill the following vacancies;

Field Day Officer - this person is in charge of Field Days and recording captures on Field Days.
Asst. Field Day Officer – this person assists with the field day and recording duties.
Dry Casting Officer – this person is in charge of, and coordinates the Dry Casting competition.
Asst. Dry Casting Officer – this person assists with the Dry Casting competition.
Web Site Coordinator – this person is responsible for maintaining the club's web site.
Two Committee positions. – these positions provide support to the committee.

This gives a total of 11 positions on the committee. Last year we tried to run with reduced numbers on the committee and it didn't work.

Other non-committee positions include;

Club Recorder – responsible for maintaining the club's records.
Reel Talk Editor – responsible for producing the monthly newsletter.
Social Organizer – responsible for organizing social events of a non-fishing nature
Property Officer – responsible for ensuring club property is maintained and appropriately stored.

Please consider putting your hand up for any of these positions. The work is not onerous and is very rewarding. An active committee will see the club progress and attract more members. Without an effective and active committee, the club will decline and wither.

Please consider your position and if you are prepared to help, ensure that you nominate or are nominated for a position on the committee. Nomination forms will be available shortly and will be sent to all members.

Blast From The Past

FAREWELL TO THE "WEST END" HILTON

from 'Western Angler' magazine 1990. Courtesy of David Trainer

Rottneest's "West End Hilton" was a great refuge for MIKE ZEKULICH and his mates during fishing trips spanning nearly 30 years. Sadly, they can't stay in the Hilton any more, but they have a treasure chest of warm memories.



Our cooking expert, Athol Thomas, turned on a superb black-tie dinner to mark the closure of the "Hilton."

"BACK (from left): Athol, John Dare, Neville Shepley.

FRONT (from left), Don Smith, John Churack, Jack Harrison, Ken Scott. The fish are yellowtail kings.

The voice on the phone was that of a former workmate, Neville Shepley. "Like to go fishing?" he asked. That call, nearly 30 years ago, was the beginning of a special association with Rottneest's West End which ended this year. This followed a decision by the Rottneest Island Authority to ban fishing clubs using old army facilities for accommodation.

Our group, which later formed the Radar Angling Club, was given permission by former board secretary Des Sullivan to use the hut on top of a dominating hill near Fish Hook Bay.

The Fremantle and Melville angling clubs were permitted to stay in one at the base of the hill, about 25 metres away. During World War II this hut housed a diesel engine to provide power for a searchlight, and later a radar installation protected by several machine gun nests, the remains of which can still be found.

Our hut was used for accommodation. Neville and two friends, Des Moore and Harry Taylor, first approached the board about using the hut, after camping in a cave near Narrow Neck. Those were the days when the bitumen ended near Green Island and there was just a track to West End.

Initially on our trips, board vehicles could get no closer to the huts than about 200 metres because of the sand. We had to make several trips to cart our gear, but we managed to install beds, tables and chairs and even kerosene fridges.

For us this was the "West End Hilton" - a refuge with thick concrete walls which kept us safe, warm and dry even in the wildest winter weather.

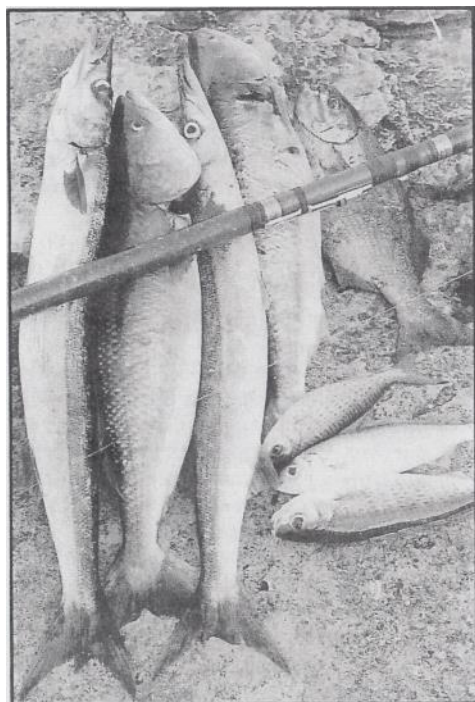
The walls had another purpose too - we recorded the results of various trips and over the years this provided an unusual club history.

It became the practice, just before leaving, to note the date, those involved in the party, and the fish taken and scrawl it on some part of the interior.

For example, a perusal would show that jewfish were caught off Radar Reef in the early days, along with good runs of tailor.

I recall how we would "hit the surge" immediately on arrival on a trip, usually about 1pm on a Saturday. The surge is part of Radar Reef where there is continuous white water and "rollovers" - being knocked over by a wave - were common occurrences. A huge rock which appeared on the reef from the sea bottom about two years ago underscores the fury the water can generate at certain times.

Fishing at the surge went off the boil for us in the 1980s... that is until our final trip last April. It seemed totally appropriate that in our last fishing session three of us hooked into 15 nice tailor. John Dare, who had brushed off the cobwebs on his original rod and Alvey bought for West End fishing and not used for years, landed six good fish.



Pike, salmon, buff bream and herring caught by Mike Zekulich in quick time off the West End reefs.



Jack Harrison (left) and Mike Zekulich with West End yellowtail kings.

With salmon, yellowtail, kings and herring biting at will, it made a memorable finale. But in reality all trips were memorable, regardless of the catch, for our club was built on fun, fellowship and knowledge. There was no competitive fishing and all fish had to be cleaned before being brought into the hut. What was not eaten was shared equally on departure.

On some trips the distribution didn't take long; in July 1980, all Jim Beros, Zoltan Kovacs and I could land in three days were two tailor and four skippy. To make matters worse I ended up with a hook in my shin which required some rather unpleasant manipulation with heavy pliers.

On some trips battering winds and turbulent water made fishing difficult or impossible in many spots. At such times we were restricted to the less fancied locations, such as the "tennis court" pool, a lagoon area inside Radar Reef at the base of the cliff below the hut. You can fish dry there from the rocks well above the water.

That was our main spot during a particularly fierce weekend in 1972 when strong winds drove huge waves across Radar, making life tough even for the seagulls.

There were five of us on that trip - Andy and Len Vlahov, Don Smith, Athol Thomas and myself - and on arrival we viewed the conditions with dismay.

The "tennis court" pool looked anything but attractive. The storm had blown in a significant collection of weed and rubbish, mainly rough pine planks which eddied about right in casting territory. But we were soon pulling in herring on lures and dinner was quickly assured. Little did we realise the feast we were to enjoy.

Later in the afternoon, I started casting mulies from my long surf rod and found myself blessing the nor-wester for it had apparently driven some very fine fish into the protected water. Soon two good tailor were on the rocks and then, bingo - a lovely snapper just under three kilograms. And we landed more with the biggest just over 4kg.

We were back at dawn the next morning, thirsting for a replay, and Athol quickly pulled in a 4kg salmon while I had a really lucky break, scoring two pike of around 2.5kg each.

I can recall Don Smith beaming about with delight as he landed a 2kg trevally to add to the smorgasbord that was to total eight species in all. Not bad for an "ordinary" fishing spot!

Club member Allen Rowland recorded the best-ever fish off Radar, a whopping 45kg samson fish. But it was a 36kg samson that rocked us. It was found wallowing in very little water on top of the reef. We lassoed it around the tail and hoisted it up on to the rocks but in both cases the real challenge was getting the fish up the cliff!

Once when walking to a fishing spot at Wilson Bay we saw a bird in trouble on the reef. We checked it out and found it had been caught up in some old fishing line. An opportunistic octopus was gradually pulling the bird underwater, intent on a gourmet meal from the skies. We released the bird and killed the occie, which became part of our evening fare.

Thanks to Athol Thomas we had many fine meals at the "Hilton" as he explored his culinary talents with fresh produce from the sea, providing a range of sensational dishes that always ensured his invitation to join us on a trip.

We operated in small groups, usually from four to eight, staying just two or three days on average. In the 1960s, when we were confined to Saturday - Sunday excursions, we even flew to the island on a couple of occasions to maximise our West End time. That involved laying our rods down the aisle of the DC3 which plied the route at the time.

The Hilton walls also recorded some unusual happenings, like the saga of the shark bite involving nuggety Jimmy Beros, of Manning.

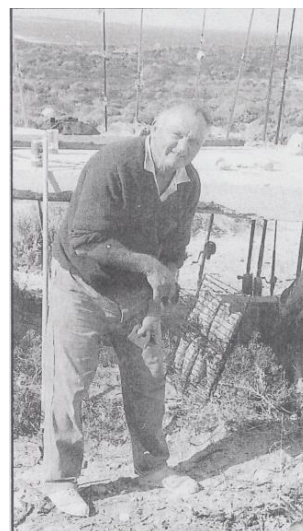
Jim, a migrant from Dalmatia in Yugoslavia, loved fishing and any food from the sea. His former village home in his boyhood was just ten metres from the Adriatic Ocean which he fished with his father, carrying the catch on his back to a town 7km away to sell in the pijaca - the market place.

Jim and Len Vlahov had a way of killing octopus that made most people shudder. They would bite the occie between the eyes, killing it instantly! It was amazing to see a writhing occie strive to get its tentacles into the guys' eyes or nose, and then suddenly go limp, stone dead, after being bitten between the eyes.

But back to that shark bite. A metre-long wobbie was cruising in shallow water on the reef and it investigated Jim's heels. He bent down and picked it up by the tail.



It was always an easy walk down the hillside to Radar, but coming up with a haul offish was a different story.



The late Andy Vlahov with some tasty herring grilled for lunch.

Jim walked slowly back to our base rock, a distance of about 30 metres, with the fish lying doggo. Just a few metres from the rock, where I was changing a rig, Jim called out to me to take his rod. I climbed down into the water and suddenly the shark swung its head and body around, sinking its teeth into Jim's calf. It was a horrifying moment and the shriek he let out made my blood run cold. Fortunately, the shark let go immediately and swam off. I helped my sobbing mate up on to the rock, trying to pacify him as I bandaged the wound. Luckily it was not a savage tear; the teeth went straight in and out.

About ten minutes later I set off to seek help from the rest of the group, who were fishing about 500 metres away. I explained the situation to my startled mates but when they realised that Jim was OK, apart from shock and the need for stitches, I was told he would have to wait... the tailor were on the bite!

Others wrote on the hut walls:

"We came we saw, we got stuff all."

" One tangle and two rock cod, but with us was the world's great s.... fisherman. "

"One snake bite - Gerry a pom so what else could you expect?"

(He was taken back to the mainland for treatment.)

I recall a German fellow who made only one trip with us. This was because during our first fishing sally, he was knocked over by a wave and put a 4/0 hook through his thumb.

Then there was the time jovial Ken Jeffers left three cartons of the necessary amber fluid on the island jetty. He took a hammering over that as we eked out other supplies. Fortunately for him the cartons were picked up and kept safely for us in the board office.

Ken had a knack of getting himself in a tangle and really copped some flak when he put his Mitchell firmly on to his rod - facing the wrong way. Unfortunately for him he was the last to notice!

But one area where he had plenty of mates was in the losing of rigs. Good fish hooked out at West End regularly wrapped line around the rocks and at various times all of us struggled like mad to break off hooks firmly snagged on the reefs.

Our last group included Neville Shepley who had not been over for about a decade, having been transferred to the North in his employment. He recalled hooking a 5kg Spanish mackerel off Radar. Said Neville: "I reckon it must have been resting up, for when I pulled it on the reef it had a two-metre wire trace hanging from its mouth.

"Surprisingly, one of the hooks on my treble had gone through a brass ring on the rig. This came out on the reef and I spent about ten minutes chasing it around the shallows trying to grab it."

But the Spaniard, a real survivor, disappeared into deep water, still trailing the wire trace.

Losing a good fish like that is just part of reef fishing. We always felt that landing a sizable fish at Radar was a worthy effort, not from a trophy point of view but for personal satisfaction.

We always maintained a healthy respect for the sea and the sharp reefs out there. While the area is spectacular to view from the top of the cliff, it can be very dangerous. On one trip we helped a fisherman who had a terrible gash in his thigh from being bowled over in rough conditions. And on our last visit Ken Scott came to grief, suffering a heavy fall as he climbed down the rocks to the reef. A cut in his hand required four stitches.

But at the end of the day the overall pleasure of the West End will live forever in our hearts as we shared a unique environment with nature, and a few other hardy souls, at the front door of a metropolis which may well have been on another planet.

WHY THE HUTS WERE BANNED

The ban on clubs using the West End huts was imposed by the Rottne Island Authority because they are outside prescribed camping areas. The authority's chief executive, Dr Chris Back, said the decision confirmed the provisions of the R.I.A. Act.

He said alternative accommodation and travel arrangements had been made to provide fishing access on the island. "This is not a ban on fishing, but a change to overnight accommodation arrangements," he said. "The buildings represent a significant part of the island military history and will be preserved."

Our group now stays at Kingstown Barracks, at the island's eastern end, and relies on RIA transport to get to fishing spots. The vehicles take us out there and pick us up at appointed times. Other fishing clubs have chosen to stay in the camping areas and also use island transport.

Photos of times gone by

Courtesy of John Crompton

Memories of 2008 AAA WA State Dry Casting Club Championships held at Yokine Reserve.





Ozfish update

Musselling up for Black Bream

<https://ozfish.org.au/projects/wa-black-pygmy-mussel-project/>

Courtesy of Chris Stickells

The Swan-Canning black bream population are set to get a boost, with a new project set to increase numbers of one of their favourite food sources: the black pygmy mussel.

Why Black Pygmy Mussels are so important



Black pygmy mussels are a crucial food source for bream and when their diet is rich in this specific shellfish it leads to bigger, stronger, healthier populations of this famous Australian fish that recreational anglers love to catch.

By restoring these valuable mussel beds, a more complex and robust aquatic habitat will be created which will result in greater black bream stocks.

Mussels are not only a vital food source, but they act as a kidney to the river where they help to clean the water by filtering out sediments, pollutants, and nutrients.

Restoring a stressed habitat

Black bream populations have taken a serious knock in the Swan-Canning Estuary thanks to increased levels of sediment and nutrients entering the waterway due to domestic and agricultural run-off.

These additional nutrients have sparked higher than normal levels of algae growth that crowds out the hard surfaces in the river where black pygmy mussels would normally grow.



That's why the OzFish Perth Chapter has made a commitment to assist struggling black bream populations throughout the Swan-Canning Estuary through habitat restoration by improving the numbers of black pygmy mussels which are an important food source for this iconic fish.

Mussel mats for hungry bream



This project uses natural materials to create artificial habitats where young black pygmy mussels can thrive thanks to a level of protection from predation.

Volunteers will construct and install habitat materials at 20 initial sites in the Swan and Canning Estuary **systems**. At a recent information session, volunteers learned about the materials and location of the project sites, they also shared valuable feedback about the current state of different sites.

Next, volunteers will construct artificial habitats using coir rope and matting, these will be placed in the water at extreme low tide, in time for the annual black pygmy mussel spawning.

There are different stages in the project that volunteers will be able to help construct the habitat units, install and conduct ongoing monitoring to determine increased mussel and fish populations because of these efforts.

Call For Community Volunteers

If you are prepared to get a bit muddy, are interested in improving black bream populations or simply want to get involved in the habitat restoration, register to receive the latest info and project updates.



LATEST NEWS



4 November 2021 | OzFish Calling on anglers to mussel up for Black Bream

Fishing conservation charity OzFish, The Nature Conservancy and Murdoch University researchers will band together on a long-term project to restore native Black Pygmy Mussels (*Xenostrobus securis*) and they are calling on local anglers that target the iconic black bream to get involved now. An information session will be held on Thursday evening 11 November at the Riverton Pavilion and will kick off the project for the Swan and Canning Rivers. The night will outline the potential roles recreational anglers and community members can play in this restoration initiative. Steve Pursell Project Manager in WA said that rec anglers have valuable local knowledge of the estuary and involving them is key to the project's success.

EASY PRAWN PASTA

Prep time 10mins; Cook time 20 mins; Serves 4.

Ingredients

175g mini capsicums, halved lengthways, thinly sliced
300g green prawns, tails intact
375g penne
70g feta, crumbled
¾ cup tomato passata
2 tablespoon olive oil
2 sprigs fresh oregano (plus extra leaves to serve)
3 garlic cloves, crushed
1 teaspoon caster sugar
400g tomatoes, halved



Method

Cook penne in boiling salted water according to packet instructions. Drain and return to saucepan. Meanwhile, heat oil in a large frying pan over medium-high heat. Add garlic and oregano and cook, stirring, for 2 minutes or until fragrant. Add capsicum and cook, stirring, for 5 minutes or until lightly charred and tender. Add tomato, passata, sugar and 1/4 cup water and bring to the boil. Reduce heat to low and simmer, uncovered, for 6 minutes or until tomato softens. Add prawns and cook for 2 minutes or until prawns are pink and cooked through. Add pasta to pan. Season with salt and pepper, then toss to coat. Serve topped with feta and extra oregano leaves.

QUICK GARLIC INFUSED TOMATO AND PRAWN PASTA

Prep time,5 mins; Cook time, 5 mins, Serves 4.



Ingredients

500g angel hair pasta
¾ cup garlic & onion infused extra virgin olive oil
300g thawed large green banana prawns, peeled
600g tomatoes
¼ bunch continental parsley, leaves picked

Method

Boil pasta in a large pot of water. Add pasta and cook according to package instructions. Drain and set aside. Heat half of the oil in a large frying pan over high heat. Season prawns. Add prawns and tomatoes and cook, turning occasionally, for 2 minutes or until the prawns are opaque. Remove from pan and set aside for serving. Add drained pasta to the frying pan with remaining oil. Toss to combine. Season with pepper. Serve sprinkled with parsley.