



St George Sportfishing Club

Newsletter — December 2015 - Issue 519

I would like to acknowledge and thank the contributors to our Newsletter.

Belinda Rayment for her regular and detailed Recorders Report. A lot of work goes into this part of the club. Thank you Belinda

Roger Giller for his Waterbird of the Month. We all see birds while out fishing and wonder *What Bird is That ?* Well done Roger

Phil Turner for his monthly fishing reports (he is always fishing somewhere and shares his experiences) and our scales testing.

And others who willingly give accounts of their fishing outings and photos. Thank you all - have a great Christmas and New Year, Clark

The EAR



Arthur's boat has been to Burrinjuck for the ANSA Convention. The EAR is not too sure whether the paint is fixed or the transducer fitted.



Bedroom slippers! Hard hat

There is more to this story, see page 7

Contents:

The Ear - beware, he is watching and listening, he is anywhere, everywhere, everywhere, everywhere, everywhere.....

Coming events

Bites and Pisces

Fishing Reports with photos

Coming Events full details page 2

Thu 3 Dec **Christmas Social and Raffle night**

Thu 4 Feb **General Meeting**

Feb 6-7 **Swansea 2016**

Feb 19-21 **Nowra ANSA Convention**

Thu 3 Mar **General meeting**

Mar 11-13 **Narooma ANSA Convention**

Apr 1-3 **Sydney Tournament**



Birthday people for Dec / Jan

Enjoy your day people—remember it won't happen again till next year.

December

2 Roger Giller

9 Helen Mortel

26 Ray Agius

27 Lia Zac

January

13 Hartley Giller

14 Lloyd Anderson

18 Dennis Simpson

22 Danni Worsley

24 Andrew Webb

28 Yvonne Holland



Peter Hewitt fished Wee Jasper (Burrinjuck Dam) with the Narooma Sport and Gamefishing boys. The aim was to rid the lake of some of the pesky carp. Pete however could only manage a redfin and a *tortoise*.

Extravaganza Night

Our next meeting on 3 December meeting is the club's *Extravaganza night*.

There will be,

- ◆ Very little club business,
- ◆ Finger food for all,
- ◆ The traditional giant raffle,
- ◆ An auction - for the first time.



The value of the raffle prizes is \$1000.00,
add 5 hams complete with chiller bags and
10 Christmas bags for the children.

This almost guarantees members at least one prize.
Prizes include;

Some fishing gear—what else would you expect?

Christmas hampers,

Bottles of wine

Hams

And many other goodies.

But can Trevor Dean win the years supply of toilet paper again? - of course the toilet paper is a sort of tradition from previous December raffles which Trevor has cornered the market—so far.

The **auction** is a first for the December meeting. The goods to be auctioned include;

- ◆ A Minn Kota electric motor, see photos hereabouts.
- ◆ A bottle of port—of course and recommended by our Treasurer Chris Holland (of course).
- ◆ A life jacket
- ◆ Some fishing gear,
- ◆ A number of collectors fishing books, the list is hereabouts. These have been donated by Col King from his fathers collection and from John Day's widow via Ron Horne. John was an early member of ANSA and the Shoalhaven Paper Mill Sportfishing Club

The are some of the books being auctioned, (there is no reserve price other than a \$2 coin)

1. **Freshwater Fishes & Rivers of Australia**, by John S Lake, pub. 1971 First edition. The first comprehensive review of the 200 odd species which comprise this unique but badly neglected freshwater fauna.
2. **Techniques of Trout fishing & Fly Tying**, by George W Harvey, pub. 1985.
3. **The Lure of the Trout**, edited by Lance Wedlick, pub. 1974.
4. **Guide to Fishes**, by E M Grant, pub 1978.
5. **Fish and Fisheries of Australia**, by T C Roughley, pub. 1966.
6. **The Fishes of New Guinea**, by Ian S R Munro, pub. 1967 First edition. The definitive reference book on Australian east coast warm water species. Was listed at \$165 in August 2000
7. **Fisherman's Bounty**, edited by Nick Lyon, pub 1971. Great selection of angling stories. Worth having if only for "A Wedding Gift" by John Foote which has to be one of the funniest fishing yarns yet penned.
8. **Big Fish and Blue Water**, by Peter Goadby, pub. 1972. Saltwater Gamefishing and sportfishing in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific. A classic Gamefishing book that every bluewater fisherman should have.
9. **Game Fishing off the Australian Coast**, by Athel D'Ombrain, pub. 1957. a must have for Australian game fishermen.

Our committee

President	Dennis Simpson	9543 0949
V president	Peter Logan	9520 3298
Secretary	John Everett	0522 4808
Treasurer	Chris Holland	9872 5517
Recorder	Belinda Rayment	0407 337 770
Outings	Ron Camp	9520 3439
Committee	Andrew Perros	
Non Committee;		
Newsletter	Clark Kent (C/-Bill Harvey)	9533 2453
Scale verifier	Phil Turner	

The Auction Items



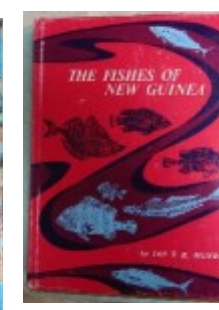
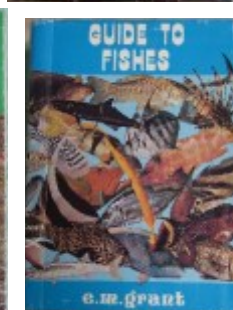
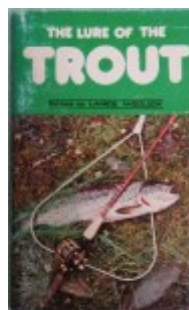
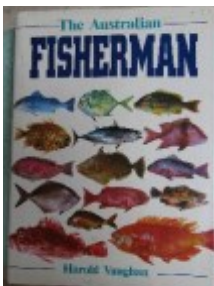
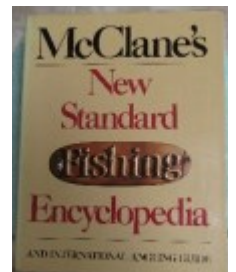
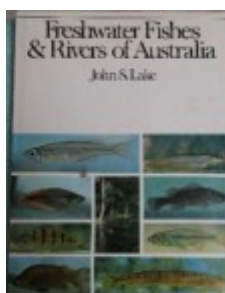
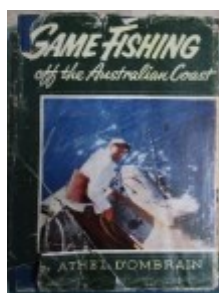
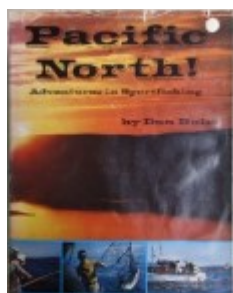
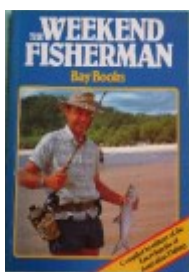
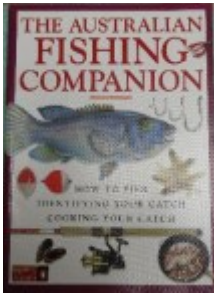
Morris 1991 Vintage Port
Rutherglen Valley, Victoria
Stored in wine cellar



Life Jacket, Crew saver, Crewfit, 165n sport, Adult auto/manual, navy blue, chest 70-155cm, unique chin support, provides 165n buoyancy, quick burst zip



MINN KOTA Electric Motor, Endura C2, 30lb thrust, 30" depth, extension twist tiller, quick release lever lock, transom bracket, new but no warranty.



Coming Events continued from page 1

- Thu 3 Dec **General Meeting** (brief) followed by our Christmas social and monster raffle and auction. Finger food will be provided during the night. **Well that's it for the year.** We will be resuming on Thu 4 February 2016.
- Sun 6 Dec **Go Fishing NSW** see brochure page 5
- Thu 4 Feb **General Meeting** Either a guest speaker or club members speaking on the coming events; Swansea and the Nowra Convention and the fishing opportunities at each. And Peter Logan will give a 5 min spiel on insurances our club has.
- 6-7 Feb **Swansea 2016.** we will have a member talk on this outing at the February meeting. This outing is worth the drive to Swansea. It is the home of the big flathead. Flathead can be caught using live bait, pillies, both hard body and soft plastics and vibes. See article hereabouts of the 1 metre flathead caught earlier this month.
- 19-21 Feb **Nowra ANSA Convention.** The first of the ANSA Conventions for the year. There is blue water fishing as well as estuary fishing and of the course beach fishing. Renown for its yellowfin and marlin, the estuary produces good flathead as well. Worth the trip south. Entry details next Newsletter.
- Sun 28 Feb **Snapper Day** details to follow.
- Thu 3 Mar **General meeting**
- 11-13 Mar **Narooma ANSA Convention** more in the next newsletter
- 1-3 Apr **Sydney Tournament** we are co-hosts with South Sydney. More info next month, but make sure it is in your diary now before your better half has other ideas for this weekend.

The Sick List

Gwen Trench's new hip and it is gradually settling down. It is being run-in nicely.

Dennis Simpson has had surgery and reports recovery is slowly improving and will take some time yet. The specialist and physio are pleased with results thus far. Cont next column

from our President



It was unfortunate that our guest speaker for the November meeting was unable to attend at the last moment due to an urgent work commitment. He has however offered to speak next year. Several other external speakers have also been scheduled and will provide information on a wide range of topics relevant to our activities and fishing generally.

A number of members are able to fish at random times outside scheduled club activities albeit by themselves. If you are in that situation and would like to be part of a register please advise me of your interest and email address. The intent is to provide all interested persons with that email register. I will discuss more at the meeting

The December meeting is traditionally the biggest for the year with monster raffle and food. So come along and enjoy this social evening. Prospective new members most welcome.

This year a brand new MINN KOTA motor will also be auctioned along with some other prizes

Evening to commence at 7.30pm sharp.

It is intended to provide members at this evening with the 2016 Club calendar.

Events early in 2016 to be noted for your attention are;

Swansea Weekend 6-7 Feb (or fish one day only)

Nowra ANSA Comp 19-21 Feb

Snapper Day 28 Feb

Narooma ANSA Comp 11-13 Mar

Sydney Tournament 1-3 Apr

Details will follow later.

On behalf of the committee we wish you a very happy and joyous Christmas and holiday period and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Dennis



The Sick List continued

Peter Hewitt is ailing with crook legs and hands—it seems to go away gradually as the day goes on.

Ken Trench has a crook back and he reports it is on the improve. So fly casting tuition will re commence in the new year and as the weather cools a bit—probably in March.

Don Rayment is champing at the bit to get out fishing. Unfortunately visits to the medicos are hindering his efforts.

Ron Camp is suffering from a crook back, take up trout fishing Ron. But get well soon.

GO FISHING NSW

Sunday, 6 Dec 2015
10 am – 3 pm

Want to try fishing
or already a keen fisher?

Get down to one of six
locations for some fishing fun!

Where

Kurnell, Kamay Botany Bay National Park
Coffs Harbour, Boambee Creek Reserve
Nowra, Greys Beach, Fairway Drive
Jindabyne, Gaden Trout Hatchery
Narrandera, Fisheries Centre
Ebor, Dutton Trout Hatchery



Free!

- 'Try fishing' sessions
- goodie bags
- casting competition
- seafood tasting at coastal locations
- inland hatchery tours



Combo worth \$350

Can't get to one of the locations?

Enter a draw to win one of 50 Shimano rod and reel fishing combos by emailing a photo of yourself fishing in NSW on 6 December, to gofishing.nsw@dpi.nsw.gov.au Or email a photo of yourself collecting litter from your local fishing spot.

Phone 02 4424 7421
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries



Department of
Primary Industries

Fishing Reports



Bill,

Brendan and I went down the river this morning and in a 2 hour session had our most successful outing on Estuary Perch. Using soft plastics we picked up 22 fish. Generally, they were of a good size - no real small ones and plenty between 30 and 34cm. No photos, sorry.

Bob McMahon

And another from Bob,

I had another hit down the river for three and a half hours this morning chucking soft plastic prawns. Got 3 Estuary Perch - 25, 32 and 36cm, as well as a 57cm Flathead. Not as good as last week but enjoyable none the less.

Bob McMahon

Hi Bill

I planned to fish as my boat has reasonable shelter with front and side covers up, I even arranged some fresh tailor for bait courtesy of Alex across road who caught some that morning.

Unfortunately I did my back in the previous day and couldn't risk handling boat.

Went to ramp at 9.45pm and waited over a half hour to see if anybody fronted but nobody came. Total of 5 trailers from more hardier souls in parking area.

Busting for a fish, but still in a bad way with my back.

Ron (Camp)

Hi Bill,

Just a short report for Windamere & Glenbawn from our annual trip in October with Denis & Rosalie Nadin.

Windamere was a little slow but we did not fish all that hard with visiting friends & some very windy days.

I ended up with eight yellowbelly. All were caught lure casting with small blades fitted with two stinger hooks on the tail end.

Glenbawn was really firing for us. We managed one yellowbelly, first fish caught, one carp and 139 bass with the biggest being 416 mm FORK LENGTH caught by Sam (see picture attached).

We only fished for eight sessions which were mostly half days.

All of the fish were taken in the top of the dam where the water was not so clear. Other anglers got some nice fish at night in the clear water at the bottom end.

We are off to Burrinjuck in the morning for the opening of the cod season. Will let you know if we do any good.

Cheers Lloyd (Anderson)

Hi Bill,

Tuesday 17th November, we spent an hour at the Peak for 1 good Morwong before the strong north Easter sent us back into Botany Bay where we sheltered close in off Cape Banks.

With a runout tide and a good bit of berley, we had nonstop action with tackle busting Kings. Only 2 fish were boated, out of a dozen wipe-outs. Using half Pillies floated out weightless.

Mary's 70cm King supplied us with dinner that night.

Phil (Worsley)

Bill,

After 18 nights of dedicated whiting trips on the Georges River over three years (from Aug 2012 to Nov 2015) a *Masters whiting* finally came on board. Blood worms each night (at \$10 a packet) on 1kg line, it has happened. This fish was full of roe perhaps adding to its weight. Over this time there had been some by-catch; with 97 undersize whiting, heaps of rays (they love worms too), a mulloway being released. But there have been some keepers, 81 whiting and some bream.

Clark (Kent)

Goodness, Bill you must think that is all we have to do!!!

Just a couple of Bass outings. Josh chasing Cod again, this weekend.

Cheers. Wayne (Colling)

Hi Bill,

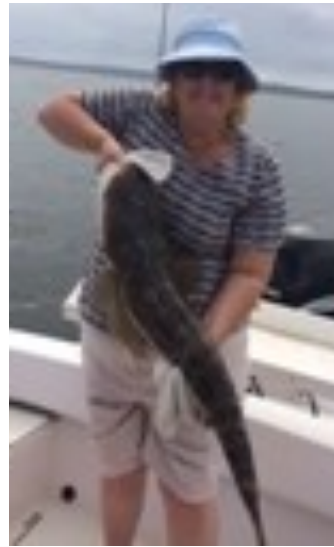
Have not fished for sharks since last fortnight. Did get one Dusky Whaler at 114cm and the biggest black ray, (probably around 30-50kg) that tested my gear to the limits. Took 30minutes to get it close to shore and I am glad it busted me off as I was not sure how I was going to release it.

The rocks have some nice kings coming in. Went out today and saw a few nice size ones but unfortunately had no live bait and they were not interested in lures. Young fellow I know speared a 21kg one at Coalcliff last week and said there is a few coming in there in large schools chasing gars.

Cheers Phil (Turner)



Sam Anderson's bass—41.6cm (fork length) caught at Glenbawn.



Karen's 862mm flattie



0.775 whiting on 1kg—didn't have to visit the telephone booth!



Past club member John Swinhoe now living in England with a nice snapper caught NZ when fishing with Les Waldock



PETER Jordan, 57, joined the metre flathead club last week in his local waters of Lake Macquarie with a lizard measuring bang on 100cm. He caught the big girl on a wonderspoon, a brass lure that isn't in production anymore, and a style of lure that he said "he gets all the big ones on".

This flattie and words from Fishing World's e News.



Wayne Rizzi's 113.0cm mulloway caught at Stockton Beach. Wayne said it took two beers and two cigarettes to land it. The fish weighed 42lb (scales bottomed out). Bait was fresh squid, line class 10kg.

Fishing Reports continued



Hi Bill,

Yolanda and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary in October with a trip to Hawaii. We had a great time – 4 nights in Waikiki, followed by a 7 night cruise around the 4 main islands, then 5 more nights in Waikiki. I gave Yolanda run of the credit card for a day in Honolulu... in exchange, I booked a day charter with Maggie Joe Sportfishing, which was recommended to me by a few locals, backed up by my own internet research. Our holiday schedule was tight but I picked Tuesday 27th October for the charter because the fishing app on my phone (which uses the Polynesian fishing/solar charts apparently) scored it 100%. I was assigned to Sea Hawk and we left the dock in Honolulu at 6am with sister boat, Maggie Joe. I was expecting a bit of swell, as the forecast was for the first of the big winter waves (25ft) on the North Shore (Pipeline fame etc.)

Having swum the day before at Waikiki right in front of a sign saying “Shark Sighted’ Keep Out” (two sharks sighted, one a 10ft tiger), I thought that the 20 or so surfers sitting out in the water, way out, as we left the harbour were a lot gamer than me, Gunga Din!

We stopped to catch live bait and the skipper (Jordan) and mate (Paulie) did all the work there – they soon had plenty of slimies in the well. There were six anglers on our charter. We each drew a playing card from Ace to 6 (I drew 3) and the skipper kept the cards in his pocket. The idea was that when we got a strike, he would draw a card at random, call it out and whoever had that number would jump in the chair. The first two numbers drawn were 5 and 6, so I didn’t get a turn on the rod but I still enjoyed my time on the water.

We finished the day 4-2-2. 4 blue marlin raised, 2 hook-ups and 2 boated. Unfortunately, it seems that the practice there is to keep the marlin, not release them, as they have a big market for them. The two fish went 145 and 140lb. They iced them down straight away and prepared them well for auction (they probably went to Japan). Apparently, if they didn’t sell the fish, the skipper and crew would only make about \$7 an hour. The other boat, Maggie Joe, only managed 1 mahi mahi. We tried the same “booeey” as the Yanks say but couldn’t hook a dollie, despite them being right around the boat. We arrived back at the dock at 4pm, so it was a long day on the water and a lumpy ride home, with spray coming right over the fly bridge and soaking me on the aft deck. It was a hot day so, I didn’t mind! For those longer term club members familiar with my predilection for mal de mer in the 80s, I am proud to say that I managed quite fine, thank you! However, one angler, a Texan, who caught the 2nd blue (140lb), did not do so well – he headed for the gunwales as soon as he got out of the chair! The mate said if he could get it over the outrigger he’d get a free t-shirt! I tell you, in my time, I would have won a t-shirt, a jacket and a cap!

All in all, I had a great day on the water, in fine company, which is what it’s all about. The skipper and mate seemed to know their stuff, they looked after their clientele and were happy to answer any questions I had. I tipped them about

18% of the charter fee (which is about the norm these days) but they earned it. I managed some reasonable shots (attached) from the fly bridge with my phone, so maybe you can use them in the newsletter.

Cheers,

Baz (Moore)

Bill,

Deb and I plus some friends fished Harrington a couple of weeks ago for some Bream and Tailor. Our best was a 39cm Bream but one of our friends caught a 43cm Bream which weighed 1.154kg cleaned. There seemed to be less fish around but the ones there were of a good size.

Thanks

Peter - Sorry Bill no photo.

Bites and Pisces

Did you know that cleaning your hands with dry curry powder (with a little water to paste consistency) removes all smells from bait and cleaning fish?

Sid has replaced 2 Angel Rings at Pretty Beach. Thanks Sid, from Stan, Pres. ANSA NSW.

Bill Taylor the developer of the “V sheet” distress signal for use by small boats around the country, passed away early October this year. He was over 100.

Hey Col, there are **no poddies** at Cams Wharf, Nords Wharf or even at Swansea. No flatties either.

Did you know the heading of this column “*Bites and Pisces*” was the name of the first ANSA NSW Newsletter. The name was **coined by Tom Boylan**, a St George member, way back in the 1970’s.

Ken Trench continues winning fly casting events. Last weekend he not only won the coveted Brazier Cup and the Cane Rod event, and was also placed in the Skish event. The aggregate of these events gave Ken the **Champion of Champions**. Ken will be resuming our fly casting tuition in the New Year.

Our treasurer has submitted “The Fishing Fanatics” a booklet of **fishing humour**. This month’s is, “A country doctor was famous in the area for always catching large fish. One day he was on a fishing trip, when he got a mobile phone call that a woman at a nearby farm was giving birth. He rushed to her aid, and delivered a healthy baby girl. The farmer had nothing to weigh the baby with, so the doctor used his fishing scales. The baby weighed 22lbs 10oz.”

The Mulloway Night

The wind blew and the squally rain came down pretty well all day. It didn't look too good for the jewie fishing tonight. However at 3.30 there was little movement at The Hole in the Wall ramp. Listening to the cricket while waiting for the rain to ease before launching was about all that could be done. After an hour and with no end in sight the ramp was inspected. There was little opportunity to launch a boat single handed here because of the low tide and slippery ramp. Plan B was considered.

Plan B was to relocate to Oatley Bay ramp and although the rain was easing it was worth launching. Umm, now where to fish? Plan A after launching was to fish just north of Captain Cook bridge, so why not? The marks for the spot were located but the wind was pushing the boat further across the bay AND the run-in tide was pushing the boat towards the bridge. Where (and when) to drop the anchor was the first concern. Put the boat up current and up wind—easier said than done. And there was a derelict yacht upwind to be mindful of. But over went the anchor.

And the wind and current push the boat back nicely but once settled the boat was yawing. The jewie rod was baited up with a green eyed squid head and cast out, well sort of, the weight of the bait meant any distance was wishful thinking. Ah ha, this yawing should be used, so when the boat yawed fully the bait was dropped over the side and line let out and the rod placed in the rod holder.

Now that annoying squally rain was coming in above the windscreen and under the Bimini. A golf umbrella was tied to the grab rail and that fixed that. Two 1kg rods were deployed with blood worms as the bait. If there are whiting further up the river they might just be here too. And one was. And then an estuary ray which was broken off.

While all this was happening and listening to the cricket, it was suddenly dark and the squally rain continued. The boat was tossing as the white horses rolled passed the boat, standing was impossible.

There was a temptation to find a telephone booth in which to change and fix this mess.

However the jewie reel made a noise and the line tightened, there was weight and pulling, the boat was yawing, the squally rain continued, and the line stopped pulling, just heavy. The engine was lifted and the line was caught around the propeller—where is that phone booth? - and then ping. It was now too uncomfortable so packed up and home.

Clark K

The EAR continuing Arthur's trailer.....

But before Burrinjuck, the rollers on the trailer needed adjusting. This meant taking the boat off the trailer by launching it. The clamps holding the rollers in position were not functioning as they should and the bolts had rusted. To fix the problem, spacers were made to fit between the roller brackets and the trailer. Measurements were made, height calculated, measurements checked and re checked and the parts made—to the nearest tenth of a millimetre. The parts were fitted and rusty bolts replaced with stainless ones and all tightened up. The boat was retrieved—it was still floating—winched on to the trailer and inspected. Alas, the spacers were clearly too long, other rollers were not supporting the boat at all. There were four club members present and four differing opinions were offered. Finally the boat was relaunched and the spacers removed and taken home to be shortened, total accuracy was given a miss now, close enough was good enough. Back to the boat ramp and the new spacers fitted and the boat retrieved. Ah ha, that's better. But wait the rollers up front were now not reaching. More opinions. And it was decided to now fit the off cuts from the spacers as well. Boat off again and parts fitted and the process repeated. Finally at 1pm (started at 8am) the job was complete.

It was observed one of the workers attending to Arthur's trailer was **wearing slippers**, real bedroom slippers and still in his pyjamas.

MONSTER SALE
CONTINUED

Need a Christmas present?

Bring your money next meeting

Club T-Shirts, caps & stickers

Look for the Sale table—be ready
for summer



Fishing 4 Therapy with ANSA members, Tony Steiner (Souths) and Bill Harvey (St George)

Photos from Fishing 4 Therapy, Centennial Park taken Thursday 26 November 2015—it was a hot, hot morning. Eight fish caught.

Participants from HeadEast, Eastern Sydney Acquired Brain Injury Community, Eastgardens NSW



Photos by Scott Birdsell
Community Access Worker
HeadEast, Eastern Suburbs Acquired Brain Injury
Community Access Service Inc.



CLUB RECORDER'S REPORT - NOVEMBER 2015

Certificates awarded at November meeting, events between 19 October and 23 November



Master Angler Award

Bruce Rayment has been awarded his **Master 10 Angler Award** in the Length Only Division. Bruce's 1st capture in the division was in January 2009 – an 848mm Long Tom caught in St Georges Basin. He made his 10th capture in July 2015 – an Albacore of 800mm. Congratulations Bruce on a fabulous achievement.

The last convention of the calendar year was held at Burrinjuck over the weekend of 6th to 8th November and was well attended by St George club members. David and Karen Maltby and Arthur, Maria and Lia Zacharias have all been awarded 3 CAA points for fishing.

Congratulations to John Everett for his **Masters capture certificates** awarded last month:

John Everett – All Tackle Species – Dusky Flathead 720mm

CAA pts 5

CHAMPION ANGLER AWARD 2015/16 - END NOVEMBER							
MENS		LADIES		JUNIORS		Non-NSW	
Bruce Rayment	17	Belinda Rayment	8	no entries		no entries	
Phil Turner	6	Karen Maltby	3				
Peter Logan	5	Lia Zacharias	3				
John Everett	5	Maria Zacharias	3				
David Maltby	3						
Brendan McMahon	3						
Arthur Zacharias	3						

Please send me details of any captures for the club's own **length only competition** for Flathead, Snapper and Salmon (Division 1) and Bream, Whiting and Tailor (Division 2).

DIVISION 1 - LENGTH ONLY COMPETITION - 2015/16				Updated as at: 23/11/2015
Angler	Best Flathead - Length (mm)	Best Snapper - Length (mm)	Best Salmon - Length (mm)	Combined length (mm)
John Everett	720	-	540	1,260
Peter Logan	680	-	-	680
Karen Maltby	-	580	-	580
Trevor Dean	570	-	-	570
Bob McMahon	560	-	-	560
Brendan McMahon	550	-	-	550
Andrew Dean	490	-	-	490
David Maltby	-	420	-	420

DIVISION 2 - LENGTH ONLY COMPETITION - 2015/16				Updated as at: 23/11/2015
Angler	Best Bream - Length (mm)	Best Whiting - Length (mm)	Best Tailor - Length (mm)	Combined length (mm)
Debbie Logan	410	-	480	890
Peter Logan	400	-	400	800
Bill Harvey	-	437	-	437
John Everett	370	-	-	370
Trevor Dean	330	-	-	330
Bob McMahon	300	-	-	300

Please send all claim forms to me at PO Box 923, Caringbah NSW 1495 or email to belinda.rayment@bigpond.com

Belinda





Seabird Of The Month



Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

Appearance. A large gull, about 50% larger than the common Silver Gull. Wingspan is up to 1.4 metres. The adult has a massive yellow bill with a red spot on the lower tip. Head, body and tail are white, the upper wings are dark grey with a white trailing edge and white tips on the primaries. The legs are a yellowish green. First year juvenile birds are brown and there is a gradual progression to the adult plumage over the next 4 years.

Similar Species. Can be confused with the Pacific Gill, which has red tips on both upper and lower bill, no white spots on primaries and has a black band on the tail.

Habitat. Strictly coastal including islands, bays and offshore reefs.

Range. Coastal S from abt. Fraser Is. to Nullarbor., Incl. Tasmania. Also Western part of S coast of WA. Distribution patchy, concentrated around breeding locations, which include islands off Port Kembla.

Breeding. 2-3 grey-green eggs, speckled or blotched brown, are laid in a large cup nest of leaves, grass and seaweed etc. Both parents incubate and the young fly at about 6 weeks.

Feeding. Molluscs, cuttlefish, crabs, fish, worms and carrion. Also garbage/refuse.

Voice. A distinctive "Yo yo yo yo yo " sound which is much favoured by film makers in coastal and marine situations. This is probably due to it being very similar to the call of a number of common Northern Hemisphere Gull species



Roger Giller