

SANDI ANGLING NEWS:-

NEWSLETTER OF THE SANDRINGHAM ANGLERS' CLUB:-



Issue #10 (August 2015 to January 2015)

Sandringham Anglers' Club
P.O Box 98 Hampton, VIC 3188

Phone:- (03) 9598 9664

Email:- info@sandringhamanglersclub.com

Club meetings are held every Tuesday from 8:00pm, visitors are always welcome and new members are encouraged.

The club rooms are located at the end of Jetty Road, Sandringham and are licensed for the responsible serving of alcohol.

Introduction:-

Welcome to this small milestone edition in the recent incarnation of the Sandringham Angling Club newsletter. Ten editions down.

Hopefully you are finding the information contained in the newsletters informative, useful and most importantly amusing.

I am always happy to receive feedback on what works or doesn't in the newsletter. Even better would be if you have some new ideas for inclusion as regular pieces for future editions. Don't feel intimidated that you have to suggest something original and innovative. It's quite alright to suggest ideas that you have "borrowed" from other places. I know I rely on this aspect heavily every edition.

In the meantime, I wish everyone all the best for 2016.

Thanks and Enjoy.....Ed.

What's in this issue,

- ✚ Club Information (Pgs 1-3)
 - ✚ Fishing Reports (Pgs 4 -11)
 - ✚ Sponsors (Pg 12 -13)
 - ✚ Club Championship Ladders (Pgs 14)
 - ✚ Upcoming Competitions (Pg 15)
 - ✚ Old Wives Tales (Pgs 16-20)
 - ✚ Club Social Pages (Pg 21-24)
 - ✚ Social Calender (Pgs 25)
-

Presidents Report:-

Happy New Year to all. I trust everyone had an enjoyable and safe holiday with family and friends. As 2016 begins, I would like wish everyone the best of luck for the second half of our fishing season and look forward to hearing of many 'bagged out' sessions. There will be opportunities for many different types of fishing, so hopefully something for everyone.

The club committee has worked very hard to improve our facilities, have more social events and, of course, provide opportunities to fish and have fun. I thank them for all their hard work and commitment. I would like to take this moment to encourage all members to get involved in any way they can with the club, whether as a committee member, attending fishing comps or just coming down to have a chat on a Tuesday evening. The members are the heart of the club, active members mean an active club.

Good luck and 'tight lines'

David Oates

President



Our President trudges up Sandringham Beach after the Boats and Harbours Comp.

– Did he bag out?

– Catch the trip report in this issue.

Sandringham Anglers' Club



Club Information:-

President:	Dave Oates
Vice President:	Craig Waller
Secretary:	Greg Stephens
Treasurer:	Jim Kavanagh
Angling Secretary:	Ron Wilson
Property Officer:	Mark Hocking
Publicity Officer:	Craig Waller
Boat Captain	Garry Meehan
General Committee:	Bob Shovelar
	Chris Plant
	Peter Brown

If you have any suggestions or just want to find out the direction that the committee is taking the club in then feel free come in to club night one Tuesday and have a chat.

Jeff Worle Trophy, Continued:

As reported last edition of the newsletter, the Jeff Worle Snapper trophy was missing the names of the winners between the 2003 and 2009 seasons. Fortunately our angling secretary has dug through the archives and found them.



The Original Jeff Worle Shield

So to finalise the list here are all the winners from the 1999/2000 season (with this years winner also shown):-

2016/15	Craig Waller
2014/15	Peter Quinton
2014/13	Andres Vidovic
2013/12	Andres Vidovic
2012/11	Mark Hocking
2010/11	David Clark
2009/10	Phil Staindl
2008/09	No Winner (No eligible Fish weighed in)
2007/08	No Winner (Cancelled due to Weather)
2006/07	Mark Spitzer
2005/06	David Clark
2004/05	Andrew Paice
2004/03	M Bailey
2003/02	S Greenwood
2002/01	G Mourmouris
2001/00	T Woolley
2000/99	Margaret Webb

Good luck next season.....

Sandringham Angling club is a



"Good sports" club.

Trip Reports:-

Clubrooms

If you have been down to the club rooms in the last few months you will have noticed some serious activity and changes around the place. The committee this year has focused a lot of energy into ways of modernising and tidying up the old clubrooms.

These works have included laying down new carpets in the main hall, stripping down one of the two pool tables in order to remove it and rearranging the trophies hanging on the walls.

There are also plans well underway for further improvement works such as putting in new roller shutters over the back doors and ultimately renovating the remaining floor in the clubrooms.

These renovations will hopefully have several

benefits. The first is providing an enjoyable relaxing environment for our members during club nights and functions. The better ambience gives us the ability to look at subleasing out the premises to suitable tenants or alternatively to more public functions. This will provide valuable revenue and community awareness for our club.

Sometimes when things are changing it's also good to reflect what has past. Geoff Clarke whose father was a member of the club many years ago, found this archived photo of our club rooms (date unknown). What a difference a generation makes.

If you have any "renovation" ideas that you think would be beneficial to the club, pop in on Tuesday club night for a chat or alternatively contact someone on Committee, via our email address.



Trip Reports:-

July 11 -12 2015 Hollands Landing (Estuary 1)

Weather reported as good but cold. Seven members and two visitors fished. 3rd place to Jim K (4 fish), 2nd to Phil S (4 fish) and winner was Dave Clark with 9 fish at a total weight of 3.756 Kg. Heaviest Fish was a bream of 0.762 kg and a Luderick of 0.438 Kg

02 August 2015 Wonthaggi to Wollamai (Surf 1)

Typical foul wintery conditions awaited the first surf comp of the year. Wind, big swells, side currents and lots of large clumps of weed made it an extremely tough day. The conditions were such that many anglers could not hold bottom even with heavy lead. This resulted in many members ceasing their fishing early.

In fact everyone was that keen to forget about the days action that weigh in (by mutual agreement) was done and dusted well before the scheduled time.



Kilcunda, Nice Scenery Shame about the conditions

10 members and 1 vistor fished with our anglers scouring the region far and wide. Dave, Ron and Greg fished the Powlett with no luck. Jimmy tried his luck at Shelley beach with no fish to

show for the effort. Craig, Chris and myself fished Kilcunda, similarly for no return.

Phil with a friend, tried off Woolamai. Fortunatley they did manage to get onto some fish. Unfortunatley for Phil he could not catch one that breached the crucial 30cm mark. His friend Mike became the only angler to weigh in. If it's any conselation Mike is a local so we can at least use the excuse that he had home ground knowledge on his side.



A cold gathering of unsuccessful Anglers

On days like this when the fishing is slow it is sometimes good to reflect on events. Its a great way to learn some valuable lessons that can hopefully help improve our fishing skills. Craig learnt that you don't turn your back on the surf and bend over at the same time as cold water rushes into your waders. Chris, new to surf fishing and also fishing his first SAC comp learnt that you can't fish on a Victorian surf beach in winter in shorts. Its a tad too chilly for that. He then went on to learn that you can't easily find waders in tackle shops in those "smaller sizes" on Phillip Island. Finally, I learnt that you should always keep your hands well away from a spinning Alvey reel, especially when weed grabs your line and is being sucked back by waves. I could still feel the pain of the racked knuckles a week later.

So after a long hard day, 10 anglers all walk away with only 2 points to show for it.

*Trip Report by Andres V.
Pictures by Craig W*

Trip Reports:-

15 August 2015

Gunnamatta

(Surf 2)

Nicer conditions at Gunnamatta beach greeted the competitors for Surf 2. Little weed, much smaller surf and less side swell made the fishing much more pleasant.

A pleasant calm day with some nice colours in the sky was a suitable reward for the few anglers that rose early for sunrise. The other benefit of fishing the sunrise was that at least you had the pick of the beach. The same couldn't be said from 10 am onwards where as far as the eye could see there was the distinctive silhouette of rod holders and surf rods. For those anglers that did turn up after 10am it was a long walk to the left to find a spare patch of beach.

Sadly for SAC and all the other anglers at Gunnamatta not many of the rods were bent over with fish action.

Gunnamatta -Always a popular and busy Surf Beach



In fact the only moment of joy was late in the day when Dave let out a satisfied holler as he dragged a nice salmon across the sand. A decisive fish that was good enough to win the day.

For myself personally, there was a nervous wait to put my salmon onto the official measuring stick at weigh in. Thankfully in fishing competitions, just like tennis, on the line is in, so the snippet of tail nudging the 30cm mark meant I had a weighable fish. Not my proudest ever fish but significant in that it was my first ever in surf comps and good enough for 2nd.



Rotunda Weigh in

The lack of fish during the day had some members ask the question, where crabs eligible for weigh in. Unfortunately the answer was no, because if crabs were eligible then we could have had a much more competitive weigh in as I suspect most members had managed to land quite a few during the session.

Another day fishing Gunnamatta finished with the now mandatory stop for fried food and recounting of fishing tales at the Guest Street burger shop.

Oh well, a poor start to the year for surf fishing so I guess in true optimistic anglers tradition it's a good time to change the focus and look forward to trout season.

Trip report by Andres V

Photos by Craig W.

Trip Reports:-

20 – 21 September 2015

Western Districts

(Freshwater 1)

Although technically held at the very end of the winter months, the annual trip to the Western District typically marks the transition to Spring fishing, and it was only logistical arrangements which prevented us fishing at our normal period of mid-September.

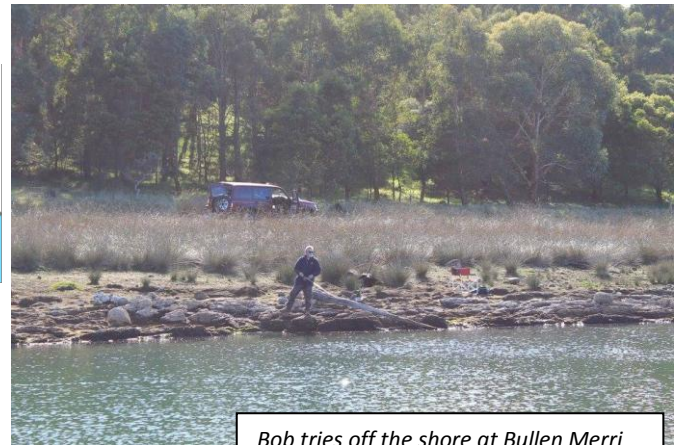


The conditions weren't the easiest, with the wind playing havoc from time to time and making it particularly difficult for those who were bait fishing or drifting. We had a good compliment of members and visitors who journeyed to Camperdown, and that always seems to make for some extra fun. Dinner at the pub is always a good time, with plenty of banter, some mixed humour, but above all, great company!



Post Fishing gathering

However, with a total of 14 people fishing, the results were poor, with only 5 fish being weighed in. (although this wasn't due to a lack of effort or variations in fishing techniques). Marco Rizzi weighed in a cracking chinook salmon, tipping the scales at over 1.5kgs, to take out first place, with the sly old fox, JB, giving him a good run for his money by also weighing in a chinook at over 1.3kgs and taking 2nd place.



Bob tries off the shore at Bullen Merri

Blackie, Bucko and yours truly all weighed in much smaller rainbow to fill out the minor placings, but sadly, that was the sum total of the action. Still, it was a really pleasant weekend away, and the setting is one which we rarely get to experience.

Trip report by Phil S

Photos by Craig W

Craig in his ongoing pursuit of promoting our club in the public arena has developed a great skill in getting our club name mentioned on "Talking fishing" on channel 31. Here's Marco making his appearance on catch of the week for his Chinook salmon from this competition.



Well done Marco and Craig.

Trip Reports:-

13 September 2015

Lake Wurdi Bullock

(Try a New Place Social comp)

One of the great pleasures of fishing is that you get to spend time outdoors sometimes in areas with beautiful scenery and if you are fortunate can see all manner of wildlife. This is why I personally like the “try a new place comp” as it is a great way of fishing areas that I normally would either never get to, or alternatively would not think to fish.



Staying “off the rocks” on the dam wall

Once again like the previous two years, the fishing location chosen was a freshwater lake. This year it was a dammed impoundment called Wurdi Bullock, which can be found out just past Geelong way. Unfortunately like the previous two years “Try a new place” comp there were few or no fish to trouble the weigh master.

I turned up to the lake with only an hour to go, as I was returning home from having spent a very quiet weekend fishing Lake Purrumbete. Two things struck me as I climbed to the top of the dam wall. The first was the warning sign saying “no climbing on the rocks” and the second was the amount of fisherfolk, both SAC members and not, who were fishing off the rocks.

The lake was fairly shallow and unfortunately the unseasonably warm day and the sunshine

meant the trout were probably sulking either in the shade or had found a deeper hole somewhere. (That’s our excuse anyway).

There is nothing more frustrating or humbling than working hard at your fishing, casting hundreds of times, constantly changing your lures for zero return. Only recently I was reading some fishing reports in a freshwater magazine and found this appropriate quote under the Lake Wurdi Bullock Section “.....It is dubbed the lake of a thousand casts....” This certainly was true for the members of SAC, but wasn’t true for the young boy and his dad soaking a bait under the bubble next to me. They managed to hook and land a lovely big rainbow trout. Sadly, they were not SAC member or else would have won a rod and reel for their efforts.

One final tinge of regret occurred at the end of the day. As I bundled the family into the car for the drive home I saw a gentleman on the dam wall stuffing a rather large trout into a plastic bag. The fish were definitely there that day, but sadly they did not pay any of our club members a visit.



Social day – Great to see the families attending

Oh well at least it was a lovely spring day out in the sunshine for the kids to enjoy.

Trip report by Andres V

Photos by Greg S and Craig W

Trip Reports:-

27 September 2015

Melbourne Rivers and Harbours

(Estuary 2)

The returns for the second estuary competition – being the PPB rivers (and local groins – no smart comments) comp, has been fraught over recent years, but still nigh on 20 people turned out to try their collective luck and fish this comp once again.

Barely a fish has been weighed in over the past couple of seasons, with some memorably bad days experienced in recent years. The early spring morning though, turned on beautiful weather with light winds and a near cloudless sky, so spirits were high as the day commenced.

The fishing contingent were spread far and wide, with at least 3 boats making the journey across to the Werribee River. Others fished some of the local groins, I heard reports of some fishing from Yaks in the Patterson River, and others chose to keep their locations a mystery for fear they would be inundated with other fisherman.



Greg, yakking in Sandringham

I was with Willow on the Werribee and had company from Slapper and Wallaroo. We had every known bait aboard, and had also picked up local intel as to where to fish and with what baits and lures. The water was so clear there were many occasions when we could see the fish swimming below us and in nearby snags. But do you think all of this made any difference?? Absolutely not! Between the 3 boats I think there was only one genuine hit recorded, and like most others, we returned to the weigh-in with nothing to show for our efforts.



Plenty of time for photos as few fish to weigh in

There were only three people to weigh in fish, with first place going to Andres, second place to John Matheson and third place to Steve Wilson. Well done guys! It was a tough but pleasant day.

*Trip Report by Phil S
Photos by Steve W and Craig W*

Editors note:-

I would like to add my two cents and comment that it is always pleasing to see shore based anglers (Podium placings 1 & 2) and kayakers (placing 3) having success and sometimes even managing to outfish those in boats.

Cheers Ed.

Trip Reports:-

10 & 11 October
2015

Lake Eildon

(Freshwater 2)

The Eildon comp is fast turning into

one of the most popular comps on the calendar, and with 18 members plus a couple of former members fishing, it was great to see such a healthy turnout. Of the 20 who fished, there was a significant contingent who camped out at Fraser National Park and by all accounts, enjoyed each other's company and a roaring campfire through until the wee small hours of the night, which, I've gotta say, is one of the delights of camping.



Greg, Everything you could possibly need.

Another significant group kept close company in house within the Eildon township, and enjoyed a BBQ the first night before dining at the local pub the second night. It was great to see former Club identities, Heather Fraser and Andrew Paice join the group to fish and swap some stories from days gone by. Then there were a few others who were dispersed in various nooks and crannies across the district, suffice to say that most of us came together at the weigh in on the respective days. There were a couple of notable paddle nominations arising from this comp, but given yours truly was the subject of one, I shall leave it to others to tell the story at some future stage through unbiased eyes!

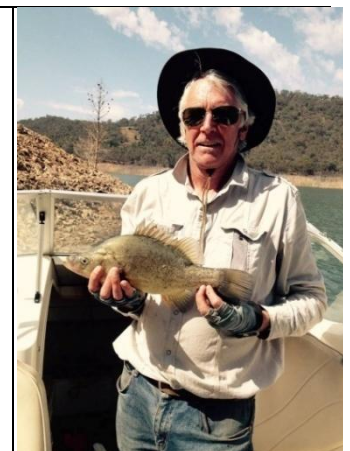


View looking over Lake Eildon.

The good news on the fishing front is that the numbers of fish caught were really good and were spread across a good number of anglers. Brown trout dominated the catches but there were some rainbows, redfins, and a really good yellow belly caught by Ron Wilson thrown into the mix as well. The biggest story on the fishing front though was that of young Bradley, who not only out-fished his Dad, but cleaned up the entire field to win the Eildon comp for the second year. Bradley weighed in 6 brown trout over the two days, and had the knack of using the right coloured Tassie Devil at the right time. A great effort by Bradley, and there was no way the smile could be wiped from his face at the weigh in, especially on that Sunday morning



An ecstatic Bradley wins another comp



Ron follows up last years Cod with a "yella"

Trip Reports:-



Bradley – shows last year wasn't a fluke

! Other placegetters included yours truly, who just nudged out John Bentley to take second place, with Ron's "yella" earning him 4th place in front of a swathe of others. A thoroughly enjoyable and successful comp!



Eildon – Another Rotunda Weigh-In

*Trip Report by Phil S
Photos by Rob K, Greg S and Craig W*

23 – 25 October 2015

Jeff Worle Memorial Trophy

(Snapper 1)

Well, probably the best thing that can be said about the snapper season is that we actually fished three snapper comps for the season, although the Twilight comp had to be rescheduled. The new "flexibility arrangements"

whereby members can fish either PPB or Westernport and start fishing from the Friday evening is a fantastic innovation, and allows for greater opportunities for members to hopefully catch a fish.

In the first comp, reigning Club Champion, Craig Waller, showed last season was no fluke and weighed in a beautiful 5+kg snapper caught from one of his secret spots in the Corinella region. A cracking fish, Craig and well done! The biggest disappointment, however, was that this was the only eligible fish weighed in, although one former club identity in John Lindholm, weighed in three very nice Westernport snapper, but sadly is not a current financial member, so maximum points went to Craig.



A worthy Fish to win the Jeff Worle Trophy.

*Trip Report by Phil S
Photos by Craig W and Greg S*

Trip Reports:-

7 November 2015

79th Anniversary Comp.

(Snapper 3)

In the Club Memorial comp, the returns were not much better, with only Willow and Blackie (who fished together) weighing in a solitary fish each. Blackie took the honours with his fish tipping the scales at over 2.4kgs, whilst Ron's offering was somewhat more modest, but enough to give him second place on the podium. Well done guys.

. Trip Report by Phil S

27 -29 November 2015

(Snapper 2 – Twilight-Back up Comp)

The rescheduled twilight comp saw only 4 fish weighed in by three members, and sadly, no spectacular fish amongst them. Paul Lindholm took out the hours with two fish up to 1.7kgs, and with Jimmy Kavanagh and your truly filling the minor placings on the podium. All in all, the less said about this snapper season, the better!!

Trip report by Phil S

13 December 2015

Southern Port Phillip Bay.

(Trailer Boat 1)

The final comp of the year saw 10 members head down to Sorrento to fish the southern end of Port Phillip Bay. Being a little reminiscent of Westernport with rapidly varying water depths combined with, at times, occasional strong currents, this comp has a habit of producing the unexpected and varied, and so it proved on this occasion. Most who fished were able to weigh in something, and for those that didn't, there was often plenty of action provided by the myriad Port Jacksons, Banjos, undersize pinkies

and flatties to slimy mackerals and then onto gurnard!

No-one was able to produce that sensational or special fish at weigh in, but there was an array of whiting, flatties, silver trevally and even squid that ensured there was a wonderfully mixed bag presented to the weigh master. The heaviest bag went to Craig Waller (again, giving Craig his second win of the current season – something from which he obtains immense pleasure. Jim Kavanagh (who simply doesn't give up) took out second place, whilst third place went to Ron Wilson after he managed to land a few nice whiting in his last hour or so on the water.



Did Phil mention **LOTS** of rays n sharks.



Weigh in -No rotunda at Sorrento, so boat trailer will do

Trip Report by Phil S

Photos by Craig W

Sponsors:-



The committee is currently working on formalising a sponsorship agreement policy for the club. These procedures will provide clear cut guidelines for all our arrangements with existing and future sponsors. These guidelines will cover the clubs expectations in terms of the financial returns or services that will come from our sponsors. Importantly it will also outline what our sponsors will be entitled to receive from the club for their support.

Having a documented procedure will be beneficial to the club as it will ensure that we have a consistent approach when we meet with potential or existing sponsors to enter into a commercial agreement.

Sponsorship is extremely important to our club. Greater levels of sponsorship will help the club by providing valuable income or services that can be put towards things like, improving the club rooms or providing more significant raffle, door or competition prizes.

If you know of an organisation or person that may be interesting in sponsoring our club, then please speak to someone on committee to provide information on how we can formalise a sponsorship agreement.

Craig, our Vice President has set himself some ambitious targets to sign up new sponsors. Only 6 months in he has been extremely successful in bringing on board several additional sponsors. These include:-



Fun Haven Domain, whom trade as Fun Haven Domain and DCI (Direct imports).

They are an internet based business whom supply hunting and fishing equipment. They have generously donated fishing equipment (namely braid and other accessories) which the club currently has for sale. To see Fun Havens products check them out on:

- <http://stores.ebay.com.au/fun-haven-domain>,
- <http://stores.ebay.com.au/dci-direct-imports>

Alternatively check out their webpage:-

www.funhavensdomain.com

We also welcome onboard, Terry, Moose and Dave from, Regal marine. You might have heard of these guys from their very distinctive channel 31 adds, or alternatively they are the guys that are constantly plugged by Ron Smith on "Catch and Cook" as providing his TABS boat from Regal Marine".



They are a supplier of boating and angling equipment and have provided us with fishing gear that has been so prominent in recent door prizes and raffles (As Terry demonstrated at our most recent Christmas party)



Sponsors:-

We also have



Need some motor servicing or quotes for some repairs, then how about trying Pete's boat service & maintenance. Check out his website on

www.petesboats.com.au

Next issue I will be focusing on some of our major sponsors by providing some additional information, especially with regards to types and prices for any equipment that we are on-selling.

The Club also wishes to acknowledge and thank the following sponsors for their continued support in 2015/2016.

For all your home hardware need pop in to the Cheltenham store and say hi to Bob....



For all your angling equipment, bait and tackle pop in to the shop at black rock and say Hi to Wayne at

**SOUTHERN
SPORTFISHING**
Black Rock
(03) 9589 5666

Need a new pair of sunnies. Visit euro optics on <http://eurooptics.com.au>



Are you interested in becoming a sponsor of the Sandringham Angling club, then contact the club on:-

Phone:-(03) 9598 9664 or

Email:- info@sandringhamanglersclub.com

Club Angling Championship Ladder



Club Championship:-

The mid point of the club championship sees one of our tightest competitions in a very long time. A large cluster of front runners has formed all with a great shot at being the champion.

Championship Ladder-(Top 15) (Season 2015/2016)		
1 st	Phil S	96
2 nd	David C	74
3 rd	Craig W	72
4 th	Andres V	67
5 th	Jim K	67
6 th	Ron W	65
7 th	Terry B	58
8 th	David B	46
9 th	JB	39
10 th	John M	37
11 th	Paul L	31
12 th	Marco R	25
=13 th	Bradley H	33
=13 th	Al F	21
15 th	Chris P	19

Phil has shot to a handy lead following some extremely consistent angling. He's having a fantastic season managing to catch his target species at most competitions. The good thing for him is that when he has missed out (i.e surf comps) not many others have managed a fish either.

In the chasing groups are some of our very experienced and successful anglers. We have of course our reigning champ Craig in 3rd and then there's our most successful club champion in recent times Willow back in 6th only 7 points behind Craig. With 7 anglers in a tight bunch at the top and with over 200 potential points available until the end of June it could be anyone's to win. If you want the glory of being the best angler for the year then keep weighing them fish in.

Gunboat Championship:-

There is similarly an extremely tight race in the gun boat championship with the leading two separated by only 1 point. Phil on Haystack has had a fantastic run picking up a swag of points early in the season, especially at Eildon where he fished 3 up managing to put all his crew onto fish. But consistent performances and a great snapper comp where some of the only people to catch snapper were on board Willow means that Ron is breathing down Phil's neck. Lurking not far behind is Walleroo. Craig has drifted behind by over 50 points but this gap can be very quickly bridged with just a couple of successful outings.

Boat Captains Ladder (Season 2015/2016)		
1 st	Haystack	137
2 nd	Willow	136
3 rd	Walleroo	75
4 th	Slapper	65
5 th	Marko	45
6 th	WrapperYak*	36
7 th	Redgum	28
8 th	White Lightning	25
9 th	SandYak*	17
10 th	Planter	15

Kayak Championship:-

Kayak King Ladder (Season 2015/2016)		
1 st	WrapperYak	36
2 nd	SandYak	17

A lack of fish from our regular yak contingent has seen a very slow and unencumbered ladder. Reigning champ Jimmy has again shot to the lead in Wrapper Yak. He leads Sand Yak whom has been the only other yakker to register a fish. With whiting comps coming up these are usually popular and successful outings for our yakkers and we should hopefully see a busier and larger leader board in 3 months time.

Upcoming Competitions:-

Upcoming Competitions (January 2016– June 2016) including *some that have just passed*.

Date	Event Type	Location	Competition Type and Weigh In
January 17	Westernport	Whiting 1	Weigh In Hastings/Corinella 3PM, Low/Tide 13:00, H/bag of 10
January 31	Westernport	Whiting 2	Weigh In Hastings/Corinella 3PM, Low/Tide 12:45pm, H/bag of 10
February 14	Port Philip	Whiting 3	Weigh In SAC Club rooms 3PM, Hi/Tide 07:71aq, H/ Bag of 10
Feb 20 & 21	Port Albert/ Welshpool	Trailer Boat 2	Weigh in Port Albert Ramp Sat 5pm & Sun Noon, H/bag of 10
March 5 - 12	Mallacoota	Social Week	Club Social trip – Surf and Estuary and Ocean – No Points
April 10	Westernport & Outside	Trailer Boat 3	Weigh In Stony Point/Corinella 4PM Lo/Tide 08:22am, H/bag of 10
April 16 & 17	Chris Bouyer Memorial Trophy. West Coast TBD	Trailer Boat 4	Location TBA Weigh in 5pm Sat & 12noon Sunday H/bag of 10
May 14 & 15	R Clarke Memorial Trophy Lake Dartmouth	Freshwater 3	Weigh in 4pm Sat & 12noon Sunday H/bag
May 29	Port Phillip	Trailer Boat 5	Weigh in Club Rooms 1PM, High Tide 07:20am, H/bag of 10
June 4 (Sat)	TBD	Surf 3	Location TBD Weigh In 15.30 (Fish to be cleaned) H/bag of 10
June 18 & 19	Lake Tyers	Estuary 3	Weigh in 5pm Sat & 12noon Sunday H/bag of 10

Want to join us on a fishing competition, then there's only one simple thing to do and that is register your interest. Do this by:-

- (1) Coming done to Tuesday club night before the comp and write your details down on the registration sheet
- (2) Check out our "closed" facebook page and register on the competition EVENT that is created by Craig.
- (3) Contact our angling secretary and let him know you will be fishing.

This will make it easier for our angling secretary to contact you if there are any changes to the event such as date or venue,, weigh in time changes or even cancellations.

.....Happy Fishing.

OLD WIVES TALES



Breaking the shackles.

The true test of a great myth I believe is if it fulfils some or all of the following criteria.



- ✚ Widespread
- ✚ Have no easily identifiable starting point, person or organisation
- ✚ Have no easily identifiable evidence either confirming its truth or not, but it should have lots of passionate people, strongly arguing both sides of the argument.
- ✚ It must be pervasive, so even after persistent evidence disputing or proving the myth, plenty of people will still be willing to argue the opposite point of view.

The myth doing the rounds on the internet and occasionally in our club rooms is that police are booking people for not having “rated” shackles on their trailers. This is a beauty as it definitely fits every single one of the above categories. It is:-

- ✚ Widespread - (I have seen dozens of forum threads ranging from Queensland to Vic, SA all the way over to WA discussing and sometimes arguing about this. The threads are from any organisation that might involve towing a trailer. They include, caravanners, four wheel drivers, boaties, kayakers and even car clubs.
- ✚ From what I’ve seen the rumours appear to have sprung up around 2014 in Queensland, but nowhere have I found a specific event that triggered this issue. (Check out the poster on this page that shows how seriously some people have taken this myth)
- ✚ Lots of people on these forums have passionately argued the case either for or against but no one has ever come forward with a definitive answer proving it one way or another.
- ✚ Pervasive. Follow the forums and you will find some threads commence back in 2014

and nearly two years on they are still being discussed and argued.

So the challenge for this edition of “Old Wives Tales” is to answer the question:

Do you require a load rated shackle to tow a trailer in Victoria.



Poster doing the rounds in Gympie Queensland

(Editors Note - my apologies for the quality of the image but it was the best I could find on the web).



What is the Law.

Before we can say that the police are “cracking down” and booking people for something, we need to understand a little bit about how our laws work. Well here is my hopefully brief, non lawyer attempt to explain how laws are made in Australia and Victoria. .

The first step in making a new “Law” is to create an ‘ACT of Parliament’:- So as an example in the federal system our parliamentarians of one house (Lets say it’s the House of Representatives) proposes a new law into parliament as a “bill”. This is read and debated three times and voted on. If passed, this bill is then passed onto the next house of parliament (i.e. the Senate), where it is again debated three times. The bill is then voted on and if succeeds proceeds to the Governor General for the Royal seal and we now have an “**Act of Parliament**”.

Once an Act is created it is turned into a regulation(s) by authorised bodies. The final link in the chain is that certain organisations are given specific powers to enforce these regulations.

To complicate the matter we then have other pieces of “**guidance**” documentation. These include such things as Australian Standards, Codes of Practice etc. These can be referenced directly by the regulation making them law, or alternatively they are not referred to and become specifications or procedures and conditions that whilst not “legal” requirements represent best practice and ensure a “thing” is fit for purpose.

If we apply the above theory to the Victorian road rules we get the following:-

The **Act** is :-

- ❖ *Road Management Act 2004*

“The purpose of this act is to establish a coordinated management system for public roads that will promote safe and efficient state and local public road networks and the responsible use of our roads”.

The State Minister for Roads and Road Safety is responsible for the Roads Management Act and the body responsible for **administering** all parts of these Acts and Regulations is VicRoads

The **Regulations** made under the *Road Management Act 2004* include the following -

- ❖ *Road safety Road Rules (2009)*
- ❖ *Road safety Regulations (Vehicles) 2009*
- ❖ *Road safety Regulations (Drivers) 2009*
- ❖ *Road safety Regulations (General) 2009*
- ❖ *Road safety Regulations (Traffic Management) 2009*

These are the “laws” that we are subject to when operating a motor vehicle in Victoria, and include the owning and using of trailers.

All this information can be found on the VicRoads web site. Just go to

www.vicroads.gov.au

and navigate your way to

>About VicRoads > Acts, regulations and policies.

From this site there are links to all the relevant Acts, regulations and Code of Practices that Vic Roads has responsibilities for.

Outside of these regulations and codes there are also some relevant standards and design codes. These specifically relate to trailers and shackles and include:-

- ❖ *Australian Standard AS 2741 – 2002 Shackles*
- ❖ *Australia Standard AS 4177 -Caravan and light trailer towing components.*
- ❖ *Australian Design Rule ADR 62 Mechanical Connection between Vehicles”*
- ❖ *The National Governments Vehicle Standards Bulletin VSB1 which is titled “National code of Practice Building Small Trailers*



What does the Victorian Regulations say?

After skimming through over a thousand pages of legislation, I can safely come to one conclusion, namely, that this is 3 hours of my life I will not get back. More importantly it becomes obvious that there is not actually much written about shackles, or trailers for that matter. Here is a brief summary of my findings in the different regulations:-

Road Safety Road Rules (2009) - In the nearly 500 pages of legislation there is not a single reference to coupling or shackle or anything specifically relating to trailers. I did however find one particular sub rule that is very relevant to us boaties. If you are in the habit of motoring your boat onto the trailer and then your crew mate drives the car up to the car park to finish the loading procedure, then you are in breach of the following

Part 18 Division 1 section Rule 298 Subrule (1) of the Road Safety Rules 2009 states:

“... A driver must not drive a motor vehicle towing a trailer with a person in or on the trailer, unless the trailer is exempt from this rule under Subrule (2)

Penalty: 10 penalty units.....”

But I digress,

The other three main regulations also had no direct references to trailers. The one regulation with plenty to say about trailers was:-

Road safety Regulations (Vehicles) 2009 –

This has 402 pages covering vehicle registrations, standards such as vehicle mass and dimensions and vehicle inspection and testing. The sub rules relating to trailers are to found mainly in Part 4. There are no direct rules relating to shackles but to give you an idea of what sort of things are covered by this we have the following rules:-

- ❖ *Rule 158 Regarding mass limits for a trailers*
- ❖ *Rule 163 Mass limits for trailers being towed by light motor vehicles*

- ❖ *Rule 169 Rear overhang*
- ❖ *Rule 170 Trailer drawbar lengths*
- ❖ *Rule 173 Warning signals for certain rear projections:-*

To show how tedious reading regulations can be, and how hard it is to interpret them it can be, I have attached Sub rule 173 in full.

173 Warning signals for certain rear projections

(1) The rear of a load on a vehicle must carry a warning signal if the load—

- (a) projects more than 1.2 metres behind the vehicle; or
- (b) projects to the rear of the vehicle so that the end of the load cannot be seen easily from behind; or

(c) is on a pole-type trailer.

(2) The warning signal must be—

(a) in daytime, a brightly coloured flag or piece of material, with each side at least 300 millimetres long; and

(b) at night, a red light that can be seen for at least 200 metres.

It begs the question is your flag 300mm x 300mm?

Then finally a Eureka moment. I find the elusive reference to shackles. And here it is in Schedule 2 Part 13 Division 1 Rule 158 **Drawbar couplings** (Page 319) and it goes like this.

(1) A coupling for attaching a trailer, except a semi-trailer or pole-type trailer, to a towing vehicle must be built and fitted so—

- (a) the coupling is equipped with a positive locking mechanism; and
- (b) the positive locking mechanism can be released regardless of the angle of the trailer to the towing vehicle.

(2) If the trailer is in a combination and is not fitted with breakaway brakes in accordance with clause 133(3) of this Schedule, it must be connected to the towing vehicle by at least one



chain, cable or other flexible device, as well as the coupling required by subclause (1).

(3) The connection must be built and fitted so—
(a) the trailer is kept in tow if the coupling breaks or accidentally detaches; and
(b) normal angular movement of the coupling is permitted without unnecessary slack.

(4) If practicable, the connection must be built and fitted so the drawbar of the trailer is prevented from hitting the ground if the coupling accidentally detaches.

(5) For the purposes of subclauses (3) and (4), a connection between a trailer and a towing vehicle includes any thing which connects the trailer and the towing vehicle, including chains, cables, any thing fixed to a trailer or a towing vehicle to which a chain is attached and shackles.

So do you need a load rated shackle.

I won't guarantee a 100% rock solid conclusion and say that Victorian regulations require you have a rated shackle when towing a trailer. From my brief search the regulations don't talk about shackles being load rated but they do talk about them being "built and fitted so—

(a) the trailer is kept in tow if the coupling breaks or accidentally detaches.

I will go out on a limb and say that I believe that in Victoria at least, and probably the other states you do not require a load rated shackle. To support this view I can offer the following circumstantial evidence:-

1. In the hundreds of forum threads I have read on the internet in respect to this issue, I have never seen a single post where someone has said "I was booked..."., not even a "...I know a mate of a mate that was booked....." for having unrated shackles. For such a divisive issue on the forums surely someone would have admitted to having been booked

2. Even the Police in places such as Bundaberg Queensland have gone out in public to deny the rumours.

Check out the site www.news-mail.com.au

where in an article titled "Police bust 10 common driving myths" Myth number 3 is Trailer Shackles.

3. Motoring organisations have publicly denounced the myth. The RACV on the internet in an article dated March 2015 and titled "D Rumours Debunked" state the following ..."Rumours of police in several states clamping down on non load rated D shackles being used to tow..... are just that rumours"

And most importantly

4. VicRoads whom are the responsible body for the Victorian Road Regulations have the following clearly stated on their website:-

"Do I need a Load-Rated Shackle to connect my safety Chain/Cable?"

Whilst using a load-rated shackle isn't mandatory, it's a good idea to choose a shackle to suit your trailer and towing vehicle, Suitable shackles include:-

- Shackles that are rated and compliant with Australian Standards AS 2741 "Shackles" or other equivalent recognised standards AND the break load limit of the shackle is rated at least 1.5 times greater than the aggregate trailer mass (ATM) of the trailer (see below for example).

Recommended shackle/trailer ratios

Trailer ATM	Shackle Rating (break load limit at least 1.5 times ATM)
750 Kg	1125 Kg
1000 Kg	1500 Kg

As a thought If you are truly paranoid and not convinced that the myth is not true it may be a good idea to print the VicRoads webpage and carry it in your glove box, just in the event you need to have a philosophical discussion with any officer that may want to try and book you for your shackle.



The offending article in question.

Something to Leave you thinking.

To talk about legislation is really just one aspect of this myth. At the end of the day you are towing potentially more than a tonne of weight behind your vehicle. If by chance that small piece of metal shackle happens to be the only remaining link that prevents your trailer creating an accident and potentially injuring or killing yourself or other people then surely the small inconvenience and expense of buying a load rated shackle is well worth the peace of mind.



Remember, if you are looking for a load rated shackle, how about popping in and supporting our sponsors

I will conclude by admitting that this has been the longest, hardest and most tedious Old Wives Tale I have ever attempted. It has taught me several things.

1. I am glad that I never became a lawyer
2. I will in future, stay well away from any myths that rely on the interpretation of regulations.
3. I must ensure to make adequate disclaimers in case I am wrong. So here goes:-

My knowledge of "law" is merely based on many hours of google research and the skim reading of long boring tedious regulations to try and bring you an interesting and informative article. I strongly suggest you don't rely on any of my advice in court or whilst discussing the issue by the side of the road in the event of you being booked by the police. Although for a modest fee I may be available for court appearances as an expert witness (just joking your honour).

And as a very last thought. If you are "booked" in Victoria, for an "unrated shackle" ask the officer what "regulation" you are breaking and then please do 2 things:-

1. Go online and let everyone on the forums know that the myth is true and you have firsthand knowledge of this and
- 2 Drop the angling club a line so I can go to print and pass on the warnings to all our club members.

And one final thought (I promise). Please be aware that I have only had the energy to brave reading the Victorian Regulations. As soon as you cross the border with your boat in tow, the regulations will be different.

You will probably find all the other states territories regulations on the web, but that is many hours of my life I am not willing to give up.

Thanks Ed.

Club Social Activities

Social Calender:-

Presentation Nights:-

King George Whiting.

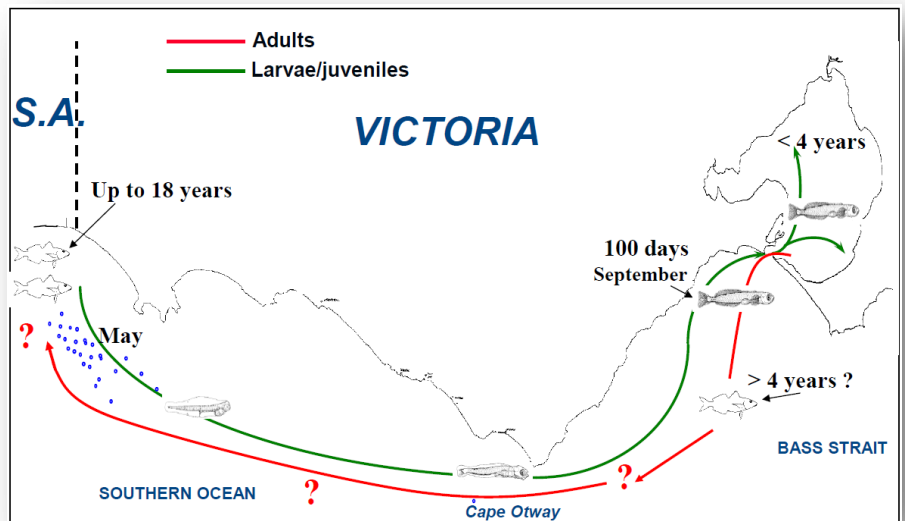
Presented by Dr Paul Hamer

The angling club was once again privileged to have Dr Paul Hamer from Fisheries Victoria give members a presentation on King George whiting. This was an informative and entertaining session where we were enlightened on the life cycles of the much sought after KGW. Here is what I hope is an accurate summary of what Paul had to say on the night.

The life cycle of KGW is extremely fascinating. Adult Whiting spawn and the resulting fish eggs and larvae drift with the current for up to 100 days. During this stage the larvae stop growing to remain inconspicuous from prey. The late winter westerly winds then push ocean currents down the East Coast which carry the Larvae, where they eventually, if lucky enough, reach the safety of estuaries such as PPB. These tiny whiting (around 20mm) arrive in PPB around the last week of August and then settle into the sea grass beds in spring.

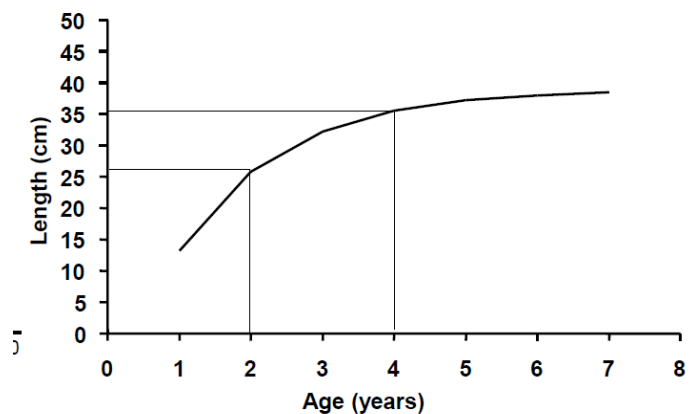
Dr Hamer has studied KG whiting for many years. One aspect of these studies has involved yearly sampling of sea grass beds. This involves sampling 9 sites in Port Phillip Bay. The same sites are sampled annually with the same procedure, namely dragging a 1mm seine mesh net through the sea grass 4 times and evaluating and investigating any juvenile KGW caught.

Netting studies have not shown any larvae or fish eggs in PPB and similarly no adult whiting in PPB have been found with ROE or eggs in them.



The juvenile fish then put on a growth spurt and by late summer are 10 -12 cm in size. By the second growth season the whiting is in the low 20 cm mark. It is estimated that a KG whiting attains legal size (27cm) by 2-3 years of age.

Chart:- Approximate Whiting length versus Age



KGW whiting in PPB, western port and corner inlet stay in those systems till about 3 years of age and by about 4 -5 years of age begin a migration out of these areas and head slowly to their spawning grounds.

The holy grail of Victorian KGW studies is to find where the adult fish spawn. The location is currently unknown. Computer modelling of the

Club Social Activities

ocean currents of the Victorian coast and also ageing baby fish newly arrived in the bay. (Ageing is done by analysing the growth rings in their ear bones), has allowed scientists to guesstimate the location of spawning as West of Cape Otway. In South Australia, spawning grounds have been found that are in 30m of water over flat limey reef areas.

Studies have shown that KG Whiting in South Australia can live for up to 20 years. The biggest fish in Victorian waters sampled, was one caught off Flinders Island. It was over 60cm long, 1.6kg and was found to be between 10 - 11 years old.

So how can understanding the life cycle of King George whiting benefit anglers? There is a 10 year cycle for abundance of whiting in PPB. There is a peak that usually lasts a few years followed by reduction in stocks. It is believed that strong westerlies during late winter help improve the recruitment rate of young in the bay are the main factors in these peaks.

Correlating this scientific study data with commercial catch data can give fairly accurate models for predicting future fishing.

Fortunately for us excellent juvenile fish recruitment in 2013/2015 means we can expect 2016 and 2017 to have the potential to be excellent fishing years. On the downside poor recruitment of juvenile fish in 2015 means potentially poorer 2018 & 2019 seasons.

If you have not managed to catch Dr Hamer

present, either this whiting talk or last years snapper talk, I strongly recommend that you come down next time he is scheduled to talk. It is always an interesting and informative evening

(Charts kindly provided by Dr Paul Hamer)

Kayak Fishing.

Presented By Dave Oates

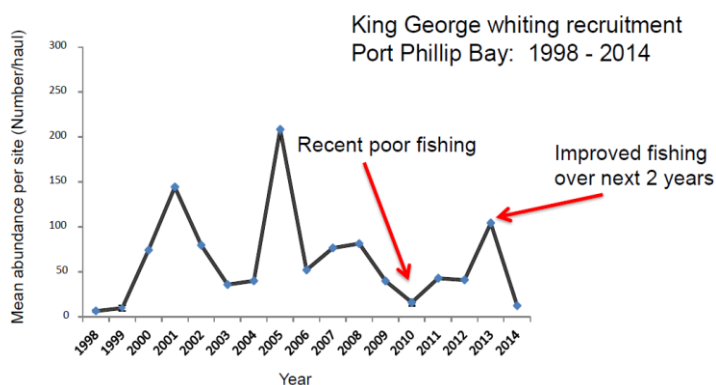
Our clubs greatest resource is it members, especially those that are experienced and are willing to share their knowledge with other club members.

An eager crowd of kayak or aspiring kayak anglers gathered to hear about some of the finer aspects of one of anglings fastest growing segment, namely kayak fishing.



Our president, with his own yak as prop gave us some valuable insights on kayak fishing covering such important aspects as safety, anchoring (especially some valuable tips to help retrieve snagged anchors). Dave also covered some effective DIY projects to make fishing in your yak easier.

Throughout the year some of our members occasionally give presentations on various topics. For a list of these upcoming social events, check out the back page in this edition.



Club Social Activities

Swap Meet

In an effort to keep our Tuesday club nights fresh and interesting, a trial swap meet night was held in early January 2016.

This allowed members and our sponsors to set up stalls by bringing in their new or pre loved surplus angling equipment to sell or swap. With approximately 4 people setting up their wares on the table, there was a good variety of goods on display, especially rods and reels.

The event was generally well received with several people taking advantage of the night to stock up on those rods and reels. Yes – fishing gear for men, it's like handbags and shoes to the ladies.

The club is planning to repeat the event and will be holding another swap meet in early March. (Keep an eye on facebook or our social calendar).

So if you are keen to turn some of that surplus fishing equipment into cash, or looking for that special rod to complete your full set of 20 already at home then come down to the next swap meet.

Paddle Nominations:-

Where have all our forgetful, clumsy or just unfortunate club members gone? Six months in and there are very few nominations down in the book of shame. Hopefully this isn't an indication that members are becoming secretive and keeping to themselves their more embarrassing moments.

At least one member is single handed trying to lead the way. New member Chris has already managed to earn himself a couple of nominations. His first being for surf competition number 1 at Kilcunda, (see trip report previously), where he tried to brave the Victorian winter in naught but a pair of shorts. (I believe since this trip he has managed to purchase a pair of waders). The pain of a biting cold morning on bare legs was not enough for Chris. At Eildon he followed this up with the physical pain that can only be inflicted when you drop a large piece of firewood on your foot. Camping can be a beautiful thing, but there is always the danger of a paddle nomination lurking in the woods.

Our president has tried to lead by example by stranding his kayak on the mud in Westernport, earning himself a long muddy slog back to the ramp.

The banter between our ladder leaders Phil and Craig has turned into a psychological battle. Craig tried to throw Phil off during a snapper comp by texting him an image of a 5kg+ snapper. Shame he had caught it weeks earlier. Good enough to play on Phils' mind for the rest of the day. Several

comps later, Phil tried to tell Craig that a trevally he was trying to weigh in was actually a



Plenty of time for photos as few fish to weigh in

Club Social Activities

yellowtail scad. Shame it was really a trevally. The misidentification of fish lead to a victory in the paddle awards for two members several years ago. I think Phil is safe this year.



It's not all "paddle nomination" news for Chris. On a social trip with Craig down near Craig secret Corinella spot, Chris managed a thumper Flathead, (1.53 kg). This fish was large enough to potentially trouble our record books and was even large enough to make an appearance on Talking Fishing.

Excellent fish Chris and keep up the good work

New Members

The Sandringham Angling club welcomes the following new members:-

- ❖ Martyn Coomber
- ❖ Shaune Jackson
- ❖ Bruce Lowe
- ❖ Peter Maynard
- ❖ Jan Pfeiffer
- ❖ Clem Robin
- ❖ Sandy Saunders
- ❖ Michael Susnja

A big welcome aboard and we hope to see you at the Angling club or a fishing competition.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Sandringham Angling club then please drop us a note or email. Our email address is info@sandringhamanglersclub.com

Alternatively come down to club night on Tuesdays from 8pm for a chat and a drink.

Upcoming Presentation

I would like to use my editors' privilege, to gratuitously plug an upcoming presentation.

On the 16 February (Tuesday club night – from 8pm) I will be presenting a session on soft plastic fishing. This will be aimed at giving those interested in learning to fish with plastics a good beginners grounding on soft plastics, jigheads, retrieval techniques and some rigging suggestions.



If you are interested in learning to fish with soft plastics, or are already a plastics fisho wanting to hear some alternative opinions, then come along for what will be an interesting and informative session.

Social Calender:-

Social Calender of upcoming events for the 2016 Season.

DATE		FUNCTION	ORGANISED BY
February 2016			
Tuesday 2 February	8PM	Club Rooms Open	
Tuesday 9 February	8PM	General Meeting	
Tuesday 16 February	8PM	Social Night (Soft Plastic's)	Andre Vidovic
Tuesday 23 February	8PM	General Meeting	
March 2016			
Tuesday 1 March	8PM	Club Rooms Open – Fishing Swap Meet	
5-12 March		Mallacoota Inlet – Social Fishing Trip	Ron Wilson
Tuesday 15 March	8PM	Social Night (Floundering)	Jim Kavanagh
Tuesday 22 March	8PM	General Meeting	
April 2016			
Tuesday 5 April	8PM	Club Rooms Open	
Tuesday 12 April	8PM	General Meeting	
Tuesday 19 April	8PM	Social Night (Trivia Night)	Bob Shovelar
Tuesday 26 April	8PM	General Meeting	
May 2016			
Tuesday 3 May	8PM	Club Rooms Open – Fishing Swap Meet	
Tuesday 10 May	8PM	General Meeting	
Tuesday 17 May	8PM	Social Night (TBA)	Chris Plant
May 2016		Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser	Steve Wilson
June 2016			
Tuesday 7 June	8PM	Club Rooms Open	
Tuesday 14 June	8PM	General Meeting	
Tuesday 21 June	8PM	Social Night (End of Fishing Calendar Year)	TBA
Tuesday 28 June	8PM	General Meeting	
July 2016			
Saturday 2 July 2016	7PM	SAC Presentation Night	