

# SANDI ANGLING NEWS:-

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NEWSLETTER OF THE SANDRINGHAM ANGLER'S CLUB:-



**Issue #5 (July to October 2013)**

Sandringham Anglers' Club  
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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 the fifth edition of the Sandringham Angling News. It's been a very slow winter and spring for fishing with lots of blustery conditions keeping us off the water. With some good early season reports of snapper being caught in the bay already I am sure all club members are eagerly awaiting the start of our snapper competition season.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Sandringham Angling news and get some useful tips and information out of it.

And remember keep the photos, rumours and news coming so that it can be published in the next newsletter.

Thanks.....Ed.

## Whats in this issue,

- ✚ Club Information (Pgs 2-3)
- ✚ Fishing Reports (Pgs 4 -10)
- ✚ Club Ladders (Pg 11)
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- ✚ Club night flyer (Pg 18)

To assist in preparing this newsletter we value and encourage contributions from our members. If you've recently enjoyed yourself on a club fishing trip or even a great private fishing adventure, have any photos to share or have seen something worthy of a paddle nomination then please let someone on the committee know or email us on:

[info@sandringhamanglersclub.com](mailto:info@sandringhamanglersclub.com)

## Presidents Report:-

Welcome everyone to the start of what we hope will be a very successful Snapper season.

I have noticed a few boats going out under crewed so if you want to get out for a fish I am sure we can get you in a boat, just let us know.

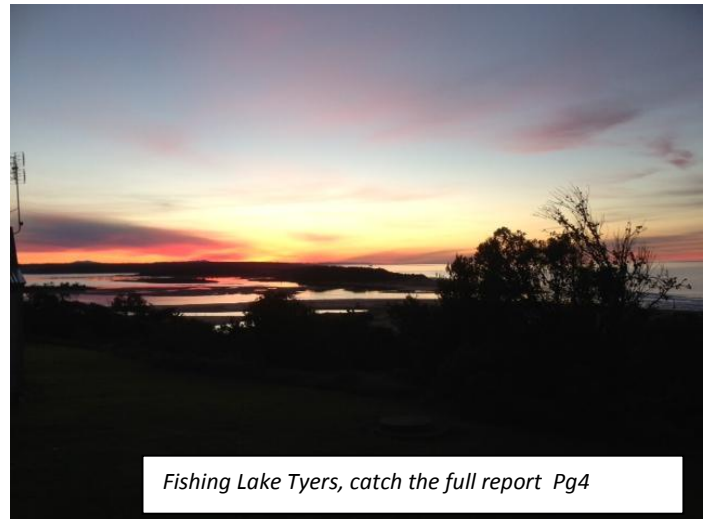
And don't forget to join us on Facebook and check out our website for all the latest pictures and stories.

There is lots happening around the club at the moment as well so make sure you get down to the club on a Tuesday night. We have a few guest speaker nights lined up, and a couple of special raffles happening as well as the usual happenings.

Hope to see you all down the club

Tight lines

Jim



## Club Information:-

### Committee:- AGM Elections:-

Sandringham Anglers Club Committee for 2013/2014 is:-

President:	Jim Kavanagh
Vice President:	David Oates
Treasurer:	Andre Vidovic
Secretary:	Greg Stephens
Angling Secretary:	Ron Wilson
Boat Captain	Garry Meehan
Property Officer:	Mark Hocking
Publicity Officer:	Steve Wilson
General Committee:	Dave Clark Peter Brown Glenn Hutchinson

### Sand Flathead Assessment

On Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> July, JB, Michael H and David C travelled to Queenscliff to attend a workshop conducted by the DPI. The subject was "Sand Flathead Stock Assessment in Port Phillip Bay". Other attendees included, representatives from Marine Parks, VRFish, private operators and recreational anglers. It was a good opportunity to meet the people who process our research.

The DPI presented charts and information to show the drastic decline of sand flathead stocks. Stocks of other species of flathead are considered healthier. Much of the data is obtained from regular trawls in various parts of the Bay, mostly on the eastern side.

Sand flathead were abundant up to the 1950s and commercially harvested. They declined gradually until 2000 when there was an 87% reduction to 2010. Since then numbers have stabilised.

Suggested reasons for the decline included weather patterns, changes in habitat, water quality and flow from the rivers and availability of food. Other reasons also include introduced species of plants and animals, disease and predation.

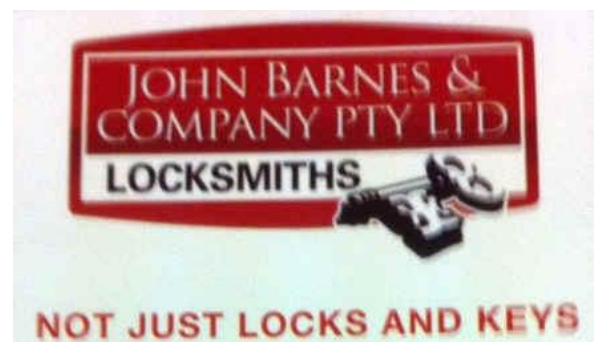
The general opinion of most at the workshop was that the Bay is in good condition, especially the southern end. We suggested it might not be so rosy in the north with the scarcity of formerly common species like gummies, couta, trevally, bay trout, etc.

As a bonus it was a sunny day in the middle of winter we enjoyed a very nice lunch in attractive surroundings overlooking a beautiful part of the Bay.

.....(Report provided by Dave C)

### SPONSORS:

Sandringham Anglers wishes to thank the following major sponsors for their support in 2012/2013.



## Club Information:-

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Interested in becoming a major sponsor, then contact the club on (03) 9598 9664 or email [info@sandringhamanglersclub.com](mailto:info@sandringhamanglersclub.com)



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

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### Planning for Recreational Boating

On Tuesday, 25th June, Mark H and David C attended a workshop on planning for recreational boating.

The workshop was conducted by the Central Coastal Board. The venue was Sails in Elwood, and they provided a very tasty lunch.

The workshop was attended by about 20 people representing fishing, boating, sailing clubs, as well as local government and private enterprise.

A recent audit of all boat ramps around Victoria had been undertaken. The SAC ramp had been missed, but has now been included.

Other issues discussed included;

- ✚ The lack of boat ramps and parking
- ✚ No data on the demand on boating facilities
- ✚ Current planning hasn't considered future boating population changes or lifestyle changes (eg. kayaks & bigger boats).
- ✚ The lack of any protocols at boat ramps
- ✚ Multiple authorities to deal with regarding coastal issues

Meeting notes are to be provided by DEPI over the next few weeks.

I don't know if anything was achieved, but the people representing boating interests were adamant the facilities available at present are inadequate. The convenors should have enough material to keep them happy for a while.

.....(Report Provided by Mark H & Dave C)

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### Attending Fishing Meetings

If you have recently attended another fishing clubs information night or been to an official presentation from a government department such as fisheries or boating organisations then please feel free to pass on any useful and interesting information. I will attempt to include it in the newsletter if possible so that all our club members can be kept up to date.

## Club Fishing Reports:-

13 - 14 March.

Lake Tyers

(Estuary 1)



After last year's standout fishing results at Lake Tyers, expectations were high amongst the Sandy Anglers of another great weekend's fishing. Once again a very healthy contingent made the journey to the east of Lakes Entrance on the Friday (and in some cases, early Saturday morning), and were greeted with spectacular winter fishing conditions on the Friday afternoon and Saturday.



*Lake Tyers as the sun rises*

Crisp mornings, clear skies and virtually not a breath of wind made for an idyllic setting. The preceding month's torrential rains meant the mouth of the lake had opened for the first time in a year, resulting in a drop of roughly a metre in the water level of the lake overall which in itself created a few problems for a number of members (yours truly included) who decided to try their luck at mud ploughing at various times over the weekend.

However, with the mouth of the Lake open, the wise old local sages at the Pub on the Friday night told us that had caused many of the fish to try their luck out at sea for a while, meaning the fishing was extremely slow. And guess what- they weren't wrong.

Catching fish to weigh in proved to be an elusive task, with only Willow and Blackie troubling the scorer. Blackie persisted fishing in the main lake for the entire day, and was rewarded in the late morning with a 1.174kg bream – a truly beautiful fish. Willow ventured well up the top of the Nowa Nowa arm, and was fortunate to pull an almost 1kg bream out from under the snags to present at the weigh in. Numerous other fish were caught, but unfortunately were not of a size that could be weighed in. (Well most of them – isn't that right Dave C!). Phil's only success came in winning the Pub raffle, and proceeded to cook up his winning meat tray for breakfast for all members on the Sunday.

And in contrast to last year's season opening competition, there were numerous nominations for Paddle Awards, most of which will be held over until Presentation Night, but a special mention to Mark for his knot tying efforts when launching! Aaah – it's all good fun.



*A great snaggy stretch of one of the Arms*

So a win to Blackie for the opening competition of the season and reigning Club Champion Willow the only other person to score more than 2 points. But Lake Tyers is a magnificent location, and who

## Club Fishing Reports:-

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knows, with the mouth of the Lake closed next time, the fishing should be superb!



*JB kicks back during a quiet stretch*

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### 4 August 2013 –Wonthaggi to Wollamai (Surf 1)

The sanity of up to 10 members of the Sandringham Angling Club was called into question on Sunday, 4th August when a hardy contingent of members turned out to fish the first of the new Season's Surf Competitions in the Wonthaggi area. Fierce winds, driving rains, frequent squalls and low temperatures should have been enough to keep any sane person safely ensconced at home or somewhere else indoors, watching football, reading papers or doing the crossword. But to fish some of the State's most exposed surf beaches in the face of a howling South Wester – to quote Manuel of Fawlty Towers fame "CRAZY!"

Needless to say, no one had any success in catching any fish. Steve and Deb could have earned an early season Paddle Nomination for bringing young Lachlan out in such

terrible conditions, but then there was a strong degree of admiration for their collective commitment to the cause. However, there was no such doubt in the case of Jimmy. Hot on the heels of last Season's successful (shared) Paddle Award winner, Jimmy leapt to early season favouritism by being bowled over by a rogue wave whilst fishing near the Powlett River beach, and getting a nice wet sandy bath in the process. Needless to say, it capped off "one of those days" for the hapless Jimmy.

All in all a disappointing day's fishing, but pleasing to see so many members committed to the cause.

*NB Please contact the Club's Social Secretary to check on visiting hours at the Asylum! ☺*



*Ominous Weather during the surf comp.*

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#### Helpful Tip #1:-

There's been a rumour floating around that an "unnamed" club member entered the club rooms one day and left his keys in the lock. The wind blew the door shut before he could chock it open. Of course the club room door is deadlocked meaning there was no way for the member to get out. Thankfully a couple walking their dog answered his pleas for help. Thankfully no injuries were reported.

So if you are planning to visit the club rooms remember to keep your keys with you at all times.

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## Club Fishing Reports:-

### 11th August 2013 – Devil; Bend Reservoir (Try a new place social comp)

In an effort to give members an opportunity to suggest new fishing spots or just to freshen up the fishing syllabus this year we tried something new with a “try a new place” competition. Club members discussed the options and it was decided to try our luck at the newly opened Devilbend reservoir for a spot of freshwater action.

If you’ve not heard of Devilbend Reservoir then try Melways Map 152 ref H-2. Its proximity to Melbourne (being just down the Mornington Peninsula) was a bonus.

Twelve Club members and one guest made the trip to the Reservoir. Restrictions to where Anglers can fish in the Reservoir made the fishing “not so squeezey”. The facilities were excellent though with a nice new fishing platform complete with rod Holders. The fishing was also slow with only JB and Glen managing to catch a fish. JB landed a medium size Redfin and Glenn a small trout.

Equally as exciting was our illustrious president managing to finally land something. If you can recall when Jim actually last weighed a fish then please let us know.



*Jimmy, doesn't quite break the "weigh-in" duck..*

Unfortunately Jim wasn't able to break his duck as it only turned out to be a moor hen. (Apologies to any ornithologists as I am not

an expert on bird identification). The bird was promptly and safely returned.



*Al & JB and the Sandi Anglers club take-over Devil Bend Reservoir*

### 24th August 2013 – Gunnamatta (Surf 2)

Whether it was the harrowing experiences of the earlier surf competition or people were just a little wiser, numbers for the second of the Season's Surf Competitions were down a little and an intrepid band of 6 Club Members fished the surf at Gunnamatta on the 24th August.

Conditions were greatly improved, although the surf was still pounding and the currents strong. Action for the first few hours was few and far between, and it was only after the change in tide that 3 out of the 6 club members fishing actually landed some fish.

## Club Fishing Reports:-

Fresh from his relaxing sojourn to the warmer climes in Europe, reigning Club Champion Ron showed that he will once again be a force to be reckoned with, weighing in two fish, the biggest of which was a thumping 1.42kg salmon. Well done Ron. And not far behind was Ron's regular sparring partner in JB, who also weighed in 2 fish, enough to snare him 2nd spot. Our resident Mornington Peninsula member, Ron Rolls, managed a modest sized salmon on what was close to his last cast for the day and resulted in him claiming third spot on the podium.



*Willows winning Salmon*

Greg, Al and yours truly all failed to trouble the scorers, but had an enjoyable experience in case.

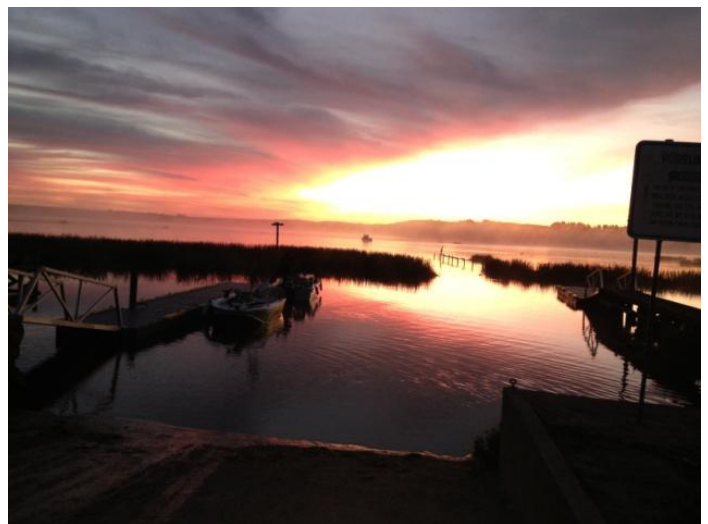
(Report by Phil S)

7-8 Sept 2013

### Western Districts (Freshwater 1)



The first freshwater competition of the season took place in early September, with the location being the stunning setting of the two volcanic crater lakes just outside of Camperdown, namely Lakes Purrumbete and Bullen Merri. Being relatively family friendly, it was fantastic to see a number of families of club members attending and participating in this particular competition, with a grand total of 19 members (including juniors) in attendance. A special mention needs to be made of the great enthusiasm brought to this competition by three very junior members, namely Lachlan W, Harry B and Aidan V. Well done team!



*Not many fish but beautiful sunrises over Lake Purrumbete.*

As for the fishing, conditions were very windy on the Saturday, making trolling for trout and salmon challenging. A new concept was trialled whereby the first day's weigh in was held at midday to enable those members who wanted to be on the water late in the day the opportunity to do so. And so it transpired that the theory worked well in practice, and proved instrumental in seeing passionate bait fisher, Ron Wilson, land a very nice brown trout late on the Saturday. Ron was targeting those areas that trout love to patrol late in the day, and floating a mud-eye underneath a bubble float proved too tempting for a patrolling brown. Unfortunately for Ron his good form did not extend to



## Club Fishing Reports:-

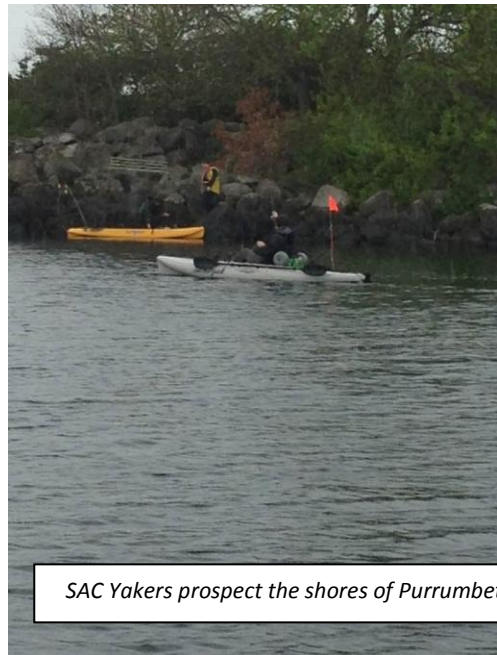
his beloved Magpies in their knockout final against Port Adelaide that night. Ron and a host of other Magpies supporters had to suffer the ignominy of a Collingwood defeat whilst watching on the big screen at the Camperdown Pub that night, whilst elsewhere Phil S was immersed in his iPad studying the latest election results across the Nation. It was a toss up as to who was the unhappiest – Ron or Phil !!



*Jim & Dave swap their yaks for a boat*

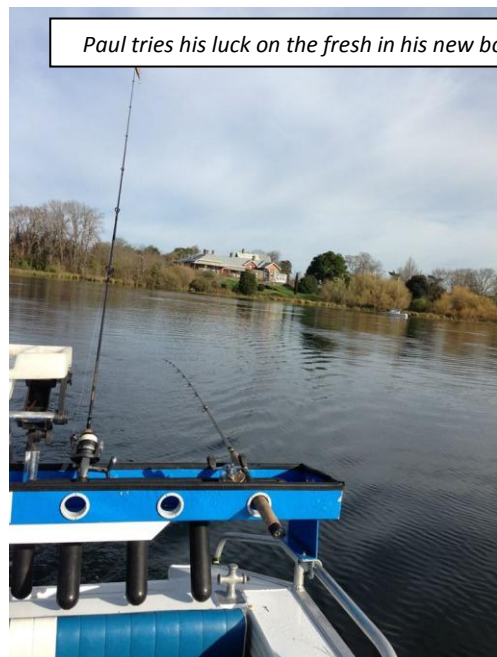
The Sunday morning saw perfect conditions welcome all of those who decided to fish. Calm settled conditions made trolling significantly easier, but sadly the fish did not take the same view. To prove that his catch of the previous evening was no fluke, Ron repeated his effort and landed another very nice brown trout, although this time it was caught out in the middle of Purrumbete and well down in the water table. Two browns over 1kg in weight each is no mean feat and enough to give him another competition win – congratulations Ron. Of the others, only Glen and JB managed to weigh in a fish, with both members weighing in a Chinook salmon.

(For the record, Glen's fish was slightly bigger, giving him second place and JB third.)



*SAC Yakers prospect the shores of Purrumbete.*

Other members caught a number of salmon, especially in Lake Bullen Merri, but as it has been stocked relatively recently, many of these fish were not yet size. Although the fishing results were not fantastic this time round, the setting is superb, and if one can appreciate the beauty and serenity that greets us in this prized location, then any joy with fishing becomes a bonus!



*Paul tries his luck on the fresh in his new boat..*

## Club Fishing Reports:-

12-13 Oct 2013

Lake Eildon &  
Rivers & Pond

(Freshwater 2)



An excellent turnout once again for the second of this year's freshwater competition with 16 people making the trip away to Eildon. Club members were scattered far and wide across Eildon for this trip. Approximately half a dozen members chose to "rough it" by camping out in the Fraser National Park. A fantastic location with great scenery, excellent access and tent sites right on the lake edge. This meant the yackers and the one boat staying there could leave their crafts by the shore at night ready for those pre-dawn fishing trips.

Not that some members would have got up early for sunrise as I overheard that one club member was having a big night and around midnight was heard to call out "Does somebody want to have a drink with me?. I've got beer".

For the other half dozen members it was the not so "return to nature" option of the caravan park. And even more upmarket still one family chose to stay at the motel.



*The advantages of roughing it.....Ahhh Campfire*

Ronny had a pre-fish on Friday repeating last years' success at Bourke St on the Pondage . Ron was using his go to soft plastic (Black and Gold Squidgie Fish) and landed a nice 1kg+ Rainbow. Unfortunately he could not replicate this success for the rest of the weekend. He both trolled and bait fished using mudeyes but could raise a fish. You would have to go back quite a few competitions to not see a fish against Rons name.

The weather on Saturday was beautiful and sunny with little wind. The fishing on the other hand was not so kind. Only three people managed to weigh in fish on the Saturday. The first was JB with a thumping Brown trout of 2kg. Our angling Secretary having gone back through our records found that this is the heaviest trout weighed in for over a decade. A big congratulation to JB. For the record I believe that he landed it trolling.



*The advantages of camping. Sunrise on your door*

The only other boat to have any luck was Fishinator. Peter weighed in a couple of small browns (approximately 1 kg) and Glen caught three trout for a bag of 2.3kg. Once again the trout were caught trolling and where caught around Collier Bay. Not keen to give away the secrets of his success, when asked at what depth he caught them in, Glen replied 'between 5 and 50m'. For others bait fishing or trolling it proved to be a frustrating day with very few bites. I fished the Eildon pond and Goulburn river and did not even see a fish rise. This was in contrast to last year where there were lots of river trout jumping. The water levels in both the

## Club Fishing Reports:-

Pondage and Goulburn river were much lower than last year.

For a Saturday night feed the club enjoyed its traditional meal at the Eildon pub with a few drinks and plenty of food enjoyed by all.



*JB – 2kg of prime Brown Trout.*

The Sunday again saw some lovely weather. But again the lovely weather did not equate to fish. JB and Dave C didn't get off to a good start, with boat problems relegating them to a fish in the Eildon pond. Apparently a lot of worms breathed as a sigh of relief that morning as they couldn't raise a bite.

The Kayakers Greg and Al and Jim, packed up their camp sites and decided to also try their luck at the pond again for little return. Andre once again ranged far and wide looking for fish. He tried the Pond at sun rise, in some of the deeper sections. He even tried fishing off the steep sloping banks at Jerusalem Creek.

It was promising looking country with deep water straight off the banks and lots of inundated scrub and trees to aim at. He even tried on some snags on the Goulbourn river. Unfortunately for all his efforts he could not buy a bite.

Mark who normally doesn't fish the fresh had had a frustrating day trolling on Saturday. Keen for a few pointers he went out with Phil. Unfortunately they just couldn't find the fish. Hopefully Mark isn't discouraged with the lack of success and gives it another go.

Peter B with Glen on board "Fishinator" showed that their efforts on Saturday was not "just luck". They again managed to get onto some fish whilst trolling. Unfortunately Glen managed to drop his two hook ups which cost him the competition victory. Instead he had to settle for second. Peter managed to convert his bites and weighed in three more Browns for a bag of approx. 1.5kg. This was enough for him to take out the Victory for the week end which is his second Freshwater competition win. A fantastic effort for a relative new comer to our club competitions.



*Fishing the Goulburn River Snags.*

Once again a big thank you to Phil for helping out with the club trip reports (Purrumbette, Surf Comps and Lake Tyers). Also a big thank you to all those members whom have submitted, or whose photographs I have borrowed. It is greatly appreciated. Keep them coming.

## Championship Ladder

The start of the championship year has been a very slow affair. With not many fished weighed and some challenging weather conditions Our reigning Club champion, Ron has once again shot off to a quick lead with consecutive wins in the surf and at Purrumbete. JB takes up where he left off last year, chasing Ron. He's second with solid finished in three competitions. Newcomer Glen is close behind in third. He's only fished 2 comps and come second in both so might pressure the leaders if he gets a chance to fish a lot more comps. With snapper season now upon us and a hectic end of year fishing calendar still to come we may see some major changes in the leader board by the end of this year.

<b>Championship Ladder-(Top 15) (31<sup>st</sup> December 2012)</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Ron W</b>	<b>72</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>JB</b>	<b>58</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Glen H</b>	<b>40</b>
=4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Terry B</b>	<b>27</b>
=4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Peter B</b>	<b>27</b>
6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Ron R</b>	<b>19</b>
=7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Phil S</b>	<b>10</b>
=7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Greg S</b>	<b>10</b>
=9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Alistair F</b>	<b>8</b>
=9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Jim K</b>	<b>8</b>
11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Mark H</b>	<b>6</b>
=12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Deb W</b>	<b>4</b>
=12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Steve W</b>	<b>4</b>
=12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Dave C</b>	<b>4</b>
=12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Dave O</b>	<b>4</b>

<b>Boat Captains Ladder (31<sup>st</sup> December 2012)</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Fishinator</b>	<b>65</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Blacky</b>	<b>25</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Willow</b>	<b>25</b>
4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Haystac</b>	<b>20</b>
5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Redgum</b>	<b>17</b>
6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Slapper</b>	<b>17</b>

In the Gunboat competition we see Fishinator has bolted to an early lead. It's great to see Peter a new club member at so many fishing competitions and it's even better to see him catching fish. It will be interesting to see if he can replicate his freshwater success with the snapper. The usual suspects are all in a tight bunch behind. With most being keen snapper fisherman I expect a lot of changes in the ladder in the next few months.

Unfortunately without a fish weighed in from the yakkers contingent there is no official ladder. - yet.

## Upcoming Competitions:-

Its snapper time. Start earning your brownie points with the missus and make sure you keep the following week ends free as early indications are that the coming snapper season should be a beauty (weather permitting of course...).

### Upcoming Competitions (October – December 2013)

Date	Event Type	Location	Competition Type and Weigh In
Oct 27	Jeff Worle Trophy	Snapper 1	Heaviest bag of 3 min 40cm, <b>Weigh In SAC 1 PM.</b> H/Tide 9:17
Nov 3	(Back Up Comp Date)		
Nov 16 (Sat)	77th Anniversary Comp (Twilight)	Snapper 2	<b>H/bag 3 min 40cm L/Down 3.30PM. Weigh in SAC 9.45pm L/T 20:53</b>
Nov 24	Club Memorial Trophy	Snapper 3	<b>H/bag of 3 minimum length 40cm. Weigh In SAC 1PM H/Tide 9:17</b>
Dec 1	(Back Up Comp Date)		
Dec 15	Westernport & Outside	T/Boat 2	W/In 4pm Stony Point & Corinella H/Tide 11:03AM H/bag 10

## Old Wives Tales

### Under Pressure.

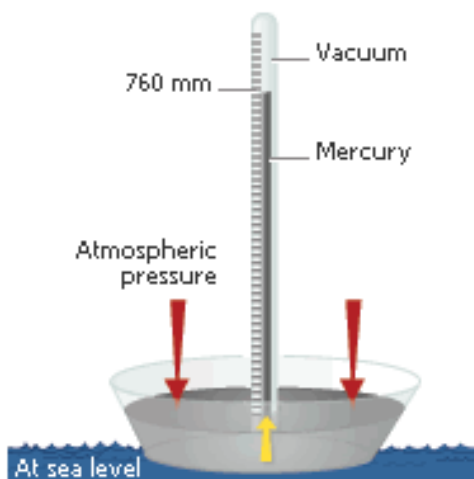
“1020 fish a plenty”. This is a common saying I have come across during my internet surfing, and it reflects the strong belief that some people have that barometric pressure and having a high air pressure reading is a crucial factor to the success of a days’ fishing expedition. Is there any evidence that barometric pressure has significant impacts on fish behaviour and should you be paying more attention to it when deciding when to go out fishing?



### What is Barometric Pressure.

Barometric pressure is the measure of the weight of the atmosphere (i.e the air) above us.

Measurement of barometric pressure is done with the use of an instrument called a barometer. This measures the weight of the atmosphere per unit area (which equates to a “pressure”). The air’s weight is compared to the weight of a column of mercury.



The first barometric instrument was invented in 1643 by Evangelista Torricelli. His barometer used a glass tube from which all the air had been removed (i.e he created a vacuum) and then inserted it into a container of mercury that was exposed to the pressure of the air. The air pressing down on the mercury in the container forces an

amount of the mercury up into the glass tube. The height to which the mercury rises is directly proportional to the pressure of the atmosphere. This is usually measured in inches or mms of mercury.

Modern barometers use a pressure transducer. This transducer converts the amount of air pressure into a proportional electrical voltage. This voltage then can be fed into a digital readout.

### Weather and Barometric Pressure.

In Australia barometric pressure is measured in hectaPascals (where 1hPa equals 100 Pascals).

The barometric pressure changes as the weather systems over us change. In general, low-pressure systems bring unstable conditions, often with clouds and rain. A rising barometer means high-pressure is approaching, usually bringing stable and clear skies. Air pressure readings at ground level typically range from 980 hPa to 1040 hPa

The following are the World Records for barometric pressure:-

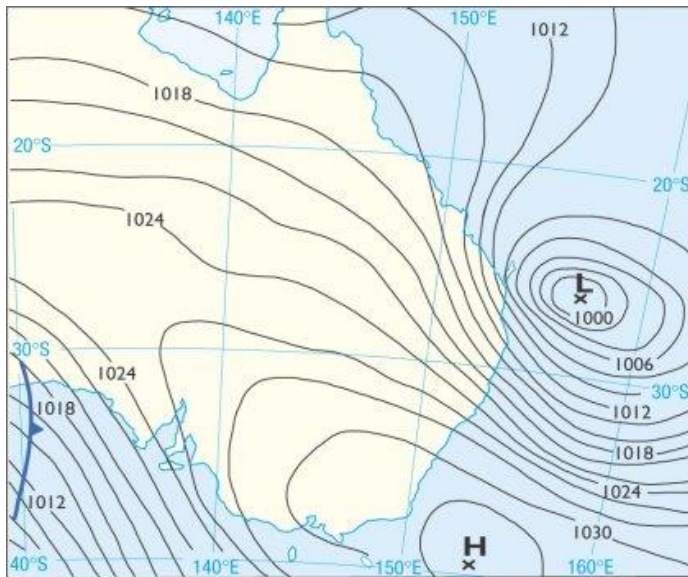
- *Lowest atmospheric pressure ever measured on Earth was 850 hPa (when adjusted to sea level), set on 24 June 2003, during a tornado in Manchester, South Dakota.*
- *Highest barometric pressure ever recorded on Earth was 1,085.7 hPa measured in Mongolia on 19 December 2001.*

### How to find & read Barometric Pressure:

Barometric pressure can be found on a synoptic weather chart and is displayed as an Isobar. These are lines on a weather map that join locations of equal air pressure. The number written on an isobaric line is the atmospheric pressure for that isobar (measured in hectaPascals). On weather maps, concentric isobars are usually drawn increasing or decreasing by an increment of 4 hPa. The lower the air pressure is, the more

## Old Wives Tales:-

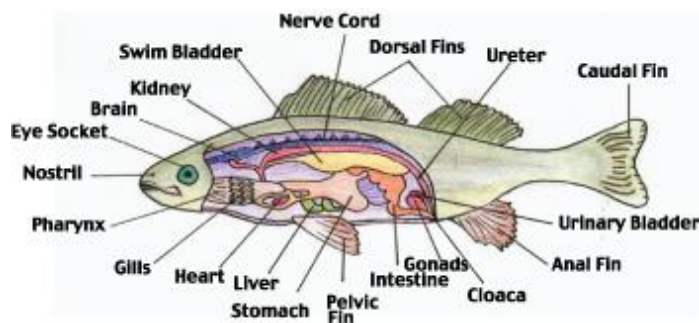
likely the chance of an extreme weather event such as a cyclone.



So from the above synoptic chart you can see Melbourne has just experienced a high pressure system (and is at approximately 128 hPa, but the barometer will be falling as a low pressure system moves in. This could mean bad news on the angling front as the fish start to go off the bite.

### How does Barometric Pressure impact on fish:-

One often quoted belief is that a falling and low barometer causes bad fishing and a rising and high barometer generally produces good fishing. There's plenty of theories why this happens but the most common myth is that it affects the fish's swim bladder. The claim is that the lower-air pressure causes the fishes' swim bladder to expand and makes the fish feel 'full', and so reduces their appetite, so they go off the bite.



Fish have a swim bladder containing a volume of gas, which they adjust to equal their environment. This enables most fish to comfortably make small and quick up or down movements in the water.

This theory at first may seem plausible because changing pressure has visible impacts on people. This is best seen when driving up and down mountains. Popping eardrums is one effect that most people encounter as the barometric pressure changes.

If you look at the situation from a fishes' perspective then the situation is slightly different. Just as there is barometric pressure for the air, there is also hydrostatic pressure under the water. And as water is much heavier than air you only have to go down 10m in the water to achieve 1000hPa of pressure (which is the whole weight of the earth's atmosphere). So moving up or down in just 1m of water (100hPa change) accounts the full range of possible air pressure variations. This 1m water variation is equivalent to the tidal variation in most of Port Phillip Bay (High to 1.4 to Low 0.2).

Fish experience changes in pressure in their everyday life that far outweigh anything atmospheric pressure can dish up. And the deeper it gets, the less it matters. Therefore expansion of a fishes' bladder due to atmospheric pressure variation would appear to not be an issue for fish.

So what other factors could help explain why fish appear to bite better on high atmospheric pressures. Here's a few other potential explanations.

### Oxygen Levels:-

One theory is that fish are much more active and prone to feeding when the levels of oxygen in the water are higher. The lower the air pressure, the less able water becomes to absorb oxygen from the atmosphere.

## Old Wives Tales:-

To add to this, aquatic plants, plankton and algae, are the main contributors to the dissolved oxygen (DO) content of water (particularly freshwater), as a by-product of photosynthesis. Plants take in CO<sub>2</sub>, and give off Oxygen. Photosynthesis slows down dramatically in the low light that usually accompanies a cloudy, low-pressure system. Also, rough conditions created by low-pressure storms cause the water to become cloudy and inhibit light penetration, slowing photosynthesis more.

The opposite is true with high pressure meaning more abundant sunlight with greater photosynthesis and more dissolved oxygen entering the water.

### The PH of the water:-

Prolonged or rapid changes in pH (measure of acidity of the water) will also affect fishes' behaviour. pH levels of the water are impacted by the CO<sub>2</sub> in the water. As CO<sub>2</sub> levels increase, the pH of the water decreases (it becomes more acidic). During a sunny day aquatic plants remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the water, which helps raise or at least stabilise pH. But during a cloudy day, when plants are photosynthesising less and using less CO<sub>2</sub> the pH will drop. The amount and speed of pH drop will vary between waterways. This is a much greater issue in freshwater than in salt because the general hardness of saltwater makes its pH much more stable. This could explain why some people claim that freshwater fish are much more affected by low-pressure weather.

### Water Temperature:-

It is generally known that water temperature significantly affects the metabolism of a fish and its desire to eat. Storms, commonly associated with low-pressure fronts, are known to break thermoclines in the water. This mixes the oxygen depleted colder water (from the deeper layer) with oxygenated warmer surface water. This results in lower oxygen levels above the thermocline, thus potentially reducing the activity levels of the fish.

So given that there are many possible explanations to explain why fish behaviour changes when the barometer changes it might be valid to argue that it is the actual weather conditions and its impact on Water temperature, oxygen levels and pH that is causing the changes in fish behaviour rather than just the change in barometric pressure impacting directly on the fish.

### Other Factors influencing Fish Behaviour

It is also important to remember that there are many other factors besides barometric pressure that affect fish feeding habits. These include water temperature, light levels, tidal forces, water clarity, the pH level, water levels, wind/surface disturbance, boat traffic, fishing pressure and even the stages of the moon and sun.

### Conclusion:-

With so many commitments in life I still find that I will plan a fishing trip around when an opportunity presents itself rather than based on factors such as barometric pressures or moon phases or tides. I do however think that it might be worthwhile to start taking note of barometric pressure and including its reading in any fishing diaries as a way of keeping track of its impacts on fishing success. This may help provide an extra motivation or reason to get out and fish when the barometric pressure is right.

*Xmas is fast approaching. Are you looking for something for that fisho that has it all. This might be the thing that gives them the edge and might help bring home a feed of fish.*



Get it on the net.....Ed

**HOME MADE TUNA PIZZA**

Has the weather stopped you from getting out to fish? Didn't have any luck on that last fishing excursion? Run out of fish in the freezer, and have a hankering for some seafood? Don't despair here's a quick canned tuna recipe to soothe your rumbling belly.



Ingredients:-

- Medium Can of Tuna (in oil or springwater).
- Tomato paste.
- Onions (Thinly Sliced)
- Mushrooms & Capsicum(Thinly Sliced)
- Lebanese Bread or a Pre-made Pizza Base.
- Grated Cheese
- Pineapple (Optional).

Method:-

- Pre-Heat Pizza base / Lebanese bread in oven till toasty warm.
- Remove bread, spread tomato paste and return to oven for several minutes.
- Remove base from oven and add all ingredients (including tinned tuna). Return to oven to cook for several minutes.
- Remove base once again and sprinkle grated cheese over top. Return to oven until cheese has melted.
- Remove from oven, cut into wedges and serve.

If all this put in oven, take out of oven sounds too much like hard work then you might want to ring someone and just get one home delivered.

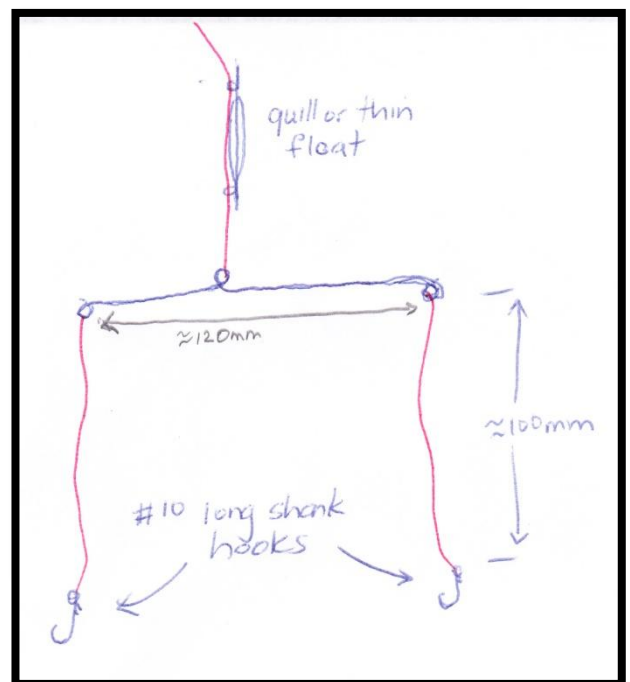
.....Enjoy!

For this editions members rig Dave C. has generously dug into his past to recall and share his slightly unusual garfish rig.

This is an old and tried rig for gars.If you are a serious gar fisherman, give it a try.

Method:-

- Use wire for the hanger (lighter gauge than coat hanger is probably better as it is easier to use.)
- Twist a loop at the top and turn over the ends to attach line.
- Suspend below a float as you would a single hook rig.
- No lead or sinker required.
- Bait hooks with a small piece of pilchard, silvery flech baits or dough.



We don't often hear of any in the Angling club getting out there to specifically target garfish. Garfish are excellent eating or make excellent bait so with this rig you should have all you need to catch your bag limit.

Thanks Dave for sharing.



## Social Calender:-

### **Presentation Nights:-**

There was a full house at the clubrooms for the Fish finder Mastery presentation night on the 20<sup>th</sup> August. We had a good turnout for the event and an informative session was had by many. I have even heard of renewed enthusiasm from club members as they try to get the most out of their own sounders. Well done Paul L for organising this event.

The club committee is currently actively trying to organise more presentation nights to help freshen up Tuesday nights and keep our club members informed. We have another presentation night coming up at the end of October (see flyer at end of this newsletter). Please help make these evenings a success by trying to attend. The more people we get to presentation nights the more we are likely to get repeat visits.

### **Bunnings BBQ:-**

Beautiful weather saw a steady stream of customers through Bunnings Mentone. Some good quality sausages from the butchers saw many repeat snag eaters. The day was highly successful with the club raising just over \$2200. The Bunnings bbq is our largest and most important fund raiser for the year and volunteers are always needed. So if you get a few spare hours next year then please chip in and help out the club.



A big thank you to Steve W for organising the day. Also our thanks go out to all those who gave their time on the day at Bunnings and those that helped organise food, eskies and other essentials before the event. It is these efforts that helped make the day run smoothly and successfully.

### **Paddle Nominations:-**

A quieter fishing calendar has reduced the opportunities for members to gain nominations for this seasons paddle awards. This hasn't stopped some of our keener members getting out there and gaining multiple nominations.

Hot off the heels of victory last year our president Jimmy has come out of the blocks fast with multiple nominations. Already getting mentions during the fishing reports where his efforts included having an unplanned bath at the first surf comp and then for his efforts catching water fowl instead of fish.

Dave C also gained an honourable mention. At Lake Tyers, he had landed a nice bream.

Unfortunately it was a couple of cms too short for weigh in (or so he thought). Its a timely reminder for all club members to measure your fish to the tip of the tail and not the fork. Unfortunately for Dave he also tossed back a competition placing on the day.

Our new members are also getting into the spirit with Peter B showing he can both win freshwater comps and also gain paddle nominations. He attended the western Districts comp with intentions to camp with Glen and volunteered to bring the gear. Unfortunately he had only taken one sleeping bag which he generously gave to Glen. Rumour has it that it was quite a freezing night and his towel never quite managed to cover his whole body.

Glen also gets a nomination for forgetfulness. At the Eildon weekend. Thankfully for him he remembered 20 minutes after leaving home that he hadn't brought his rods for the week end.

## VALE

The club regrets to announce the passing of long time club member Timothy John Woolley in September. A larger than life character he will be fondly remembered by many in our club who had the pleasure of fishing with him.



Our condolences go out to his family and friends.

## New Members

A big warm welcome aboard to the following new members:-

- ❖ David Flockardt
- ❖ Graham Richard
- ❖ Dale Ingammel
- ❖ Alister Shenfield

We look forward to seeing you around the club and at some of our fishing competitions.

## Free to Good Home:-

JB has come across this preloved canoe / double kayak that is being offered "free to good home". As you can see from the photos it was a much loved craft that saw plenty of action and would probably be keen to see more action



If you are interested then please drop the angling club a note on our email address [info@sandringhamanglersclub.com](mailto:info@sandringhamanglersclub.com)

Alternatively come down to club night and have a chat to JB.



# SANDRINGHAM ANGLER'S CLUB



**Guest Speaker Night**  
**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2013**

**8:00pm sharp**

**Paul Hamer**

**Senior Research Scientist**  
**Department of Environment**  
**and Primary Industries,**  
**Fisheries Research Branch.**

**Paul is a very entertaining**  
**speaker who will talk about**  
**Port Phillip Bay and its many**  
**species**  
**His knowledge of the history of**  
**the bay and how it has**  
**changed**  
**is valuable information for all**  
**Bay anglers.**

Gold Coin Entry. Bar open, raffle and door prize.  
Snacks available.

R.S.V.P. [info@sandringhamanglersclub.com](mailto:info@sandringhamanglersclub.com)

Friday 25th October, 2013

**Jetty Road, Sandringham**

**[www.sandringhamanglersclub.com](http://www.sandringhamanglersclub.com)**