

New Zealand Angling & Casting Association



®

SEPTEMBER
2011

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Secretarial Jottings

Notices, notes, items of interest, things of importance
and general rambling's from the Secretaries desk.



Hi fisho's

Spring is in the air, the water warming and the fish are on the bite – well one has to be optimistic don't they - otherwise it's all doom & gloom. Hope you are all thinking of the good times ahead.

Winter has been the time of conferences and AGM's (well not for us though). We had a delegation at the New Plymouth venue of the NZ Recreational Fishing Council Conference and AGM last month, as reported in the last Newsletter. There has been quite a flow-on affect from this with many opinions expressed as to the decisions taken at that Conference. The NZACA has made its position known and have made it clear we are in support of some form of Statutory Body providing it is administered by fishers themselves, for the benefit of the fishers, and the fishery. Sure we realise that the question of funding comes into the equation but how and what will be the decision of that Statutory Body itself – in other words you fishers!

There has been much in some fishing publications about Statutory Bodies and licencing but don't forget there is two sides to the story and to date most of the material has been one-sided. Hopefully soon we will see publicised the other side of the argument.

Another AGM held this last month was the NZ Sports Fishing Council. Richard Baker has stepped down as President after leading this organisation through quite momentous changes. We wish the new President and committee all the best in the work of the NZSFC. Especially in the areas of research and the Hiwi-the-Kiwi program. Interesting to note recently that "Option4" has firmly aligned itself to the NZSFC and is now part of that Council and most of the articles coming out from the NZSFC are actually written by Option4. SFC affiliation fees have gone up to the same now as the NZACA but naturally we feel we give better value for money with some of the other benefits – it is only natural we feel that way eh!

We have seen a closer coming together of the NZSFC and ourselves over recent times and that is good especially as we are joint administrators of the NZ Records. Hopefully there will be other areas where we can have cooperation. We give a very big **THANK YOU** to the **SFC** for sponsoring and supply of our team uniforms for those who went across to Australia to compete in the AAA Championships last month.

With all this decision making going on it is well worth remembering we all have decisions to make this coming November in the General Election. We have two votes and we urge fishos to use these wisely. Get your local MP and opposition candidates along to a club meeting (if they are not willing to come then perhaps they shouldn't get your vote!). See where they stand on recreational fishing matters. The current Minister of Fisheries certainly has not come up to expectations as far as recreation is concerned despite indications whilst in opposition.

One Party, which at present is ticking all the boxes, is the United Futures Party with Peter Dunn its sitting MP. He has been consistent in what he has been saying and has been instrumental in bringing together those who have concerns regarding the big outdoors. One fishing publication has continually suggested that this Party should get our Party Vote and this was strongly suggested also at the NZRFC Conference. Think ye on these things!!!!

As the election gets closer my guess is that we will see in the major fishing magazines more information/advice/suggestions coming out. These are all great reads and are supportive of this Association for which we are grateful.



You will see (those who see or have access to them anyway) in the Minutes of the last Executive Meeting we have postponed the proposed fishing competition this year. Time has run away from us on this matter and we feel if we cannot do it well we should not do it at all. Maybe next year ?

There is however a couple of very good competitions coming up in November run by NZACA Clubs. Both are on the same weekend at the end of that month – one based in New Plymouth and the other a Moki & Blue Cod competition at the bottom of the North Island at Cape Palliser. If you would like more information on these contact the National Office and we will point you in the right direction. Some great cash prizes on offer.

2012 Nationals – how are your plans for being there? – have you pencilled in your accommodation yet? – have you tentatively booked your charter boat? What about applications to Gaming Trusts for funding for your team? (I can give you a letter of support for this). Don't leave it all to the last minute as you will be disappointed.

The Feilding Club is well on track with plans and the Nationals Booklet is almost at the printing stage. The Executive will be meeting with the Feilding Club in October to go over final details and check out venues etc. The fish species chosen will ensure good bags and the boundaries give plenty of scope for exciting fishing. There will be two boat/kayak fishing sessions and one extended shore based which means you can get to maybe the more distant good fishing spots with no difficulties.

So plan now on being there!!!!!!

The "Retreat"

The planning for this is now well underway. This is going to be one of the most important meetings for this Association for many a year and will decide the shape of and how you want the NZACA to be in the years to come. It is a changing world and we must change with it. But it is your Association and you must be the ones who dictate the changes.

The dates are the weekend of the 3rd & 4th. December and will be based at the Affordable Willowhaven Holiday Park in Ngongotaha, Rotorua. Will commence at 10am on the Saturday and go through until mid-afternoon on the Sunday. Evening sessions are included on the Saturday night.

Accommodation is available in the Holiday Park itself and if folk want to avail themselves of that please let us know as soon as possible as the Manager has said he is open to negotiation on rates if there are plenty of bookings. There is another Holiday Park right opposite and a Motel just down the road. Plenty of other choices also in Ngongotaha and of course in Rotorua itself.

Families – why not come to Rotorua for the weekend – leave the fisho of the family to be involved in the conference and the rest of the family enjoy what Rotorua has to offer?

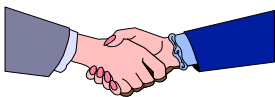
Some further information will be included with the mailing of these Secretarial Jottings that go out to clubs.

Attendance at this conference/retreat could qualify for Gaming Trust funding to cover travel and accommodation so why not put in a claim to one of your local Trusts.

There is no minimum on the number of Delegates Clubs can send. A number of people will be specifically invited, as we feel these folk have much to offer, and the conference will be chaired/Facilitated by Jim O'Brien from Wellington.

There will be a small Conference Fee to cover costs, however we are applying for funding to enable us to keep fees as low as possible.

There have been a number of new publications and websites launched of late. Clubs should be aware of these and make good use of them for telling others about what your club is doing – when was the last time your Club Newsletter was on our own website? Send it to webmaster@nzaca.co.nz along with any other information about your club. The NZ Herald is launching an "Outdoors – Your Guide to Fishing & Hunting" this month. Garry Kemsley is calling for photos to go in a competition on the nzblokes.co.nz website.



Welcome to two new clubs. The **Demon Anglers Catching Club** based in Auckland, and another Auckland based club for boys run by Bill Hohepa & Linda called **Sticky Bait Fishing Club**. We wish these two clubs the very best and hope we see them at the Nationals.

On an additional page to this Newsletter are some reports on the recent trip to Australia by a NZ Team who competed in the Australian Anglers Association bi-annual Championships. Also particulars about their next Championships in two years time and already some are planning to go over there again.



So I will sign off here and let you read the additional page.

Yours in the best interests of Rec' fishing

Graeme Dauber

UCUR Association Secretary

GO THE ALL BLACKS

The AAA – Australian Anglers Association – a brief overview (as I understand it anyway)

The AAA is the overarching organisation for amateur fishing clubs throughout Australia. There are a number of other organisations mostly State based which are also concerned with recreational and sport fishing. The AAA is a little different to the NZACA as it is made up of several “Divisions” (in our Constitution we refer to them as “sub-associations” – we used to have a couple a long way back but none now). Each State is a “Division” - with a couple of exceptions. Some States – such as Queensland - are large enough to have their own “Divisions” (Divisions within the Division if you like). These Divisions and the within-State Divisions then have affiliated to them the member clubs. Complicated? – no not really. Like NZ, clubs don’t have to belong to this Parent Body and I guess there are many clubs who don’t belong. Like NZ, some clubs and their Divisions struggle through lack of members or not having fishos who are willing to step up to the mark and do the required management and administration work. The challenges we face through people having less free time and less disposable income is just as real over that side of the ditch.

On the casting side of things the AAA are not the only organisation involved nationally with the Sport of Casting. There is also the Australian Casting Federation, which is the body affiliated with the ISCF as we are. The major difference in casting is that the AAA use “level” line – that is they don’t use shock leaders.

A State is also responsible for the task of keeping Fishing and Casting Records for the whole country. At present it is Western Australia. These are just AAA Records and not “Australian Fishing Records” as such in the way we have NZ Records here. As far as I know the AAA are not part of the IGFA – but I could be wrong.

On a day-to-day basis each State (Division) operates a bit like our own NZACA and have their own State Championships, casting competitions etc.

The overall AAA organisation (Federal), rotates around the member States on a two yearly basis being voted in at the bi-annual AGM. It has an elected President General and Secretary General and other usual officers. Its main purpose is to run the bi-annual Championships. In the intervening year Federal Meetings are held at the venue of the following years Championship. These are referred to as the mid-term meetings. NZ is invited to attend these but we are not always able to have someone go. For many years Sam Benjamin was a regular attendee and his endeavours were recognised by a special certificate issued by the AAA.

The bi-annual event serves two purposes – one is the “championships” or competitions and the other is the “Convention” which refers to the meetings – Federal, AGM etc. So the overall event is known as the AAA Championships and Convention.

The NZACA are “Associate” Members of the AAA and as such are entitled to compete at the Championships and are treated simply like an Australian State but with a few differences as we are also a visiting Nation. We are non-voting participants in the Convention side of things. Much the same works the other way if Australians come across competing at our Nationals.

The NZ’ers have been competing at the AAA Championships since way back in 1983 and have, I understand, missed only one event (2003 in Yamba). Our Association Flag and the NZ Flag have flown proudly all these years. It would be fair to say the attendance of the NZ’ers is greatly appreciated by our Aussie cousins and a lot of fun, banter and camaraderie is evident. It is a great event to be present at.

My thoughts on the Australian 2011 Championships - Graeme Dawber

This was just my second AAA Championships attended – the first back in 2005 in Yeppoon in central Queensland hosted by the Queensland Division of the AAA. This year was under the control of the NSW Division. At this Convention Meeting the trappings of Office were handed over to Queensland who will host the next Championships in Caloundra on the Sunshine Coast in 2013.

It is interesting to note that the difficulties of finding people to do the work of running the AAA and the Championships is just as evident in Australia as it is in clubs and organisations in NZ. The State of Victoria announced at the AGM that they are no longer in a position to take on these responsibilities due to a lack of people willing to do the work.

The location of this year’s Championships at South West Rocks on the mid north NSW Coast was a real picture with golden beaches, rocky headlands, good offshore fishing and a river and its estuaries the size of which we don’t see in NZ. The great sunny weather and warm temperatures also added to the charm of the location. I liken the size of South West Rocks to the holiday location of say Whitianga. The HQ was the local sports recreation club which is typical of the “Clubs” we see throughout Australia with fantastic facilities and services. Much to envy for us NZ’ers.

For me one of the biggest differences to get to grips with in the Aussie Nationals is the emphasis on numbers of fish in their bags rather than concentrating on individual fish as we do in NZ. Their points system favours numbers of fish and the resultant weight of the total bag. So competitors go out and target big numbers of what we would see as small fish to get numbers up before then targeting more individual species. This not being the way we fish in NZ so it was hard to try and change our methods. In the offshore (boat section) it was perhaps more like in NZ in targeting species. Naturally the Host State did best in the competition as they know the waters, how and where to catch etc. Their range of species is a lot greater than here in NZ.

Of course the other big difference between NZ and Aussie is the length of time the Nationals take. In Aussie there are three days for beach & rock fishing, three for river/estuary fishing and three for offshore boat fishing and two days for the casting and competitors can compete in all sections so straight away there are 11 days involved. Add to this “lay days” and time for Convention Meetings, Opening & Closing ceremonies and we end up with an 18-day event.

When these Championships are held on the Aussie East Coast, NZ is, in travelling time, one of the closest “States”. Some Aussie competitors face up to a 5-day road journey to attend so these Championships often form part of a their Annual Holidays. With the same pressure we in NZ have with regard to time and money naturally teams from some States have become small to what they were in the past. A couple of States Teams were not much bigger than our NZ Team of ten members this year. The total number of competitors is on a par with numbers we get in NZ but because it is an “inter-state” competition as well as an “over-all championship” it is like 5 or 6 competitions all rolled into one (you think our prize-giving is long!). Like NZ many of the same people attend each Nationals with the camaraderie, meeting old friends etc are just as important as the competition itself. The other big difference is the “Social Program” which runs alongside the competition program to cater for non-competitors.

Similar to what we do in NZ there is a trophy which only international competitors are eligible for. This is a large model Maori Waka donated many years ago by Air NZ. Like the NZ equivalent (Alvey International Shield) this stays in Australia. Bruce Slater’s name gets added to this again this year – the second time for Bruce. Ray McIntyre was the second highest scoring NZ’er and Betty Edwards third.

Attending the AAA Championships is something I would recommend all our members should aim to do (at least once) and depending on time and financial circumstances we will put it on our calendar again for 2013

Graeme Dawber

2013 AAA Championships & Convention

These are being held in August (6th to 22nd) 2013 based at Caloundra on the Sunshine Coast a short distance north of Brisbane.

We need to know by late July 2012 a rough idea of numbers who are considering being part of a NZ Team as we need to book accommodation. Hopefully we will have someone attending the AAA Mid-term Meeting in Caloundra in August next year and they will be able to investigate accommodation options but we need to have some idea as to numbers.

So if you would like go, or are considering going please let our National Office know. We already have a number who have said they are going - so why not join them.

