

New Zealand Angling & Casting Association



OCTOBER
NOVEMBER
2011

National Secretary
P.O. Box 12 042
Rotorua 3045
New Zealand

☎ Ph/fax :
07 357 4446
✉ e-mail
nzaca@xtra.co.nz
secretary@nzaca.co.nz

☎ Ph – bus' :
07 357 4446
☎ fax – bus' :
07 357 4446

☎ mobile :
027 288 2790

📍 Residential address
55B Waiteti Road
Ngongotaha
Rotorua 3010
New Zealand

Websites
www.nzaca.co.nz
www.fishing.net.nz

Secretarial Jottings

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



Hello fellow anglers

First of all an apology from last month's issue of the Jottings. We struck all sorts of difficulties in sending these out via Outlook Express and in many instances you may have received multiple copies. The inclusion of photos, which had not been reduced in size, added to the difficulties. Hopefully this month will not see a repeat of these difficulties. We send out now around 350+ copies of these Jottings via email. Thank you for your patience and understanding regarding this.

The Retreat/Conference – You will all (hopefully) be well aware of this event now with what has been sent out to clubs and invites/reminders emailed by Brent Rolston and Bill Cronin.

This will be one of the most important events to be held by this Association for many years – AND WE NEED YOU THERE !!!!!

To date confirmed delegates attending have been disappointing in number but we are hoping that clubs will be sending representatives but you haven't got around to telling us yet.

WE NEED TO KNOW NUMBERS for catering and administration purposes. We are happy to make accommodation bookings for you if you haven't done so yourself.

Thanks to a grant received from Pub Charities we have been able to keep Conference Fees to a low \$20 per person. (check conference fees for other recent conferences by other organisations!). Breakfast, morning & afternoon teas & lunches will all be supplied as will drinks & nibbles prior to the dinner break on the Saturday. There are plenty of local options for an economic meal that evening (at least 3 take-aways in Ngon'). Hopefully Clubs will see their way clear to assist financially those they send as Delegates. Why not bring your family to this tourist city.

Remember this is **YOUR** Association and you **should/must** have a say in the way it goes forward. NZRFC and the NZSFC have both taken time out to look at themselves and reshape and plan for their future – now it is this Association's turn.

We want Delegates to **come with positive suggestions** and ideas but at the same time there will be a place for criticism, complaints and highlighting mistakes made in the past. However these should **come also with solutions so it is all not just negative**. Whilst this will be a "talk feast" it is important that positive decisions and recommendations are made regarding the future.

Do you still want/need a national body? What form does your Club want the National Championships to be in the future? How do we increase the participation in the world-recognised sport of Casting? How do we increase membership? Do we retain club membership or open up to individuals? What do fishers want from this national organisation? What should the NZACA look like in this 21st. Century? These are just some of the questions that need to be dealt with – there are many more.

So please notify the National Office ASAP of your Delegates
Dates again – 3rd & 4th. December, Ngongotaha, Rotorua

The Feilding Surfcasting Club has plans well underway for the **2012 National Championships**. I know some clubs have already made inquiries/bookings for charter boats and have pencilled in accommodation. Whilst at first glance the boundaries for this competition seem huge it is because our Hosts are making provision to cater for adverse weather. By having both coasts, and the Cook Strait, in the boundaries gives ample opportunity for fishers to find a location that will bring the best results.

When you look back over fish caught in this area of the country and consider the fact that the Wellington Club holds more Association Records than any other Club then you know there are some great fish out there to be caught. By not requiring competitors to travel back for a mid-competition weigh-in, then even if you have travelled some distance to your chosen fishing spot you don't have to do it twice.

The HQ at the Manfield complex will be more than ample to meet our needs and also is the Casting Venue. Note the casting starts on the Wednesday prior to the AGM etc. so competitors will need to travel on the Tuesday if not before. Dates – 28th to 31st March.

Remember also because this is a non-monetary/prize event it qualifies for grants from Gaming Trusts. Yes I know these are harder to get these days but clubs need to be persistent and try more than one Trust if needs be. We can supply you a letter of confirmation of the event and your NZACA membership if you need such. But get on to this now – don't leave it to the last minute. Grants for travel, accommodation, uniforms etc.

Nationals Booklets are well on the way to be ready well before the event.

Request from Feilding Club (co-Hosts) – looking for some extra scales for the event – if any club can bring certified scales with them it would be much appreciated. Please confer with Brent Rolston.

Postal Casting – Has your club held it's "casting day" yet? If it has - where are your results? If you haven't held a competition yet remember results need to be in by 1st. December. Reminder this is a "handicap" event so every one has a chance – even if you haven't cast before. There are heaps of awards and certificates to be won. Don't let the same people who enter every year take all of these home again – give them some competition. This can be a great fun day for a club – why not invite the public to come along and see what it is all about – have some "fun events" - you may pick up some new members. If you want to know more or assistance in running your casting day just contact the National Office and we will do whatever we can.

Fishing Competitions – there are two that I know of coming up in the near future. The Feilding one being held at Ngawi concentrating on Blue Moki and the Surfcasting competition based in Taranaki. Good prize money at both. These are both in November and again if you want to know more contact the National Office and we will point you in the right direction.

There is now being published a new very wide circulation free Fishing Paper called "**Fishing & Outdoors**". Why not have your club featured in it? If you would like more details we have them here at the National Office.

There is also another new on-line one called **NZ Blokes**. The well-known fishing personality Garry Kemsley is looking after the fishing aspect of this and again there is a place for your club contributions.

Talking about **websites** – is your club information up-to-date on the nzaca.co.nz site? Is your Club Newsletter on this site? Just send material direct to webmaster@nzaca.co.nz

The **NZRFC** has been very busy of late with a number of submissions on important issues affecting recreational fishing. Remember as being part of the NZACA you are also part of this other national body. Recommended also is individual membership of the RFC – for just \$25 you can play an even more important part in this important organisation. Plans are slowly being made at trying to bring all the different factions of recreational fishing in this country together so there is a unified body for the future. I know that the vast majority of fishers are not interested in politics – we just want to go fishing. Unfortunately fishing and politics do have to go together – without the right politics there will be no fishing. Putting your hand in your pocket is one way of helping. The other way is **how we vote** in the up-and-coming general election. I would recommend everyone to read "*The Last Word*" by Graham Andrews in the *October NZ Fishing News*. He has some very good advice of *how we should vote*. Look also at *Issue 63 of Fishing Coast to Coast* – read the *Editorial, Peter Dunn's letter* and *Keith Ingram's column*. Think very carefully on this matter as it is very very important and can have far reaching effects.

In the last issue of *Jottings* we reported on the **Australian bi-annual Championships**. As an appendix to this issue is another Team Members thoughts on this trip. This is a copy of Ray Burton's contribution to their local Newspaper – a great read. Remember if you want to know more about being part of the NZACA Team for the August 2013 AAA Champs' in Queensland just contact the National Office – we have quite a bit of info' available.

Well that's it for me for another month - I hope I will see many of you in Rotorua in December. If your club has not paid it's Affiliation Fees yet for this membership year don't leave it to late - Members need to be financial to be eligible for what is on offer.

Graeme Dawber

YOUR Association National Secretary

Whakatane Surf Casting Club
20 Thompson Crescent
Whakatane
07 3085134 or 027 5563861
capt.gannet@xtra.co.nz

Different but the Same

Recently a team of ten New Zealanders gathered at airports around the country to leave for Australia to compete in the Australian Anglers Association Championships. Over 12 months of fundraising and planning was finally coming together and the excitement filled the air. The logistics of travelling to another country to fish is not like going away for a weekend camping where the kitchen sink and hair dryer can simply be strapped to the roof. Rods have to be transported in special containers to protect them from damage and suitcases packed and re-packed several times to stay within the limits of allowable baggage.

We found everyone on both sides of the Tasman very helpful, which resulted in a stress free trip and no breakages. Our flight on an Emirates Boeing 777-300ER has to be one of the most comfortable and well appointed aircraft I have ever flown in.

After a short stay in Brisbane the 6 1/2 hour road trip to South West Rocks in NSW was an adventure in itself along the Pacific highway. Stopping at Byron Bay to take in the sites and look for the whales that swim along this coast at this time of year we soon realised that home was a long way off. We were at the most eastern point of Australia, the sun was shining, surfers down in the bay were poised to catch the perfect wave and it was 23 degrees. This was a far cry from the atrocious weather that the area we were travelling to had endured only a month before. Floods that covered hundreds of miles and metres deep had cleared away leaving only the debris hanging in the farm fences. Arriving In South West Rocks it had the similarity of Coromandel township, small and friendly but with the potential to grow in numbers to a small city over the summer months.

The Opening Ceremony of the AAA championship was like the Olympics with all the State Teams lining up and marching into the arena. The Flags were raised from each State and it was with great pride that we watched as our NZACA flag and the NZ flag were hoisted up high.

There are 4 different competitions that make up the AAA Nationals : Boat, Rock and Shore, Estuary and Dry Land Casting. The variety of fish is huge and so were some of the catches brought to the scales. Sea Bass that completely filled a large chilly bin and fish that looked like they had been dropped off by aliens. Bait varied from shrimp and worms to pieces of green weed on very small hooks suspended under a float on light tackle.

Fishing in the estuary is a bit like fishing from the banks of the Whakatane River only the Tidal flow stretches for miles upstream and again the fish variety is huge. Wading in the river is Not an Option, Bull sharks will take you for lunch and you are the main course.

Fishing from the shore requires a bit of cunning with berley to bring in the Whiting and lots of patience as most are not the legal size so catch and release can be tiring. A bait out the back of the breakers gave Betty Edwards from Opotiki, a good workout and we were sure this was going to be a winner. Upon landing the fish we all stood around wondering "What the Heck is That ?" Part stingray part shark and not a listed species on our catch list we returned it to the water to give someone else the thrill of the chase.

Fishing Rocks is a passion and is not for the faint hearted, rules and safety come first, no fish is worth a life. The day we arrived on the rocks below the old Gaol ruins it was a little windy but fishable with a swell that at times was 1.5 metres. We could see the Bream schooling only 30 metres away and a dark shape that intrigued us for quite some time until he popped to the surface displaying his hard shell. Turtles abound on this coast and around the corner from Smokey Cape Lighthouse on Hat Head Beach is their breeding grounds. The rocks on this coast are as slippery as ice when they are wet with steep drop off's and as the weather changed so did the sea. Huge waves coming in not only made it hard to land fish but gear loss and safety concerns forced us to retire to the bay until 20 knot winds sent us home.

Gathering at the South West Rocks Country Club to watch the All Blacks beat Australia was a great night and friendly heckling from both sides was received in a way that makes us ANZAC's. In this town they have honoured their war dead by placing headstone monuments all along the street with each fallen soldier's name. It was a humbling and thankful experience walking down the street seeing the names of men who paid the ultimate price for the freedoms we enjoy today.

The dry land casting is nothing like our NZ event whereby we use a leader for distance casting, the AAA rules state that level line only must be used. Most people use braid on Alvey Reels fixed to very soft and long rods, some up to 5 metres in length !! For us we had practised with mono line and soon realised that a slow wind up to power was essential otherwise you lost the whole lot. Accuracy was also a new and interesting experience with a tin cone as the target and the nearest within 6 metres scored the most. Hitting the cone made the crowd roar and a few of the older ladies from Aussie showed the way.

As NZ is considered a State on the scoreboard of the AAA Championships every day we would look for our standings in the competition. Robin Burton took out the Ladies casting alongside Betty Edwards in the Veteran section.

At the end of the AAA Nationals the flags were lowered returned to their teams and it was off to the Event centre for the Dinner and prize-giving. Because the AAA Nationals are spread over 18 days with lay days for sightseeing etc, competitors are not dog-tired at the end of the Competition. So a late night sharing stories and a few coldies while collecting trophies and prizes topped off the night just nicely.

Many years ago Air NZ donated a very impressive Waka trophy for the overall winner from NZ because we do not directly compete for the Australian awards unlike the Bledisloe cup. Maybe in years to come that trophy will be competed for on a level playing field like our prized Bledisloe cup and may the best country win. This year's winner Bruce Slater with his combined scores just edged out former title holder Ray McIntyre to have his name engraved on the side.

Ray McIntyre has been going to this event for what seems like a lifetime and his position of Team Captain and NZ Ambassador is a job he does well and everyone loves his humour. His colourful and witty antics keep the crowds entertained and helped forge many new friendships that I am sure will last for many years to come.

After many email addresses were exchanged and hugs all round, we departed in our different directions in the hope that in 2 years time we will all gather again in Queensland for the next AAA Convention.

The trip finished with a bang for us when we had a guided tour through the Alvey Reels factory in Brisbane with the managing director Bruce Alvey. One of the oldest family businesses in Australia that manufactures all of its components, except for a few screws, and assembles the reels and exports them all over the world. A certain person has their eye on a Pink rod and matching pink reel and with hints the size of a horse it looks like I will have to make another mounting bracket for the wall !

All in all a great trip, well worth the money for great memories and beautiful scenery but there is no place like home here in the bay.

Ray Burton