

New Zealand Angling & Casting Association



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Secretarial Jottings

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



Happy New Year to you all

Trust that this year will bring all you wish and that your fishing will be great. Hope also that this damn weather will improve. I know many parts of the North Island especially have been having similar weather to that of Rotorua – rain, rain and more rain!

For some those clubs who are receiving this issue via snail mail there is also included a folder containing the papers which were given to Delegates at the Retreat/Conference held in Rotorua in December, along with a "Conference Report". *Those Clubs who were at the Retreat have not been sent the folders as your Delegates already have them.* The Conference Papers are included just for your information as to the basis of some of the discussion. Naturally the outcomes of those discussions are contained in the Conference Report and vary with some of the suggestions contained in the original documents.

The reason for including a copy of the folder and the documents (*thanks to Advocate Print for their generous donation in supplying these folders and note pads*) is so that those clubs who did not send Delegates are fully up with the play. Let me express my personal disappointment here regarding the absence of many clubs, and even greater disappointment at those clubs who did not even acknowledge the invitation or send an apology. So much for the NZACA being YOUR Association!!!!

The Conference Report will also be available on our website (www.nzaca.co.nz) for those who wish to read it - rather than including it as an attachment to the email version of these Jottings. If you would like a personal copy of the Report please contact the National Office.

Nationals

There has been a hic-cup in the printing and distribution of the Nationals Handbook and the Feilding Club sincerely apologise for this. The major portions of the Handbook are available on the website along with entry forms.

Regardless of the books issue your plans should be well advanced by now for your clubs attendance at this championship. If you have any urgent queries I would suggest you **contact Brent Rolston direct on 06 328 8877 or 027 230 2491 or email on srolston@farmside.co.nz**

The waters the Feilding Club fish and that are in this year Nationals boundaries have produced some great fish. The boundaries are extensive, but in reality the travelling times to the outer limits are not much greater than some previous Nationals, and have been so designated that if the weather is not conducive to fishing one coast there will be good fishing on the other coast. For those boaties again there is great choice with charters available from Wanganui to Wellington. Have been told that kayaks also do very well in this area. So there is great fishing potential for all.

The Headquarters at the Manfield Racecourse are A1 and the casting ground there up with the best available. Remember the Casting starts first thing on the Wednesday before the AGM etc.

Please as soon as you know your teams to attend these Nationals will you send your entry forms to the National Office. The sooner we start getting these the easier our job is to get all the paperwork done.

Look forward to seeing many of you at Feilding

The December conference reconfirmed that the NZACA still has a major role to play in the recreational fishing scene in NZ and there was no talk of it having reached the end of its natural life. Sure there will need to be adaptations and changes as we proceed. especially bearing in mind the proposed changes and discussions on the future shape and make-up of some form of over-arching body for rec' fishing in this country. However this Association is more than able to play its part in any such changes that may be agreed upon and continue to try and meet the needs of those recreational fishers whom we represent.

It was obvious from the conference that Casting is going to play a major part in our on-going activities and that we are able to adapt to meet the different aspects that this worldwide sport will bring. There is to be ongoing discussion on where we fit in the world scene and what rules we should be using so as we can compete internationally. Hopefully we will see some cross-Tasman competition with the Australian Casting Federation as well as our regular contact with our cousins in the Australian Anglers Association (AAA)

It was hoped that SPARC (the Government Agency concerned with sports) would have granted us **NSO** (National Sports Organisation) **status** by now - but typical Government they have changed the criteria and shifted the goal posts. There is now no longer such a status as an "NSO" and they are putting together new standards for those who seek funding. We are still in there in discussions with them and as the only organisation in NZ responsible for the international recognised "Sport of Casting" we can not be ignored.

It was disappointing to see no real new club entries in the Postal Casting competition last year. This is such a great activity for clubs and the skills learnt so adaptable for our fishing. The Postal Casting competition is not just for the "top guns" and the handicap system means all have a chance of recognition. Our Casting Convenor is working on some new ideas to help make this activity more attractive for clubs to take part - watch this space!

The more I read the major fishing publications – *and thanks here to the ones that are regularly sent to the Association* – the more I see about kayak fishing and how popular this is. I ask myself the question what more can this Association do for this aspect of fishing – especially as we are portraying ourselves as the natural National Body for these anglers. I don't think we are doing enough and we need to up our act in this regard. If you are a kayak fisher please let us know what you would like to see this Association doing for your sport.

Something new in the pipeline

Jim O'Brien (*of Wellington, IGFA Rep, respected fisher, ex NZACA President, Masters Award designer, contributor to fishing mags' and much much more*) has floated an idea to the Executive for consideration. This is concerning a new award along the lines of Grand Slams where an angler is recognised for catching a number of species meeting certain criteria.

Early indications are that this is receiving very favourable responses and that there will be much discussion at the next Executive Meeting on 4th.February (*open invite to any who want to attend – contact me for details*). So look out for more about this exciting possibility in the forthcoming months.

Competitions – this time of the year sees a number of fishing competitions around the country, many of which are run and organised by NZACA Clubs. We encourage all fishers to support these and there are usually great prizes to be won. If your club is running any such competition why not put on display some NZACA material and advertising – there are NZACA brochures which are free to be handed out to competitors – all you need to do is ask. Some of the next ones are the Rotorua clubs Bonanza on the 29th. January and the Kahawai World Cup (Western Bay Club) on the 16-18 March. For info' on the Captain Morgan Snapper Bonanza at Ninety Mile see www.snapperbonanza.co.nz

Finally a reminder - If you want any items discussed at the next AGM or have remits please forward these to the National Office ASAP.

Well that's it from me for this month – don't forget your entries for Feilding

Graeme Dawber

YOUR Association's Nation Secretary