



***Canberra
Fisherman's Club Inc
NEWSLETTER
Volume 13 Issue 6
JANUARY 2010***

www.canberrafishos.com



www.canberrafishos.com

***Winner of the January 2010 Photo Competition
Cod from Paradise
Ashley Barber***

About the Club

The Canberra Fisherman's Club Inc. is a sportfishing club that endeavours to promote a social awareness among its members, single or family. General meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at the **Eastlakes Football Club No 3 Oxley St Griffith ACT** beginning at 7:30pm. All members and visitors are most welcome.

Members of the Canberra Fisherman's Club are eligible to set Club Records and, upon payment of an Australian National Sportfishing Association (ANSA) affiliation fee, also able to set Australian records and World records (through ANSA affiliation with the International Game Fishing Association (IGFA)).

Aims of the Club

- To promote sport fishing
- To foster the art of angling
- To teach the art of angling to new members and particularly juniors
- To promote the study and conservation of fish species and the environment
- To co-operate with and support other bodies with similar aims and ideals.

The Club also supports the Recfish Australia National Code of Practice for Recreational and Sport Fishing, which endorses:

1. Quickly and correctly returning unwanted or illegal catch to the water
2. Quickly killing fish that are kept for consumption
3. Using only appropriate, legal tackle, attending gear and valuing the catch
4. Taking no more than our immediate needs
5. Supporting and encouraging activities that preserve, restore and enhance fisheries and fish habitat
6. Understanding and observing all fishing regulations and reporting illegal fishing activities
7. Preventing pollution and protecting wildlife by removing rubbish
8. Taking care when boating and anchoring to avoid damage to wildlife and habitat
9. Using established roads and tracks
10. Reporting environmental damage
11. Avoiding unnecessary interactions with wildlife species and their habitats
12. Practising courtesy towards all those who use inland and coastal waters
13. Obtaining permission from landholders and traditional owners before entering their land
14. Caring for our own safety and the safety of others when fishing.

Membership Fees

	CFC	ANSA
Junior	\$5	\$4
Student	-	\$7
Senior	\$20	\$19
Family	\$30	\$24

All Correspondence to the CFC Secretary

PO Box 325
Civic Square, ACT 2608

Articles for inclusion in the
CFC Newsletter to be
Forwarded to the Editor
luttpa@tpg.com.au

CFC Life Members

Mike Penkethman
Alan Matthews
Brian Ray
Laurie Nolen
Jamie Stanfield
Chris De La Rue



CFC Office Bearers 2009-2010

PRESIDENT	Greg Davis	0427 932 504 (m)
VICE PRESIDENT	Jamie Stanfield	Life Member
SECRETARY	Chris Head	0408 225 794 (m)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Patrick Luttrell	0414 866 799 (m)
TREASURER	Brian Stacy	0408 466 596 (m)
RECORDER/TAGGING OFFICER	Steve Borkowskis	0402 223 410 (m)
EDITOR	Patrick Luttrell	0414 866 799 (m)
OUTING LIAISON OFFICER	Keith Smith	0418 864 760 (m)
Committee	Chris De La Rue	Life Member
Committee	Glen Malam	
Committee	Anthony Heiser	

2009-2010 Canberra Fisherman's Club Outing & Meeting Calendar

Outing Date	Outing	Monthly Meeting's date's
5 th – 8 th March 2010 14 th march	Narooma Convention Canberra Carp-Out	9 th Mar
24 th – 26 th April 2010	Windamere	13 th Apr
15 th – 16 th May 2010	Jervis Bay	11 th May
12 th -14 th June 2010	Narooma	8 th Jun
25 th – 25 th July 2010	Kiola Area	13 th Jul



President's Report

Hi all,

Most people would say that we needed rain, and boy, didn't we get it. Most areas in Canberra got in excess of 100 mm of rain, and I'd have to say that I think it's the most water I've seen coming over the top of the Lake Ginninderra spillway and down Ginninderra Creek in the 18 years I've been in Canberra. The local creeks and rivers should get a good flushing, and there has been a modest increase in the dam levels. I hope you all got time for a bit of a fish last weekend, as this weekend it'll be out with the mower.

Over the weekend we had the opportunity to promote the Club and the Carp-Out at the Combined Act 4WD Clubs 4WD Spectacular and Outdoor Show. I'd like to thank the organisers of the 4WD Spectacular for making the site available to us. We received some entries for the Carp-Out, and distributed a lot of entry forms. There was a great deal of interest in the Carp-Out, and it's also possible that we've gained a couple of new Club members as well. I'd like to thank Anthony, Chris H, Steve B, Shane J, and Brian and David for braving the elements. There was also a great deal of interest in the Hobie kayak, so it should be fairly easy to sell tickets in the Fish Stocking raffle. If you'd like a book of tickets to sell, or to buy yourself, let Chris Head or I know. I think we've got books of 10, 25 and 50 tickets, and the more we sell the more money we raise to stock the local lakes.

Planning for the 2010 Canberra Carp-Out is well underway, and we're looking forward to a great event this year. Chris Head has been busy modify the database so we can have multiple weigh stations at the end of the day. This should significantly improve the timing of the afternoon, and hopefully mean a lot less time between the closing of the weigh stations and the presentation. We should also have the capability to have multiple laptops for registration in the morning, so people will be able to get registered and start fishing earlier. Sunday March 14 is looking good; it should be a great day.

If you were unable to be at the last meeting and volunteer to assist with the Carp-Out, we're still looking for volunteers to assist with the day. I've split the day up into several time slots, so if you could only help for some of the day, it'd be greatly appreciated. Let me know if you have some time on Sunday 14th March to assist with the set-up, cook the BBQ, assist with registrations or weigh stations, and pack up in the afternoon. Also, we're running a Fishing Clinic in the afternoon of the 13th March. The idea behind this is to provide some basic tuition on fishing skills, knots, rigs and bits, so people can have a better chance of catching fish on the Sunday. If you could help between 1:30 PM and 4:30 PM on the 13th, that'd be great, let me know.

Outings

The Bega/Brogo/Tuross was last weekend, and even though it was very, very wet, I've been told there were some good fish caught. You'll need to read Steve's Recorders report to find out who caught what.

Next month, it's off to Narooma for a 4 day outing over the March long weekend. The Narooma Convention is from midnight on Thursday the 4th March, until midday Sunday the 7th March, and the outing continues on until midday Monday the 8th. I've been going for the last few years and have had a great time, and even caught some fish. Being over the long weekend it's four great days away. There is still a bed or two available in the accommodation the Club has organised, contact Keith if you want to join us.

And then in April, it's off to Windamere again over the Anzac long weekend, 24th – 26th April. This has proven to be a great outing over the last couple of years. If you want to catch a good Eel-tailed Catfish, Silver or Golden Perch, or even a Cod, this place is worth a try. We've got some accommodation booked, so put your name down next meeting, or let Keith or I know if you'd like to attend.

Rock Fishing Safety

While I was down at our usual haunt in late January, I had an encounter with a large wave at Snapper Point. Somewhere else in this newsletter is a bit of an account of what could have been a very bad day on the stones.

Well, that's it for me this month,

Cheers

Greg Davis
President

Work fills in time between fishing trips.



Secretary's Report

Hello all members & visitors,

As Greg as already said planning for the Carp-Out is going well and we are now starting to get the message out into the public arena through posters, displays, our Sponsors, Canberra Chronicle and towards the end of February FM106.3 will start promoting the event on the morning radio. Additional to this the Canberra Carp-Out will be included in the Canberra Festival lift out in the Canberra Times in early March.

To make this another successful event we need to get the message out there so don't be afraid to mention the Canberra Carp-Out in passing to friends, relatives, work colleges and the people you meet in the street. You should not be surprised on the response you may get, I was in Woden the other day at customer information just to ask if they might be able to put up a poster for us, to my surprise the young girl behind the counter with a big smile when I showed her the poster said that she had attended last year and had caught her very first fish. Now that sort of response to our event makes all the effort worth while don't you think?

Something we found out from our wet (myself in waders on Sunday) but positive attendance at the 4WD & Camping show at Queanbeyan on the weekend is that there is a lot of interest in our Hobie kayak raffle prize. We had more interest and questions about the Hobie than anything else and with a little guidance towards attending the Carp-Out to receive a free ticket in the raffle most people went away with a registration form. Hopefully some of these will convert into registrations. It was unfortunate that we were unable to sell our raffle tickets at the show (as we could have sold hundreds) as other worthy charities & organisations had already been approved for this type of fund raising. But this just goes to show that we have a good product for our raffle that people are interested in so, If you have not already grabbed some raffle tickets to sell then give me a call on 0408 225 794 and I can get some to you. Any number can be supplied so don't feel that you have to sell hundreds of tickets, if you think you can sell 10 – 20 tickets let me know and we will get them to you.

Just a reminder we have a guest speaker for our 9th of March meeting, Mick McKenzie from NSW Maritime Service who will bring us up to speed on the latest developments regarding boating and safety. Apparently there is a new boating handbook out and recommendations on the self inflating PFD's, so if you have a boating friend that is not a member bring them along to the monthly meeting as I am sure Mick will have lots of information for everyone.

We are always interested to know what members would like to hear about at meeting so if you have a subject that would be of interest to members or maybe you know someone working in an area of interest then lets us know so we can follow it up. We have had an offer from a new international member to do a presentation on his fishing experience in Canada so I am working on this for an up and coming meeting so please put forward your ideas.

Finally an up and coming fishing competition (11th April) that I fished last year but unfortunately I will be away for work is the Pirtek Fishing Challenge. This was great fun and all funds go to the Prostate Cancer Foundation. Information can be found at <http://pirtekfishingchallenge.com.au/>



Well that's it from me for the month.
Be patient and enjoy your fishing experience as good fish
eventually come your way

Chris Head

RECORDERS REPORT

Hi All

Well it's good to finally get some rain, and I think it will stir a few fish into action around the place. Rivers are running high, and Lake Burley Griffin is full and overflowing into the Molonglo which hasn't happened in quite a while. The local Dams should rise quite a bit as well. With the amount of rain and flooding on the South Coast you would think almost every system should be open to the ocean. I haven't heard if the Dolphins have left Lake Tuross yet, perhaps they like it and don't want to leave.

Several members turned up to fish in the ACT Boat Hire Monster Carpathon this year and we managed to win the \$4000 mystery weight prize! We also won an hourly draw of \$200 plus tackle. The fishing started out slowly but picked up as the day went on. In the end we landed about 25 Carp and the mystery weight winning Carp was caught only a few minutes before the end of the competition! I'm sure all involved will give a good account of the day at the next meeting.

Outings

January Outing – Tuross

The Tuross Outing has been popular in recent years and this year was no different with 21 members in attendance. Captures included 18 Dusky Flathead, 5 Yellowfin Bream, 5 Sand Whiting, 4 Australian Salmon, 2 Tailor, 1 Black Bream, 1 Smooth Ray, 1 Silver Trevally, 1 Yellow-eyed Mullet, and 1 flounder.

Charlie Curtis caught the biggest Flathead of the outing, it wasn't weighed but measured 650mm. Anthony Heiser caught the heaviest Flathead at 1.11kg (580mm) on 2kg line casting the soft plastic lizards he bought from the Mud Guts Spinner baits stand at the Talbingo Convention, I will have to admit telling Anthony that they were rubbish when he bought them but he has proven me wrong!

Tom Stanfield caught the only Masters Dusky Flathead which went 1.05kg on 1kg pretest.

Jake Mackenzie caught some of the best Bream, which included a Yellowfin Bream of 0.77kg (385mm)

Karen Wade caught several fish including a Masters Silver Trevally of 0.67kg on 1kg line.

February Outing – Bega/Brogo

Six members attended the very soggy Brogo Outing this year and those who fished through the rain were rewarded with a few excellent fish.

Dave Walton caught a Mulloway of 3.90kg (78cm) on 1kg line while lurecasting. Apparently it fought pretty well they had to chase after it in the boat.

Steve Bailey caught another standout fish, a Dusky Flathead of 4.30kg (88cm) on 1kg line.

Charlie Curtis weighed in some nice Dusky Flathead as well at 0.81kg, 0.74kg, and 0.70kg.

Shane Hyland fished Brogo and caught about 20 Bass around 28-30cm. The best measured 32cm.

Recent Captures

As mentioned last month Andrew Butt picked up a 100cm Cod at Ginninderra, Dave Walton scored a 52cm Golden Perch on the same trip.

Anthony Heiser did a day trip down the Coast the weekend after the Tuross Outing; he fished from Brou Beach with 2kg line and caught 2 Salmon and 2 Tailor. The best Tailor weighed 0.63kg and the best Salmon was 0.94kg. Won't be long now and Anthony will be fishing 1kg in the surf!

Brian Stacy fished the Tollgates Island Classic and caught his first ever Marlin. It was a Striped Marlin estimated at 50-60kg which was tagged and released to fight another day. Brian also caught countless Sand Flathead so he now has a massive lead in the Flathead Length Trophy, it will take a big effort for anyone to reel in his 6000mm lead!

Andy and Mitchell McGovern fished Tuross just before the Outing. Mitchell apparently dropped a monster Dusky at the boat, but he managed to land several others the best going 0.88kg on 1kg line. Mitchell also caught a Brown Ray of 9.72kg on 1kg line! Andy had a good time trying to get it in the net, and was whipped in the face by its long tail during the tussle.

Andy also did a 3-4 day canoe trip down a section of the Murrumbidgee; his captures included 21 Golden Perch between 32cm and 50cm and a Murray Cod of 8.65kg on 4kg line (lurecasting). Andy said it was tough going because the water was so low; they

had to drag the canoe from pool to pool and eventually wore a hole in the Canoe which they had to fix with bandaids and an air mattress puncture kit.

Ashley Barber fished Lake Burley Griffin recently and caught 52 Redfin over 30cm.

That's all from me this month; I'll see some of you down at the Narooma Convention in a couple of weeks or otherwise the next meeting on the 9th of March. Hope you all manage to get out and catch some fish.



That's all for me this month, catch a big one! Cheers
Steve.

CFC 2009-2010 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP BOARD

Last updated 15th February 2010			
Championship Update		CFC Best Fish	
<i>Proudly Sponsored by: Tackle World Canberra – Fyshwick</i>			
STEVE BORKOWSKIS	1838	*** BEACH ***	
ANDREW MCGOVERN	1598	Australian Salmon	
MITCHELL MCGOVERN*	1527	1.75kg on 1kg	
CHRIS HEAD	1365	Chris Head	
ANTHONY HEISER	941	210 Points	
Ladies Club Champion Update		*** BLUEWATER ***	
<i>Proudly Sponsored by: May Sum Chinese Restaurant</i>		Striped Marlin	
KATE JOHNSON	266	Tag & Release	
KELSEY MCGOVERN	215	Brian Stacy	
KAREN WADE*	206	100 Points	
JESSICA JONES**	165		
KIRSTIE HEAD*	96	*** ESTUARY ***	
		Dusky Flathead	
		4.30 on 1kg	
Junior Club Champion Update		Steve Bailey	
<i>Proudly Sponsored by: May Sum Chinese Restaurant</i>		430 Points	
MITCHELL MCGOVERN*	1527		
TOM STANFIELD	799		
JAKE MACKENZIE*	454	*** FRESHWATER ***	
DAVID STACY	344	European Carp	
KELSEY MCGOVERN	215	8.78kg on 1kg	
		Steve Borkowskis	
		702 Points	

Land Based Club Champion Update			
<i>Proudly Sponsored by: Jax Transtate</i>			
STEVE BORKOWSKIS	1699	*** ROCKS ***	
ANDREW MCGOVERN	1165	Australian Salmon	
CHRIS HEAD	1058	1.34kg on 2kg	
MITCHELL MCGOVERN*	931	Brian Stacy	
ANTHONY HEISER	808	80 Points	
Freshwater Club Champion Update		*** BEST SHARK or RAY ***	
<i>Proudly Sponsored by: BTS</i>		Brown Ray	
STEVE BORKOWSKIS	1838	9.72kg on 1kg	
ANDREW MCGOVERN	1305	Mitchell McGovern	
CHRIS HEAD	1090	486 Points	
MITCHELL MCGOVERN*	910		
ANTHONY HEISER	797		
Saltwater Club Champion Update		<i>Proudly Sponsored by: JB's Outboard Service Centre</i>	
<i>Proudly Sponsored by: Canberra Diamond Blade Suppliers</i>		TOM STANFIELD	22
MITCHELL MCGOVERN*	617	ANTHONY HEISER	20
STEVE BAILEY	430	STEVE BORKOWSKIS	20
DAVE WALTON	390	SHANE JASPRIZZA	16
ANDREW MCGOVERN	293	JAMIE STANFIELD	14
BRIAN STACY	277		
Most Versatile Angler Update		Sub Junior All Tackle Champion Update	
STEVE BORKOWSKIS		<i>Proudly Sponsored by: May Sum Chinese Restaurant</i>	
CHRIS HEAD		TOM STANFIELD	22
MITCHELL MCGOVERN		DAVID STACY	5
ANDREW MCGOVERN		MITCHELL MCGOVERN	4
ANTHONY HEISER		KELSEY MCGOVERN	4
		JAKE MACKENZIE	3
Flathead 'Total Length' Trophy		Golden Perch 'Total Length' Trophy	
<i>Proudly Sponsored by: Tackle World Canberra – Fyshwick</i>		<i>Proudly Sponsored by: Pack & Send Canberra</i>	
BRIAN STACY	8250mm	ANDREW MCGOVERN	9930mm
ANTHONY HEISER	2510mm	STEVE BORKOWSKIS	3475mm
MITCHELL MCGOVERN	2466mm	ANDREW BUTT	3330mm
CHARLIE CURTIS	1030mm	ASHLEY BARBER	1835mm
KAREN WADE	950mm	ANTHONY HEISER	1105mm

CANBERRA FISHERMANS CLUB 2009-2010 SPONSORS

Sponsor	Contact Person	Contact
TACKLE WORLD CANBERRA	Gary Cairns	02 6280 4530
	Mathew Perdrau	
ALPINE ANGLER	Tom Baxter	02 6452 5538
AC LURES	Anthony Curtis	aclures@cirruscomms.com.au
ACTION BUSES	Albert Magassy	
AUSTRALIAN FISHING NETWORK	Jim Harmon	afn.com.au
ALVEY SURF REELS AUSTRALIA	John McKonkey	www.alvey.com.au
AUSSIE FISH ESTUARY ADVENTURES	Stuart Hindson	www.ausfishing.com.au
AUSTRALIAN FISHING SHIRT CO	Steve Tooley	02 4256 3986
BASSER MILLYARD		www.bassermillyard.com.au
BASSMAN SPINNERBAITS	Glen Casey	www.bassmanspinnerbaits.com.au
BATTERY FACTORY	Robert Buettner	02 6280 6511
BLA AUSTRALIA		www.bla.com.au
CANBERRA MOWER SERVICE		www.canberramowers.com
DAIWA		www.daiwa.com.au
DUNPHY SPORTS / SHIMANO	John Dunphy	
E.J. TODD		www.ejtodd.com.au
FISHING WORLD MAGAZINE	Jim Harnwell (Editor)	www.yaffa.com.au/fw
FREETIME GROUP AUSTRALIA		www.freetime.com.au
GOULBURN LURES	Graham & Kerry Sanders	03 5823 1814
GRIP LEISURE		02 9725 1599
HALCO TACKLE CO	Tim Carter	www.halcotackle.com
JM GILLIES		www.jmgillies.com.au
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KENS MARINE		02 6280 6738
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L. WILSON & CO, SURECATCH, LIVE FIBRE & MUSTAD	Bill Barnier	www.wilsonfishing.com
LONGPARK MEAT CO	Brett Palmer	longparkmeats@bigpond.com.au
MODERN FISHING	Daniel Tillack	www.modernfishing.com.au
MUD GUTS SPINNERBAITS	Dave Harp	02 6922 7397
NSW FISHING MONTHLY	Tony Zann (Editor)	www.fishingmonthly.com.au
PACK & SEND, BELCONNEN & BRADDON	Shane Hyland	belconnen@packsend.com.au
PLATYPUS LINES	Donna Rump	www.fishplatypus.com.au
PREDATEK LURES	Frank Gaukroger	www.predatek.com
PURE FISHING / ABU / SHAKESPEARE		www.purefishing.com.au
SAGA TACKLE MARKETING		02 4971 2517
TIGHT LINES BREWING	Chris De La Rue	
THE FISHING SHED	David Wescombe	0418 135 323
SIGNFLAIR	Mike & Colleen Connors	signflair@bigpond.com
SKINS ALIVE	John & Maureen Ruiz	www.skinsalive.com.au
STORMY AUSTRALIA	John Nanscawen	www.stormyaustralia.com
WAGGA FISHING WORLD & LEGEND LURES	Graeme & Wendy Clark	www.waggafishingworld.com.au
WET WATER SPORTS		02 6239 1323

Photo Competition January 2010



Kirstie Head Tuggeranong 5.05kg Murray COD
Chris Head



Ashley Barber at Paradise Severne River



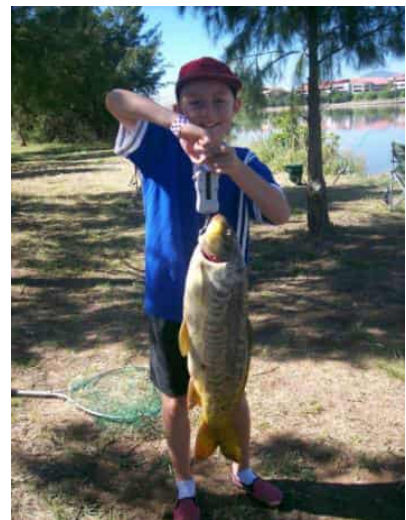
53cm Cod Gungahlin Murray COD. **SHANE JASPRIZZA** **Shane's** New Stealth fishing craft (Hobie) on Lake Ginninderra



Bruce Laughton never gives up
When fishing for Kingfish



Steve BORKOWSKIS
New addition to Family
GOLD Fish Tank



Jake with Tuggeranong Carp
Chris Head



Anthony Heiser South Port Jetty Dart



Tom Stanfield With a good 5.35kg on 1kg CARP
Jamie Stanfield



Anthony Heiser Brisbane River Catfish



Dave Walton 111cm Murray COD

Photo Competition Rules:

- You are only allowed to submit photos that are of you (i.e. you are in the photo) or were taken by you.
- Maximum of 2 individual photo submissions per member, per month!
- Photos must be original and cannot be modified, enhanced or manipulated in anyway.
- Photos must be submitted to the Editor in either printed (hardcopy) or electronic format.
- Photos must be received by the last day of each month to be eligible for that months judging.

4X4 EXPO QBN 13TH -14TH Feb 2010



*The CFC members promoting the Carpout at QBN 4x4 Show
WOW
Did we find the best fishing spot in Queanbeyan?*



ANSA National Web Site

www.ansa.com.au

ANSA NSW Web Site

www.ansansw.com.au



Fishing Reports

Almost!!

I'd been looking forward to this day for quite some time. I hadn't been to Snapper Point for almost a year, and I started to get excited. As I gazed out to sea from the tent site at Merry Beach there were no whitecaps like there was the day before. The southerly wind had gone, and there was almost no breeze at all. Perfect!

Luke was rattling around in his tent getting ready, so our 6:00 am planned departure for the walk around was looking good. I got my wrap of rods and gaff out of the car, strapped on the backpack and off we went.

It was getting close to low tide, so our feet remained dry as we got off the beach and started the short walk around to Snapper Point. As we walked around to the Horseshoe I was puzzled by the amount of water on the rocks. There must have been some big waves about overnight, however it looked OK now. As usual the Horseshoe looked like a washing machine, a fair bit of white water and very turbulent. We walked past a new addition to the area, an ANSA Angle Ring, and then past the plaque in memory of the last death on these rocks back in 2006. We went over the large crack in the rocks and we were there, Snapper Point. It's a great view south from there on a clear day.

As we set about getting ready to fish, I noticed that the rocks on the ledge were wet. There was a reasonable swell from the south, but I'd fish here with a southerly swell many times before and never seen any water come over the front. I wasn't too fussed about it at this stage, as the swell should be settling done, so back to fishing. The first lot of berley I threw in failed to raise any fish at all, let alone a yakka or slimy mackerel. I'd spent days here when it was impossible to catch live bait; I hope this wasn't going to be another one. The next scoop of berley had better results and after a couple of casts I have my first yakka. Thirty seconds later that yakka was back in the water towing my float. The waiting game had begun. I got some more water for the large bucket and caught an extra couple of yakkas, just in case I needed them.

After about half an hour a larger wave come in and to my surprise, it was higher than the ledge. It was only just higher, about 6 inches, but provided enough water to knock over my small bucket holding the burley and my scoop, and washed the scoop into the briny. Hmm, sticky smelly bread hands again, didn't look forward to that. This also explained the wet look on the rocks when we arrived. Obviously some waves come over the front of the ledge during high tide. I said to Luke that we'd need to keep an eye on the waves, as it was almost low tide, and if waves of that size persisted as the tide come in, more waves would come over the ledge.

As per usual, things were kind of slow, so I tried spinning for a short period. No luck there, not even a follow. Luke wasn't having much luck either, he was having a go at the bottom dwellers, and they couldn't even be bothered to steal his bait. Over the next hour and a half, another two or three waves come over the front, nothing threatening, but enough water to try and wash our gear away, so we moved our gear up onto the higher ledge.

At about the two hour mark, around 8:30 am, I was standing near the front of the ledge trying to get my bait to swim out a bit further, when it started to take line. I shifted my focus up a bit and all I could see was water. I yelled out to Luke and turned and high-tailed it back

to the higher ledge as fast as I could with my rod over my shoulder. Just as I clambered up onto the next higher ledge, “Crash” the wave hit the rock wall I was kneeling on and almost gave me a saltwater enema. At that stage I was just hanging on, as the water had gone well up the next ledge, I was soaked. As the water rushed back it tried to wash my other rods and gaff off the next ledge and into the water, I somehow managed to grab them so they were safe. As I turned and looked back towards the ocean, I saw my tackle trays and backpack disappearing over the front of the ledge. I looked around to see where Luke was, and he was standing on higher ground, drenched as well. Bloody hell we were lucky.

All I can say is that I’m glad I saw it coming. Without a word of a lie, the wave was at least a metre higher than the ledge where I was standing, and if I hadn’t seen it, it would have knocked me over, and probably beat me to a pulp as it threw me into the ledge I’d just managed to get on top of.

This incident has reminded me how unpredictable and powerful the ocean can be. It also gave me a whole new respect for freak waves. I’d always put freak waves down to lack of attention, not any more. This wave was way bigger than anything we seen in the last two hours.

In hind sight we shouldn’t have been fishing there that morning as

- There was a decent southerly blow the day before which would set a southerly swell going well out see.
- The rocks were wet on the way out which meant there must have been some huge waves overnight when the tide was full.
- The rocks were wet at Snapper Point which I’d never seen before (as a result of above)

A mistake I made as well was that I’d under estimated the size of the swell, and along with my over confidence in fishing Snapper Point in a southerly swell, nearly caused a disaster. I consider myself very lucky, and have a renewed respect for the ocean.

On the bright side, as we were walking back to Merry Beach we could still see Luke’s bucket, and we were convinced that my backpack was still floating about 50 metres behind it. My phone was in my backpack, as well as quite a few lures etc, so when I got back to Merry Beach, I hooked up the boat and put it in at Kioloa to rescue my back pack. It was really only once I was on the water that I appreciated how big the swell was, it was a bit of a slow trip around to Merry Beach where my gear had drifted. I manage to retrieve my back pack, the lid to one of my buckets, a loaf of bread I had there for berley, and the plastic bag that Luke’s squid bait was in. Unfortunately the zips weren’t closed in my back pack so I lost my phone. A small cost considering what could have happened.

Greg Davis

SAFE FISHING

