



Newsletter

Volume 25 Issues 02

September 2021

Winner of the September 2021 photo competition



Anthony Heiser - Clarence River Cattie

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About the Club

The Canberra Fisherman's Club Inc. is a sport fishing club that endeavours to promote a social awareness among its members, single or family.

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

General meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at the **Croatian Deakin Soccer Club, 3 Grose Street, Deakin**, beginning at **6:45 pm**. All members and visitors are most welcome.

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.

President's Report

Welcome to the second month of Spring and hopefully, our last month of lockdowns.

Due to the ongoing lockdowns, we're still unable to schedule the date for our AGM and SGM. Our trusty Secretary Zane will let you know as soon as we confirm the new date for the AGM/SGM. Please keep an eye out for his announcement.

I thank our current committee members who continue to keep the Club running during the fourteenth months of their 12-month terms. It is thanks to their dedication that newsletters continue to get published, expenses get paid, photo comp entries are loaded on the website, and sponsors and supporters are kept informed of what the Club is doing.

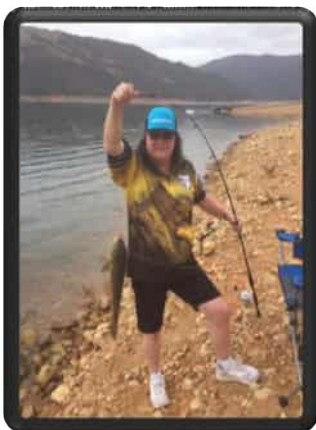
Due to the ongoing lockdowns, the Committee has had to cancel the October outing. As announced in my previous report, the ANSA Burrinjuck Convention has been postponed for a second year. By December, it's my understanding that ACT and NSW are expected to be 90% vaccinated and, fingers crossed, we will be able to resume all normal Club activities. Like last year, I anticipate our Presentation Night will be combined with the CFC Christmas Party in December. We will aim to announce the dates of our combined Presentation Night/Christmas Party, upcoming outings and other events once the Committee has some certainty around when restrictions will lift this year.

Finally, I notice we have not had many entries for the monthly photo comp in September. If you haven't had an opportunity to go fishing due to the lockdowns, why not send us a photo from a previous trip (preferably, a photo that hasn't been previously submitted to the photo comp).

I look forward to meeting everyone in person again when this lockdown is over. I hope to see you all at the Annual General Meeting and Special General Meeting soon.

Stay safe everyone.

Bonnita Allen



Recorder's Report

The lockdown is over – FINALLY!

I hope you have all managed to stay safe and healthy. And I hope you stay healthy as we all learn to live with COVID. It's now time to catch up on all the fishing that we missed.

Steve Bailey and Anthony Heiser have made an early move on the various Championship categories and the Club has made an early start on the ANSA NSW state-wide 12 month competition. I have provided updates to both competitions below, along with a list of members' certified scales that are overdue for their annual test. If your scales are in the expired list, please get them to me fast – you never know when you're going to catch the fish of a lifetime!

It looks like we will be able to resume our monthly outings soon, so get your name down on the appropriate lists and let's get fishing!

Keep safe on the water.

Glen

Club Championship

Open

Steve Bailey	779	
Brian Stacy	124	<i>(less than 2 outings attended)</i>
Glen Malam	98	
Chris Lemmon	70	
Anthony Heiser	49	<i>(less than 2 outings attended)</i>

Ladies

Junior

Land Based

Steve Bailey	551	
Brian Stacy	124	<i>(less than 2 outings attended)</i>
Glen Malam	98	
Anthony Heiser	49	<i>(less than 2 outings attended)</i>

Fresh Water

Steve Bailey	547
Chris Lemmon	70

Salt Water

Steve Bailey	232	
Brian Stacy	124	<i>(less than 2 outings attended)</i>
Glen Malam	98	

Most Versatile Angler

Steve Bailey	9	<i>(less than 3 sections entered)</i>
Brian Stacy	6	<i>(less than 3 sections entered)</i>
Glen Malam	2	<i>(less than 3 sections entered)</i>
Chris Lemmon	1	<i>(less than 3 sections entered)</i>

Salt Water Length *(Black Bream, Pikey Bream, Yellowfin Bream)*

Anthony Heiser	920
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Fresh Water Length *(Atlantic Salmon, Brook Trout, Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout)*

Anthony Heiser	3,280
Steve Bailey	3,260
Chris Lemmon	850

Board Fish - Weight

Australian Salmon	2.07 kg	Brian Stacy
Brown Trout	1.41 kg	Steve Bailey
European Carp	3.19 kg	Steve Bailey
Golden Perch	3.30 kg	Steve Bailey
Mulloway	6.60 kg	Anthony Heiser
Rainbow Trout	0.92 kg	Steve Bailey
Yellowfin Bream	0.82 kg	Anthony Heiser

Board Fish - Length

Australian Salmon	600 mm	Brian Stacy
Brown Trout	510 mm	Steve Bailey
Dusky Flathead	385 mm	Anthony Heiser
European Carp	580 mm	Steve Bailey
Golden Perch	550 mm	Steve Bailey
Mullet	340 mm	Anthony Heiser
Mulloway	910 mm	Anthony Heiser
Rainbow Trout	450 mm	Steve Bailey
Yellowfin Bream	350 mm	Anthony Heiser

Best Fish

Fresh Water

European Carp

3.19kg on 1 kg
Steve Bailey

Estuary

Dusky Flathead

.32kg on 2 kg
Anthony Heiser

Beach

Australian Salmon

1.93kg on 1 kg
Steve Bailey

All Tackle Championship

Open

Steve Bailey	8
Glen Malam	4
Chris Lemmon	4
Brian Stacy	3
Karen Malam	2

Junior

Zachary Zhao	1
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ANSA NSW 12-Month Competition - Current Standings as at 01/10/2021

ANGLERS NAME	CLUB	SPECIES	MASS	LINE	POINTS
DIVISION 1: Landbased - Game Species					
1 Steve Bailey	Canberra Fisherman's Club	SALMON - AUSTRALIA	1.930	2	115.800
2 Steve Bailey	Canberra Fisherman's Club	SALMON - AUSTRALIA	1.650	2	99.000
3 Glen Malam	Canberra Fisherman's Club	SALMON - AUSTRALIA	1.640	2	98.400
DIVISION 2: Landbased - Non-Game Species					
1 VACANT	NO CLUB		0.000	0	0.000
DIVISION 3: Sportfishing - Saltwater Lakes and Estuaries					
1 Warren McKinnon	Newcastle Sportfishing Club	SALMON - AUSTRALIA	1.980	2	118.800
2 Warren McKinnon	Newcastle Sportfishing Club	SALMON - AUSTRALIA	1.880	2	112.800
3 VACANT	NO CLUB		0.000	0	0.000
DIVISION 4: Sportfishing - From a Boat (Outside)					
1 VACANT	NO CLUB		0.000	0	0.000
DIVISION 5: Sportfishing - Freshwater					
1 VACANT	NO CLUB		0.000	0	0.000
DIVISION 6: Lure Fishing - Saltwater					
1 VACANT	NO CLUB		0.000	0	0.000
DIVISION 7: Lurecasting - Freshwater					
1 VACANT	NO CLUB		0.000	0	0.000

ANSA NSW 12-Month Competition - Current Standings as at 01/10/2021

ANGLERS NAME	CLUB	SPECIES	MASS	LINE	POINTS
DIVISION 8: Flyfishing - Saltwater					
1 VACANT	NO CLUB		0.000	0	0.000
DIVISION 9: Flyfishing - Freshwater					
1 VACANT	NO CLUB		0.000	0	0.000
DIVISION 10: Gamefishing					
1 VACANT	NO CLUB		0.000	0	0.000
DIVISION 11: Handline					
1 Chris Stolk	Wollongong Sportfishing Clu	KINGFISH - YELLOWT	3.600	3	180.000
2 VACANT	NO CLUB		0.000	0	0.000
DIVISION 12: Capture by a Lady					
1 VACANT	NO CLUB		0.000	0	0.000
DIVISION 13: Capture by a Junior Boy					
1 VACANT	NO CLUB		0.000	0	0.000
DIVISION 14: Capture by a Junior Girl					
1 VACANT	NO CLUB		0.000	0	0.000

ANSA NSW 12-Month Competition - Current Standings as at 01/10/2021

ANGLERS NAME	CLUB	SPECIES	MASS	LINE	POINTS
DIVISION 15: Capture by a Sub-Junior					
1 VACANT	NO CLUB		0.000	0	0.000
DIVISION 16: Tag and Release					
1 VACANT	NO CLUB				0
DIVISION 17: Length Only - Carp					
1 VACANT	NO CLUB	CARP			0.000
DIVISION 18: Length Only - Trout (All)					
1 VACANT	NO CLUB	TROUT			0.000
DIVISION 19: Length Only - Australian Bass					
1 VACANT	NO CLUB	BASS			0.000
DIVISION 20: Length Only - Bream (All)					
1 Anthony Heiser	Canberra Fisherman's Club	BREAM - YELLOWFIN			350.000
2 VACANT	NO CLUB	BREAM			0.000
DIVISION 21: Length Only - Flathead (All)					
1 Michael Aubrey	Newcastle Sportfishing Club	FLATHEAD - DUSKY			835.000
2 VACANT	NO CLUB	FLATHEAD			0.000

ANSA NSW 12-Month Competition - Current Standings as at 01/10/2021

ANGLERS NAME	CLUB	SPECIES	MASS LINE	POINTS
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DIVISION 22: Length Only - Australian Salmon

1 Brian Stacy	Canberra Fisherman's Club	SALMON - AUSTRALIAN		600.000
2 Warren McKinnon	Newcastle Sportfishing Club	SALMON - AUSTRALIAN		580.000
3 VACANT	NO CLUB	SALMON		0.000

DIVISION 23: Length Only - Kingfish

1 VACANT	NO CLUB	KINGFISH		0.000
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DIVISION 24: Length Only - Snapper

1 VACANT	NO CLUB	SNAPPER		0.000
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DIVISION 25: Length Only - Mulloway

1 Anthony Heiser	Canberra Fisherman's Club	MULLOWAY		910.000
2 VACANT	NO CLUB	MULLOWAY		0.000

ANSA NSW 12-Month Competition - Current Standings as at 01/10/2021

ANGLERS NAME	CLUB	SPECIES	MASS LINE	POINTS
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DIVISION 26: Most Versatile Angler


ANGLERS NAME	CLUB	POINTS
Chris Stolk	Wollongong Sportfishing Club	3
Warren McKinnon	Newcastle Sportfishing Club	2
Steve Bailey	Canberra Fisherman's Club	2
Glen Malam	Canberra Fisherman's Club	1

DIVISION 27: Champion Club

CLUB	POINTS
Canberra Fisherman's Club	15
Newcastle Sportfishing Club	10
Wollongong Sportfishing Club	3

Expired Scales


Number	Brand	Weight	ExpiryDate
Bailey, Steve			
106	Rapala Digital	25	13/01/2021
Butt, Andrew			
58	Rapala Digital	25	30/06/2020
Head, Chris			
93	Rapala Digital	25	22/09/2016
Heiser, Anthony			
175	Rapala	8	13/10/2021
Jewry, Mick			
133	SCA	40	10/10/2020
Malam, Glen			
186	Rapala	25	13/10/2021
Marlborough, Mel			
176	Berkley	14	30/06/2020
Spriggs, Kevin			
131	Rapala Digital	25	7/01/2020
Stacy, Brian			
88	Rapala Digital	8	25/11/2019
128	Rapala	25	28/10/2020
129	Rapala	25	28/10/2020
Steele, Lindsay			
180	Berkley	25	15/12/2020
Tate, Narelle			
183	Rapala	25	21/11/2018
Vogel, Jon			
136	Berkley	23	8/09/2021
137	Rapala	8	8/09/2021
Zhao, Zane			
123	Rapala Digital	25	30/06/2020



CANBERRA FISHERMAN'S CLUB - CAPTURE FORM

DIVISION: 1 = Sportfishing, 2 = Lurecasting, 3 = Flycasting, 4 = Gamefishing, 5 = Handline, 6 = Landbased Gamefishing, 7 = All Tackle


SECTION: BW = Bluewater, F/W = Freshwater, BCH = Beach, RCKS = Rocks, EST = Estuary



SPECIES	WEIGHT KG	LENGTH MM	LINE CLASS	PRE TEST Y/N	LOCATION	DATE	LAND BASED	DIVISION	SECTION	POINTS

CERTIFICATION OF WEIGHING: I Declare that I witnessed the weighing of these captures on certified scales# DATE: / / SIGNED:


CERTIFICATION BY ANGLER: I Declare that I Captured these fish in accordance with the rules of ANSA. DATE: / / SIGNED:



CANBERRA FISHERMAN'S CLUB - CAPTURE FORM

DIVISION: 1 = Sportfishing, 2 = Lurecasting, 3 = Flycasting, 4 = Gamefishing, 5 = Handline, 6 = Landbased Gamefishing, 7 = All Tackle

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SPECIES	WEIGHT KG	LENGTH MM	LINE CLASS	PRE TEST Y/N	LOCATION	DATE	LAND BASED	DIVISION	SECTION	POINTS

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ANSA N.S.W 12 MONTH COMPETITION ENTRY FORM



Date Received by State Recorder: ____/____/____

Angler: Club:

ANSA No: DOB (jnr & sub-jnr): Phone:

Weight Captures:

Was Pre-Test or Factory Pre-Test line used in these captures (circle) **Yes / No**

If Pre-Test or Factory Pre-Test line **was not used** in the captures, a 5 metre line sample must be provided with this entry form.

Species	Capture Date	Capture Location	Weight	Line Class	Division 1-15

Tag & Release:

Species	Capture Date	Capture Location	Tag Number

Length Captures:

Species	Capture Date	Capture Location	Division 17-25	Length (mm)

ANGLERS DECLARATION

I _____, declare that this capture was made by me, and weighed or measured on an appropriate device, in accordance with ANSA rules.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

WITNESS TO WEIGHT / MEASUREMENT

I _____, certify that I witnessed the weighing or measuring of the capture.

CLUB RECORDER

I _____, declare that the captures listed above have been authenticated in accordance with ANSA rules.

Notes for LENGTH captures:

1. Fish to be measured length overall i.e.: end of tail to the leading edge of the jaw, fish laying flat and tail in a natural position.
2. If no witness to length only measurement, a photo of capture on an appropriate measuring device must be submitted.
3. Preferably all claims should be accompanied by a photo of the fish on the appropriate measuring device. Video is acceptable.
4. One entry, per division, per angler, per year across divisions, upgrading of fish is acceptable.

Eligible Divisions for 12-Month Comp:

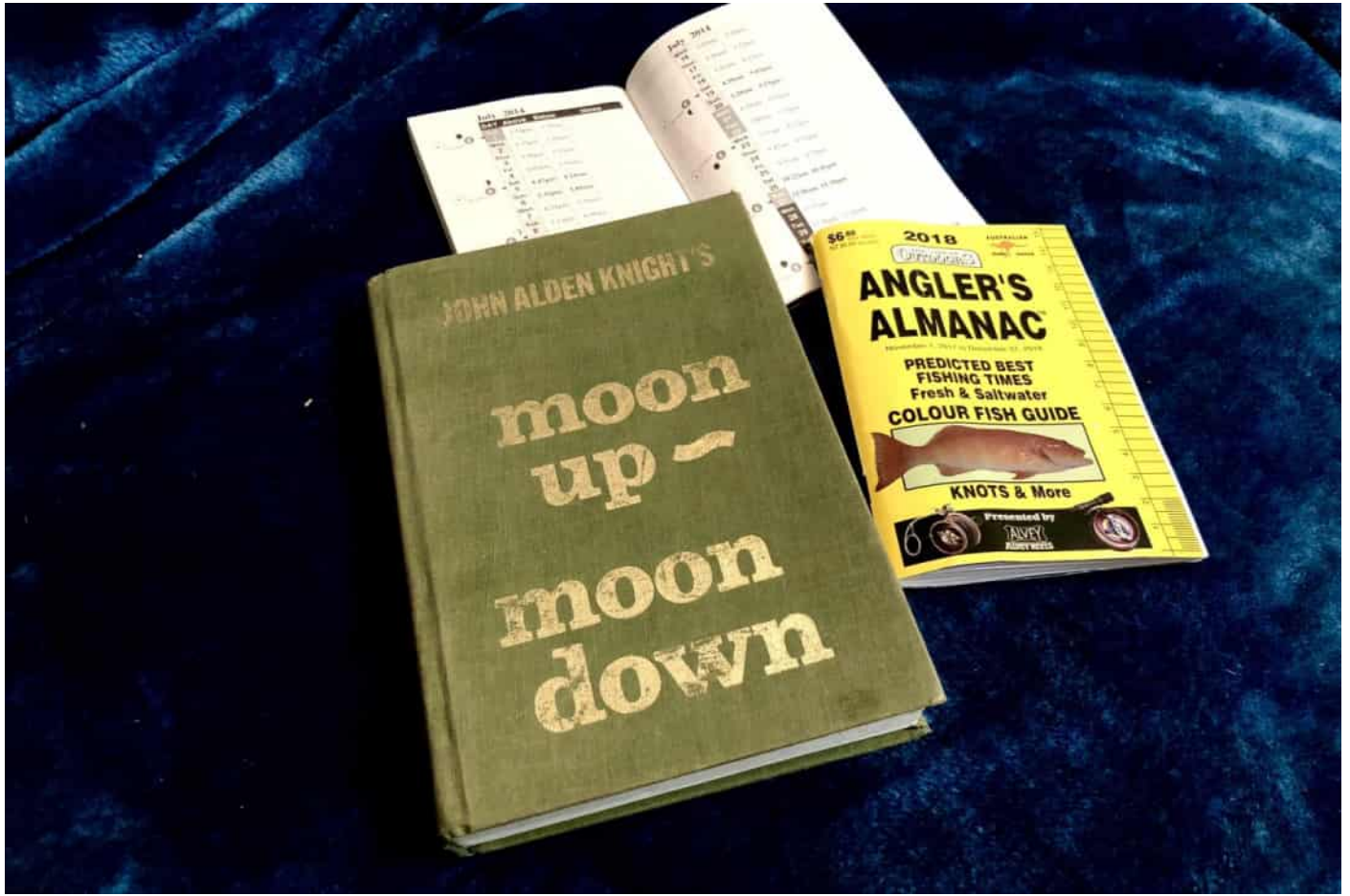
- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Land Based Game Species (Sport / Gamefishing capture method) | 9. Flyfishing Freshwater | 17. Length Only Carp (All) |
| 2. Land Based Non - Game Species (Sport / Gamefishing capture method) | 10. Gamefishing | 18. Length Only Trout (All) |
| 3. Sportfishing in Saltwater Estuaries & Saltwater Lakes | 11. Handline | 19. Length Only Bass (Australian) |
| 4. Sportfishing from a Boat (outside) | 12. Capture by a Lady | 20. Length Only Bream (All) |
| 5. Sportfishing Freshwater | 13. Capture by a Junior Boy | 21. Length Only Flathead (All) |
| 6. Lurefishing Saltwater | 14. Capture by a Junior Girl | 22. Length Only Salmon (Australian) |
| 7. Lurefishing Freshwater | 15. Capture by a Sub-Junior | 23. Length Only Kingfish (Yellowtail) |
| 8. Flyfishing Saltwater | 16. Tag & Release | 24. Length Only Snapper |
| | | 25. Length Only Mulloway |

General Notes:

1. Each fish submitted may only be entered in **one** of the eligible divisions 1–25 above.
2. Fish submitted for Weight Captures, cannot be submitted for Length Captures and vice versa
3. To be eligible all 12 month competition entry forms must be with the state recorder within 35 days from date of capture

Fact or folklore? The Anglers Almanac & Solunar Theory

by Anthony Heiser



A copy of my 1972 reprint of John Alden Knight's *Moon up – moon down* and a couple of copies of the Angler's Almanac.

This article was first published in the [August 2018 Newsletter](#). Since then, I've collated more fishing stats from my diaries for 2018 to 2020 to continue testing the predictions of the fishing almanacs. I have also collected additional stats to measure fish activity during and outside major and minor feeding times. If an article on the history of the Anglers Almanac and amateur statistical analysis is not your thing, then my recommendation is to use the lunar phases and the Angler's Almanac as a guide but don't be a slave to them. Otherwise, please read on.

We've all seen copies of the Angler's Almanac in newsagents and tackle stores and some of us have Smart Phone apps aim to predict the best fishing times. The Anglers Almanac and those Smart Phone apps base their predictions on the Maori Fishing Calendars or Solunar Charts. But how do they predict the best fishing times and do they work?

Anglers Almanacs, Solunar Charts, and Maori Fishing Calendars

Solunar theory claims that the position of the moon and sun can predict the behaviour of fish and animals. Maori and other Pacific Islanders believe that fishing can be better on certain days of the lunar cycle.

From what I can gather, the Solunar Tables and Maori Fishing Calendars are very similar, and both have their origin in folklore. They predict 'major feeding times' when the Moon is directly above or directly below and 'minor feeding times' when the moon is rising or setting. They also predict what the intensity of those feeding times will be for each day of the lunar month. Generally, fish feeding activity is strongest during Full and New Moon, and weakest during First and Last Quarter.

John Alden Knight coined the term 'solunar' in 1936

The term 'Solunar' was coined by John Alden Knight, a New York Stock Broker who was a keen fisherman and author of several books on fishing and hunting. John wrote about his discovery of Solunar Theory and the impact it had on his life in his book *Moon up - Moon down* in 1942. The concept of 'moon up moon down' was not John Alden Knight's idea. A fishing guide named Bob Wall introduced John to the concept while chasing Large Mouth Bass in Lake Helenblazes, Florida, on a hot summer day in 1926. In chapter 1, page 1, John wrote:

We had been fishing for large-mouth bass since dawn. Usually the fishing in 'Blazes' was excellent, but throughout the morning, the bass had been unresponsive. Tiring of fruitless casting, we had knocked off for an early lunch.

As we sat there, Bob Wall, my guide, looked at his watch and then across the surface of the lake. The heat waves had built a mirage that lifted the horizon above its normal level so that it seemed to hang in mid-air, leaving a gap of clear, shimmering nothing between itself and the quiet water. I could see that Bob was restless. Finally he spoke.

"Come on, Jack," he said. "Hurry up with that lunch. We'll miss the good fishin' if we sit here much longer."

"What makes you think they'll rise in all this heat?" I asked him.

"They'll rise all right," he answered. "Moon's down about noon."

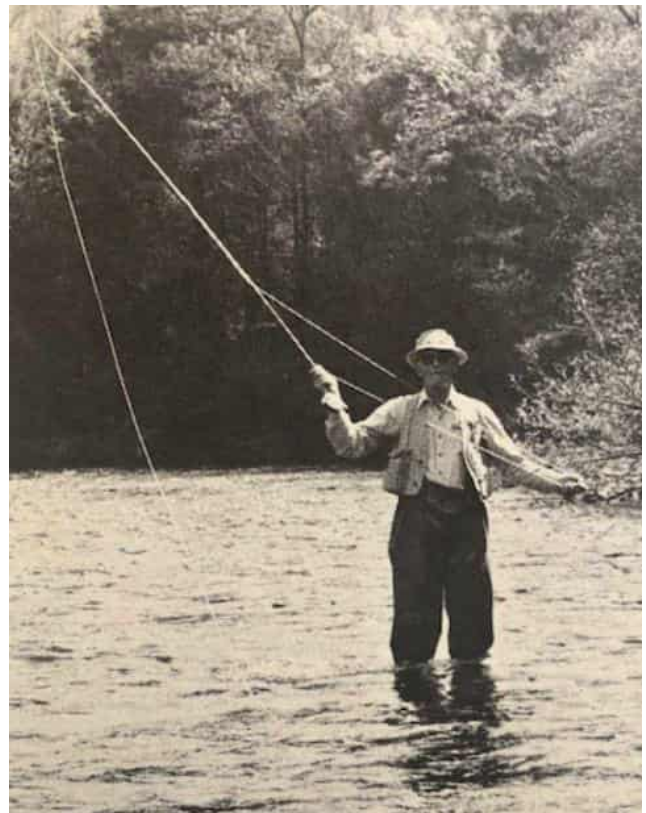
"Whats that got to do with it," I said.

"Never mind about that," said Bob. "Just take my word for it. These fish are goin' on the feed pretty quick now".

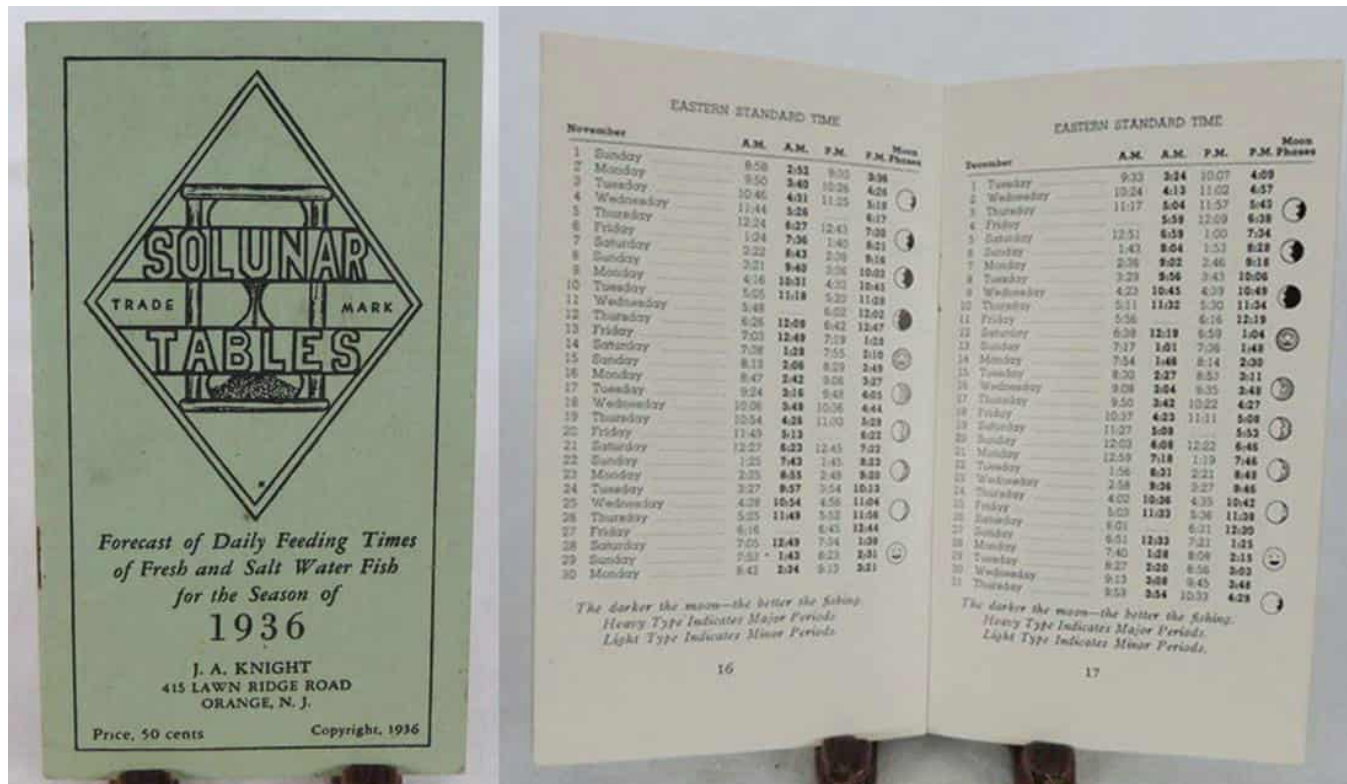
Bob explained that his 'grandpappy' taught him the best time to chase game and fish was when the moon was directly overhead or directly underfoot. Sure enough at noon, the fish came on the chew. At page 4, John continued:

That was the beginning of almost three hours of hysteria. We hooked fish, big fish. Some we landed and some we lost. We broke lines, skinned knuckles, lost plugs, laughed, yelled and cursed. How many fish we caught and released, I do not know, certainly more than we had ever caught before. That evening we hung on the boathouse scales that part of the catch we had brought out with us - nine large-mouth bass that totalled seventy-eight pounds.

After that experience, John started analysing the moon up moon down theory he learnt from Bob Wall. He kept his own meticulous fishing records, and started looking for



John Alden Knight fishing a trout stream in Pennsylvania



John Alden Knight published the first Solunar Tables in 1936.

correlations between observed fish feeding times, and a number of variables such as weather, sun, moon, tides etc.

John found no correlations between sunrise and sunset with the different times fish showed up to feed, and found some correlations between the lunar cycle and fish feeding patterns. While there were no measurable tides in freshwater bodies, John explored the notion of 'inland' tides with the assistance of the New York Office of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. John then started testing and developing his theory by fishing according to notional tide times in inland waterways.

John Alden Knight went public with his initial theory in his article 'Ocean Tides and Freshwater Fish' published in the January 1935 edition of the *Sportsman*. John's article, which introduced the term 'Solunar Theory', generated unprecedented interest, and a mountain of letters from anglers in every US State asking for schedules of solunar feeding periods for just about every fishing spot.

To meet this sudden demand for solunar feeding schedules, John published the first Solunar Tables in 1936. The first one thousand copies sold out within five weeks, necessitating a reprint to meet demand. Suddenly, John discovered a new source of income, which proved handy when he quit his stock broker job due to health reasons.

John continued his meticulous record keeping of his fishing trips to refine his theory. He moved away from his concept of inland tides and argued that fish are most active when the moon was directly above or directly underfoot (the major periods) and are also active when the moon rises and sets (the minor periods). John also argued that the lunar effect was strongest during New and Full Moon.

John Alden Knight makes very unambiguous claims in his book about the impact of solunar feeding times on the feeding behaviour of fish and all wildlife. His book often described a dramatic increase in the number of fish or game captured at the commencement of major or minor periods.



Moon rising over Mount Denison, over Lake Eucumbene, 2012. Solunar Theory predicts major fish feeding periods occur when the moon is directly above and directly underfoot (hence 'Moon up – Moon down', and minor feeding periods when the Moon rises and sets. However, the fish went off the bite when I took this photo.

John's book, *Moon up – Moon down*, is more of an autobiography and does not give an in-depth scientific explanation of the Solunar Theory, nor does John set out the details of his fishing records to allow others assess his claims. This is not surprising, given John was not a scientist. To his credit, John admits he never worked out how or why Solunar Theory worked.

Is there any science to Solunar Theory?

There is already a lot of research showing various relationships between migratory, spawning and feeding behaviours of marine species and the lunar cycle. There is also research showing a relationship between the lunar phases and catch rates by commercial fishers. But there is less research on using the lunar cycle to predict fishing success for recreational anglers.

The few articles I could obtain free of charge off the internet provides some support for a correlation between fish and game activity and lunar phases or the position of the moon. But those correlations are subtle in comparison to the claims in John's book.

One article from Ben Stevenson, a student at the University of Auckland caught my attention. In 2012, Ben wrote a statistics thesis by analysing data from captures by recreational anglers against the Maori Fishing Calendar. He analysed two data sets from fishing diary surveys conducted by the New Zealand Ministry of Fisheries during 1 December 1993 to 30 November 1994 and boat ramp surveys conducted from 1990 to 2008.

Ben's analysis demonstrated a relationship between lunar phases and fishing success. In addition, it partially supported the Maori Fishing Calendar's predictions of 'Bad', 'Fair' and 'Good'. Ben's analysis found that fishing was least successful on the 'Bad' days but found the 'Fair' days outfished the 'good' days.



I caught 38 fish during the ANSA Narooma Convention during 8-10 March 2021, including this fish which won me the Beach Section. The Convention took place within 3 days of the New Moon. Around New Moon has usually been good fishing for me. I caught 8 fish the first day, ten the second day and 20 on the last day.

However, the difference in fishing success was small. The difference in capture rates for fishing diary surveys between the most favourable and least favourable times of the lunar phase was 0.155 fish per hour (or an additional fish for every 6.4 hours of fishing). The difference between the 'Bad' days and 'Fair' days was 0.110 fish per hour (or an additional fish for every 9.1 hours). The differences in fish success from the boat ramp surveys were even smaller.

Ben was unable to analyse the fishing diary data and boat ramp data against the predicted major and minor fish feeding times in the Maori Fishing Calendar. However, a study tracking the movement of White Tailed Deer in South Carolina found deer were more active when the Moon was directly above and directly below (which equate to the major feeding times).

My own experiences with Solunar Charts and Anglers Almanacs

I've kept my own fishing diary from 1996 to 2003 and from 2013 to 2020. My efforts in freshwater are highly variable so initially, I have only looked at my saltwater fishing trips. However, I now have enough freshwater fishing trips to start ironing out the variability in my freshwater fishing efforts. Interestingly, there is now some consistency between the results of my total fishing trips, saltwater fishing trips, and freshwater fishing trips against the predicted fishing outcomes under the Solunar Charts and Anglers Almanacs.

I went fishing on 454 days over a combined 15-year period and caught a total of 1727 fish. I looked at the average number of fish caught according the lunar cycle, and according to the 'Poor', 'Fair', 'Good' and 'Best' days according to the little yellow Angler's Almanac, and the predicted fishing efficiency from the Fish Calendar App.

Lunar cycle

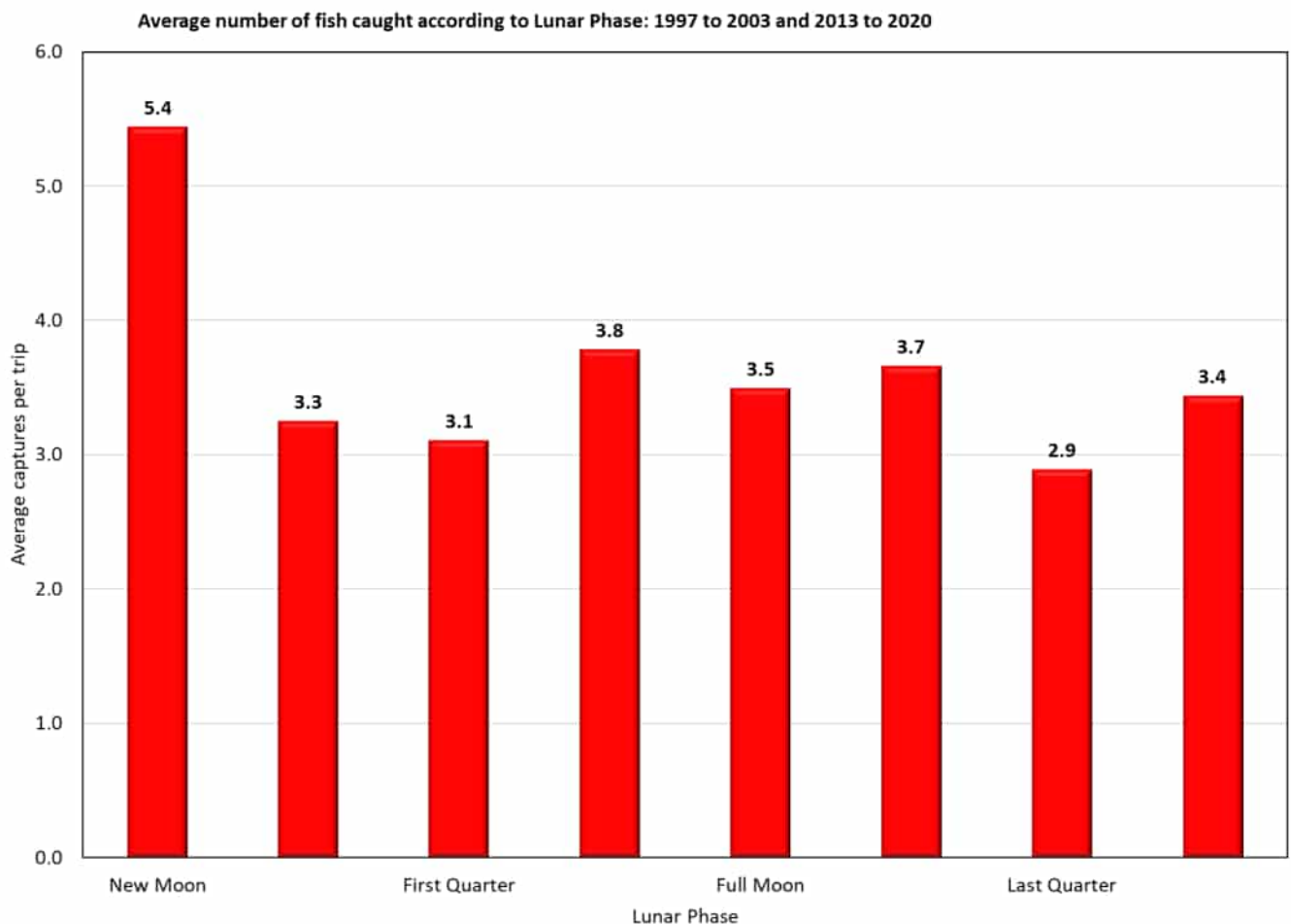


Figure 1: Average fish caught during the Lunar Cycle. There is a clear peak around New Moon but no clear peaks and troughs evident for the remainder of the Lunar Cycle.

I expected to see peaks around New Moon and Full Moon and dips in First and Last Quarter. For total, saltwater, and freshwater trips, there was a clear peak in average number of fish caught around New Moon. However, there were no clear peaks and troughs for the remainder of the Lunar Cycle for total fishing trips and saltwater fishing trips. For freshwater trips, there were two smaller peaks around First Quarter and between Full Moon and Last Quarter.

It's difficult to draw any meaningful conclusion other than New Moon appears to be a clear winner for predicting best fishing time regardless of whether you are fishing salt or fresh water.

It may be that the impact of the Moon's Phase outside of New Moon may depend on what time you go fishing. For example, I have noticed fishing went quiet in the evening as soon as the moonlight hit the water on many occasions. But I do remember an evening session at Lake Eucumbene where the Trout continued biting all night during a Full Moon. On that occasion, we were not fishing our usual location but in deep water off a rather steep bank.

What this experience suggests to me is that perhaps the Moon does impact on the number of fish you catch if you continue to fish the same spot with the same tactics regardless of the Moon's Phase. It was only by accidental circumstance that we fished a location we would not otherwise have fished that evening.

Until I can work this out, there is little difference in the average number of fish caught during the Lunar Cycle, except around New Moon. During New Moon, you may catch an average of one or two more fish than any other time of the Lunar Cycle.

The Anglers Almanac

Average number of fish caught according to Anglers Almanac Predictions:
1997 to 2003 and 2013 to 2020

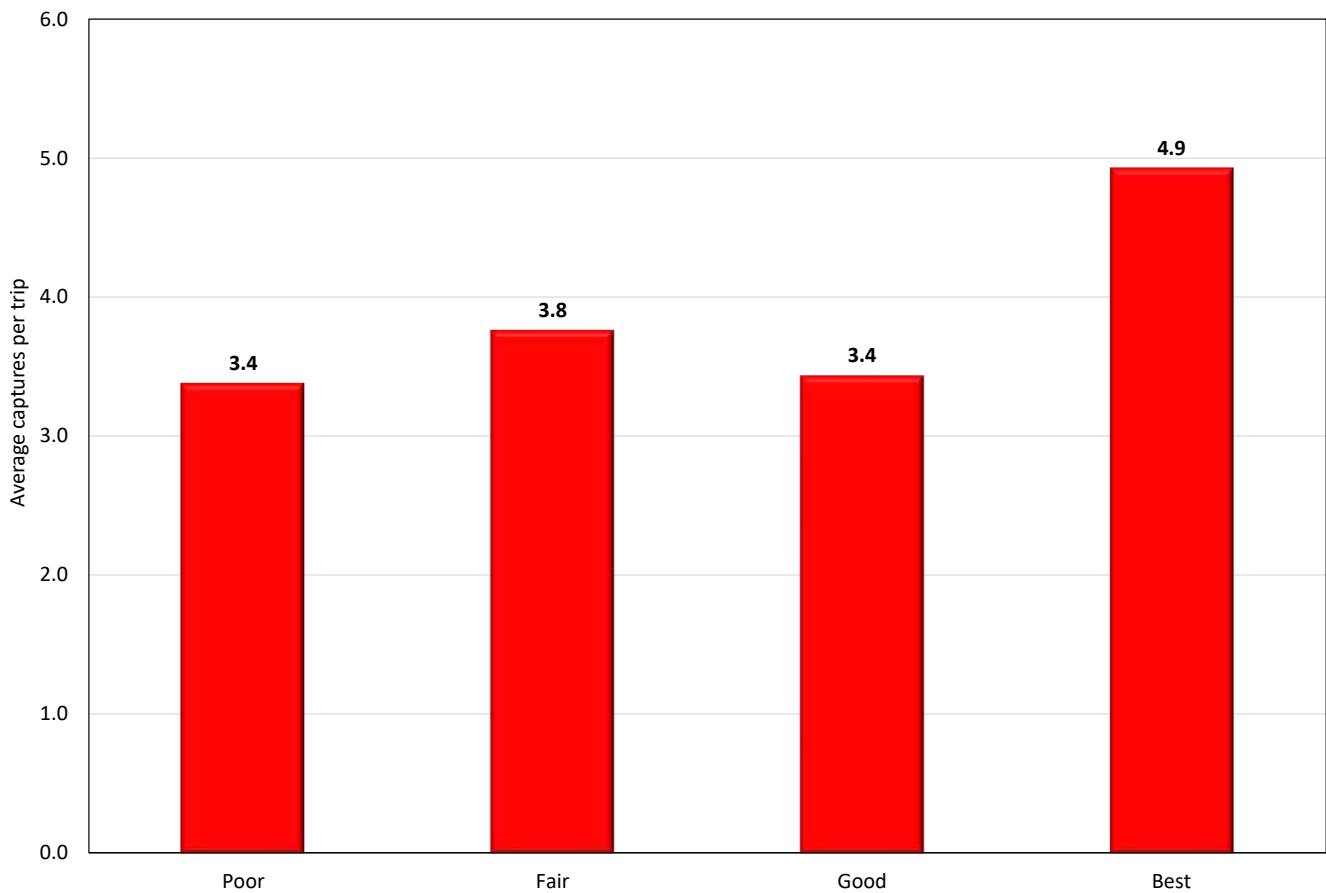


Figure 2: Average fish caught according to the Angler's Almanac's predicted Poor, Fair, Good and Best days. It took only a few years before I started noticing that average numbers of fish were higher on the Fair and Best days and lower on the Poor and Good days.

The average number of fish caught according to the Poor, Fair, Good and Best days do not quite match the predicted outcomes in the Anglers Almanacs. On the other hand, the results have been rather consistent over the years.

On average, 'Fair' and 'Best' days outfished the Poor and Good days. The Best days outfished the Fair days, which in turn outfished the Good and Poor days (see Figure 2). In some years, the Fair days have produced more fish on average than the Best Days. But both always outfish the Poor and Good days.

If you're using the Anglers Almanac, I'd aim to fish the Fair and Best days where possible. You may catch an average of 1 to 2 fish extra on those days.

The Fish Calendar App

The Fish Calendar App on my iPhone produced the least impressive outcomes (see figure 3).

The Fish Calendar App gives a predicted 'Fishing Efficiency' for each day, ranging from 0% to 100%. There is only some correlation between the predicted 'Fishing Efficiency' and the Poor, Fair, Good and Best days. Accordingly, the App produced slightly different results to Anglers Almanac. In addition, the results have not had the same consistency over the years.

At the moment, there is little difference in the average number of fish caught except on days where 'Fishing Efficiency' was predicted to be 76%-100%. Even then, you are only looking at an average of 0.5 to 1 fish extra on the 76%-100% days.

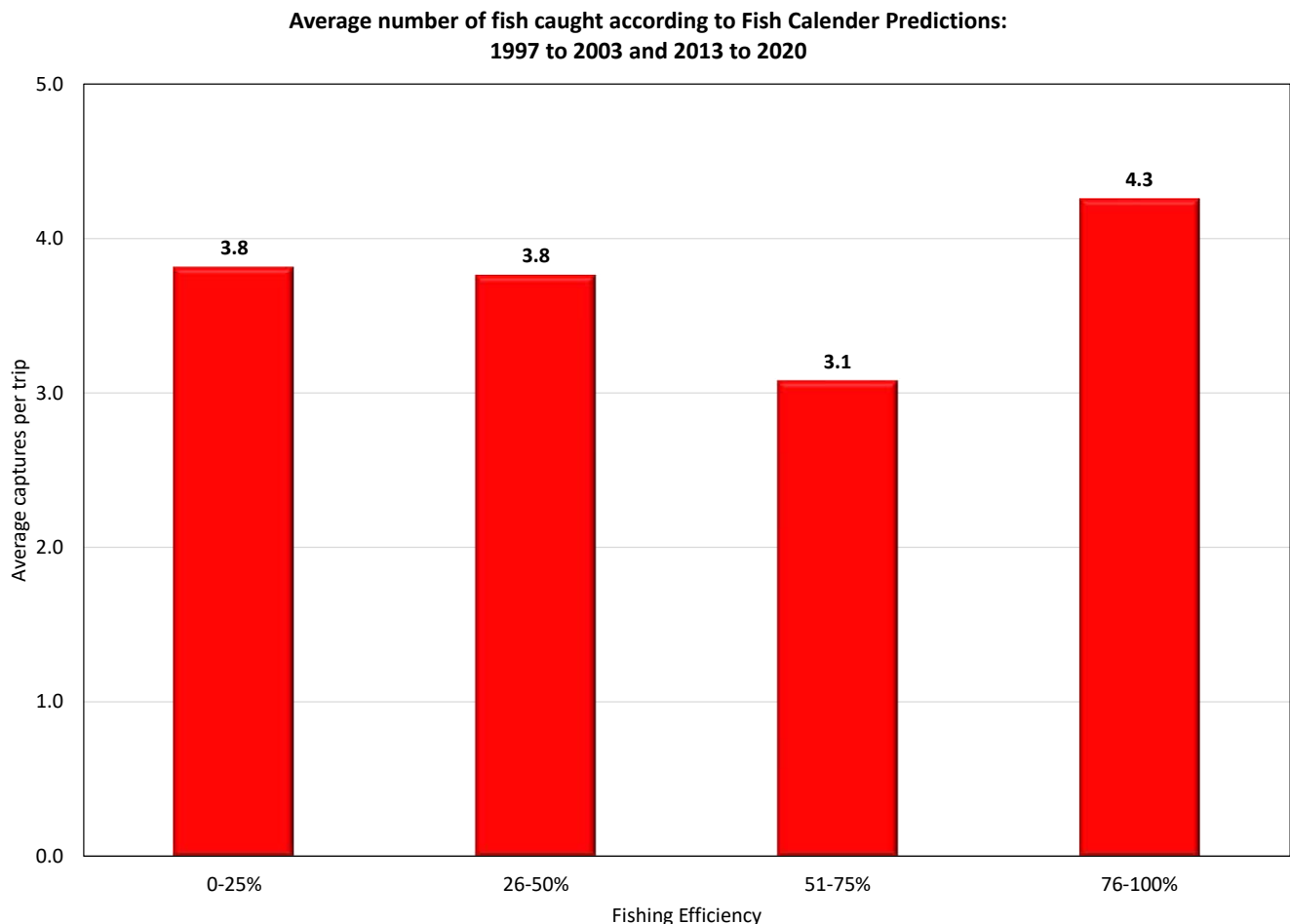


Figure 3: Average fish caught according to the Fish Calendar App's predicted 'Fishing Efficiency (ranging from 0% to 100%).

Major and Minor Feeding Times

Both the Anglers Almanac and Fish Calendar App provide predicted Major and Minor Feeding Periods. The major periods equate to when the Moon is directly above or directly below (hence the title of John Knight's book *Moon up – Moon down*), while the minor periods equate to when the Moon is rising or setting.

When I previously published this article, I had not been able to test the major and minor feeding times. To do so required keeping detailed observations which is simply not possible when fishing in the surf or out in the blue water.

However, the CFC's Total Carp Length Competition in 2020-21 provided an opportunity to test this. I knew my special Carp fishing spot at Lennox Gardens consistently produced enough Carp to blow the competition away. So I fished the same spot for most of the 2020-21 fishing year when chasing Carp, even had my rod holders in the same spot each trip, and only fished corn. This would leave weather, lunar cycle and time of day as the only variables.

Given my style of Carp fishing was to sit back and wait for the bells to ring, I was then free to take detailed observations of each carp rise, bite, strike and capture.

I was not going to get enough captures to analyse the major/minor feeding periods, so I also used Carp rises, bites (or bell rings), dropped fish as proxies for fish feeding activities each hour. I then worked out the average numbers of rises, bites, strikes and captures against those one hour increments.

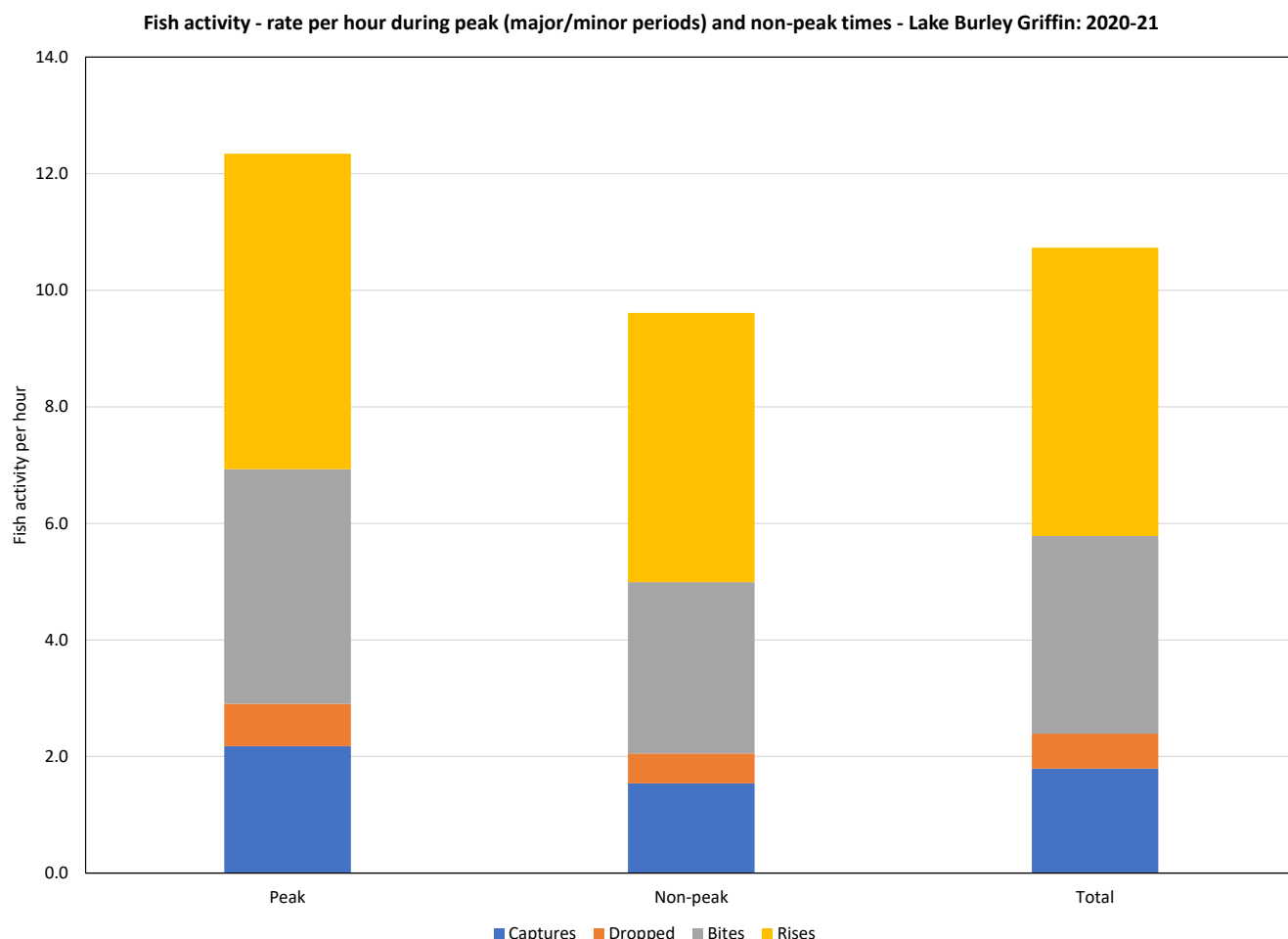


Figure 4: Rates of fish activity for peak (major and minor feeding times) and non-peak periods. Observations of 181 Carp rises, 124 bites, 22 dropped fish and 66 captures over 37 hours of fishing at Lennox Gardens suggest there may be some truth to the Moon up – Moon down theory.

For this exercise, I did not distinguish between major and minor feeding periods as I would struggle to get enough observations to delve into that level of detail. In addition, only nine of my Carp sessions at Lennox Gardens were of sufficient duration to record activity both during and outside of major/minor feeding times.

I recorded 181 Carp rises, 124 bites, 22 dropped fish and 66 captures over 37 hours of fishing at Lennox Gardens. I then plotted this against one hour increments leading up to, during, and after a major or minor feeding period. I then calculated the hourly rate of activity during the major/minor feeding periods (or peak periods) and outside the major/minor feeding periods (or non-peak periods) (figure 4).

I must admit being very surprised by the correlations between fish activity and peak periods. It certainly suggests that there may be some truth to the Moon up – Moon down theory. However, with only 37 hours of fishing over nine trips solely chasing swamp trout, the results are tantalising but more solid hours of drowning corn at Lennox Gardens is needed to put this beyond doubt. Now that I've moved to the Mid-North Coast, I can no longer continue these observations from Lennox Gardens.

Do the Solunar Tables, Anglers Almanacs and Maori Fishing Calendars work?

The answer is maybe. And if they do, I'm unclear how or why they work.

John Alden Knight was convinced that the Solunar Tables work but did not know why. Unfortunately, his book *Moon up – Moon down* did not include details of his fishing records from which we can make our own assessment of Solunar Theory. On the other hand, John

received huge volumes of correspondence from happy anglers recounting their successes with the Solunar Tables. His book is a delightful read and enjoyed numerous reprints (I have a 1972 edition). Anglers continue to purchase the Solunar Tables, and John was inducted into the Fishing Hall of Fame in 1957.

Ben Stevenson concluded that anglers were better off fishing according to the lunar phases than the Maori Fishing Calendar. However, the differences in fishing success according to the lunar phases or Maori Fishing Calendar Predictions were small. Ben Stevenson is now Dr Ben Stevenson and he now lectures statistics at the University of Auckland.

My own analysis of over 1724 fish caught over 454 days is not as sophisticated. It shows a relationship between fishing success and the New Moon, the Fair and Best days according to the Anglers Almanac, and days with 76-100% 'fishing efficiency' according to the Fish Calendar App.

As for the 'major' and 'minor' fish feeding periods, Ben Stevenson was unable to test this, while my own attempts to test this indicate some truth to Moon up – Moon down, more observations are needed to conclusively demonstrate this.

If anyone is interested in finding out more, I will post this article on the website in the near future but with a summary of fishing diary data covering 1997 to 2003 and 2013-2020. I have also summarised the findings of the academic papers I could find on the topic at the end of this article

Finally, the average number of extra fish you might catch if you fish around the New Moon, or on a 'Best' Day, or on a day with 76% to 100% fishing efficiency, is only one to two fish per day compared to the other days. With that in mind, use the lunar cycle, almanac, or the app as a guide but don't be a slave to them when planning your next fishing trip.



One of my better Carp at my special spot at Lennox Gardens.

Academic articles on lunar effect on fish and game

Title	Findings
<p>Promising the moon? Evaluation of Indigenous and lunar fishing calendars using semiparametric generalised mixed models of recreational data (I have a copy if anyone wants to read it)</p> <p>‘Outdoors: Study throws light on moon factor’, New Zealand Herald, 2 October 2011</p> <p>Ben Stevenson also gave an online presentation of his findings (44 mins)</p>	<p>Ben wrote a statistics thesis by analysing data from captures by recreational anglers from two data sets from fishing diary surveys conducted by the New Zealand Ministry of Fisheries during 1 December 1993 to 30 November 1994 and boat ramp surveys conducted from 1990 to 2008.</p> <p>Ben’s analysis demonstrated a relationship between lunar phases and fishing success. In addition, it partially supported the Maori Fishing Calendar’s predictions of ‘Bad’, ‘Fair’ and ‘Good’. Ben’s analysis found that fishing was least successful on the ‘Bad’ days but found the ‘Fair’ days outfished the ‘good’ days.</p> <p>The difference in fishing success were small for both the different lunar phases and for the ‘Bad’, ‘Fair’ and ‘Good’ days under the Maori Fishing Chart.</p>
<p>Effects of lunar cycles on the activity patterns and depth use of a temperate sport fish, the largemouth bass, <i>Micropterus salmoides</i></p>	<p>A study of Large Mouth Bass in Lake Werner, Ontario in October 2004 to November 2005 found that they inhabited deeper waters in the second and third quarter of the lunar cycle. However, there was correlation between the lunar cycle and distances travelled by Large Mouth Bass.</p>
<p>Muskie Lunacy: Does the Lunar Cycle Influence Angler Catch of Muskellunge (<i>Esox masquinongy</i>)?</p>	<p>A study of 341,959 muskie catch records from 1970 through 2013 (which included data on location, date and time of the catch, size of the fish, and more) found that anglers chasing Muskies during the Full Moon or New Moon improve their chances of captures compared with fishing at other times of the lunar cycle.</p> <p>The correlation was stronger with larger Muskies (102 cm and longer) and for fish caught at higher latitudes (48° N).</p>
<p>Do moon phases affect bass fishing?</p>	<p>An analysis of over 450 Bass caught by trophy Bass angler Porter Hall showed captures were evenly distributed between the four quarters of the lunar month. There was a slight increase in captures during Full Moon and First Quarter. The article did not explain how the analysis was conducted.</p>
<p>In-Depth Study Shows Moon Phase Does Not Affect Peak Rut</p>	<p>New Brunswick biologist Rod Cumberland’s study of how the moon phase affects White-Tailed Deer breeding using data over 1997 to 2005. He found no correlation between breeding and the phase of the moon. Instead, for eight of the nine years studied, mating took place during 26-29 November.</p>
<p>Movement with the Moon: White-tailed Deer Activity and Solunar Events</p>	<p>A study of 38 White-Tailed Deer tracked with GPS collars during 2009 to 2011 in Brosnan Forest, South Carolina, found that deer were more active during Full Moon and New Moon, and when the moon was overhead or underfoot.</p>
<p>Effects of lunar cycle and fishing operations on longline-caught pelagic fish: fishing performance, capture time, and survival of fish</p>	<p>Data collected from commercial long liner fishing boats in the Réunion Islands from 1998 to 2000 found that catches of Swordfish increased in the first and last quarter of the lunar month, while Albacore captures increased during Full Moon. Swordfish and Big-Eye Tuna captures were higher at low tide and during periods of weaker lunar illumination.</p>

Final word from the Editor

By Zane Zhao

Hi everyone, I know the lockdown is hitting everyone hard so fishing stories are hard to come by, but I know a lot of people look out for the newsletter just to read those articles, please keep the material coming. Remember there is a \$25 voucher to be won each month for the best article.

This month's winner is **Anthony Heiser** for his Fact or folklore piece that he has been updating with new information every time he goes fishing.

Come on everyone, put your creative minds to work and submit an article, it keeps us connected and eases the pain of no outings for the next couple of months and did I mention there is \$25 Compleat Angler voucher on offer?

Total Length Award species for 2021-22

The Total Length Awards bring on healthy competition from the ranks of the CFC.

For 2021-22, the target species are Bream for the Saltwater section (includes Tarwhine and all species of Bream caught in Australian Territorial Waters but does not include freshwater species such as Bony Bream) and all Salmonid species (which includes Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, Brook Trout, Atlantic Salmon and Chinook Salmon).

The new target species applies from 1 July 2021.

Happy Hunting!

The target species for the 2021-22 fishing year are:

Saltwater section: Bream



Freshwater section: Salmonid



September 2021 Photo Competition

To everyone who submitted entries for the September photo comp, Thank you. The winner for September was a close call between Catfish vs Bream and the winner had to be the catfish for being the most handsome one out of the lot. 😊

You can find the winners for this year's photo comp at [2021-22](#) on our website.

- Members can submit up to two photos per month.
- Photo comp entries can be submitted via the website, the Club email address (info@canberrafishos.com).
- Acceptance of photo comp entries submitted by other means is at my discretion – please don't make it too hard for me to access your photo comp entries.
- The photo must either be taken by the member submitting the photo or a photo of the member holding their capture.
- Minor image corrections and cropping is allowed provided this does not lead to misleading or fraudulent alteration or manipulation of the photo.
- The Committee reserves the right to exclude any entries it suspects has been subject to misleading or fraudulent alteration or manipulation.

List of photo comp winners and recipients of Editor's Choice for best newsletter contributions:

We've been a little behind on the awarding of vouchers for the monthly photo competition and best newsletter contributions. To make sure we don't lose track of all the winners, I'll keep a running list of the winners in the Newsletter.

Month	Photo comp winner		Editor's choice for best newsletter contribution	
	Name	Voucher awarded	Name	Voucher awarded
July 2020	Janine Noack		Tom Harrington	13 October 2020
October 2020	Stephen Bailey	8 December 2020	Lindsay Steele	
November 2020	Paul Breeze		Not awarded	N/A
December 2020	Jon Vogel	8 December 2020	Not awarded	N/A
January 2021	Chris Head		Not awarded	N/A
February 2021	Brian Stacy		Chris Lemmon	TBC
March 2021	Andrew Butt		Not awarded	N/A
April 2021	Not awarded		Anthony Heiser	
May 2021	Jon Vogel		Anthony Heiser	
June 2021	Chris Lemmon		Not awarded	
July 2021	Anthony Heiser		Jon Vogel	
August 2021	Jon Vogel		Anthony Heiser	
September 2021	Anthony		Anthony Heiser	

September 2021 Photo Comp



Anthony Heiser - Clarence River Cattie



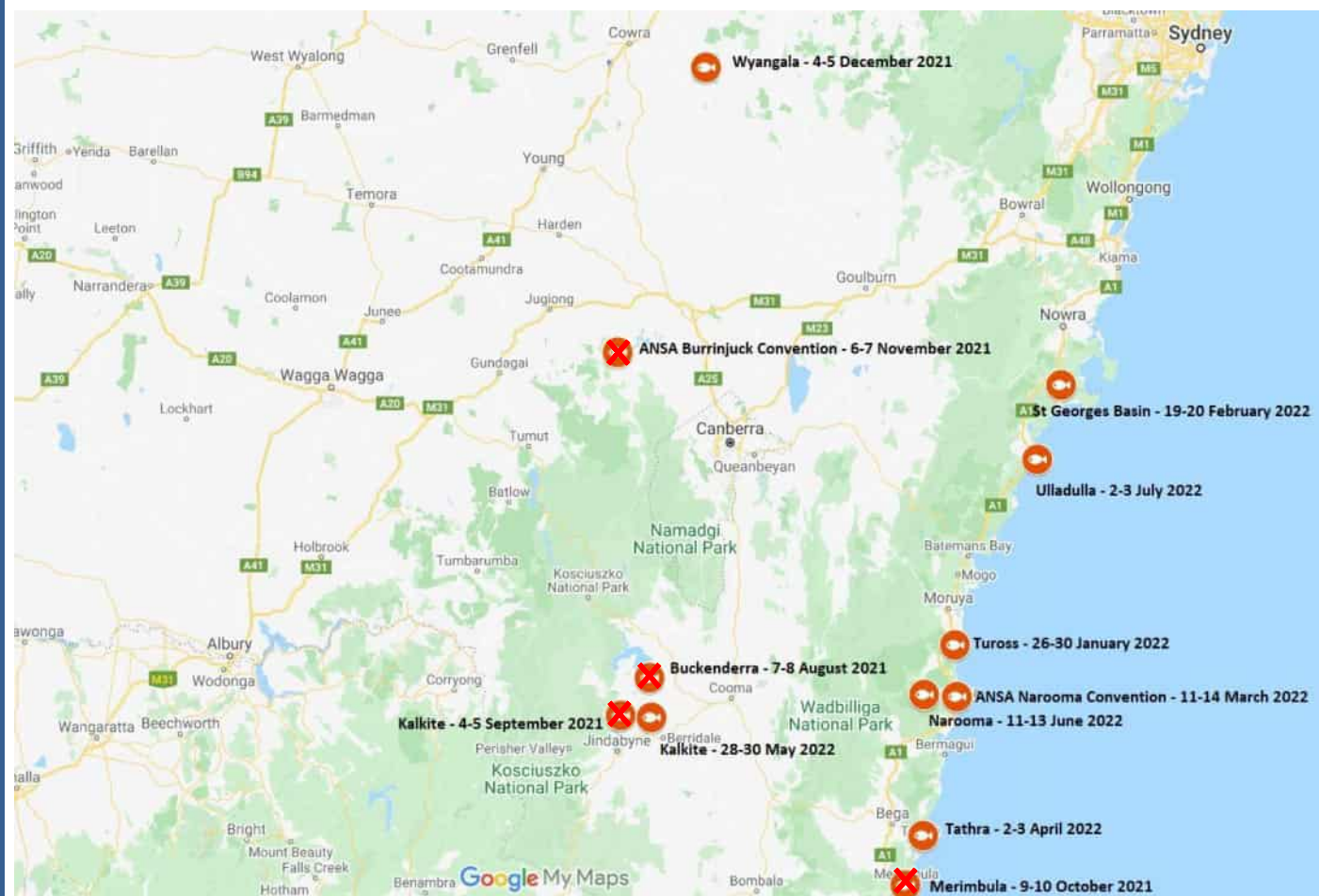
Anthony Heiser - Moonee Beach Bream

Winner of the September 2021 Photo Competition



Anthony Heiser - Clarence River Cattie

2021-22 Club Outings & Meeting Calendar



Outing Date	Outing	Meetings
10-11 July 2021	Ulladulla	13 July 2021
7-8 August 2021	Buckenderra	Cancelled
4-5 September 2021	Cancelled due to COVID	Cancelled
9-10 October 2021	Cancelled due to COVID	Cancelled
6-7 November 2021	Burrinjuck Convention (Postponed till 2022)	9 November 2021
4-5 December 2021	Wyangala	14 December 2021
26-30 January 2022	Tuross	11 January 2022
19-20 February 2022	St Georges Basin	8 February 2022
11-14 March 2022	Narooma	8 March 2022
2-3 April 2022	Tathra	12 April 2022
28-30 May 2022	Kalkite	10 May 2022
11-13 June 2022	Narooma	14 June 2022
2-3 July 2022	Ulladulla	12 July 2022

CFC Office Bearers 2020-21

PRESIDENTpresident@canberrafishos.com**Bonnita Allen****0411 332 240****VICE PRESIDENT****Glen Malam****0417 455 878****SECRETARY**secretary@canberrafishos.com**Zane Zhao****0411 668 083****ASSISTANT SECRETARY****Sarah Borman****0439 601 097****TREASURER**treasurer@canberrafishos.com**Anthony Heiser****0402 560 880****RECORDER/TAGGING OFFICER**recorder@canberrafishos.com**Glen Malam****0417 455 878****BURRINJUCK CHAIR****Anthony Heiser****0402 560 880****OUTING LIAISON OFFICER****Glen Malam****0417 455 878****PUBLIC OFFICER****Zane Zhao****0411 668 083****SPONSORSHIP OFFICER****Mel Marlborough****WEBMASTER****Lindsay Steele****SAFETY OFFICER****Bonnita Allen**

Membership & Contact Information

Membership Fees

	CFC	ANSA
Junior	\$5	Nil
Senior	\$20	Nil
Family	\$30	Nil

All Correspondence to

CFC Secretary
PO Box 325
Civic Square, ACT 2608

Articles for inclusion in the
CFC Newsletter to be
Forwarded to the Editor

CFC Life Members**Mike Penkethman****Alan Matthews****Brian Ray****Laurie Nolen****Jamie Stanfield****Chris De La Rue**