

AUSTRALIAN ANGLERS ASSOCIATION BIENNIAL NATIONAL ANGLING CHAMPIONSHIPS AND CONVENTIONS HISTORY

In 1948, a group of amateur anglers from New South Wales and Victoria met in Newcastle and discussed the benefits of an Australia wide association of anglers. As a result of those discussions, a formal meeting was held in November 1949 by representatives from New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, at which time it was decided to establish the Australian Anglers Association.

On the same weekend, the attending State representatives managed to hold a fishing competition of a few hours duration. Since that time, South Australia, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory have joined the Association.

From those few hours of friendly competition in 1949 has grown the present format of the National Championships for both State Teams and Individuals.

Previous Queensland Carnivals

- 1953 Coolangatta
- 1959 Coolangatta
- 1967 Noosa Heads - Tewantin
- 1977 Caloundra
- 1987 Gold Coast
- 1997 Rainbow Beach
- 2005 Yeppoon

In 2013, the Queensland Amateur Fishing Clubs Association Inc, which is the Queensland Division of the Australian Anglers Association, is planning to conduct the 33 rd National Angling Championships and Convention and we are currently considering the Discovery Coast or the Sunshine Coast.

A LITTLE ABOUT THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Duration: - At present, the Carnival is spread over a 16 to 19 day period which includes 11 days of competition plus numerous social events.

Who will Attend - The Championships are open to all financial members of angling clubs affiliated with their respective State Associations. A contingent of New Zealand anglers will also be invited to attend.

Attendance: - At the 1987 Gold Coast Carnival, there were 550 participants. In 1997, we had 350, and in 2005 there were 250 competitors and social participants. The numbers have remained fairly stable since 2005 and we anticipate similar numbers participating in 2013.

Championship Events: - Team and Individual Championships are conducted in three different fishing categories - Offshore, Estuary and Rock and Beach. There are three rounds of competition in each of the fishing categories. Weigh-ins are held immediately after each round. Team and Individual Championships are also conducted in Dry Casting. There are two days of dry casting competition.

Official Functions: - A Civic Reception is held before the start of the carnival. Invited guests include the Shire Mayor and Councilors, the Local MLA, the State Presidents and Captains from each state and representatives of the Championship's major sponsors. Later that day, the Official Opening and Flag Raising is held.

Meetings: - The Australian Anglers Association conducts two important Meetings during the carnival, the Executive Meeting for State Delegates, and the Convention Meeting, open to all members. The last official function, held on the last night of the carnival, is the Presentation Dinner at which all the major trophies are presented to the respective Champion State Teams and Individuals.

Social Functions: - During the carnival, numerous social functions are held. These include a Welcome Night and various other functions such as Victorian night, a dance or a trivia night. Normally, several Lay Days are scheduled during the carnival and most competitors use these to go sight seeing and visit the local tourist attractions. Bus trips to local places of interest are organized for those visitors who are not that heavily involved in the fishing.

OTHER INFORMATION

It is usual for the Australian Anglers Association to hold its Mid Term Meeting in the same area where the next National Angling Championship is scheduled to be held. Therefore the 2012 Mid Term Meeting will be held in the area selected. At this meeting, the visiting interstate delegates will be updated on the planning for the carnival and shown all the facilities and venues to be used for the 2013 National Angling Championships.

In 2012, we would also conduct one round of each of the championship events, over a one week period, as the Queensland Amateur Fishing Clubs Association inc championships for that year. This allows the Queensland anglers to get the "feel of the place" before 2013.

PLANNING PROCESS

The first and biggest problem is being able to get to the right people to talk to regarding requirements for this event.

Headquarters needs to be the hub of all activities – where weigh-ins occur, where all social functions are situated, where non-fisher folk can gather for activities and generally be a meeting place for all to have a drink and a meal.

Civic Reception is usually conducted by the local council with the Mayor officiating, duration usually one to one and a half hours.

Opening Ceremony and flag raising –10 flags poles need to be erected in an area adjacent to headquarters. Most states have a local politician to open their event. A social evening follows with members being served finger food.

Casting Ground appears to be the biggest problem! We need a flat area of ground, such as a sporting complex, that is a minimum of 220 metres long by 300 to 400 metres wide. Council may be of assistance.

WHERE TO FROM HERE? A submission needs to be prepared for presentation to the 2011 QAFCA AGM to be held on **12 March**, that will give an outline of a proposal of where and why we intend holding these titles in that area.

July 2011 – A full proposal for these titles needs to be presented to the National Championships to be held at South West Rocks. This should included a promotional video of the area, 250 sample bags containing information that promotes the area, as well as Fisheries regulations, Boating Regulations and information regarding the titles.

PROMOTION: - We need assistance from the local Tourist Corporation

- Promotional Video
- Tours
- Charter boats
- Hire boats
- Accommodation
- Dining out

John Crone O A M
President Queensland Amateur Fishing Clubs' Association inc