



Report on the annual AAA State Boat Angling Championships run on Saturday the 18th March 2017

On the Friday night at the Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Club (MOFSC), the meals and refreshments were provided, for all members of the AAAWA teams, and this was appreciated, I am sure it was beneficial to everyone, although there were a lot that looked a little "tired" the next morning!

The competition was run with Southerly Winds between 15 to 18 knots, with Southerly Easterly by noon, with the risk of showers, those showers where already there at 0500hrs, but with clearing showers!!.

A bit wet but, fishable, however the boys and girls who went out, indicated it was pretty hard work!

The MOFSC team provided the heart starters for the day, by having coffee with Bacon and Egg burgers at the Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Club BBQ area, all certainly welcomed the food, including those that were all hyped up for the event and had trouble sleeping the night before, this certainly was appreciative also by the AAAWA in knowing how difficult this event has been to coordinate and ensuring that all the club groups benefit from everyone's hard work, including Jade Butson the Admin girl who could not do enough for us.

The sign on team once again did a great job, and thanks to all that jumped in and helped (again), some that are always there is Justine Coleman (QRFC), Carmel and Alan Langdon (ORSSC), Richard Siudak (AAA National Records Chairman and AAAWA Treasurer/Secretary), Henry Boogaard Chairman of the boating Subcommittee, Ken Jackson from the MAAC stayed all day assisting, thank you.

The guys and Gals from Mandurah Volunteer Marine Rescue were ready for the influx of vessels, but this did not happen!

Most of the teams tried to get smaller fish earlier on and most had a hard time even getting whiting, so most spent a fair bit of time trying to get a lot of smaller species, then they headed out to try their luck on the larger fish.

The clubs that worked together did really well, by calling one another over when they were on to the fish, and this is what is great about this competition, it is not an individual based competition it is team based, and is a pleasure to see the results, and camaraderie.

The wind did play a big part in the fishing, because it was a difficult day, knowing some could not get to their favourite grounds, but all that does is make the competition fairer by making everyone work harder at working in areas and go back to basics

Whilst competitors were "out there" in there favourite spots, Carmel and Alan Langdon (ORSSC), with, Richard Siudak (AAA), set up the presentation area and the weigh in area was set up by a band of non-fishers on the day, the MAAC boys, with Henry Boogaard, and the AAAWA executives, and it looked magnificent, again!

At closing time for the bags (3.30pm) most boats had either got their boats on their trailers or were waiting to, and then Jim Booker Field Day Officer (MOFSC), ensured that the door was shut at exactly 1530hrs, whilst Carmel, Alan and Richard continued taking in the skippers safety discs, this was to ensure that all were safely back on land, there was only 90 competitors and 38 boats that participated, only 59 of those actually weighed in, so it goes to show how difficult a day it was, and most made the comment that it was good to be back on land!

The weigh in commenced at 4.30pm, in the weigh in area of the MOFSC headquarters, all the sponsors signage and flags made for a great spectacle.

The MC for the weigh in was yours truly, Hopefully I provided a running commentary, with a great deal of good humour and light hearted banter, ensuring that all competitors patronised the many advertisers and sponsors of the event, as well as trying to get the competitors to give skeletons etc to the Fisheries Research team, this all made for a very quick weigh in!

Unfortunately, there was a repeat of the last time that we fished from Mandurah of a Salmon Trout mistaken as a Herring, and a Scaly Mackerel bought to the scales, I know we diligently asked every competitor to ensure they knew the list of species, and also asked every competitor before they put the fish in the Fish Coolroom, if they wanted us to view their fish, or bag to confirm if all was good.

The weigh in went extremely well again we would be lost without those assisting on the day, and it was great how the MOFC team jumped in and did well considering they were "dropped in" at the last minute, whilst our ever efficient competition officer Terry Bell (ORSSC) and Carmel Langdon (ORSSC) completed the collation, thank you.

Whilst this was happening Alan Langdon (ORSSC) and Bevan Johns (ORFC) were busy selling tickets to the Raffles, and made approx. \$800.00 for the event, with Dieter Kober (MAAC) who won the esky, Custom Rod and gear valued at \$700.00, and second prize to Patrick Dirk valued at \$530.00, Third Prize to Ken Dunwoodie valued at \$400.00, with a Fourth Prize voucher to Jack Spencely valued at \$300.00, these were presented to them by MC at the presentation Henry Boogaard, Early nomination prize went to Gavin Castiglioni (MAAC) Valued at \$600.00, and Junior Nomination prize went to Curran Lipscombe (QRFC) valued at \$265.00.

The presentation was MC'd by Henry Boogaard from (QRFC), and then handed over to our ORSSC member and Competition Officer in Terry Bell, who did not fish, had wished he had of, but once he seen the results was happier, and with the banter as always between "rival" clubs, made for an excellent evening, with Carmel Langdon & Chairman of the Boating Sub Committee Henry Boogaard, presenting all the Trophies and Prizes, whilst this was happening, numerous meals and refreshments were provided by the MOFSC, for this we were all appreciative, thank you.

Congratulations to all winners, your patience and hard work has certainly paid dividends and all us losers, thank you for participating, and NEXT year you're all on again.

To the **Overall winner and Men's winner** Glenn Hillary MAAC 152.2 points & 8 species, Ladies winner Ruby McGrady HYC 16.8 points, Veterans, Robert Weir MAAC with 73.7 points and Habitual junior winner Mitch Hillary, who will be fishing in the Men's event next year, I bet the juniors are happy, but not sure about the seniors!

Guy Little QRFC won the species being a King George Whiting @ 63.85% closest to the state record, a great prize from All Boat. Brian Edwards from MOFSC won the Skippers Participation Price of a Voucher from Club Marine insurance.

To the Patron Cup winners Marmion Angling and Aquatic Club participants congratulations again, well done.

To all other teams from MDSSC, HYC, QRFC, ORSSC, MOFSC including the MAAC, thank you all for participating.