

Minutes of AAA Delegates' Meeting 19 December 2006 @ 1950hrs (7.50pm)

Pat Shinnick ran the meeting, with assistance from Nick Allsworth, (a "warts and all" report follows).

Please note that the report regarding the AAA and issues surrounding the past events will no longer be reported on after this meeting.

Any correspondence regarding the issues will need to be done at an executive level, and bad reports will not be tolerated.

We SHALL get on with the positive running of the AAWA branch.

Present: Nick Allsworth, Northern Districts AC, Terry Fuller, Surf Casting and Angling Club, Jim Strong, Denmark Angling Club, Joe Horvath Offshore AC Beach, Martin Humbert, Offshore AC Mt Barker, Don Cox, Melville Amateur AC, Pat Shinnick, Boating Sub Committee, Bob Henderson, Surf Casting and Angling Club, George Holman, visitor, Stuart Hyde, Fremantle Amateur Angling Club.

Apologies:

Rick Cameron, Offshore AC South Coastal, Paul Frzop, John Ward.

Notification of Proxies:

None.

Minutes of Previous Delegates' Meeting

Minutes had been prepared by Pat Shinnick.

Moved Jim Strong **Seconded** Joe Horvath that the minutes of the previous meeting are true.

Carried.

Business Arising from Minutes.

Terry Fuller clarified the position with the photocopier:- that the lease has been completed and if this photocopier is returned, then it cannot be obtained back, but some other arrangements would need to be made. Delegates confirmed that the photocopier should be returned to the supplier.

Correspondence Inwards.

Pat Shinnick has cleared the post office box and read the list.

By Post	In From	Subject		
Recfishwest		Seasons Greetings		
Dept of Plan & Infrastructure		Expired Lic 1TGK150		
Dept of Plan & Infrastructure		Rego Tag for 1TGK150		
Anz 6-12-06		Sports Star Awards		
Dept of Consumer and Employ Protection 13-12-06		Review of Associations Incorporations Act 1987		
Gwarda Sportswear		Statement for \$869.00		
United Oil WA PTY		Offer of Sponsorship for AAA StateBoat Championships		
Ricoh		Invoice for \$60.21		
Ricoh		Inv for \$527.64		
Directory of Australian Associations		Entry of booklet		
South Coast Offshore Angling		Affiliation fees		

Club			
Graham S Knight & Assoc	Insurance Renewal \$417.00		
Surfcasting and Angling Club	Reeltalk		
Graham S Knight & Assoc	Insurance STATEMENT \$417.00		
Westpac	Reconciliation Statement General Acc \$15168.14		
Westpac	Reconciliation Statement Carnival Acc \$2557.05		
MAAC	Newsletter		
HYC	Newsletter		
Who's Who in Australia	Nomination Form		
AAARA	State and National Records		
Telstra Overdue	Overdue Phone Bill \$69.26		
Outgoing Correspondence.			
Posted	Out To:-	Subject	
None			

Moved Jim Strong seconded Don Cox that inwards and outwards correspondence be accepted –carried.

Treasurers Report.

Pat Shinnick had met with Paul Frzop and obtained the accounts which needed to be paid.

Accounts for payment are:-

Pay to	For	Amount \$	Paid
Gwarda	Sports Track Suits (from Carnival Account)	308.00	
Ricoh	Photocopier	175.88	
Telstra	Account	17.89	
George Holman	Sundries, postage	89.00	
John Ward	State Estuary prizes	250.00	
Don Cox	State Estuary sundries	???	
Telstra Overdue	Overdue Phone Bill	\$69.26	
Graham S Knight & Assoc	Insurance	\$417.00	
Ricoh	Invoice for	\$60.21	
Ricoh	Inv for Includes overdue	\$527.64	
Don Cox	Incidentals	\$36.00	
Trophy Choice	Estuary State Championship Trophy's	\$418.75	
Troy Park Association	Hall Hire	\$160.00	
John Ward	AAA Prizes	\$50.00	
Scott Rolls	Food on day	\$63.05	

Bank Account Balances.

General Account Westpac Bank	\$15168.14
Carnival Account Westpac Bank	\$2,557.05

Inwards	For	Amount
South Coast Offshore Angling Club	Affiliation	\$60.00

Business Arising from Treasurer's Report.

Need to ensure payments are made

Moved seconded that Treasurer's report be accepted and accounts be passed for payment – carried.

Estuary, Rock and Beach Report

Don Cox reported on the State Estuary competition in late November. The results are on the AAA portable computer which is held by Terry Bell. Terry to be contacted to obtain a printed copy of the results.

Boating Report.

Booklet will be completed by Sub Committee and in print by end of January.

All on track

Dry Casting Report.

As reported in the minutes of the November meeting, some of the scores for the October dry casting day were not inputted into the computer correctly. The AAA portable computer and the handwritten results have been provided to Terry Bell for correction. Up to the time of the December Delegates meeting, corrected printed results have not been provided.

Bob thanked all those that assisted on the day.

Kevin has all the finances of the day and needs to report to the delegates meeting.

Joe Horvath was asked to organise medallions for all the club winning team, he will be reimbursed at the next delegates meeting.

National Championships.

Bob Henderson reported on the recent meeting of the Dry Casting subcommittee at which many of the arrangements for the National Championships to be held in Philip Island from Feb 23rd to 8th March 2007 were finalised. There were more people intending to go than there are places in some of the teams, which are made up of a maximum of 7 for the men's and 4 for the veterans, ladies and juniors teams.

As a result of recent activities in the dry casting, the people involved in the dry casting at the national championships have selected their teams based on merit as specified in the rule passed recently.

Unsuccessful people have been advised by letter and requested to advise what they intend to do now that they have not been selected for the teams.

Notices of Motion.

At the November meeting Terry Fuller had given written notice of two separate motions on behalf of the Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.) to amend the AAAWA Constitution, the version as shown on the AAA WA website at <http://www.aaawa.iinet.net.au/DraftAAACConstitution.html>

Motion 1. Amend section 38 from "38. The presence of twelve delegates representing no less than four Affiliated Associations and including either the President or Vice-President or General Secretary shall constitute a quorum."

to read:- "38. *The presence of eight delegates representing no less than four Affiliated Associations and including either the President or Vice-President or General Secretary shall constitute a quorum.*"

End of Motion 1. (Section 38 refers to the monthly Delegates meetings.)

Motion 2. Amend section 20. from "The presence of twelve delegates representing no less than six Affiliated Associations and including either the President or Vice President or the General Secretary shall constitute a quorum at the Annual Delegates Council meeting."

to read:- "20. The presence of eight delegates representing no less than four Affiliated Associations and including either the President or Vice President or the General Secretary shall constitute a quorum at the Annual Delegates Council meeting."

End of Motion 2. (Section 20 refers to the Annual General Meetings.)

The motions were seconded by Jim Strong at the November meeting.

Discussed: As usual, there was discussion on the motions at the meeting following the giving of notice. Terry Fuller explained:- As many delegates know, the Australian Anglers Association has had low attendance at its meetings for many months over the last few years. This means that there has not been a quorum present to make it possible for the Association to legally carry out its business, including making rules and paying bills.

One way to resolve this situation is to make two changes to the Constitution, one to reduce the number of delegates and clubs needed to form a quorum at the Delegates Meeting, so that it is much more likely that a quorum will be present at most meetings. The other change is to the numbers required for a quorum at the Annual General Meeting. At least one AGM has had to be rescheduled in recent years because of the lack of a quorum.

Although these reductions in numbers may seem undesirable, the reality is that not enough delegates and clubs attend to form a quorum at present, and this is extremely unlikely to change in the future.

Joe Horvath suggested that the number of clubs should be an uneven number to guarantee a result for any vote. Terry Fuller pointed out that there was no proposal to change the number of clubs required for a quorum for the monthly Delegates Meetings, and that the current numbers are even numbers. Also that some clubs provided more than one delegate, so that what was really important was the number of delegates. These motions cover the minimum number of delegates required to form a quorum, but hopefully there would be more than the minimum present, and there was always a 50-50 chance that the number of people or clubs actually present would be an even number.

There were some questions about the current constitution and the requirements for changes to it, for example, was a special meeting required and the number of delegates and clubs present. For information, here are extracts from the current constitution.

ALTERATION OF RULES 77. Subject to compliance with the following rules and notwithstanding anything to the contrary appearing therein these Rules and any By-laws of The Association may be altered at any Delegates Council Meeting.

78. The Rules or By-laws of The Association shall not be altered at a Delegates Council meeting unless:

(a) A notice of the motion to alter the Rule or Bylaws was lodged with the General Secretary of The Association prior to or in the course of the meeting at which the said notice of motion is to be read and provided that at least two months must lapse after such motion has been read before the said notice of motion can be moved.

(b) Such notice of motion shall set out in full the Rule which it is proposed to alter and shall set out in full the proposed alteration.

(c) The motion proposing the alteration is passed by a majority of not less than 2/3 of Delegates then present and entitled to vote, such majority to consist of Delegates representing not less than 6 Affiliated Associations.

After some discussion, it was agreed that changes such as proposed were essential to allow the Association to continue functioning.

Clubs are reminded that a vote will be taken on these motions at the January Delegates Meeting, and that although 12 delegates and four clubs as listed above will be required as a quorum, 6 clubs must be present and a vote of 2/3 of the delegates will be required to pass these Constitution changes – see Rule 78(c).

Recfishwest Report.

Here are some notes about recent activities by Recfishwest

Capes Marine Park. Submissions on the draft management plan closed on 15 December. See <http://www.recfishwest.org.au/SubCapesDec2006.htm> for Recfishwest's comments on the plan.

Close examination of the draft management plan showed some errors which will cause real problems for the public consultation. Considering the time this plan has been in preparation, and the number of people who have considered and approved this draft for release for public comment, the presence of those errors show a disturbing lack of attention to detail and fuzzy thinking about the risks and social values of those activities and areas.

The two options for the Busselton jetty were mixed up, with option 1 in the diagram being described under the heading option 2 in the text, and vice versa. These mistakes fatally damage the public consultation. It means that any indicated preference which merely states 'option 1' or 'option 2' can not be relied upon, and must not be used in any summary or analysis of preferences unless the submission clearly indicates which actual option, the current FHPA or the entire end of the jetty, is preferred. DEC must ensure that this approach is used and seen to be used.

Cape Naturaliste Sanctuary Zone Option 2 was the primary choice developed through the Advisory Committee process and RFW have concerns that it has been presented in the Management Plan only as an alternative option to that described in the main chart, giving the perception that it is actually the 2nd option. This is disappointing, because the more suitable option 2 was actually developed through extensive discussion by the Advisory Committee.

Several inconsistencies appear in the permitted usages table on page 20. This shows fuzzy thinking about the purposes of shorebased fishing zones and what activities should not be allowed there.

There is no text justification provided in the Management Plan for the proposed Central Geographe Bay Sanctuary Zone.

There is confusion regarding the Lefthanders Special Purpose (surfing) Zone and what it actually refers to. Is this the Ellensbrook Zone? It seems the name was changed during the process but this was not done throughout the document.

Swan and Canning River Plans. Recfishwest has written a letter congratulating Environment Minister Mark McGowan on additional funding for the Swan and Canning River initiatives and environmental programs announced on 4 December. See <http://www.swanrivertrust.wa.gov.au/healthyivers>

It was particularly pleasing to see a large number of the issues which RFW have raised with the Minister and the Swan River Trust being directly addressed as part of this new funding. Work on cobbler, Western school prawns and a River Guardians program are especially commendable.

Recfishwest has been working closely with the Department of Fisheries and Murdoch University on ecological issues associated with the Swan and Canning Rivers and will continue to assist them and the Swan River Trust wherever possible.

Recfishwest said it finds it somewhat ironic that the TV media outlets were not interested in a public statement from RFW on the announcement when we made it clear that RFW would be praising these initiatives. "Somewhat ironic"? Far too kind. The TV media seemed only interested in controversy, either real or trumped up, so positive stuff didn't get reported.

Submarine cable fishing exclusion zone. Recfishwest is a member of the group working on the details of the exclusion zone around the optic fibre submarine cable which goes northwest from City Beach. There has been a lot of work done gathering information in opposition to the proposal to declare a one nautical mile exclusion zone each side of the cable route.

Federal Fisheries Minister Senator Abetz has written to the Federal Communications Minister on behalf of both recreational and commercial fishermen, and asked for proper risk assessment before deciding on exclusions.

Details http://www.acma.gov.au/ACMAINTER.1638528:STANDARD::pc=PC_100876 It is essential that boating clubs and boating fishermen who might be affected by these proposed closures put in a submission.

Cockburn Sound Crab Fishery Closure. The Cockburn Sound blue swimmer crab fishery has been closed to both commercial and recreational fishermen for one year from 15 December. See <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/pub/CockburnCrabClosure/index.php?0000> The Department of Fisheries and the Minister have publicly stated that the cause is environmental changes or conditions leading to poor recruitment.

The State of the Fisheries report clearly shows that the changeover from nets to crab pots in the mid-1990s led to large increase in the commercial catch to 347 tonnes at the peak, and also allowed catches over a much longer period. The commercial catch has crashed to a mere 40 tonnes in 2006. Recfishwest concern is that (mainly commercial) catches of female crabs before they have had a chance to spawn is also a factor in the poor recruitment. Recreational catches average only around 18 tonnes a year, and between **94% and 98.7%** of the recreational crab catches taken in Cockburn Sound are **male**.

Recfishwest has written to the Department of Fisheries and has received a briefing. Recfishwest has proposed considerable changes in management when the fishery reopens. There is also concern that the situation in Cockburn Sound has lessons for the Mandurah crab fishery, and that changes and required there urgently. RFW letter is at http://www.recfishwest.org.au/SubC_SoundCrabClosureLetter.htm

Exmouth Gulf Salt Works. Western Australians have been urged to oppose plans to build one of the world's largest artificial salt mines in an environmentally sensitive area of the State's North-West.

Public comment is being formally sought on a mining company's plan to build one of the World's largest salt mines along the Exmouth Gulf. The huge salt project would cover a massive area across the entire environmentally sensitive Yannarie wetland system on the eastern side of the Exmouth Gulf.

The company, Straits Resources Pty Ltd, was instructed by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to develop an Environmental Review Management Plan (ERMP). The document was released for a limited 12-week public comment period after which the EPA will make its final recommendations to the State Government.

The Conservation Council of Western Australia has joined forces for the first time in a unique alliance with peak commercial and recreational fishing groups to oppose the project. "The impacts of the proposal, which is of a size previously unheard of in Western Australia, represents a change on an ecosystem scale and would be environmentally catastrophic," CCW's Mr Tallentire said.

The Halt the Salt Alliance www.haltthesalt.org.au will be making a detailed submission to the EPA along with many other community and industry based organisations that share its concerns about the potential impact of the mine on the environment.

The Conservation Council's concerns have been backed by the MG Kailis Group, one of the largest commercial fishing operations and employers in the Exmouth region, and Recfishwest, the State's peak body representing the interests of recreational fishers.

Meeting with the Fishing Media. Recfishwest held a breakfast meeting on 6 December at which media people associated with fishing publications were briefed on current activities by Recfishwest and issues with recreational fishing, supported by handouts of documentation. Comments from the media people were positive.

Review of the Fish Resources Management Act. Fisheries Minister Jon Ford has announced that a ministerial review committee will hold meetings across Western Australia to seek feedback on its draft

report of proposed amendments to the Fish Resources Management Act (FRMA). Some meetings have already been held in the country. The committee would hold further meetings in Karratha, Carnarvon, Geraldton, Bunbury, and Perth in January, but the dates have not yet been announced. For more details see <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/media/index.php?0000&mr=415>

There were 35 submissions to the initial Department of Fisheries discussion paper, which have been considered and used in the development of the committee's draft report. An initial look at the draft report shows that many of Recfishwest's points made in its submission to that earlier stage, on the Recfishwest website at <http://www.recfishwest.org.au/SubAmendmtsFRMA1994Jul02006.htm> , have been included in the draft.

Wilson Inlet Pink Snapper Size Limit. The size limit for pink snapper state-wide is 41cm, except in Wilson Inlet where it is 28cm. During the South Coast recreational fishing review, there was strong support to change this to 41cm, however the Minister would not allow the change. Commercial interests were a factor, as shown by the article on page 20 of the Pro West magazine, November/December 2005, which reported as follows:-

Quote *"The State Government has recently released Fisheries Management Paper 194, 'A Five-Year Management Strategy for Recreational Fishing on the South Coast of WA'. As a result of this paper some size limit changes have been introduced which apply to the commercial sector as well as the recreational sector.*

WAFIC made a submission to the Department of Fisheries on the proposed limits in 2004 based on comments received from South Coast commercial fishermen. In response to that submission, the Minister for Fisheries has agreed not to increase size limits for pink snapper (Wilson Inlet), mulloway and blue groper because of the impact it would have on commercial net fisheries." End quote

Recently a community group on the South Coast collected about 1500 signatures on a petition calling for the minimum size for pink snapper to be uniform State wide to avoid the confusion and compliance problems caused by different size limits in different places, and as a conservation measure. Despite this significant community support, the Minister has indicated that this petition is not in the format which can be presented to Parliament and has declined to act on the petition.

Report prepared by Terry Fuller, Recfishwest Board Member for Australian Anglers Association.

Business Arising from RFW Report.

Terry Fuller answered several questions about the topics listed above. Most were just giving some more detail or explaining background.

Stop Press - 2 items since the Delegates Meeting

Outcomes of the Commercial Wetline Fishing Review. The Minister for Fisheries, Hon Jon Ford, released his proposed decisions for the future management of the West Coast and Gascoyne commercial 'wetline' fisheries the day after the AAA Delegates meeting. Details are at <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/mp/mp221/index.php?0206>

The foreword says:- "This document details my proposed decisions regarding the new management arrangements for the West Coast and Gascoyne commercial "wetline" fisheries. Before finalising my position on the new management arrangements for these fisheries I invite any final comments on the proposed arrangements set out in this document. Although specific issues have been identified, your views are sought on any or all of the matters in the document of significance to you and/or your group. Your written comments would be appreciated by Wednesday, 28 February 2007"

One hot topic from the earlier drafts was the "recreational" take of finfish by commercial fishers who do not get a licence to wetline fish, eg people who have Western Rock Lobster licences or other commercial fishing licences. The proposed arrangements are:-

Page 7, Section 2.5 Personal Consumption Limits. Commercial fishers operating in other commercial fisheries, but without any access to the West Coast Demersal Scalefish Fishery, West Coast Inshore Beach Net Fishery, Gascoyne Demersal Scalefish Fishery, or Gascoyne Inshore Net Fishery will be entitled to take a limited amount of scalefish for personal consumption (i.e. they will not be permitted to sell their personal consumption catch of scalefish). The personal consumption limit will initially be set to allow each person fishing in accordance with this arrangement to take fish for personal consumption up to the following limits and subject to the following requirements (including the boat limits noted below):

- one fish of any species of category 1 fish relevant to that bioregion;
- the equivalent of the existing bag limit for category 2 or 3 fish relevant to that bioregion; and
- a boat limit of two category 1 fish (when the boat is being used for fishing by more than two persons).

Commercial fishers taking fish for personal consumption will be required to record all "personal consumption" scalefish catch taken during commercial fishing operations. They will be required to comply with any specific requirements relating to fish taken for "personal consumption" (to be developed further in coming months), but most probably including that those fish are marked in some way (e.g. pectoral fins removed [or similar]) so that they can be recognised as being taken for this purpose; and landed whole (but can be gutted and/or gilled).

2.6 Recreational Fishing from a Licensed Fishing Boat. A person will be permitted to use a licensed fishing boat to fish solely for recreational purposes (except for any recreational fisheries which require a person to hold a Recreational Fishing Licence [RFL]) to take fish up to the existing recreational bag limit for that species, or category of fish relevant to the bioregion, and subject to the following:

operators undertaking this activity will be required to nominate (with details of the nomination process to be provided during 2007) prior to commencing the trip and giving details of the period over which they will be conducting a recreational fishing trip; and commercial operators who have nominated to utilise their licensed fishing boat to recreationally fish will not be permitted to have (or transport) rock lobster pots or other specified commercial fishing gear on board the boat.

Note: The Minister will review the arrangements described above regarding personal consumption limits and recreational fishing from a licensed fishing boat, after the first 24 months of operation, with a view to reducing permitted levels of take, if sustainability of the demersal scalefish resource is compromised.

Rottnest Island No Fishing Zones.

The Minister for Tourism issued a media release on 27 December about the Rottnest Island no fishing zones and said that under the plan new sanctuary zones would be created at Green Island, West End and Armstrong Bay and existing zones at Parker Point and Kingston Reef would be extended.

Neither the Rottnest Island Authority nor the Minister had previously consulted with Recfishwest or given RFW any information about the proposed outcomes since the RIA/RFW meeting on 31 May 2006.

All that has been given is a set of statements about changes and some maps, but the exact details are not clear at all. There is still nothing about the new proposals on the Rottnest Island Authority website a week after the Minister's media release - it only has the out of date draft plan from earlier in 2006.

We now note that RIA's letter said:- "The Rottnest Island Marine Management Strategy release is planned for the 1st July 2007, when the legislation for the Sanctuary Zones comes into effect."

We hope that doesn't mean that the public won't get any of the details of the final management plan until July 2007.

There's heaps of potential for plenty of unpleasant surprises in the details of what's banned. After all, if they can rationalise that it **IS OK** to tow a lure behind a boat, but it is **NOT OK** to throw the same sort of lure into the same water from the shore, then they can rationalise anything.

General Business.

Statement by George Holman. George Holman said he was attending this meeting as a visitor, not as a delegate. He wanted to explain to the delegates why he had decided not to be involved with the running of the State dry casting and why he had stopped helping with other Association activities.

It is a great pity that the tape recorder was not working for this explanation. A complete transcript of his talk would have been most interesting to all the Australian Anglers Association clubs and their members, because it would have been in George's own words.

George explained that he had been really moved by AAA Patron Jim Strong's emotional talk at a recent meeting of the Surf Casting and Angling club. Jim has been in the Association for 40 years and was the original President and has put a lifetime of effort into the Association.

Jim is very concerned about the problems that the Association was having and would have getting people to volunteer to do work, how it was a tragedy that some people had lost sight of the sportsmanship and friendly competition which should apply, but had instead taken to criticising the workers who were only doing the job they had to do because they had volunteered to be in some particular position in the Association.

Jim expressed his concern about the future of the Association unless this is resolved, because who would want to volunteer to do this work if they had to deal with such negative and unnecessary issues. Jim pointed out that George Holman has worked voluntarily for the Association in many areas for about 34 years.

George read a letter he had received from Richard Suidak, the chairman of the AAA National records committee, in which Richard wrote:- *I have received the latest AAA minutes and was most annoyed that someone has the temerity to have a cheap shot at you.*

I have found you to be a most decent chap and this current strife is the work of a serious fool. You and the Association do not need it and I hope events occur to rid AAA of this person.

George then went on to explain the sequence of events. This started with Chas Riegert's outbursts including tantrum throwing and verbal abuse and then accusing officials and markers of incompetence, in full view and hearing of competitors and spectators at the accuracy casting competition at the National Championships at Yeppoon in September 2005. Despite the impact on the WA team, Chas refused to apologise, but continued to complain. He put in a formal protest letter through the WA State captain demanding that those results be ignored and new casts conducted.

(this is documented in emails and correspondence from other State AAA divisions)

All the officials met on the morning of the second day of casting and threatened to withdraw their services if Chas was allowed to continue casting on the second day. Because of the potential impact on the WA team, the WA State team captain, Bob Henderson, apologised on behalf of Western Australia and convinced the officials and all other state captains to allow Chas to continue.

Queensland AAA wrote a very strong letter of complaint to AAAWA and requested that WA take steps to ensure that this disgraceful and unsportsmanlike episode could never be repeated. Delegates at the September 2005 meeting unanimously passed a resolution that Chas should not be allowed to compete in State or National AAA events in the future. George Holman was not the chairman of that meeting.

Chas subsequently threatened legal action against individuals, including George, and against the AAAWA over this decision. As a result, at the October 2005 Delegates meeting, it was agreed that the resolution of 20 September Delegates meeting not be acted on, on condition that Chas Riegert did not attend the State Dry Casting Championships on 30 October 2005.

The Surf Casting and Angling Club committee was to decide disciplinary action on its member under its Constitution. However due to the actions of the then club President, contributed to by a misleading email

from Kevin Hughes, and Chas's resignation from the Surf Casting and Angling Club before a decision, no disciplinary action could be taken by that Club. The issue was left unresolved, and as expected by many, has returned to cause more disruption. Chas Riegert has now joined the Bunbury Angling Club.

In the more than one year since this event, Chas had not apologised to any of the State team members who were affected by his actions. The WA men's team score fell 0.25% short of winning the National Casting Champions, and there is no doubt that the incidents affected the casters' concentrations and are very likely to have cost the team, the individuals and Western Australia the 2005 National Casting Championship.

Recently, Chas had turned up at one of the dry casting meetings and had used the word "apologise" in a statement he made to the people who were there. A general impression by a number of the people who were present at the meeting (and present at Yeppoon) was that this was not a sincere apology; the time lapse was far too long, and they personally did not find it acceptable to them as an apology. There was also the impression it had been presented mainly because Chas had been told he must apologise for there to be any future resolution.

George has been contacted on two or more occasions with threats of legal action against him personally over this issue, and other forms of pressure.

The recent personal letter from Kevin Hughes to George Holman accused George of using "method of dealing with incidents (which) is divisive to the club or Association." and stated "Your record in resolving conflict is poor and you need to reconsider how you approach and deal with these types of issues"

Kevin's letter also implied that he was expecting George to cause trouble at the State Drycasting which Chas was expecting to attend, where Kevin wrote "You can help by not allowing any friction or unpleasantries to influence the day. You should use your influence on anyone that shows any tendency to inflame the situation" and "I am expecting a smooth running event next week with no antagonism" and "You can help by not providing any antagonism and use your influence to calm any from other sources"

The letter had also included reference to an alleged incident with a former Surf Casting and Angling Club member. When George checked with the person named who is a personal friend and he has regular social contact with, the person can not recall any incident or ever making any comment to anyone else about any problem with George's actions. It appears that Chas has been giving misinformation to Kevin and Kevin has used this without first making any attempt to check its validity.

Kevin's letter also stated that "the motion that has been put up is a very thinly disguised shot at Chas" This ignored the fact that these motions were a unanimous decision of the Casting Group which is made up of the people who will attend the next AAA National Championships as casters. And the fact this was AAAWA, casters and delegates responding to a detailed request from Queensland to ensure that similar incidents could never happen again, by providing general rules which would enable AAAWA to deal decisively with any situations which arose.

Other threats were made at a recent delegates meeting to withdraw the Bunbury Angling Club from the Association if the motions, which were claimed to be only as action against Chas, were not abandoned.

The letter also threatened to challenge the validity of recent rule additions because of the lack of a quorum, including lodging a complaint, presumably with the Regulatory Authority, regarding unconstitutional actions or discrimination by AAAWA which is an incorporated body.

All of this unpleasantness and pressure on people stems from the actions of one person, Chas Riegert, who seems never to have accepted that he has any personal responsibility for his actions at Yeppoon. The unpleasantness has been contributed to by Kevin Hughes' seeming unqualified support for Chas, and attacks on the people who have had to deal with the issue.

George said some of these had caused him great concern and worry, and such pressure and threats could not be accepted when all that he had done was to volunteer a very great amount of his time and work and effort for the good of the Association over about 34 years.

Both George and Terry Fuller were in executive positions of AAAWA which meant that they were obliged to deal with these matters, even if they would prefer that they did not have to.

George and Terry Fuller have been accused of having “a vendetta against Chas” and “stabbing him in the back.” A comment was made recently by Kevin that **“now that the two people who had far too much influence in AAA have been gotten rid of, the AAA can move forward,”**

This statement shows how little recognition has been given to the work done by these two people over the years, and the very large gaps left by their decisions on working for the Association, and the damage done to the Association by the incident and pressure which led to their decisions.

George had sought the advice of friends, and as a result had decided that he would not run the 2006 State Dry Casting and would withdraw his services from the Association.

George said he cannot see how the Association can continue to function if there are such divisive issues and they do not get resolved.

The solution appears to be simple. Everyone must accept that the Association should have friendly competition; the normal rules for socially acceptable behaviour must be followed, and the Association must have rules which allow it to deal promptly with exceptions.

Delegates express their sympathy and understanding of George’s position, and agreed that the rules recently added were reasonable and necessary and no one should have any difficulty with them.

Pat Shinnick said he would take steps to resolve the situation.

He advised all members that he had a set of documentation of the incident at Yeppoon and a lot of the subsequent activities, including records from the Surf Casting and Angling Club, and these were available for any club or member who wished to see them.

AAA WA Secretary. A question was asked about progress with the selection for a replacement secretary. A person had been selected but failed to attend the first delegates meeting as arranged. Further action had been left with people who had not attended recent delegates meetings. The list of applicants would be checked and an alternative picked.

Can anyone please assist us as a secretary to help us get back on track

During the evening nibbles and refreshments were provided by a member on the night.

Meeting closed @ 2140hrs (9.40pm)

**Next Meeting Tuesday 16th January 2006, at WA Sports Association,
Stancliffe Street, Mt Lawley.**

Special Note. A quorum is required at the January delegates meeting to vote on changes to the Constitution. Can clubs and delegates please attend or nominate a proxy and how you wish your club's vote to be cast.

(If enough Delegates turn up I will personally buy you all refreshments, (try and get that out of me again!)

Happy New Year to all.