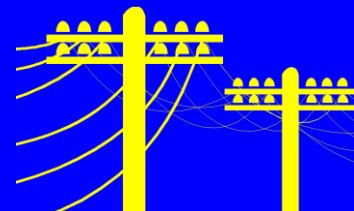




Fish TELEGRAPH



FAREWELL FROM THE EDITOR!



Well by the time you read this the editor of the *Fish Telegraph* for the past three years (Fisheries Communications Officer, Sarah Caporn - left), will have moved on to a marketing and communications position at the Tasmanian State Library. As well as leading to what will hopefully be new and exciting challenges, the change to a part-time role will also provide more time to spend pottering around on my 5-acre property at Howden, on the shores of lovely North-West Bay, including more time training and walking with my three young llamas. Yes- real llamas none of those common alpacas for me! (*One is tempted to say this is allama-ing news! We wish you all the very best in both your new roles! Ed*)

Before I leave I just wanted to pass on how much I have enjoyed working with the Fishcare Volunteers and working in fisheries generally. The volunteers and DPIW fisheries team are a great bunch of people who are making a genuine difference with the work that they do. So I wish you all the very best for the future and leave you with a quote from the anthropologist, Margaret Mead, who said,

"Never doubt that a group of thoughtful committed people can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

FISHCARE VOLUNTEER INTAKE 2008

Submitted by Damian Heran (Course Coordinator)

We had a very successful intake training in October with another group of volunteers attaining their certificates, uniforms and gear. With a couple of visiting presenters unable to attend at the last minute Tess, Avril, Quenton and I had to wing it. Such a situation had not happened in the



Louise Ward (UTas) demonstrates how to find stomach contents and dissect out an otolith from a flatheads flat-head.



Class of 2008: Graduates of the Fishcare 2-day training course, Campbell Town

past so we were due for it, but it proved that when times are trying we can rise to the occasion and provide for a meaningful training segment based purely on our past and extensive experiences.

Course participant feedback (probably more out of pity) reckoned we rose to the challenge very well, but I am not going to have us take these roles up as a permanent thing!

Continued on page 10.

SCALEFISH REVIEW UPDATE

*Submitted by Rod Pearn,
(Principal Recreational Fisheries
Manager, DPIW)*



Four hundred and sixteen public submissions were received during the first phase of the scalefish review designed to identify issues for consideration in the review. Not all the issues raised can be addressed by changes to legislation; some are better suited to education programs and some require further discussion and/or more research data and a coordinated strategic approach in the future.

After considering all the submissions and advice from the Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committee (RecFAC), Scalefish Fisheries Advisory Committee (SFAC) and other information, the Department of Primary Industry and Water (DPIW) is now preparing the DRAFT Scalefish Management Plan (MP) and an Information Paper for release in March. To coincide with the release of this Draft Management Plan, a series of public meetings was held around the state to discuss the proposed changes. The public has until **30 April 2009** to comment on the proposed changes to the plan. These comments will be considered by DPIW and if necessary, any final changes made. The Final Plan is due to be implemented by 1 November 2009.



Consultation documents are available for download from www.fishing.tas.gov.au or by request from the Recreational Sea Fishing Line on (03) 6233 7042.

THE FISH AND THE HOOK

*Submitted by Avril Brown
(Community Partnerships, DPIW)*

In the recent round of 'Public Consultation' for the Scalefish Management Plan Review, a team from the Wild Fisheries Management Branch (Department of Primary Industry and Water) has been holding public meetings around the State and a number of Fishcare guys have attended the meetings in their areas.

Sometimes these meetings have been quite fiery (some would say 'entertaining') and a question has been asked as to what role the Fishcare Volunteer plays in a situation like that. We all know how passionate fishers get about their fishery...and that includes all the Fishcare team, but one thing that is vitally important for the integrity of our Program is **that we don't get involved with politics**. Of course each and every Fishcare person has their own opinions and, because of your experience, it is essential you have input to these reviews. However, **the process for us is either as an individual outside the Fishcare Program or by way of a collective submission lodged by your Fishcare Co-ordinator**.

Attending meetings such as these is a great opportunity to listen to the varying points of view and observe the individual body language and the dynamics and processes involved in mass meetings.

In closing, I would like to share a little saying that is (possibly) attributed to the old Chinese soothsayer, Confucius (ca 551 BC). Confucius say...

"Fish on Hook makes fine tucker"

The moral of the story is: Stay out of arguments...nobody wins! or Don't take the bait! You will end up in hot fat!

FISHWISE GRANTS ANNOUNCED 2008

Tasmanian organisations will receive more than \$138,000 in Fishwise Community Grants to fund six recreational fishing projects that will benefit recreational fishing through improved management of recreational sea fisheries and current understanding of fishing issues.

Under the program grants will be provided to the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute (TAFI), TARFish - the peak body representing Tasmania's recreational fishers, the Fishcare Volunteers program, and the Australian Fishing Trade Association (AFTA).

These grants will fund a wide range of projects including research on recreational gillnetting and recruitment and retention of scallops in the D'Entrecasteaux Channel, production of a *Let's Go Fishing* booklet to be provided to Tasmanian households, a series of public forums on recreational fishing and the Fishcare Volunteers' community events program which increases education and awareness of good fishing practices.

Fishwise funding rounds usually open in late April each year however due to the current economic climate this years round is awaiting confirmation. Individuals and community groups are encouraged to check the website regularly below for updates.



For more information on Fishwise Community Grants go to website: www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/fishwise or Phone: 6233 7042, or email: fishwise@dpiw.tas.gov.au

TAS REC SCALLOP SEASON 2009

Submitted by Rod Pearn

The recreational Scallop Season commences on Saturday 4 April and ends 31 July 2009. A reminder that the D'entrecasteaux Channel is closed to scallop fishing for 2009. This closure also prohibits the possession of scallops while swimming or diving. This allows for boats with scallops taken from waters outside the closed area to transit through the D'entrecasteaux Channel. The closure aims to increase the chances of rebuilding scallop stocks in the area and limit longer-term closures. We are keen to hear where scallop divers locate scallops in 2009. We will not publicly release reported scallop locations during the season. The information may be used to report on the season and to locate future surveys.



Recreational Scallop Licences are available from Service Tasmania or website: www.fishing.tas.gov.au.

Download the Recreational Scallop Fishery Report 2005 - 2008 at www.tafi.org.au or Phone: 6233 7042

REDMAP

Submitted by Rebecca Brown (REDMAP Science Communication Officer, TAFI)



The only one of its kind in Australia the Coastal Climate Change Range Extension Database & Mapping Project or REDMAP will incorporate a marine species database and interactive website. Tasmanian recreational, commercial and charter fishers and divers

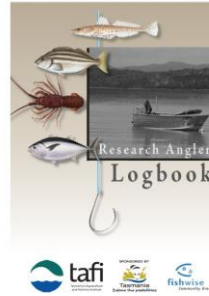
who may find a new or unusual species at the end of their line will be invited to share this information on the website. It is hoped this information will enable TAFI to track the changes in distribution and geographic range of marine species. There are many factors resulting in species redistribution within the marine environment including pollution, fishery management and currents. However, the focus of REDMAP will be on the effects of climate change, specifically warming sea temperatures.

Teachers and the general public will be able to download fact sheets and generate maps and graphs of types of species caught and their locations. REDMAP is funded under the Tasmanian Community Fund and the website aims to be online later in 2009. Once up and running, it is envisaged that Fishcare volunteers will be trained to help promote the project, disseminate material and provide feedback.



To find out more about the project please call Rebecca on 6227 7257 or TAFI on 6227 7262.

RESEARCH ANGLER LOGBOOK



The Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute recently introduced a Research Angler Logbook Program. Programs such as these have proven useful for providing important information on recreational fisheries around the world, including Victoria and WA within Australia. The logbook aims to gather information across all

MARINE fisheries, including: game fishing, offshore/inshore/estuarine line, potting, netting and diving.

The Research Angler Logbook represents a method of collecting a range of useful information across these methods, and provides a capacity for ongoing monitoring of changes in the recreational fishery using data directly collected by recreational fishers. This is an opportunity to participate in research on recreationally important fish species that will assist with the sustainable development and management of recreational fisheries for Tasmania.

We are seeking people to join the team that are keen to maintain detailed and accurate records of their fishing activities. The logbook would be particularly suited to fishers that already keep a record of their catch, who are on the water a lot, are passionate about fishing and happy to help out by providing information about their fishing practices.

The information provided by participants will remain strictly confidential, and all participants will be provided with a summary of research progress and results through an annual newsletter.



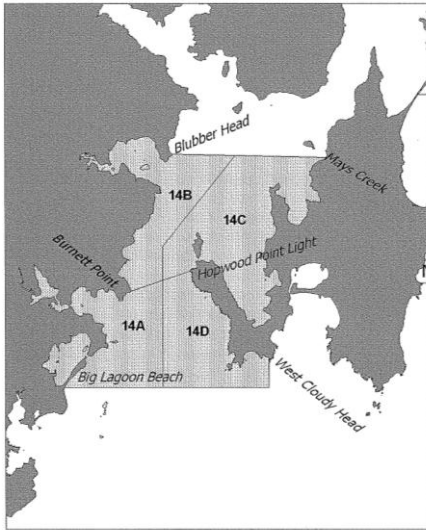
If this sounds like something you would like to be involved in contact TAFI at R.ALP@utas.edu.au or phone on 6227 7286.

AVG UPDATE

*Submitted by Judi Marshall
(Abalone Biosecurity Project Officer, DPIW)*

Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG) was detected in abalone delivered to a processing plant in southern Tasmania in September 2008. Fishing restrictions were placed upon commercial and recreational fishers to prevent the potential spread of the disease while investigations occurred. In January 2009, there still remains one Restricted Area in which investigations continue. This area is in the D'Entrecasteaux Channel as shown over page. While recreational abalone fishers may now fish in the Restricted Area (from Dec 22, 2008), they must still decontaminate their equipment before diving in another area. All abalone removed from the water must be of legal

size limit and must not be returned to the water or held live in containers holding water (including holding tanks or aquaria). Further, all abalone must be cleaned on land, with waste (including shell and guts) being disposed of in landfill or through normal household waste. Do not dump any abalone wastes back into the marine environment.



Emergency closed area for all abalone fishing from 16/9/08

What is AVG?

- AVG is a viral disease that affects the nervous system of abalone.
- Mortality rates are typically high but can vary.
- It affects both blacklip and greenlip abalone and hybrids of the two.
- AVG has no known effects on human health.
- The first reported case of AVG in Australia was detected in waters off the Victorian coast in 2006. A similar disease occurs in several overseas countries.

What does AVG look like?



healthy greenlip abalone



greenlip abalone showing the symptoms of the disease

- Abalone with protruding mouth parts; and / or weak or dead abalone;
- Abalone with the edges of the foot curling inwards, exposing clean shiny shells.
- Abalone showing signs of stiffness and or rigor, commonly referred to as 'hardfoot' or 'hardfish'. In such cases the abalone remain alive but are easily removed from the reef or holding tanks, remain rigid and fail to right themselves if inverted.

How does AVG spread?

It can spread abalone to abalone. It can also be spread to healthy abalone by offal, mucus, and shells, contaminated fishing equipment or people who have been handling abalone. The virus is thought to only survive a short time in the water or out of water.

What are the current restrictions?

- Any diving equipment used in Restricted Area must be treated in accordance with the **specified decontamination procedures** (see www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/abalone).
- Divers are required to have a 24-hour break between diving in the Restricted Area and anywhere else in the State.
- The long-standing restrictions on importing abalone into Tasmania remains in force.
- It remains illegal to use abalone guts as bait, to shuck abalone at sea or to replace caught abalone back in the ocean
- The Northern Bass Strait regions and King Island also still have ongoing movement restrictions under Section 270 of the *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995*.
- The restrictions will be reviewed further as more work is done to improve our understanding of the AVG risk, so please keep checking the website for the latest information.

What can you do to help prevent AVG?

The virus only survives a short time in the water so the most likely method of disease spread is through direct contact between infected abalone (including offal, mucus, shells, contaminated fishing equipment or people) and healthy abalone.

- Keep a close watch for signs of the disease and report any signs to the DPIW Disease Watch Hotline 1800 675 888 (24-hours) even if you are not sure.
- Do not move abalone between locations, including shells and offal. Take your whole catch home (it is illegal to shuck abalone at sea) and dispose of the waste and shell with your household rubbish. It is illegal to use abalone viscera as fishing bait.
- Keep your fishing gear, dive gear and boat clean and disinfected with detergent. This includes catch bags, gloves, knives, measuring devices, wetsuits, buoyancy vests, masks, regulators, tanks, boats and people who have come into contact with abalone. By thoroughly cleaning all fishing equipment and allowing it to dry in the sun you can prevent the spread of many aquatic diseases and marine pests, including AVG. Please refer to, and use, the **AVG Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols**.

Updates on the current situation in Tasmania will be posted regularly on the [Abalone Disease Update](http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/abalone) webpage (www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/abalone). Please check for more information and disinfection protocols.



To report any signs of AVG:
phone the DPIW Disease Watch Hotline
(24hrs) ph: 1800 675 888
For more information recreational fishers
phone (03) 6233 7042

REGIONAL REPORTS

NORTH WESTERN REGION: DAMIAN HERAN

Events

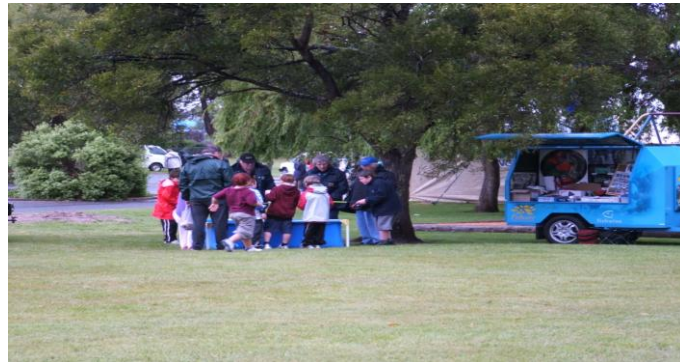


The seniors fishing day held on 3rd October at the Cam River Somerset as part of Seniors Week was a wonderful success with seniors coming both from a local nursing home and the community. All enjoyed the fine cakes and coffee supplied by the highly talented cooking of the Fishcare Volunteers ladies. The Waratah/Wynyard Council supplied a large tent and the local Mayor joined in helping the helpers put it together. The highlight was a beautiful sea run trout captured by a very lucky senior; other fish caught as well were mullet and Australian salmon.



Glenn McLachlan attended the twilight fete at St Peter Chanel School Smithton on the 18th October and had plenty of kids and parents to report to around the fishing pool. Well done to Glenn as it is very hard and exhausting work around the pool when tangles occur with the kids and the adults want to talk

The Wynyard Bowick St Primary school played host to the



annual Spudfest on the 21 October and despite the constant rain, the kids fishing pool (see pic above) was again very popular. There seemed to be hundreds of people and children attend, or could it have been the face painting and hair dyes that made it impossible to tell how many times the same child caught those plastic fish. Many thanks to Bill, Judy, Marlene and Colin for working in such trying conditions.

I am sure that all of us must have had a relatively good time in 2008 because the year just flew by. Stay safe and we look forward to what 2009 will bring for the program.

We're throwing out a line...

Do you believe in "Fish for the Future" and want to help organise events to spread the responsible fishing message? Are you a born organiser, easygoing and ready to take on a new challenge? Then you should **take the bait and nominate** for the position of

Senior Support Volunteer - North West Region.

This is your chance to bring your ideas and experience to the table. Training will be provided. Contact Damian Heran - NW Coordinator on 64323898 to find out more, register your interest or nominate a friend.

NORTHERN REGION: QUENTON HIGGS



As I write this we have a brand new year ahead of us. After a couple of weeks R&R I am fully refreshed and raring to tackle an exciting Fishcare calendar. I hope you have been able to enjoy a beautiful festive season with family and friends and have also benefited from a nice break.

Fishing Clinics

Our season of Take a Kid Fishing events started at Beauty Point on a sunny, wet and windy no, gale force day! We had an excellent rollup of volleys and 90 people attended in what at times was atrocious weather. But sheltered in the lea of the wharf sheds there was plenty of opportunity arose for volunteers to convey good fishing advice and lots of fun was had by all. We received a small story and photo in the Sunday Examiner next day. Preceding the event volunteers distributed promotional fliers and we were able to get some

good airtime at City Park FM regarding the day. Since then Hobart have staged an event at CSIRO Wharf and our northern group are looking forward to their event at St Helens Wharf. Half a dozen vollies from Launceston region will team up with the east Coast mob in what is always a top day.



Schools Program

The fantastic effort of our schools team has continued through the last few months. Allan Ekert and I accompanied by ABC journo Belinda King visited Scottsdale High students (19) for a presentation and interview. Student responses featured on the regional ABC website and it made a great on air feature story the following Friday afternoon. On my way in to pick up Chris I turned on the radio and thought, "that's my brother Ian talking but it was me"!

How about that! On another outing Allan and Sue Barnett (photo) hosted Scottsdale High students to a fishing excursion at nearby Springfield Trout Hatchery. Students were able to catch good fish, learn about large fish handling and also dissection.

Sue and Allan Barnett, Fishcare Volunteers – North, showing kids how it's done at Springfield Trout Hatchery



David Bye with the assistance of Allan Stevens has been doing some terrific work with students at Kings Meadow High School talking about all facets of Fishcare, some basic fly tying and they have been on

a fishing outing. Since then we have received an application from one student to join our ranks. Volunteer Tony McGuire and I assisted with Sacred Heart (SH) group (32) on fishing excursion to Waverley Lake close to Launceston. Volunteer Phil van Ryn is a teacher at SH and led the group. One nice salmon was caught and the kids learnt heaps on handling, cleaning/dissection and entomology from studying stomach content.

And further on educational excursions, volunteers Mick Barrett, David Bye, Allan Stevens and I hosted Avoca Primary students (34) at a fishing excursion on the South Esk River at Brambletye farm. Some good fish were caught with kids learning about correct fish handling, dissection and a bit about fish biology and the food trout eat ie. basic entomology. They were fascinated and equally intrigued by the uninvited guest (a snake) to the party. Avoca Primary received 30 rod/reel combos and gear through the recent AFTA promotion along with Kings Meadow High, Scottsdale

High, Exeter Primary and Sacred Heart in Launceston. All were thrilled at being able to obtain this gear and Fishcare's reputation grew as a result.

Kathy Gameau has been making some great inroads into schools in the George Town area and did presentation to students at Georgetown South Primary (25). Kathy is very excited about these opportunities in this region and we have just this week received a request from Star of the Sea Sacred Heart to do Fishcare promo in March to 125 kids.

Other Events

I would be remiss if I failed to mention the great work done by Terry Jones and partner Margaret Healey assisting the Gambusia team with trapping this little beastly. Living on the East Tamar they are close to Landfall Farm where large infestations occur and Terry and Margy have accumulated over 50 hours using various methods of trapping. Catches include Gambusia and plenty of other native species so top job guys!

Finally I was chuffed and extremely proud when I contacted Kyeema Seafoods David Wilson about some fish for our Christmas BBQ. David insisted on providing free of charge sides of trevalla, salmon and prawn kebabs because quote "Fishcare does such a wonderful job in the community".



Great to receive such recognition! Well done to David Bye again to the fore cooking chocolate crackles, very delish! Allan Stevens also chipped in as chief chef on the BBQ ably assisted by Chris Higgs. A great rollup of vollies with their

families who enjoyed some wonderful Christmas fare plus Santa's arrival (photo) on a big blue BMW! Tim Lovett at Tamar Marine filled Santa's sack only too pleased to provide nearly a 50% discount again because of the good work Fishcare does in the community. It's through your efforts that we get such accolades so top job all round! Wishing everyone a very healthy and prosperous 2009!

Santa got a Beeming BMW for Xmas! Northern Xmas Lunch, Launceston.



Beating the Butterflies-Episode 2: the blossoming of a schools trained volunteer.

Submitted by Kathy Gameau (Volunteer - North)

Last year I wrote about my nerves and apprehension prior to doing the Schools training course at Woodbridge School. This is an update.

I was invited to the South George Town Primary School to talk to three classes - yr 4, yrs 3/4 and yrs 2/3. From the initial meeting with two teachers, one male and one female, I could tell that one was very enthusiastic about what I had to offer and the other not.

The first day I went loaded up with everything I thought I might need as well as a lot of butterflies. My first talk was to the year 4 class with the male teacher. I told them a little about Fishcare and what I do as well as talking to them about taking only what they need when they go fishing. We even had time for a game at the end of the talk. The kids were great and very attentive. My butterflies disappeared completely and I thoroughly enjoyed what I was doing.

Next, I went to the year 3/4 class and then on to the year 2/3 class and a teacher I had not met before. These kids were great too. The three classes meant that I was talking



Rabbit with prunes...

Yummo

Submitted by Quenton Higgs (Fishcare Coordinator-North)

INGREDIENTS

1 rabbit, about 1.5 kg
1/2 bottle good red wine
1 tbsp honey
1 cinnamon stick
1 star anise
About 18 prunes, pitted
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 tbsp oil
20 g butter
1 brown onion, dice
1 carrot, diced
6 small potatoes, sliced
3 sprigs of thyme
1 slice spice bread (pain d'épice)
3 tbsp chopped parsley

SOUTHERN REGION: TESS McNEILL



With all the negative media on climate change and the global economy it's easy to feel like the dinosaur in a Gary Larson cartoon who says "the situation is pretty bleak gentlemen...our climate is changing, the world is being taken over by mammals and we all have a brain the size of a walnut". The flip side is *good things are happening and Fishcare Volunteers is one of them.*

to around 75 kids in total. Out of these kids we only had 7 kids who had never held a fishing rod before.

In the following weeks, I gave more talks to two classes - the year 3/4 and year 2/3 classes. As time went by it became clear that we were going to have a fishing trip thanks not only to the teachers enthusiasm but also the fact that the school was given the chance to win 30 rods and reels through an AFTA fishing promotion. At the end of November 50 kids, 2 female teachers, myself and another Fishcare volunteer and some other helpers had a days fishing at the Pilot Station, Low Head. It was great and not once did we have to tell any of the kids off. It was a catch and release day and a lot of fish were caught.

It's funny when I go fishing or shopping up here because the kids say hello to me and I have heard parents either tell them off for talking to strangers or wanting to know who they are talking to. I am looking forward to getting back into it again this year and have already sent off letters to all three schools in the George Town area. To anyone interested in doing the Woodbridge course - don't put it off; find the time as you will have a lot of fun talking to the kids.

One of the beaut things I love about Fishcare is the many and varied opportunities it throws up. I delivered some additional survey forms to Tony McGuire recently and he said why don't we pot a few bunnies while you're here. I confess I'm partial to a bit of underground mutton and in a couple of enjoyable hours Tony spotted half a dozen. Try the following recipe done in a slow cooker when you can, delicious! In addition to good tucker I and a couple of other vollies now have heaps of fur for deadly rabbit fur flys! [Nice segue Ed]

Preheat oven to 150°C. Remove sinew from back straps. Cut rabbit into 6-8 pieces and season with salt and pepper. Heat a little oil and half the butter in a pan and brown rabbit pieces all over. Place prunes in a bowl. Place wine in a saucepan with the honey, cinnamon stick and star anise. Bring to the boil then pour over the prunes. Remove fat from pan and add remaining butter, diced onion and carrot and stir well. Cover with a lid and cook for a few minutes. Bung it all in a slow cooker, low heat before you go to work and serve with parsley garnish when you come home!

Our volunteers are as diverse as our fish. The issues we address a complex mix of regionally specific but broadly universal themes (eg coastal development impacts, quality and quantity of habitat and water, fishing pressure and new technologies, introduced pests, marine rubbish, climate change). Our methods for getting information to and from fishers a serendipitous result of these two factors and just one of a suite of tools (e.g. rules, management plans, codes of conduct, incentives, research, structural adjustment schemes, community consultation and on-ground/underwater

projects, education) used to tackle the issues. We are united by belief in the "Fish for the Future" motto, wanting to make a real difference, and shared sense of fun.

We are as much about people as we are fish. Now, more than ever, our volunteers add value to agency services by, connecting with their individual communities in a way we could never hope to achieve on our own; through their unsalaried credibility, objectivity and luxury of focus; out of all the things that compete for their time they choose freely to be here; their breadth of influence, passion and experience, they help break down barriers being from all walks of life, levels of education and socioeconomic backgrounds and their ability to pilot innovative new ideas and freedom to critique; provides us with a mirror for improving our programs and the way we communicate information. But wait there's more!

The big picture in the south

Over the last two years we have seen the Southern Regional Coordinator position made permanent and settled down to a solid core of experienced and dedicated volunteers from which to continue to build our numbers and activities in the region. We have increased the proportion of active volunteers by one third and more than doubled our annual volunteer hours bringing them up to required levels. Our volunteers have a clear plan for the next 12 months, maintaining their current level of activity and targeting new



recruits to help build our capacity to deliver our schools program and survey patrols in coastal areas. Richard Price (see pic left) and Gary Davy helped spread the good news to members of Swansea Probus recently.

Volunteer Recognition



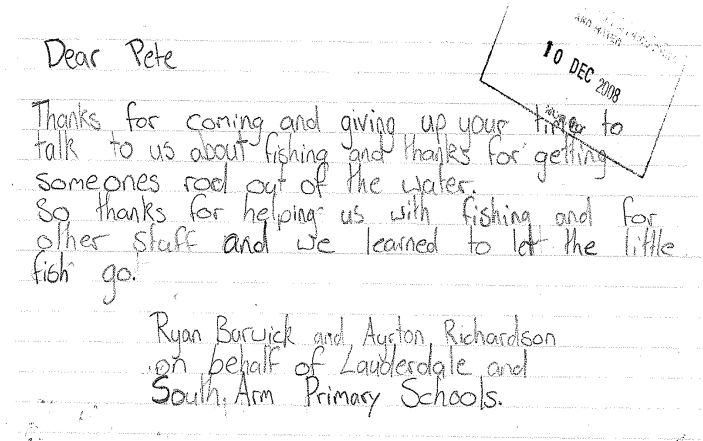
In recognition of this contribution Fishcare and Volunteering Tasmania presented our active volunteers with Certificates of Appreciation. Senior Technical Officer, Rob Green and his son, Alex (who just happens to work at Spot On), came up with the unique gift idea of a fish filleting set that turned into the perfect way to frame the awards. Throughout 2008, southern volunteers received thankyou's from event

organisers, positive feedback from teachers, people wanting to book Fishcare for events or get supplies from us, people wanting to join us or get more information from us and acknowledgements in newsletters and the media. Another relatively new way our volunteers are being valued is inclusion in agency processes and I congratulate Hilary Revill, Alastair Morton, Rod Pearn and Nadeen Burge who

have been taking the first steps to engaging with volunteers around the state at various levels regarding their work with scalefish, rock lobster, marine pests and communication product design.

Survey Patrols

Peter Walters topped the list for the most surveys (150) in our region (and indeed the state) in 2007/08. Surveys are often conducted when our volunteers go fishing and locations include Cremorne, Tinderbox, Derwent River,



Margate, Russell River, Huon River, Blackmans Bay, Adventure Bay, Cockle Creek, Tooms Lake, Macquarie River, Recherche Bay, Meadowbank Lake, Verona Sands, White Beach and Arthurs Lake. Nearly 90% of southern volunteer hours are spent in marine water. Safety is number one and we'll be undertaking refresher training in field safety procedures this year. Surveys are ideal for providing advice from fishers that can be used to improve our understanding and management of fisheries and inform our educational program. Peter has collected a two year record of fishing activities across the seasons at Cremorne. Examples of issues that fishers have highlighted over the last 12 months include: feedback on rulers and sea fishing guide, undersize fish being kept, shark catches in nursery areas, whale sightings, fish kills, marine pests, seal interactions, salmon escapes, weather impacts, reporting of northern fish species in southern waters, season opening reports for recreation rock lobster and scallops, bait species; commercial fishing, and interstate visitor fishing. Patrols also provide us the chance to handout the latest fishing information, promote Fishcare and our upcoming events. Volunteers have made valuable suggestions on improved form design and data reporting.

Schools Program



Horace Lazarus (pic. left) and Norman Bird are our most active schools trained volunteers. When attending schools, volunteers have to be available during the week (retired or work flexible hours) and consider the cost of travelling to the school. For insight into what it is like for a new volunteer to stand up in front of a class full of noisy

kids please read Kathy Gameau's, article. Our aim this year is to send two new volunteers on the schools training program to build our capacity to deliver school talks.

Fishing Clinics

These are our most popular activities with volunteers - no surprises there! Ralph Cooper loves Take A Kid Fishing days and it is my aim to one day arrive earlier than him to help set up! Horace Lazarus comes up with innovative talks and demonstrations about fishing. Mike and Marg Cawthorn lug in their boat and registration gear, and Gary Davy and Barbara Zochling (buddy), are King and Queen of the BBQ,



and the list goes on. This season we completed Seniors Fishing Day at Huonville and Take A Kid Fishing Clinics at CSIRO and Regatta Wharf. These are major promotional

events for Fishcare corresponding with the opening of the seasons and the release of the new fisheries rules. Participation rates are often weather dependent and totalled over 200 this year. As a result of trends and comments in our survey data, our themes were "Throw the little ones back" and "Seafood Safety". We received two pages in the Huon News and 3 new recruits after our Seniors Day events. Our Senior Support Volunteer, Mike Cawthorn, and myself were invited on the ABC breakfast show and the event received two pages in the Mercury newspaper. Volunteers have identified the need to evaluate our Regatta event this year. These events are free to participants, we provide all the necessary gear and they allow us to build strong partnerships with the local community and businesses (see Quents' report on how businesses value our volunteers). They are attended by people across all age groups and often include people from lower socio-economic suburbs, migrants with language barriers, people with disabilities, and visitors to the state (from Victoria and Singapore this year) who miss out on fishing information from other sources.

Shows & Events and the Fishing Pool



Our volunteers are well practised in running our kids fishing pool and information displays. Last year we attended about 15 events including, the Lindsfarne Boat Show, Seafarers Festival, and a somewhat washed out but delicious Xmas Lunch. [After 7 years on the west coast, I wasn't about to let a bit of rain and gale force winds stop me]. Annual attendance is about 90,000

but realistically on average we have a "decent chat" to around 200 people per event with many more taking goodies away. Cross regional events such as Agfest are very important opportunities for our volunteers to meet their

mates from other regions, share stories and a sense of purpose. Volunteers consider travel costs when attending events so this year we are car pooling and bussing more. We receive more requests to attend events than we can fill so we try to spread events around the region where fishers are and prefer to attend those with a marine theme. They are our bread and butter, allowing us to reach our target audience of unlicensed rod and line fishers, the general public and visitors to the state who miss out on information by other methods. Our event enquiries folder always has a page of questions and comments in it reflecting the willingness of fishers to participate and talk to people like themselves about issues that affect them.

Other stuff

As well as our 4 key activities, the volunteers assist with promotion, recruitment and statewide projects where required. For example, John Taylor writes numerous fishing articles for the Mercury and always tries to add the word Fishcare in there somewhere!

Volunteers check our metal rulers and keep an eye on signage around the region.

We can provide in-kind support to other programs such as rice grass surveys (see pic



right) and the redmap project. Volunteers have lots of contacts and usually know someone who can supply something, make something, fix something or provide information about something to assist people with their programs. *What we need in return is plenty of notice, a clear idea of what's involved so we can match volunteers to tasks, specific training to do the task, and the equipment and resources to carrying out the job.*

To sum up

Sometimes it's hard to see the school for the fish. I hope that volunteers can see how their individual efforts coalesce to help make an ocean of difference to recreational fishing in Tasmania by assisting recreational fishers from all walks of life to adopt sustainable fishing practises, increasing awareness of the impact of climate change on our fisheries, increasing awareness of pests, diseases and weeds and their mitigation, and providing an ideal platform for showcasing the development of agency and community capacity to build open and effective communication between all stakeholders as well as contributing to the health and happiness of their communities. We couldn't do it without all the in kind support we receive from people outside the organisation so group hugs all round. That's gotta be something to smile about!

FISHCARE VOLUNTEER INTAKE 2008

Our host Ken explains the "orb" phenomenon.



During the training weekend our hosts at the Foxhunters Return, suggested a midnight tour of the cellar in search of

mysterious "orbs". These are unexplained spherical lights sometimes captured on guests' film but invisible to the naked eye. So we snapped (some might say so did our brains)! Check out the photos below and make up your own mind. Dust or delusion someone was inspired to pen a few words (see opposite)



Orbs?



THE BENEFITS OF FISHING

Submitted by Sue Rae (Volunteer -South)

[Sue is an avid reader and collector of old fishing books, and is one of our new recruits for 2008. Ed]

At the time of writing, this article related to saltwater fishing and obviously excluded women but it is very relevant to all forms of fishing and both genders today!

"There is no pastime or recreation that affords a man so much uninterrupted time for meditation, or that presents greater facilities for studying nature, than the occupation of fishing...it can be indulged in by young and old alike and with equal enjoyment. A man who has the right disposition and who has never cast a line until he is in [his] sixties can still acquire the knowledge to catch fish and so amuse himself ... Many men who have never attempted the gentle art look down upon it as beneath them and only fitted for boy's enjoyment; that is a grave and mistaken notion. Any form of recreation which gives quiet and draws the mind from the worry of business and the excitement constantly whirling around the daily track: that affords opportunity for self-commune and self-regulation, the chance to wipe away the cobwebs of business which have been filling up each corner and angle of the mind, and that have been accumulating perhaps for months or years ...that gives health to mind and body, must be good to every item of humanity no matter what his age or position in the world may be."



There's Always a Way!

Anon.

*The room is spinning, I cannot sleep,
The "orbs" are coming, the cellar's deep.
Midnight thrills, a photo shoot,
A happy crowd, full as a boot,
And I wouldn't have it any other way!*

*Ssssssssh! I must be quiet, I must not stir
My sleeping room-mate, I must not wake her!
Ooops!, I fumble in the midnight gloom,
Someone stole the door knob to my room.
Finally I find the way and hope the "orbs" will stay away!*

*My bed is spinning, I cannot sleep,
The "orbs" are coming, the cellars deep.
Goodness me, I suddenly remember,
My talk is tomorrow, not December,
I'd better think of something - write away!*

*"What do coordinators do?"
Recruit, train, mobilise gear, people, and intangibles too.
Like social lubrication by way of inebriation (hic!),
I mean facilitation, motivation, appreciation and of course
... administration,
Around which we must always find a way!*

*A coordinator oversees many volunteers,
Sorts out conflict with managers and peers,
Writes up grants and says "Hey Honey!"
"We've got a project, give us some money!"
Yes! We're always looking for the cheapest way!*

*Outside my room, the wind is blowing,
But finally my whirligig brain is slowing,
So gather round and listen up,
Work together, don't give up!
'Cause we wouldn't want you down in any way!*

*Most important, have lots of fun,
Find your feet, walk don't run!
Do your forms - don't be slack!
Or Damian will be on your back.
'Cause history shows - it's the only way!*

*Ask for help, don't be shy,
Don't make your stressed-out coordinators cry,
Stay safe, stick to the rules, and practise what you preach,
Respect the views of others, Yes! Its all within your reach,
Then you'll always make a difference ...and we wouldn't wish it any other way!*

[An excerpt taken from *The Fisherman, A Guide to the Inexperienced - How, When and Where to Catch Fish*, published in Brisbane in 1888 by John Cameron, from Bob Dunn's *Angling in Australia, Its History And Writings* (1991), David Ell Press Pty. Ltd. NSW, page 101]



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Department of Primary
 Industries and Water

MEET A FISHCARE VOLUNTEER



[When Terry said he was from the North,
 We had no idea he meant the North Pole! Ed]

Name: Terry Jones

Volunteer Region: North

How long have you been a FCV? 4 years

Best Fishcare Experience? Spreading the 'fish for the future' message, getting the kids telling mum and dad about it.

Tip for other FCVs? Go for it! Do what you can. You get out of it what you put in

Favourite fishing spot? Tamar River, that's why I want to help clean it up.

Biggest fish caught? Gummy Shark

Three things you would take with you on a deserted island?
 Fishing rod, tent and grape vine (to make wine).



JOKES

A pastor, a priest and a rabbi were out for a day of fishing. After getting into the boat they had just pulled away from the dock when the rabbi said "stop the boat I forgot the coffee", the pastor who was driving the boat said "I will turn around and take you back to the dock" and the rabbi said "oh no need I will be right back". The rabbi quickly jumped out of the boat and ran across the water to shore and then to his car to fetch the coffee and then ran back across the water and got back in the boat. Well the pastor not wanting to be shown up by the rabbi said "oh my I forgot the sandwiches" and quickly jumped out of the boat to attempt running across the water like the rabbi but instead sank quickly to the bottom of the lake. With that the priest looked angrily at the rabbi and said you should have shown him where the rocks were.

A Fisherman's Prayer

God grant that I may live to fish
 Until my dying day
 And when it comes to my last cast
 I then most humbly pray
 When in the Lord's safe landing net
 I'm peacefully asleep
 That in his mercy I'll be judged
 As big enough to keep.

Submit your fishy tales, jokes, recipes or amusing stories to the editor.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS & SIGNIFICANT FISHING DATES

Date	Event	Location	Description	Contact
1 Mar 09	Quarterly Update - NW	Somerset	Volunteer get together and training	Damian
1 Mar - 30 Apr 09 incl.	Banded morwong season closed		For info only	
2 - 8 Mar 09	Seaweek	National	For info only	
7 Mar 09	Quarterly Update - North	TBC	Volunteer get together and training	Quenton
15 Mar 09	TAKF Stanley	Stanley Wharf	Take A Kid Fishing Day	Damian
21 Mar 09	Bream Creek Show	Bream Creek	Country Show - South East	Tess
30 Mar 09	TAFI Research Updates	Hobart	For info only	
4 Apr - 31 July incl.	Rec. Scallop Season Open		For info only.	
10-14 Apr 09	Easter		For info only.	
20 Apr 09	Schools return from Easter Hols		For info only.	
28 Apr 09 TBC	Fishwise Grants Open		For info only.	Vicki
30 Apr 09	Rec. and Comm. Rock Lobster (Fem.) and Rec. Giant Crab (Fem.) Close		For info only	
30 Apr 09	Fish Telegraph		Articles and photos due	Tess
1 May 09	Banded Morwong Opens		For info only	
3 May 09	Closure of most brown trout waters		For info only	IFS
4 May 09	145 th B'day of trout		For info only	IFS
7-9 May 09	Agfest	Carrick	Tassie's biggest agricultural show	Quenton
23-24 May 09	Liawenee Open Day	Liawenee		Quenton/IFS
7 Jun 09	Sustainability Festival	Hobart	Botanical Gardens	Sue/Avril
20 Jun 09	Quarterly Update - South	Hobart	Volunteer get together and training	Mike/Avril

If you haven't already put your name down for these events, contact your coordinator to join in the fun!