



Newsletter

February 2017

Upcoming Events:

Club Meeting:
Wednesday 15th
February, 7.30pm

Open Weekend:
25th/26th
February
2017

Club Fish Together:
Sunday 12th
February

General News:

Hello fisho's and welcome to the February edition of the newsletter for the Feilding Surfcasting Club.

Well the weather and wind continues to play hard ball with fishable days hard to come by but it was pleasing to see clubbies making the most of the weather on the open weekend. Some fish over the scales but more on that later.

This month we have a welcome contribution from Dave McNeur, sharing some of his thought about his experience with the club. It is great to see members willing to contribute, and it also is opportune times to remind everyone that any opinions or comments in any of the articles in the newsletter are those of the article author and do not necessarily represent those of the club or its members. That said, please feel free to be part of this newsletter and participate.

If you have any news you would like to share at any time feel free to email me: bobndodd@xtra.co.nz

Todd Smith
Club Captain

Social Fish Together Sunday 12th February

Next item on the club calendar is a friendly, social fish together this coming Sunday 12th February.

The plan is to meet in the carpark at the road end in Scotts Ferry at 8am, where we'll load up everyone who needs a lift onto the beach and then we'll convoy over to the beach and fish an area close to the beach entrance.

The High tide is at 12pm (lunchtime) so fishing will be from 9ish till appox 2pm when the tide will hopefully have pulled back enough to allow vehicles to leave the beach.

At time of writing, wind for the morning is forecast to be 6-8 knots and swell of just 0.7m.

Some species worth targeting will be Snapper, Kahawai, Lemonfish and if water is clean even a Gurnard is possible.

Come along for a relaxed, social get together.

A Personal Opinion.

I was asked the other day why I joined the Feilding Surfcasting club, and to be honest I didn't even have to think hard about the answer. I joined because I enjoy associating with people that have similar sporting interest to me, in this case surfcasting and because I enjoy an exchange of ideas and the camaraderie involved when pursuing my sport. We are never too old to learn new ideas and methods for doing things; even if it's only learning what not to do. (You'll learn the latter by watching me.)

I have only taken up surfcasting seriously in the last few years, although I have usually done it during my annual leave when holidaying on the East Coast, Coromandel & when up in Northland, but never locally. Deer stalking and back country trout fishing have usually been my forte and chosen sports in the past. However I have decided to really get into surfcasting and am really enjoying getting out locally. I didn't realise there were so many beaches in the clubs area, but I'm endeavouring to fish them all before I pop my clogs. I am not really into competition fishing because I personally believe there is too much wastage of fish that are caught for points only and then trashed. Catch it and if you kill it- use it, otherwise put it back for another day. One thing that trout fishing really taught me was the benefits of catch and release. I strongly believe there should be a lot more of this done by the surfcasting fraternity.

Sitting back and watching ones rods for a hint of movement; chatting to ones mates, and watching the surf and nature doing its thing on a pleasant day in such natural surroundings, are a bloody good way to pass the time. It always surprises me just how much is actually going on in nature if one is prepared to sit back and observe. (We all see the same things, but some people notice things better than others.) I personally have a tendency to get side tracked watching nature and will often miss the subtle signs of a fish on the line, which is where my attention should be. But who gives a hoot. Being there and participating is what I enjoy.

I also joined the Feilding Club, because through past experience I know that as an individual it is very difficult to have any influence on getting change in the politics of our outdoor sports, and that change and influence only comes by combining talent, ideas and energy with other like-minded people. People that are also concerned with the manner in which our successive Governments and Government agencies like MPI and commercial fishing interests are treating our fishing stocks with disdain. I thought that the club, as a member of NZACA may be influential in attempting to help preserve and improve our present fish stocks for future generations of Kiwis and I wanted to lend my support to this but I gather I am mistaken. It is what it is, and I suppose I have to accept that, but you will hear from me in the future re putting the knife into MPI & commercial interests.

Dave McNeur

Club Night

The upcoming club night on Wednesday 15th, is ear marked as an opportunity to begin the planning for our defence of the club and individual titles at the upcoming NZACA Nationals.

All those who are thinking of fishing this event are encouraged to attend. Remember, this year's event is being held in our club waters and local knowledge will be a big asset but numbers are needed as there will be some very strong teams coming especially from WSAC and Pania.

Unfortunately I'll be away in Wellington for business on the 15th but my name will certainly be on the list.

January Open Weekend 28th/29th.

The first open weekend of the new year has been and gone and it was great to see clubbies hit the beach after what can only be described as testing (let's be honest, bloody crap) weather since before Christmas.

A lot of the clubs waters were fished with fisho's spread from Waiinu Beach to Ngawi. The usual Kahawai seemed to be the main fare but I managed to eke out a nice 3.5kg Snapper and Greg Veale landed a rare Sole or Witch, an interesting catch on surfcasting gear.

Of note, at least where we were was the large number of Eagle and Sting Rays encountered.

Between 7 fishos' we managed to land about 5 or 6 Eagle Rays and 2-3 Sting Rays, while being dusted by others. It's a special sight watching an Eagle Ray launch itself clear of the water as it heads towards Kaikoura trying to get rid of the hook.

See below a couple of photos from the weekend. Remember to send in any photos you may have taken on club events.



Well that's another month done and dusted. Remember to come along to the social fish together on Sunday and to the next club night, the club needs you.

I hope to see you all out on the beaches soon and wish you all tight lines.

Cheers

Todd
Club Captain