



### Report on the annual AAA State Boat Championships run on Saturday the 16th March 2013

The competition was run with South Easterly Winds at 15 to 20 knots, with easing winds in the by noon down to 10 Knots, Reasonable weather conditions for power boating and fishing, although difficult first thing.

The Quinn's Rock Fishing Club team provided the heart starters for the day, by having tea and coffee with Bacon and Egg burgers at the Ocean Reef Boat Ramp, 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 clubs benefit from everyone's hard work.

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 Langdon (ORSSC), Ian Wilkes (MAAC) a special mention to Richard Suidak (AAA National Records Chairman and AAAWA Treasurer) just to assist on the day with Paul Frzop (from next Year's organising and host Hillarys Yacht Club) who sold raffle tickets and lots of general duties needed on the day.

The forecast of constant winds for those that wanted to go deep straight away were kept in close, although some tried to go out then turned around, then fished for those elusive inshore species on the day, those that thought that they knew better and knew time was of the premium, took off in close while the weather was blowy and tried their luck at the smaller species, then ventured out, either way you could see from the upper car park at Ocean Reef that there were teams working together to ensure it would be a good day, for their club teams.

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 straight away, 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 their favourite spots, Carmel Langdon (WSSC) who is also the secretary of the boating sub committee, with, Richard Suidak (AAA), John Curtis AAAWA President, set up the presentation area and the weigh in area was set up by a committee of MAAC non fishers, with guidance from Henry Boogaard Field Day Officer, and it looked magnificent, again.

Whilst we were doing this Paul Frzop from the Hillarys Yacht Club stayed at the Marine keeping an eye on the trailers for everyone and looked after the safety discs.

At closing time for the bags (3.30pm) most boats had either got their boats on their trailers or were waiting to, and the Henry the FDO, ensured that the door was shut at exactly 1530hrs, and Carmel and Justine continued taking in the skippers safety discs, this was to ensure that all were safely back on land, there was 162 competitors and 60 boats that participated, 142 of those actually weighed in!

The weigh in commenced at 4.30pm, in the Northern Parking area of the MAAC headquarters overlooking the Indian Ocean, all the signage and club and sponsor flags made for a great spectacle.

The MC for the weigh in was Glen Omond provided a running commentary, with a great deal of good humour and light hearted banter.

Whilst this was happening Paul Frzop was busy selling tickets to the MYSTERY prize, and made approx. \$780.00 for the event.

The weigh in went extremely well again we would be lost without those assisting on the day, including our ever efficient competition officer Terry Bell (ORSSC) and Mitchell Bell (ORSSC) with the collation, thank you.

The presentation was MC'd by our effervescent ORSSC member and Competition Officer in Terry Bell, and with the banter as always between "rival" clubs, made for an excellent evening, with Carmel and John Curtis the AAAWA President presenting all the Trophies and Prizes.

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

To the Overall winner Mitchell Bell ORSSC 200.1 points and 9 species and runner up Graham Cole ORSSC points with 9 species and 134.4 points, Mitchell got more points than last year's winner in Jurien, Wow!

To the Patron Cup winners Marmion Angling and Aquatic Club, with 87 participants congratulations again, well done.

*This report prepared by Pat Shinnick Chairman of the Boating Sub Committee of the Australian Anglers Association WA.*