



Report on the annual AAA State Boat Championships run on Saturday the 22nd March 2014

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 Hillarys Yacht Club junior Yachting team provided the heart starters for the day, by having tea and coffee with Bacon and Egg burgers at the Hillarys Boat Ramp at \$5 for a coffee and a burger the start of a great day and a bargain, 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 Siudak (AAA National Records Chairman and AAAWA Treasurer) just to assist on the day with Paul Frzop who also 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 those that did indicated it was better "outside", they then fished for those elusive inshore species later in 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 "secretive" discussions held early, there were teams working together to ensure it would be a good competitive day.

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 (ORSSC) who is also the secretary of the boating sub committee, with, Richard Siudak (AAA), set up the presentation area and the weigh in area was set up by a band of non-fishers on the day, with guidance from Henry Boogaard, and it looked magnificent, again. Whilst we were doing this Paul Frzop from the Hillarys Yacht Club stayed at the Marina keeping an eye on the trailers for everyone and looked after the safety discs, he was always surrounded by The Field Day Officer Greg Mansell (HYC) with Wilf Core (AAA Delegate).

At closing time for the bags (3.30pm) most boats had either got their boats on their trailers or were waiting to, and the Greg the FDO, ensured that the door was shut at exactly 1530hrs, and Paul with Wilf continued taking in the skippers safety discs, this was to ensure that all were safely back on land, there was 148 competitors and 54 boats that participated, 140 of those actually weighed in!

The weigh in commenced at 4.30pm, in the Easter Parking area of the HYC headquarters overlooking the Boat Pens and the club rooms, all the signage and club and sponsor flags made for a great spectacle.

The MC for the weigh in was again 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. \$825.00 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 Garry Cunningham (HYC and AAAWA Boating Chairman) 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 you're all on again.

To the Overall winner Glen Carter MAAC 204.8 points and 11 species Congratulations and runner up (*Second year running*) Graham Cole ORSSC points with 9 species and 156 points Commiserations again.

To the Patron Cup winners Marmion Angling and Aquatic Club, with 55 participants congratulations again, well done. To all other teams from FAAC, HYC, QRFC, ORSSC including the MAAC, thank you all for participating.

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