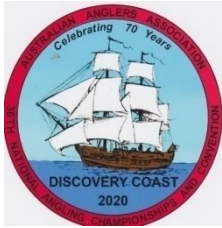




AUSTRALIAN ANGLERS ASSOCIATION



AAA NEWSLETTER NO 4

It's just 12 months to go before the 36th National Championships start and we are having the AAA Annual Meeting and Executive Meeting on September 6th with delegates representing every state attending.



It will be a busy couple of days for these people as they will arrive on the Discovery Coast on Wednesday; Thursday will be the trip around all the fishing venues and Friday will be the meeting. We should get down to some hard talking from there. We haven't changed the fishing program from what we presented in Harrington and we didn't seem to get too many remarks from the presentation we put on there.

There will be no night fishing and the times will all be the same for every competition, except casting, so I hope there will be no confusion. Registration will be at 5.30 am each morning and weigh-in will be at 2.30 pm in the afternoon. We have played around with the social program slightly, mainly in the area where we will be providing something for the ladies (and gents, if they wish) who are not fishing. We will confirm this when it goes through a newsletter later after it is presented to the meeting and passed.

One major bonus we have on our side, there will be no driving 100km each way to and from the casting ground; it's all right there. We can get two courts and possibly 3 courts in on the Discovery Coast Sport and Recreation ground. No one will have to do any cooking as you will be able to get a regular snack and drink at the canteen on both days. God bless them!

I know I will draw a bit of flack as to the location of our headquarters, as it's a little out of town, but unless you have actually run one of these events, you don't know what to look for in a venue. My first requirement is a casting ground where you don't have to travel kilometres to get there. No. 2 you must have plenty of parking for boats and cars. No. 3 is somewhere you will get a cool drink, a bag of chips or hamburger after you have been out fishing all day at the right price. And somewhere to store your scales etc!! With the Sports Club, I can tick every box, so that's why we are using the Discovery Coast Sport and Recreation Ground as our headquarters.

I am not entirely sure what all the delegates will be doing once the AAA meetings are finished, but I do know what Queenslanders will be doing. They will be starting their week-long State Titles with another meeting and a welcome night. Then it will be down to the serious business of fishing. These week-long state titles will be a forerunner to the Nationals to make sure that we have it all right.

In Queensland, we do things slightly different from other states, where we start off with a Light Gear Competition, which you have to fish in the estuary, from the bank using no greater than a .030 mm line. From there we go to Offshore, Casting, Freshwater, Boat Estuary and Rock & Beach. By the end of the week you are flat out getting up and going for the last competition.

LATEST NEWS !!

I spent some time at Agnes Water early this month – I went to the Agnes Water/1770 Bait and Tackle Shop situated in the main shopping centre. It has everything you could want in the line of bait and gear for a venture such as ours. I am sure if you call in, you will get the best information as well.

Here's what I received straight from the horse's mouth in time for this newsletter. This is what's happening around the Discovery Coast just at present

Estuaries – They are currently producing some big dusky flathead, several reported exceeding 70cm, good catches of whiting and a few grunter mixed in. Just a couple of pointers here the Dusky Flathead is identified by a black spot on its tail and it has a minimum legal length of 40 cm; This fish has a maximum legal length of 75 cm also, with a bag limit of 5. However all other species of flathead have a combined bag limit of 5 also.

I guess we will raise a laugh from the southerners what with the size of their King George whiting and with a legal length of 27 for whiting cm over the border, when you consider our sand whiting to be legal at just 23 cm, and to top that off, you will be allowed an 'in-possession' limit of 30. They are without a doubt one of the best eating fish in the sea.

Beaches - Have been producing good numbers of swallowtail dart. (Dart are included in the trevally family with queenfish, yakka/scad and they have a legal length of 30 cm and a bag limit of 20) with many in the 40-50cm range. I couldn't find out where they were catching them!

There are also whiting, bream (all different species of bream and tarwhine have a size of 25 cm and a collective bag limit of 30) and bar tail flathead being caught at present. Tailor (here we go again - in Queensland they are legal at 35 cm with an 'in-possession' limit of 20) are expected to turn up over the next few weeks with a possibility of jew (75 cm with a bag of 2) right on their tail.

Offshore – The weather has been absolutely lousy of late, but last good weather window produced some XL cobia (75 cm, bag limit of 2) around the wrecks, Spanish mackerel (75 cm, bag limit of 3) up to 18kg on the local bait grounds. Reef species such as trout, red throat emperor and tusk fish were in good numbers. So there you have it! What's biting in the area!

CHARTER BOATS

I've keep hearing that the charter boats don't exist at 1770. Oh yes they do! They may be a little hard to get hold of, that's all, but if you are persistent, you will get them. We have found another hire boat business, and that's at the 1770 marina. It's called Poppys. I believe he has 5 dinghies with 30 hp motors for fishing the estuary.

REEF FISH AND DIVE 1770 – The newest, fastest charter vessel in the fleet, "Southern Comfort", can do any sort of fishing - reef, game or sport fishing. They have quality fishing rods and reels, tackle and bait included. You get a fully catered morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea with unlimited soft drinks and water. Costs from \$180.00 per head!

Bookings 0419 709 841 www.reefishanddive1770.com.au

1770 CREEK 2 REEF FISHING CHARTERS - The 10.3 m wide beam cougar cat, "Bulletproof", departs from the 1770 marina jetty. They supply all fishing gear and bait, and also include snacks and cool drinks. Boat will take 8 persons at \$1600, which amounts to \$200.00 per person.

Creek2reef@gmail.com or call Sandy on 0439 962 245

HOOKED ON 1770 – Full or half day charters for mixed or group bookings, FISHING OFFSHORE 1770 – Outer reef and offshore fishing charters on the southern Great Barrier Reef. The wide-bodied Cougar cat cruises at 25 knots. They use quality Shimano gear, targeting reef fish, including Red Emperor and Coral Trout. All you need to bring is a hat and something to eat. Departing from the town of 1770. All gear, bait and tackle provided. Experienced and novice fishermen are all welcome.

Contact Damien 0428 749 686 or 4974 9794!

POPPYS – CHANDLERY AND BOAT MOORING - At 1770 Marina with tinnies and 30 hp motors for hire [contact 0416 530 288](tel:0416530288)

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17 REASONS TO VISIT 1770

Discover the attractions in Queensland's birthplace

CHRISTINE RETSCHLAG

Captain Cook was no slouch, he knew a great destination when he stumbled across it.

From the country's cheapest surf lessons, to one of the rare places along Australia's east coast where you can watch the sun rise and set over the water, there are plenty of reasons to visit the Queensland Town of 1770.

1 DISCOVER RICH HISTORY

Back in 1770, he was Lieutenant James Cook, and with his crew on the *Endeavour*, this spot along the (unnamed) Queensland coastline was his second landing site in Australia (Botany Bay was his first). Thus began the birthplace of Queensland and the Town of 1770. There's a rustic stone monument to Cook at 1770 Headland. DISCOVER1770.COM.AU

2 ENJOY A LARC

Jump aboard this pink, amphibious vehicle on a delightful day tour which will take you along secluded beaches, through four creeks, up steep hills and to the Bustard Head lighthouse. You can swim, sand-board, and learn all about

the area's history and wildlife, as you chug along the 1770 coastline in this five-tonne US Army Larc. 1770LARCTOURS.COM.AU

3 BE A LIGHTHOUSE CARETAKER

Visit remote Bustard Head Light, the only operating lighthouse in Queensland open to the public. View historical shipping artefacts, pay your respects to previous inhabitants at the small cemetery, and learn how you can apply to be a caretaker and live in a cottage here for a month. LIGHTHOUSES.ORG.AU/OLD/BUSTARD-HEAD-LIGHTHOUSE/

4 SWIM A LUSCIOUS LAGOON

Lagoons 1770 Resort & Spa is so named for its luscious lagoon which wraps around its interior, boasting rooms with ladders which lead straight into the pool, as well as its up-market spa. After a swim here, head for breakfast. Their Spanish eggs Benedict with chorizo is a winner. LAGOONS1770.COM.AU

5 CATCH A BALLI BREEZE

Walk through giant teak Balinese

doors and enter another world at 1770 Getaway Garden Cafe. Amble through luscious gardens adorned with fountains before ordering cake and coffee in these gorgeous surrounds. Try the vanilla slice, reportedly one of the region's best. 1770GETAWAY.COM.AU/AGNES-WATER-CAFE

6 LEARN TO SURF

Arguably the cheapest surf lessons anywhere in Australia, \$25 buys you three hours on one of the country's stampest waves, which are ideal for learners, at the north-facing Agnes Water Beach with Reef to Beach Surf School. FACEBOOK.COM/REEF-2-BEACH-SURF-SCHOOL-13883982803792/

7 WANDER THE PAPERBARK FOREST

Cute but stable stepping stones over wetlands carve through this magical emerald forest lined with tall paperbark trees. This is a short but spectacular walk suitable for most ages and fitness levels which is popular with Instagrammers and nature lovers. VISITAGNES1770.COM.AU/PLACES/PAPERBARK-FOREST-WALK

8 TRY THE LOCAL BREW

For some fruity flavours, head to the 1770 Distillery which makes four kinds of liqueurs from as much locally sourced produce as possible. A popular drop here is the Strawberry Splash. If beer is more your thing, nearby Baffle Beer brews eight drops in traditional German style. While the brewery itself is closed to visitors, you can find this ale in local pubs and restaurant menus. Look out for the 1770 IPA, the Southern Reef Special, and the Capricornia. 1770DISTILLERY.COM.AU/BAFFLEBEER.COM

9 FIND A SECLUDED BEACH

Chinaman's Beach is a secret spot off Springs Rd south of Agnes Water which is not only popular with locals, but turtles during nesting season.

Explore the rock pools, but be careful of swimming here as there are strong currents on this unpatrolled beach. It's also pet-friendly outside of nesting season. VISITAGNES1770.COM.AU/PLACES/CHINAMANS-BEACH/

10 WALK 1770 HEADLAND

This rugged, windswept headland walk is only 250m long but takes you through tussock grasslands, vine thicket and coastal woodland before arriving at several lookouts over Bustard Bay and the ocean. Around May, spot the beautiful blue and black spotted tiger butterflies. VISITAGNES1770.COM.AU/PLACES/1770-HEADLAND

11 SIP BY THE SEA

If you're looking for a brew with a view, then plonk yourself down at this laid-back beachfront cafe in Agnes Water Beach Holiday Park serves a great organic coffee and fresh juice – try the energising Zingrasia with watermelon – along with some of the best views along Australia's east coast. HOLIDAYSCAFE.COM.AU

12 DRINK IN THE SUNSET

Pointing west and overlooking the ocean, the Tree Bar 1770 is a favourite with locals and visitors. Grab a Baffle Beer and some bar snacks, or pull up a perch in the restaurant and order a reef and beef, while watching the sun dip into the ocean. 1770BEACHHOTEL.COM.AU

13 GO ON A LIQUID ADVENTURE

This cool kayaking tour caters for everyone, from showing the kids the mangroves, to taking adults out into the ocean, looking for dolphins and eagle rays. Catch your breath on sunny sandbanks and ride the ocean waves back into Butterfly Beach before paddling back into the sunset. 1770LIQUIDADVENTURES.COM.AU

14 SLEEP IN A BEACH BUNGALOW

For absolute oceanfront bliss, hire the Bungalow on the Beach couples' retreat overlooking Agnes Water Beach. There's two of these wooden shacks from which to choose. Select either the room with the four-poster bed, or the two-person soaker bath. There's also a two-bedroom apartment, studio, and Jeffery's House here, all offering ocean views. AGNESWATERBEACH.COM.AU

15 GLAMP IT UP

If glamping is more your thing Agnes Water Beach also offers two types of safari tents, the Treetops or the Breakers. Both boast private ensuite, airconditioning, flatscreen TV, DVD player, private balcony, ocean views, fridge, microwave, tea and coffee facilities and linen. AGNESWATERBEACH.COM.AU

16 CAMP BY THE OCEAN

At Agnes Water Beach you can also camp like a king in north-facing powered sites, powered tent sites, or unpowered tent sites. Or, for absolute beachfront camping, head to 1770 Camping Ground, from where you can watch the sun set over the ocean and fishing and sail boats head out to sea. There are great beach barbecues too. AGNESWATERBEACH.COM.AU 1770CAMPINGGROUND.COM.AU

17 BUY LOCAL

The Agnes Water and Town of 1770 Visitor Information Centre has made a concerted effort to support local products. More than 95 per cent of its goods for sale are made locally and include Telka teas, jewellery made from skate boards, woodwork and retro postcards. The visitor information centre is also a handy source should you complete this list of 17 things to do, and are looking for another 17. QUEENSLAND.COM/EN-AU/INFORMATION/AGNES-WATER-AND-TOWN-OF-1770-VISITOR-INFORMATION-CENTRE

CHANGES ON THE WAY TO OUR FISHERY?

You know, we are pretty lucky when something goes wrong in the fishing circles we can always blame the Government of the time or the past Government for what they did or didn't do. Well this time I am absolutely spot on. In their infinite wisdom, they are looking to make some changes to fish sizes and bag limits that will have a direct effect on our National Championships. These changes are **PROPOSED** to become law this September and they start with boat limits for high value fish.

- The individual limit still stands, but the boat limit is twice the individual limit. Like barramundi boat limit 10, Spanish mackerel 6, black jewfish 2 and I know there is more to come.
- This is a little all over the place at present, but I'll eventually get it sorted – on the east coast threadfin salmon minimum size will rise from 60 cm to 65 cm (they are available in the Discovery Coast area).
- A general 'in possession' limit of 20 where there is no current in possession limit. This will refer to the following trevally/dart, winter whiting, garfish, all fusiliers.
- An 'in possession' limit of 50 for certain bait species - Mullet (excluding diamond scaled, sea, fresh water), squid and cuttlefish. There will be no limit on herring, hardy head, pilchard, anchovies, silver biddies, saltwater yabbies, soldier crabs, and non-regulated worms.
- This is the one that tops them all -
From next year, anglers will be banned from catching snapper and pearl perch during the month of July. A boat possession of 10 with no more than 3 fish to exceed 40 cm. For pearl perch, the bag limit is to be dropped from 5 to 4 and the size increased from 35 to 38 cm.

It's all very interesting! You can just hop over the border and catch 10 snapper and they only have to be 30 cm to be legal, and yet I've seen plenty of big ones come from the south. Just another point - next July we are going to stop fishing outside? We are not allowed to catch a Pearlie or a Snapper so when we drop down in the deep we tell them not to bite, for if we pull them up we have to throw them back and they will be dead any way. Not a lot of thought going into that hey!

Anglers have **until Friday, 19th July**, to agree or disagree with the proposals in a final round of public consultation now underway.

