

ALBAA

*The Australian Land Based Anglers Association
February 2009 Quarterly Newsletter.*

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 2 - February 2009

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From the Editor:

Hello and welcome to the February 2009 ALBAA Newsletter. As usual the pace around here has been set at frantic! For those of you that have been waiting for this edition I must apologise for its tardiness. On reflection, I guess this serves to illustrate the difficulties faced by clubs and volunteer organisations where an unexpected or unplanned event can throw a fist sized spanner in the works and redirect resources to immediately tackle that issue. In our case this was the little publicised Booderee National Park Management Review which came up very late in 2008.

Once we started building the foundations of our submission we quickly realised the newsletter would be late. As a result I got on the phone to a few members and asked if they would write some articles to boost the fishing content of this issue. If it was going to be late, then it was going to be good!

As part of the 'lets make this one worth the wait campaign' we have also taken some time out to reformat and provide a cleaner more content rich product that I hope you will enjoy reading.

Kurt Edwards

Publicity Officer





Revenge On Quobba

ALBAA Club Secretary Matt 'Blue' Selwyn heads back to Western Australia to settle the score.

— Matt Selwyn

Revenge. Simple and sweet. That's what was on my mind when I got the call from mates in WA saying the Spannies were going off at the cliffs off Quobba Station. After a previous two week trip over there that included the remains of a cyclone, the worlds hungriest sharks and some of the worst luck on the stones I have experienced whilst fishing, let's just say that I was eager to get back over there and give it another crack.

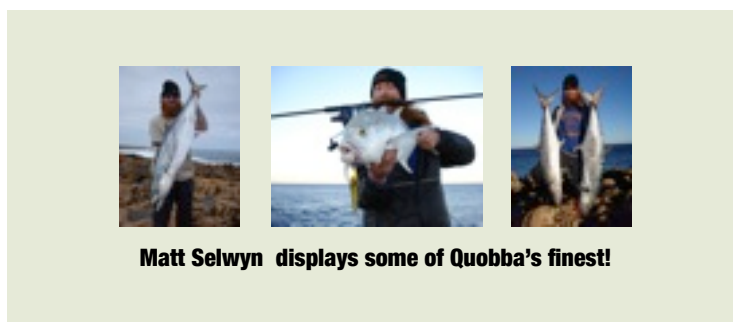
The hopes of hooking into some big, fast fish made the flight from Darwin to Perth pass pretty quickly. The following long sleepless night, in a backpackers dorm full of snoring travellers and the 15 hour bus ride, did not pass so quickly. But this is the price you pay when packing up and jetting across the country to chase a run of fish.

Straight onto the rocks the next day and all the hiccups on the way drifted to a faint memory as the anticipation of a strike took over.

The main styles of fishing the West Coast from the shore is spinning and helium ballooning. The basics of

huge Spanish mackerel leaping clean out of the water to take an aerial strike. Needless to say my eyes were pinned on the bait the hole of that first morning waiting for it to get hit.

choice to just keep driving to another ledge that suited the wind. It proved to be a good choice also. First bait went out with just enough time to clip in the rod and sit down before the helium balloon was pulled to the water with the weight of a fish. I was a bit slow off the mark, waiting for the ratchet to go off. I got to the rod, picked it up and took in the slack, then set the hook once I felt weight. I was taken by surprise when the 24Kg outfit lit up in my hands and it was on for young and old. I mentioned before the hungry sharks. This place has the most sharks around that I have ever seen, so it's a race between you and them to get the fish. Hence the 24Kg set up to fight poor old Spannies. I cranked the fish in from out wide as fast as I could. On the last trip I had gone two weeks hooking fish like this everyday and not got one onto the rocks, I was getting nervous fighting this fish!! Now, if you manage to get your catch past the marauding sharks things just get worse. The high ledges that surround the coast



Matt Selwyn displays some of Quobba's finest!

ballooning is using a large 1 metre wide balloon filled with helium on 30' of line that slides up and down your main line via a small solid ring or swivel. The aim is to utilise the off shore winds that are prevalent over there to tow your bait out, skipping it across the water under the balloon. It is an extremely exciting way to fish. You get to see the bait smashed on the surface every time, often with

Sadly it was a quiet start to the trip. The only fish being landed in sight was a small Cobia caught by the guys fishing next to us. The winds dropped to the point where they wouldn't take the balloons out so it was decided to pack up and head back to camp. It was only a couple of minutes drive yet in that time the breeze had picked up from a slightly different direction. It was an easy

at Quobba are themselves surrounded by a lower ledge down near the water level that stick out a great deal further than the upper ledges. A 21' gaff is a necessity to land a fish over there, and some ledges that's not even an option. A cliff gaff is the only thing you can use on some of them. My heart was pounding in my ears as I tried to position the fish for a gaff shot. Some luck is always involved in getting them up out of the wash and swell and onto the bottom ledge but we had just enough that morning. 15 Kg's of shining Spanish mackerel was my rewarding first fish for the trip. I almost felt a weight lift from my shoulders as the pressure to land a good fish came off, and on the first day too! Revenge certainly is sweet, I was bloody stoked.

The following couple of weeks of fishing can only really be described as 'Black'.

Mornings were a constant state of chaos. Some days the number of strikes, between two of us, would better 30 before lunch! I managed a best fish of over 15 Kg's every day and lost a couple to sharks that were big enough to put those to shame. My buddy landed a couple over 20 K's with the best fish topping 25 Kg's caught by one of the local gurus. The Spannies where thick all morning. Guys who had been there all season put it down to the new moon as the fishing had not been that good leading up to my visit. I considered myself very lucky then decided I might even deserve it after the disastrous last trip and the trouble getting back a second time. The species were a bit thin but you know it's good fishing when you can say you're sick of catching Spannies. It got to the point that we were too!

As the week rolled by we did manage to land a few good sized Tuna, a couple of which would have been around 17Kg's. GT's and Goldspot trevally were easy enough to hook but even harder work to land that a Spannie twice their size.

The cheeky buggers would stay down deep the whole fight, so when you got them in close there was a sort of no-mans land where you couldn't pull on the fish because it would only pull it into the reef. So after being frustrated as hell with them for a few days it was extremely rewarding to pull one out for a photo, even if he was only a littlin compared to some of the brutes that were there.

Apart from the Spannies there is another, much less caught species I was targeting whilst over there; Sailfish. It's the sort of fish that you may not even see if you fished there your whole life. Or you may get lucky and see several in one day. It must have been one of the last days of the trip as we were running extremely low on bait. We had a very busy morning on the Spannies and there was only one Garrie and one big mullet left to send out. We decided on some experimentation instead and rigged up a piece of flesh from the belly of a Spannie and sent it out under a balloon. It reached the strike zone without incident and skipped around out there untouched for quite a while. It was late in the morning, almost lunch time which had proved to be about the end of the good fishing so hopes were not high. Yet we had sighted a sail free jumping the previous day so there was a little bit of expectation. Well, when I looked out to see about 9' of fish leaping out of the water around my bait I thought all my Christmas' had come at once! Sure enough the rod bent over and the ratchet was screaming in protest as the line went pouring out to sea behind the leaping sailfish. My mate was yelling, as you do at such a moment, yet there was something amiss, something had caught my eye. It was my bait! Splashing uslessly 20' behind the fish. It must have got it's bill or something wrapped up in the leader when I struck, yet missed the bait. Seconds later it was untangled and I was reeling in that horrible feeling of nothing. Surprisingly I was not disappointed at all. On my previous trip I had missed a chance at a hook-up with a Saily and it had stuck in my mind for ages.

This one didn't worry me. That was until we got back to camp and discovered that some old jerry had landed one 9ft long and weighing 140lb that same morning. Then the acid taste kicked in., I'm sure you all know that feeling!

It's seriously amazing fishing over there when things go right so it doesn't take long to soothe the disappointment with another good catch. I had a new spin rod with me built by Rohit of 'Dakau Performance Rods' and I was extremely keen to get a good fish out on it. 11' foot of graphite casting power in the form of one of his Longtail range and I was casting to the moon. I had been made a fool of by several big fish that trip, most of which did me over long enough to get themselves eaten by sharks. Those Halco Max lures where the best suited to the conditions as they dug in and stayed underwater right up to your feet. When you are fishing between 6 and 210 meters off the water is near impossible with any other lure. I got one fish on long enough to get him past the sharks so it was another nervous few moments getting him onto the gaff. In the end I think I ended up just washing it up onto the bottom ledge and doing the stupid run down between waves to get it.

The Cliffs at Quobba have claimed more fishermens lives than any I have fished in Australia so extreme care must be take at all times to ensure your safety and the safety of the people who will go out and try and rescue you. Without the weeks of experience on the ledge myself and the shared experience of my companions I would not have ventured down to get that fish. Once you go in there, that's it' There is no getting yourself out. You gotta swim out to sea away from the crashing waves and cliffs, into the shark infested waters out wide and wait for help from a boat.

Never fish any of those ledges on your own.

Beachmaster - New club sponsor announcement.

ALBAA would like to take this opportunity to both thank and welcome Beachmaster to the fold as our latest club sponsor. Primarily designed as a heavy duty 'beach spike' the Beachmaster is a well designed and finished product that is also very well suited for use when rock fishing. This multi purpose product will also hold umbrellas, flags and banners. Infact anything fixed to a pole that needs to be secured to sand, turf or rock will be well catered for.

The Beachmaster also has the sort of sticking power ALBAA members are finding very useful when it comes to turning their backs on expensive outfits on the beaches and rock platforms, safe in the knowledge that their gear isn't going anywhere. This product, made from 316 marine grade stainless steel, comes with a shoulder strap and rubber lip insert to look after you and your gear and is covered by a life time manufacturers warranty.

To date Beachmaster has been kind enough to provide 6 items for ALBAA in house fishing competitions with three allocated to the ALBAA 'Summer comp' and three for the ALBAA 'Have a go' competition which is a hybrid comp combining fishing, club social, and 'Ledge Care' events based on a point score system.

Many thanks to Brian Jose for his continued support. For more product information please visit www.beachmasterfishing.com.au



Booderee National Park Management Plan Review Submission.

The Australian Land Based Anglers Association Inc. (ALBAA) has submitted a 19 page document to the Booderee Board of Management and the Director of National Parks in response to the proposal to draft a new management plan.

When the new plan is finalised, it will guide the management of Booderee National Park for a period of 10 years. The key objective of ALBAA comments was to promote the effective, equitable and traditional use of the Park for all users especially land based anglers, keeping within the statutory framework for sustainable use by all traditional users.

In summary, the ALBAA submission suggested the careful consideration of following recommendations:

- * Recognition of land based anglers as a traditional recreational user of the Bherwerre Peninsula coastline, with a history that predates the proclamation of the Park. Acknowledgement of the unique opportunities that the coastline provides the recreational land based angler and the necessity to provide the opportunity to participate in their recreational activity in a safe and sustainable manner.

- * Recognition of the need to manage, protect and enhance the cultural and historical significance of the Bherwerre Peninsula coastline to land based anglers.

- * Recognition that the current network of formal and informal tracks were cut and maintained by land based anglers prior to the proclamation of the Park. Acknowledgement that access for land based anglers along the Jervis Bay coastline is severely limited and that there is a necessity to improve access for recreational land based anglers to a level that is fair and equitable with other park users.

- * Acknowledgement that exclusion is not a suitable management option for a recreational activity and that there is a necessity to provide infrastructure to facilitate appropriate and safe use of the park by land based anglers. Recognition that

the development of a recreational angling Code of Conduct would improve safety.

- * Recognition of the social, economic and environmental values of recreational anglers to Booderee National Park and the surrounding communities, and the necessity to protect and enhance these values within the Park.

- * Necessity to provide opportunities for recreational anglers to assist in the co-management of the Park and the ongoing consultation with recreational angling stakeholders.

These suggested changes were supported through detailing the:

- * Land Based Game (LBG) Angling

Australia is the home of LBG angling, especially the south coast of New South Wales. It is the unique nature of the Jervis Bay coastline, especially the adjacent deep water, which provides a rare opportunity for anglers to target game fish species from the shore.

- * Cultural & Historical Significance of Land Based Game Angling in Jervis Bay

Jervis Bay is the “jewel in the crown” of the limited LBG Angling locations throughout Australia, being so unique that no replacements are available anywhere else in the world. LBG Anglers have a significant cultural and heritage value in Jervis Bay, spanning 50 years, with early pioneers developing and refining specialist techniques and equipment along this stretch of coastline.

- * Accessibility Issues for Land Based Anglers

Until the 1950s, fishing and walking were the main recreational activities undertaken within Booderee National Park, with these early users forming many of the current tracks within the area, opening up access to the larger community. The current plan of management lead to many of these tracks

being declared ‘unformed’ and therefore not accessible. This management decision, in conjunction with the location of Marine Park Sanctuary Zones and de-facto closures imposed by the Department of Defence, has greatly reduced accessibility for land based anglers along the coastline of Jervis Bay.

- * Addressing Rock Fishing Safety

LBG angling presents certain risks to individuals participating in this recreational activity, ALBAA promoted education and awareness over exclusion as an effective control measure. The work into rock fishing safety being continuously conducted by NSW ANSA and RFA NSW was also highlighted.

- * Value of Recreational Angling

Recreational angling is an important activity in Australia, which has a range of associated social, economic and environmental values. ALBAA suggested the adoption of a co-management philosophy, that involved recreational angling stakeholders, would benefit all of the Parks stakeholders.

ALBAA is committed to following the development of the new plan of management for Booderee National Park and will make comment as deemed appropriate. The Association is also currently awaiting the outcome of the Jervis Bay Marine Park Zoning Review that is due to be released early next year.

The ALBAA BNP submission can be viewed at: Booderee National Park Management Plan Review Submission

Gavin Beveridge

ALBAA Environmental Officer



'Ledge Care' Initiative Annual Report



South Avoca



Snapper Rock - Fazer Park



Wybung Head - Frazer Park



Catherine Hill Bay



Beecroft Peninsula

The Australian Land Based Anglers Association Inc (ALBAA) has developed a model to implement the 'Ledge Care' initiative aiming to protect coastal environments through a grassroots movement that promotes sustainable use, stewardship and proactive engagement between volunteers, coastal communities and management bodies. This model has already been successfully implemented across a number of 'pilot project' sites along the east coast of Australia.

These 'pilot project' sites represent a diverse range of coastal environs that hold significant cultural and historical value to land based anglers, and are managed by various stakeholders.

We have currently held a total of 11 separate environmental 'Clean Up' actions at 7 separate coastal sites. Clean Up Australia has supported these actions, which have been undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the organisations

proven guidelines for holding such events. A total of 60 volunteers have donated 200 hours resulting in approximately 500kg of rubbish being removed from coastal environs. At present ALBAA has worked with 10 organisations and management bodies we refer to as 'Ledge Care Partners' to achieve ALBAA's objectives, including local councils, defence departments, peak fishing bodies, environmental organisations and government departments.

We are seeing a definite improvement in conditions at these 'pilot project' sites and generally speaking if there's an issue at rock ledge the management body responsible is aware of it and are happy to hear from ALBAA because not only do we have a solution to the problem, the solution is free. This is starting to pay dividends to land-based anglers by virtue of the fact that many of the management

bodies ALBAA has been working with are aware that land-based anglers have specific needs and are both a responsible and significant interest group in these coastal areas. A good example of this is the recent discussion with the Navy regarding closures to the range at Jervis Bay where ALBAA was contacted and asked when it would be convenient for tracks to be closed to clear ordinance and perform track works.

Moving forward ALBAA is geared to assist other angling groups who wish to hold Ledge Care events in their own areas of interest and it's envisaged this season we will see Ledge Care events held by many other groups throughout Australia with the help of organisation like ANSA and Clean Up Australia.

Christian Gough - Ledge Care Coordinator

Gavin Beveridge - Environmental Officer

ALBAA AND ANSA CALL ON FISHING CLUBS TO GET INVOLVED WITH CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY 2009.

The Australian Land Based Anglers Association Inc. (ALBAA) 'Ledge Care' initiative has been established to allow anglers to actively share in the stewardship of their local areas. The 'Ledge Care' philosophy also allows groups of anglers to initiate discussion and form relationships with their relevant stakeholders thus promoting a shared responsibility and encouraging co-management principles in the areas we anglers deem to be of cultural significance.

ALBAA has established a set of protocols and packaged documentation to make this as easy as possible for those wanting to join ALBAA in spreading the 'Ledge Care' ideal Australia wide.

The Australian National Sport Fishing Association both supports and endorses ALBAA's 'Ledge Care' initiative and encourages all ANSA clubs and interested parties to get involved with this type of 'Grass roots environmental action'

In support of Clean Up Australia Day (Sunday 1st March 2009) both ANSA and ALBAA would like to invite all ANSA clubs, associations and interested parties to contribute by initiating clean ups in their own back yards. We will also be working closely with Clean Up Australia, the intent being to maximise the environmental outcome of this event.

In light of the current National Parks Association plans to establish marine parks in the Hawkesbury Shelf and Twofold Bay Shelf Bioregions regions (NSW) both ANSA and ALBAA see this as a day that recreational fishers can unite under a common cause, the environmental improvement of the areas in which they practice, sending a clear message to management bodies and stake holders that we are willing to stand up and be counted.

In the wake of this event ANSA and ALBAA also expect positive media coverage and increased awareness of recreational fishers commitment and general affinity with, and within, the areas in which they practice.

What we would ask is that one member of each club or group, after designating an area, make contact and act as liaison to streamline the administration of this event.

For more information please contact:

New South Wales:

Christian Gough, Ph: 04 37 492 090 | ledgecare@albaa.com.au

Other States:

Joe Garufi (ANSA National Director), Ph: 04 17 491 868 | jgred@bigpond.com

It only takes one rock falling to create an avalanche.

Australian Land Based Anglers Association | Australian National Sport Fishing Association.



ALBAA CUAD Sites

The ALBAA Crew has registered three separate sites for Clean Up Australia Day 1st March 2009

The Central Coast team will be revisiting the iconic South Avoca ledge while the Lower Hunter Team will be taking on Catherine Hill Bay. Team Lower Hunter will also be seeking volunteers to help out, with a view to also visiting the Frazer Park Ledges: Snapper Rock and Wybung Head. This area of coast line may see members from both LH and CC groups in attendance.

Once again a major effort will also be made in the Beecroft Peninsula area with several ledges nominated: Big Beecroft (Mermaids Inlet), The Eaves Ravine, The Outer Torpedo Tubes and The Groper Coast. A social/club information night will be held at the Currarong Bowling club on Saturday evening. Those wishing to attend please note this meeting will begin at 7:00pm and conclude at 8:30pm.

Discussions are also under way to organise events in Perth and Darwin with more to follow shortly.

Please keep an eye out for the Ledge Care Flyers which will be sent out to those on the mailing list for each individual location. These will contain site specific information and Team Leader contact details.

As always guests are welcome at any event. If you would like to get involved please

contact :Christian Gough on 04 37 492 090 or email ledgecare@albaa.com.au for more information.



Whats next for 'Ledge Care'?

ALBAA is currently tendering for initial expressions of interest in sponsoring the 'Ledge Care' Initiative.

We have created a workable model to allow both major fishing/tackle industry players and local tackle retailers to get behind and support this grassroots conservation initiative.

A major sponsor will be sought to act as Ledge Care Partner while individual clean up events may also be sponsored by local retailers.

ALBAA attempts to recognise its member's contributions, made in both time and resources to attend events, in an effort to achieve an improved public perception of recreational anglers and a positive outcome for coastal environs. What we would like to see is the 'fishing/tackle industry' make a similar commitment to this cause as well.

We see this as a great opportunity for the 'fishing/tackle industry' to get involved in the sustainability of shore/land based fishing Australia wide by demonstrating care and good will to its market sector.

For more information please contact:

Kurt Edwards on 04 11 698 237 or email: publicity.officer@albaa.com.au

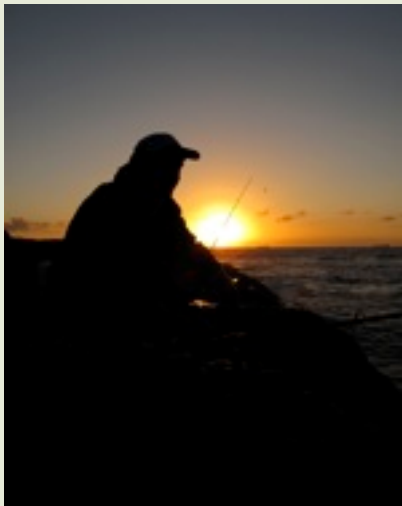
Special thanks

ALBAA would like to take this opportunity to make special mention and thank Catherine and the team at Clean Up Australia for their continued support. Given that the 'Ledge Care' initiative has been, to this point, largely reactive we appreciate your ability to move swiftly enabling us to get out there and do what we do with a minimum of 'red tape'.

ALBAA would also like to make note and thank the management bodies we have worked with to date: Gosford City Council, National Parks NSW (Munmorah State Conservation Area), Lake Macquarie City Council and Shoalhaven City Council for their contribution to the 'Ledge Care' Initiative.

Christian Gough

Ledge Care Co-ordinator.



Local Belmont resident Shad Baker sets a bait as the sun creeps over the horizon at Wybung Head.

Catherine Hill Bay 'Ledge Care' Event

On the 11th January 2008 ALBAA members held 'Ledge Care' Event number three at the ledge known to members as the 'glass house'.

After receiving reports through the members internet forum a clean up at Catherine Hill Bay was imminent. This is a ledge that the Lower Hunter and Central Coast Teams have put a considerable amount of man hours into and the Christmas crew proved the punters were no better educated. With a break in both Shad and my personal schedules we set about arranging a team to take this mess on. Running on a very short time frame to get the job done, ALBAA member Mark Williams jumped on board straight away while our Ledge Care Co-ordinator Christian got on the blower to Clean Up Australia. I made a quick call to Kym at Lake Macquarie City Council and we had made the necessary arrangements within 24hrs. All we had to decide from here on in was were to fish! Shad and I discussed the matter at length deciding to break form the usual protocol and fish a different location, settling on Wybung head. While this is not the way things are usually done, to Shad and I, Catho represents the place we started fishing LBG and after Shad had allready been down to contain most of the rubbish we just didn't want to have to try and wet a line knowing the state of the place.

The fishing wasn't quite what we had hoped but it was good to see Wybung in much the same state as the Central Coast and Lower Hunter guys left it in after the last clean up. This had us in high spirits even if the fishing didn't!

Time marched on while the conversation roamed freely and we decided to pull stumps and get in and out of Catho in smart fashion and just get the job done. On arrival we were greeted with said mess and the positivity left from the environmental conditions at Wybung quickly evaporated. It seemed that the glass smashing crew had been in fine form again and doing very few personal relations favours for the Tooheys product, Extra Dry. While we got on with it we noticed the same old rubbish, now had I been a tracker in a past life I reckon I would have been able to lead you to their door aswell! Some interesting items were found and included a hypodermic syringe full of tuna oil and a box of freezer brought Calamari. If you put two and two together here, like we did, you might come to the conclusion that these guys had gone to a fair amount of trouble to get there gear together but totally missed the part about taking it out with them!! Just to be fair to the Extra Dry crew, at this point I must say, that they weren't the ones with the oil laced squid either.. This lot seemed to prefer coal roasted something or other as was obvious by the remains of the make shift camp grill on the ledge. In their defence I would have to admit that we thought this was preferable to the pickled chilli's left by the other crew. Someone had a bit of spare cash here because we found a fair amount of PE braid discarded on the rocks as well.

In summary we pulled three bags containing eighteen Kilo's of rubbish off the ledge which included a quarter of its weight in broken glass. After two previous events at this location and finding much the same litter we can only assume that the same people are doing the same old thing down here and we just keep missing them. As a result of all of this the Lower Hunter Team has made a formal approach to Lake Macquarie City Council Requesting signage at this location.

Lower Hunter Team Leader



Outer Tubes 'Ledge Care' Event

On the 26th July 2008 ALBAA members held a 'Ledge Care' Event at the iconic rock platform known as the 'Outer Torpedo Tubes'



ALBAA Public Officer Pete Oberg taking out the trash.

After a quiet weekend fishing at the iconic 'Outer Tubes' platform in Jervis bay an ALBAA member provided the greater membership base with news of a rubbish issue at this location. A quick response was organised through the clubs internet forum.

The 'Tubes' is steeped in LBG history and the maintenance of this area is always very high on the local JB team's mind! In an effort to react as fast as possible the team made the necessary arrangements with Clean Up Australia and the local management body, in this case being the Royal Navy.

Daylight saw five anglers on the ledge with fishing number one on the priority list of things to do, at least initially. The lads faired well with several fish taken which made a nice change given the fishing at majority of recent Ledge Care events had been quiet to say the least.

The clean up itself took place post fishing and to our delight the area was in better condition than initially reported. It seems a group of responsible anglers had made the trip down for a fish prior to the ALBAA event and had done a reasonable job of sprucing the place up. Now this is great news!

A large part of these events, for ALBAA, has been to have members on the ledge early in the day. Not only are ALBAA members cleaning up rubbish, they're also demonstrating stewardship whilst on a level playing field to other anglers. This is

significant and appears the approach is starting to have a tangible affect on others.

Some general littler was still removed as well as a tidy up of the access tracks from the car park which has become standard practice for these events.

ALBAA would like to extend it's thanks to the Navy and Clean up Australia for their assistance and continued support.

Jervis Bay Team Leader

Online Rod Building Workshop

Club sponsor Dakau Performance Fishing Rods steps you through a 15Kg LBG build.

Dakau's Rohit Lau is holding a step by step rod building workshop through the open ALBAA forum boards.

The sample build will be a custom Calstar GF700H arranged for Land Based Game fishing. All of the parts and products Rohit uses will be detailed and kits will be made available through Dakau.

The presentation of this workshop will allow a high quality photographic content with the added bonus of being able to ask questions and get all the right answers in short order.

Each step of the build will be posted in weekly updates beginning 30/03/09, in the following format:

Part 1 - Starts with the parts list and the reasoning behind the choice of each item and what can be up or down graded

Part 2 - Tutorial on how to assemble the handle

Part 3 - Guide layout including discussion on spacing and static loading tests as well as guide feet prep.

Part 4 - Basic Wrapping techniques, trims and decals

Part 5 - Colour preserver and epoxy finish application.

Just to make things interesting Rohit has offered the built rod as one of our major prizes for the Have A Go competition!

Thanks again to Dakau for their continued support!





Jaws's Fin

ALBAA member and long standing LBG Fisho Bobby Russo takes us back to the mid 80's when the Front was open and the Fin were big!

Friday night and it is pouring down the rain that is, my partner in crime Jock has the flu so I am left to take on the rock we called "Oasis" but you guys know as "Neverfail" on my own. Loading the Hilux with out Jock just didn't seem right but a blokes gotta do what a blokes gotta do.

I got to Kiama and I was getting edgy, not about fishing the ledge but I had done some careful homework and was confident that a good fish was on the cards. How in God's name would I be able to hold a rod and gaff a fish of any size on the ledge where I would need to fish owing to the seas being up?

A standard gaff was one thing but what if I needed to use my 21ft flyer I had made to fish this rock ledge on a jumbo? Well only time would tell. Owing to the big seas I opted to go to Greenwell Point to get some Bung (yakkas) for bait and so I knew I was in for a long cold night and a tough day.

"Driving along the Pines into The Point and I knew I needed to stop at the pub for a "Heart Starter". That done and the

pub closing I rolled down the hill onto the wharf. (In the car that is). To my surprise I saw Fossil's big blue Ford Fairlane parked in

the car park. I knocked on the windows and was greeted by Jaws, Lash and The Fossil. Asking where I was going to fish I told them and so my big worry was a worry no more. We would fish together.

On to the wharf and the rain belting down saw Jaws and Fossil last half an hour until they went back to the warmth of the car. The two diehards, Lash and I stuck it out till 3.30am and caught about 8 big yakkas. Cold and ticked off with the lads in the car I loaded the bung into my Hilux with a 12v airator and big tub on board we headed off to The Range.

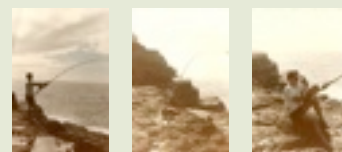
Fossil managed to guide the big blue tank through the mud and hollows but if any probs had occurred I could have pulled him out. Getting to the top of the cliff with darkness all around us and that blasted rain still bucketing had us thinking that we were all mad. Well I knew I was but I couldn't speak for the others.

Getting the extendable jib I had made to lower my gear at this place out of my ute had me wondering if we would be able to fish the ledge, the sea was pounding in below us. As I got to the edge I decided to wait for the sun to break on the horizon before I was going to venture onto the

precarious ledge I would need to go to set the jib up

Suns up, Jibs secured, gear on the rope, and the lads going down the side of the cliff it was all happening. I lowered the gear down and had to wait for them to untie it so I could do another three loads. The gear all down I scampered down the side like a rabbit to get rigged up. What I saw when I got around the corner had my heart go into sinking mode the seas were huge.

No spinning on the low ledge today boys and how are we going to get baits in from up here I thought. We would have been a good 40ft off the water and still getting ocean spray on us. We were there and so we were going to fish and that was that. We all rigged up and owing to the conditions I



Jaws' doing it tough with the long rod on a lost Ledge.

made up a double that was at least 50ft long and my trace would have been at least 20ft. There was no way a bloke could get down low to try and land a fish so I needed all the protection possible to avoid being cut off on the ledge below us.

I can't tell you how the other lads rigged but I will say this keep reading cause what Jaws did will spin you out. We all managed to get our baits in the water. The lads were using standard rigs and floats but I was using a home made Torpedo style float but it was a lot larger than standard and was no trouble to sea in the huge seas. All the lines were tight and if the drags were not slightly on the spools would have been empty.

We were freezing cold but at least the rain had stopped. Lunch time had been and gone but so were the yakkas. Only one left. I did a bit of a song and dance about that. Me and Lash had been up most of the night and still had our first baits out. Thats fishing I guess. We were cold, uncomfortable, tired and ticked off, not a good place for a combyare session I give you the mail.

It was about 2.00pm when we heard Jaws 6/0 Everol let out the most mournful howl you could imagine. The ratchet was screaming and line was disappearing at the rate of knots. He didn't have to strike the fish he just lifted the rod out of the hole and it nearly got ripped out of his arms. Heading North all Jaws could do was hang on. We all pulled our lines in close so as not to waste the precious baits we had left but also it would give Jaws a clear go at this fish on the end of his line. The fish slowed and a stale mate was in place. The rod locked, the fish arcing a dead give away, Tuna and a big one at that. The 50lb line could be heard singing over the wind and nothing could be gained but little bits at a time were being lost.

Eventually the arc broke after I suggested to stick it up this bludger of a fish. I got Jaws to up the drag slightly and run to the other end of the ledge to put a different angle on the fish. That did the trick it turned it's head and was coming his way. I like to call it "Walking the dog". (No not Arnie) Gaining and losing line was pretty regular for the next half hour but each time the tuna took line it was getting less and less. Home and hosed we thought. I started putting together the 21' flyer and getting a safety rope ready to put around me as I would have to climb down close to the water even with the big gaff.

Then disaster struck Jaws had an asthma attack and we couldn't find his puffer. Eventually Lash found his one and had it going down Jaws throat at the rate of knots. "Wow we thought that was close. Another 15 mins into the fight disaster struck yet again the stupid handle fell off the Everol (Ah! That maintainence thing again)

Rushing to my pack I found a 6" shifter - The things a bloke carries in his pack ! The handle on and Jaws was just about stuffed at the one and half hour point of the fight. "It's now or never Jaws" we said and so he upped the anty on the fish and went for broke. As the fish neared the big ledge protruding out in front of us I was getting Lash and Fossil ready for this would take the whole four of us if we were going to get this sucker.

Foss was going to take my life in his hands and hold onto my safety rope while Lash was going to take the big pole off me once I got the flyer in. In case I went in, I stripped down to those blasted undies (AGAIN) BUT THEN all hell broke loose. I was trying to work out the best place to go down and gaff the fish when Jaws yells out " There it is" " Struth what do I do here" I thought. I got straight down from where I was screaming at Fossil "Don't you let me go". It was hard to get down for Foss was holding the rope so tight I had to keep yanking it to move down. Then Crap again. A Big wave came in hit me and pushed the big fin under the protruding ledge. " Free spool, free spool " I screamed at Jaws the fish and line were at a horrible angle and I thought that it was all over, so close and yet so far away.

But "Bingo" as the big wave swept back, after what seemed like hours the big fin came out from under the ledge and would you believe it, the line was still in tact. Jaws wound like a man possessed to gain the slack line and the monster fin was floundering in the wash. As the line came back onto the reel I nearly died the line was shredded and all curly. "I can't see your double Jaws" I said. His reply stunned me, "What double". He never bothered to tie a double, how the line held together scraping under the ledge is beyond me. It does say a lot for Tortue line though.

I would get one crack at this or it was all over rover. With everything he had in him good old Jaws fought the big fish across to where I was on the tiny ledge. As it glided past I hit it with everything I had. The gaff went in the shoulder in front of the dorsil fin.

Talk about letting the cat out amongst the pigeons. The big fin objected to having an 8" flyer planted in it's back and tried to take off with me still hanging on. "Grab the pole grab the pole" I yelled and Lash did well as he was holding my safety rope with the Foss man as well. Man that fish kicked and pulled but thank God the gaff hung in.

Now the hard bit, pulling the fish up to the safety of the upper ledge took a lot of grunting and moaning until the massive yellowfin was up on the ledge. Jaws knackered, Lash and Foss hooting and screaming and me, well lets say I was glad to be up stairs on the safety of the upper

ledge with the lads and only a few grazes on my legs and cuts on my hands and very very wet as the pics show, oops don't look too close eh!

The mandatory pics, handshakes and jibes about the lads not fishing to get the bung and we were packing up to get ready to get this Big Fin topside. I went topside with Lash. Fossil and Jaws stayed with the big fish and the gear rope. Before going top side I put the big flyer through the eye sockets of the tuna and that was where we would pull it up from. The hook cannot pull through owing to the skull and eye socket bone.

With the tuna ready I tied the gear rope to my bull bar and started reversing, up she came. A few feet from the top Lash stopped me and we hooked a rope we had placed on the tail with our fixed gaff. I reversed more until I could see the head of the fish just below the roller on the end of the jib. Lash had the tail rope and as I moved slowly fwd Lash pulled the big fish backward onto the cliff top. Once it was safe and sound we pulled the gear up and waited for Jaws and Fossil to get topside with us.

From there we headed to the bowling club where we weighed Jaws Yellowfin. Needless to say people could not believe it came off the stones. Then the long lonely trip back home for me wondering what might have been if I had fished on my own that day. I'll never know.



Hope you enjoyed the read!

Bobby Russo



Coromandel Kings

Both hailing from New Zealand, Jade Kennedy (JK) and I have been chatting through Sportfish Extreme and Fishing NZ internet forums for a couple of years now. When the opportunity arose to get back to the land of the long white cloud for this past Christmas a few e-mails were all it took to schedule an assault on one of Jade's favourite Kingy haunts.

The plan was hatched to meet at Anglers Lodge, on the west coast of the Coromandel Peninsula well before dawn and head north along the rugged coast line. As often happens with shore based angling the weather played its part, with strong Northerly winds, and we were forced to delay our expedition by a day. Not to be deterred, we decided to take advantage of a small window of opportunity and light variable winds the following morning.

An early start saw me waiting road side, long before first light, watching the approaching head lights of Jade's four wheel drive. Having not physically met it was great to shake hands and get a bit of a visual ID in the glow from inside the vehicle.

Gear loaded and buckled in we drove over the hill and through Colville heading north. The conversation flowed freely over a range of topics including the mornings game plan, Land Based Game Fishing in Australia and other more local trivia.

A little over an hour later the single lane gravel road twisted into the drop point. Packs and headlamps on we trekked across the beach, finding firm footing as the tide was already receding. As we walked up the fence line the dark shape of the hill loomed above us as the day showed its first signs of greying light.

Now its often said that 'mountain goats have longer legs on one side', as Jade and I criss-crossed our way up and over the bluff the tendons securing our ankles down the calf explained this phenomenon. One more fence signalled the end of our ascent and we made it some way down the steep grassy slope before taking a breather to wait for the light to strengthen so Jade could identify the track head which would take us down and onto the ledge.

Sitting on this grassy slope, watching the silhouettes of the cliffs to both our east and west strengthen I had the opportunity to reflect on just how different the terrain in this part of the world is to my usual haunts in New South Wales. After all, how often do we get to walk through farm land en route to a ledge in Australia.

With just enough light to pick up the faint track we cautiously descended the slope before getting into the real tricky stuff. Ropes and steep shale footing had us taking our time through the later part of our entry before a big step down had us both breathing much easier with solid rock under our boots. Another thirty seconds walk to our left had the packs off and Jade springing into action.

The bait and burley came out with the pre-made frozen bomb taking some severe puncture wounds and slashes before being unceremoniously stuffed into the keeper net plastic and all. Once tied off and in the drink we set about rigging up.

The target bait species was Kahawai or Australian Salmon, as they are referred to on the other side of ditch. With this in mind, and only a big rock pool to keep our reserve baits we made sure that both Game rods were rigged prior to bait catching. Jade was the first to get organised and was solidly connected to a large Kahawai in seconds. This bait, being too big for all but the staunchest of Kings found its way back in the water just as fast as it came up. The next bait fish had King written all over it so it went the same way as the first with some shoulder jewellery and a short lease to show for its gluttony.

Feeling a little behind the eight ball I quickly raided Jade's tackle box for an appropriately styled hook before tying it off with no lead but a small piece of pilchard and flicked it into the burley trail. Using the same technique as my guide for the day it didn't take long before I had a perfect sized bait on the business end and was winching it up the ledge taking care not to bash the little fella about. Unfortunately this bait had drank a little deeply from the well and came topside bleeding from the gill. A quick smack on the rocks and he was out for the count providing us with some fresh strip baits for the day.

The next cast came up tight immediately and this time the bait found itself held in a wet rag and receiving a piercing very similar to the one his cousin, still tethered to Jade's TLD 50, found itself only minutes before. With two lively baits out, Jade and I did a bit of the old rock tango under

and over business before they seemed to settle enough to have both rods set and Jade firing out an un-weighted Piper to entice a King or otherwise unsuspecting snapper. Although I had my rod rigged in a similar fashion I thought it best to mix things up a bit opting for a Nilsmaster diver to make a bit of a racket and see what was about. Once rigged I had a second thought and grabbed the Canon Powershot G10 to snap off a couple of pics before the sun burnt out the scene.

Just as I put the camera down Jade's balloon bounced drawing my attention. I turned to get a fix on the bait and my eyes nearly fell out of their sockets as three or four kings in excess of 25lb swum in tight circles around the small Kahawai. The little bloke didn't want anything to do with it either, up on the surface swimming like mad in some sort of a fear induced side stroke. By this time Jade had a good fix on the goings on as well and simultaneously drew a deep breath in suspense. This time it wasn't to be, the fish had their fun and went deep and around into the bay to our left.

Battle stations again! Jade was shaking the burley bag like a man possessed and I fumbled around trying to tie a pencil popper onto my spin outfit. Both casts shot out in unison with the popper and bridled gar skipping the surface to entice the King quartet back into the strike zone.

After five or so minutes a brief discussion concluded that; (A) the fish had bugged off and (B) it wasn't feeding time yet. Still having three hours for the tide to bottom out we took a quick breather and had a bite.

Back at the waters edge, feeling pretty good about things we alternated between catching livies, throwing divers and stray lining for snapper. It was amazing to watch these little Kahawai bear down and attack my Nilsmaster. The lure would have been at least to thirds their size! They were keen enough for us to end up with a surplus of bait swimming happily in the deep rock pool down to our right.

Shortly after Jade came up solid on something running fast and deep on the stray line and a good stouch ensued. The fish took a fair run before Jade managed to take the initiative throwing the rod over providing enough side strain to turn the fish away from the reef in front of us. A minute or two later a good sized slab of crimson flashed in the morning light!

This was a welcome sight and had me gaff in one hand moving down to the waters edge. To say gaffing a Snapper with an oversized head is a walk in the park would be a bit of an understatement. This hook was rolled to secure Jade's trophy fish, which in these waters would easily pull the scales down to 70lb. After trying to gill the fish with the gaff point for a while I got tired of making a 0000 of myself and sunk it through the armour plating a little above and behind the pectoral fin. Jade grabbed the gaff from above allowing me to climb back up onto the ledge to get a better look at the fish.

Wide and deep but still showing the tell tale juvenile bright blue spots we estimated the fish to come in at a solid 10lb. A few pics for the fridge and prosperity saw the fish then bled and residing in a shady rock pool ready for future transport over the hill.



A little later we saw another flash of a bright yellow tail deep under the ledge, this fish was bigger and lit up too! Jade's bait was set closest to the fish and we watched in mute fascination as it came up and chased his Kahawai straight out of the water and had it flapping about frantically on the rocks! I turned to Jade and commented, with a little more than a hint of jealousy that, "those fish seem to love that bait of yours".

No sooner had i uttered the words than my reel burst into life with the ratchet wailing in protest. Three steps across the ledge and the rod was in my hand, all systems go! The reel went quiet but i could see the line arching back on itself and knew it was time to give this fish the good news. Dropping the tip i pushed the lever on the TLD 50 up to the first button and cranked till i came up tight. Not wanting to rip the bait out of the fishes mouth i just lent back into it. That really had the desired result and the line started disappearing off the spool in the sort of fashion one doesn't really appreciate when there's a good King attached to the other end! It didn't take any sort of a genius to work out what was happening here so i pushed the lever right over the button until it hit sunset!

The fish didn't even slow. Twelve Kilo's of drag pressure and no hint of giving up had me contemplating thumbing the spool to add pressure, no chance the fish was moving too fast! I did the only thing I could and ripped the rod over to my left. This time the side strain took its toll and the fishes head was turned. He hadn't slowed down but was now heading straight out to sea. I breathed half a sigh of relief before working out I

was well in the deep end again as i sensed the fish had another sub marine obstacle in its sights. Another quick change of angle was required in the form of a few steps to my left. Again the fish yielded to the change in pressure and ran parallel to the ledge. This was all getting a bit too exciting for my liking so i managed to take advantage of the slackening line and dish out some punishment in the form of some brutally quick pump and wind action. This time I knew I had hurt him and was able to take a moment to bend down and pickup the rod bucket that was lying just a little to my left. Somehow both Jade and I had managed to overlook this minor detail but with the rod sitting more comfortably it was time to end this thing. Jade was all ready in position all i had to do was, "keep that bloody fishes head up!". 'Not a bad idea', i thought using every other dirty trick i knew to combat the Kings deep lunges under the ledge. The fish made one more possessed attempt and the big Sabre loaded under maximum pressure. As the tip started to rise I got stuck into the fish again and it came up on its side beaten! Jade gave the fish the mail with the gaff and i dropped the reel back into free spool, ratchet engaged, before taking the gaff and pulling the fish up so Jade could get clear.

The fish hit the bricks and there were some big smiles all round, a solid hand shake cemented a great capture and a burgeoning friendship. I did my best to deal with the fish and get it in position for a few photo's as Jade grabbed both cameras and clicked off half a roll. My problem was holding onto the fish! It was a decent weight but not huge by NZ standards the problem was I had a bit of an issue due to an unsightly incident several days prior. This, ahh, issue involved a pair of thongs, some slippery stairs and me doing the best Seal impersonation I have managed to date. To add further injury to embarrassment this little episode had brought back the full fury of a chronic back injury I have had the displeasure of carrying for the last eighteen months! Well there was no way i could hold the fish out for the big brag shot but i hope to think we got a few good ones.

We dealt to the fish and soon had it side by side with the snapper in the rock pool with an old T shirt covering the finest cuts of both fish. That attended to Jade announced that that would be the only kill for the day and looking up at the climb out I had to concur that, that was a bloody good idea!

Jade got another bait out and I checked out the leader damage, it was terminal. On closer inspection so was the next twenty foot of line! I retied a rod and half length double before adding a stopper about a foot up from where I intended to tie the trace swivel. Looking to our right and feeling the puffs of wind coming from that direction I opted for a large float in lou of a balloon to keep things from getting all messed up with similar rigs and a cross wind.

With two baits now positioned we set about cleaning up any line clippings or other related rubbish from the ledge and began packing up.

Around an hour later those little puffs turned into something a little more sinister. Sensing the end was near we pulled the gear and broke down the rods.

Earlier that morning there had been some discussion about a possible exit point to the west of our ledge. Hell, it looked a lot easier than the way we had come in so we decided to give it a crack. Jade led the way up the cliff and soon the rock gave way to something any rock climber really dreads, loose shale! Although it looked o.k and the rocks were solid enough; they broke away in large clumps as soon as you put pressure on them. Jade was travelling pretty well ahead of me, but in my busted up state with somewhere between thirty and forty pounds of Kingfish plus gear in my pack I wasn't so confident. Jade started to pull away while i was making sure i wouldn't have to over stress my back and have a major failure. We were high enough up the cliff that the quick way down was simply not a recognisable option so i was happy to err on the side of caution.

Now I have got myself into to some pretty fucked up situations rock fishing and when I couldn't find another hold that didn't end up bouncing down the cliff i knew one more step would lead to yet another one. The only problem was i was stuck! Shit, not again! Jade turned, now well above me and asked if i was o.k. Well I was at that moment so that's about what i replied. "It's cool man, i can't get a hold here so I'm going to go back down and come out the way we went in", "you want me to come back down and give you a hand?". 'Hell NO', I thought. I had all ready dodged several rocks that had been disturbed during Jade's ascent and anybody that has had experience in these situations knows its a hell of a lot easier to climb up than down!

"It's cool man, I'll just take my time". 'In the shit again' I thought. I skipped a breath and placed my rods down figuring that i would take the pack down and climb back up un inhibited to pick them up. It only took two steps and i was back in safe territory but the danger was more than apparent with a little more rock taking the quick way down before I was back on the ledge.

Once i had retrieved my rods Jade signalled from the cliff top and the understanding was he would meet me half way up the ropes. Easier going this time with a more solid although more vertical assisted climbing. I heaved myself up to the top of the rope grateful for Jade's patience.



We zig-zagged our way up the hill until we were out of harms way and took a moment to catch a breath. "Bloody beautiful", i said, just taking in the scenery. "We're not at the top yet" Jade replied, "The view is better from up there". I didn't doubt it for a second so we threw the packs back on and clambered up the last fifty or so meters before throwing our packs over the fence and enjoying a moments reprieve from the weight.

As we cleared the fence i couldn't help but take a few more shots and stare in plain admiration at the country that surrounded me. I have no lyrical musings that come close to describing the sheer ruggedness of the Coromandel so i will leave it to the reader to interpret the photographs.

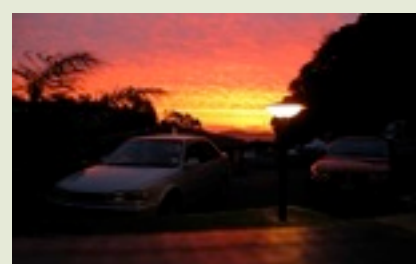
Begging the descent we made good time back to the vehicle and soon the packs were off again, this time my shirt and shoes went with it as the sweet was pouring from every available outlet. Sheltered from the stiffening breeze things were quite balmy and it took a while to cool down.

Jade had it sussed and soon enough we had the fish on salt ice in the back of his rig to keep them in prime condition for the table. Once the gear was stowed we made our way back south, this time with plenty of light available to appreciate the drive out. As we drove Jade pointed out some ledges and we stopped here and there to have a closer look. I was amazed by the depth of water off some of these seemingly insignificant rocky out crops.

This isn't the sort of big ledge stuff that one encounters fishing in Australia but was impressive for the fact that after what i had witnessed that morning these ledges provided an extremely accessible alternative with massive potential. Hell you could leave the billy boiling on the tail gate of your car and come back to make coffee on some of these ledges. Now throw in the brilliant red flowering Pohutakawa trees with their ancient gnarled branches hanging from the cliffs at impossible angles and you really are in some sort of angling paradise!

As we headed south these deep water ledges shallowed out and gave way to sheltered bays of even greater natural beauty. The road itself was something to behold, one lane, gravel and windy as hell you really have to have your wits about you driving up here! Massive washouts add to the experience with some parts of the road half gone leaving only a two hundred foot drop into the sea to keep the senses tuned.

Once back at the Lodge I grabbed a couple of Steiny's from the fridge as light refreshments as we unloaded the vehicle. Jade and i discussed the days events and both decided we had executed the plan flawlessly. I was more than impressed as its rare that I'm guided these days and having such a short window of opportunity to fish made the success all the sweeter. After a short break Jade had to head home so we said our good byes still grinning like a pair of idiots before I sat down and had a few more of those light refreshments!



Coromandel Peninsula, New Zealand



CLUB RECORDERS REPORT

With the onset of summer and the general increase in fishing trips for most anglers, things have been busy in the ALBAA club records department with some great captures by members. The inaugural Annual Spring Comp for 2008, which comprised of a best fish on spin section and a meritorious capture award, was a hotly contested affair. Steve Malby's Yellowfin Tuna, taken on the South Coast of NSW, was a unanimous winner in the meritorious capture section and Gavin Beveridge's North Queensland holiday proved to be a wise choice with his School Mackerel to taking out the spin section.

Our 2008/2009 Summer competition, The Rock, Sand & Dirt Challenge, is a three tiered event comprising three categories as the name implies. The best fish from each discipline, as voted by members, will then be judged against each other to determine our champion angler for the season. With no standout leader at this stage all divisions are wide open for the taking.

February saw the launch of the Full Moon Jewfish Competition with much banter between members on the lead up to the weekend. With members fishing from the far North Coast of NSW to the South Coast, hopes were high and pride was on the line. Conditions over the weekend were not conducive to the best beach fishing, but through the adversity Peter Oberg landed a nice little Jewie to take bragging rights. This made it 4 Jewfish from the last 4 trips for he and his fishing partner Damo. Well done boys, what's the secret! One member commented that his legs have never seen such a shine after the sand blast exfoliation they copped on the night. With the enthusiasm the members have shown for the February Full Moon Jewfish Comp I think that there will be some scores to settle on the March full moon.

The ALBAA 12 month 'Have A Go' Competition is also currently underway and with around 4 months to go and is an open affair to say the least. With points up for grabs for ALBAA records, placing in an ALBAA Comp, ANSA records, IGFA records, proven tag and release captures and participating in 'Ledge Care' events, this one will be anyone's for the taking. There are currently only a few points separating first

and last positions so it looks like a neck and neck race to the finish line.

In other news Peter Oberg has flown the ALBAA flag high by claiming our first ANSA NSW record (all tackle) with a fantastic 7.1kg LBG Snapper. I would like to congratulate Peter on what I know most of us would consider to be one of those "captures of a lifetime" from the stones. This record also earned ALBAA valuable points in the ANSA NSW 12 Month Competition, for which I hope to make an announcement shortly regarding another capture that has been forwarded to ANSA for consideration.

It's been a great first year for ALBAA and I can see better ahead for us. I would encourage you all to get any notable captures in for recording, lets see if we can give the ANSA tree a shake and plaster ALBAA all over the their records boards.

Club Recorder

Chris Grant

Tech Talk

The ALBAA techies team has continued to do a stella job supporting the members forums and website. Since our last Newsletter the ALBAA website has had a complete rebuild. Many thanks to ALBAA member and Ledge Care Co-ordinator Christian Cough from Extensible Technology Solutions for his tireless work building the site from the ground up.

When we first began discussing the new site we decided on a presentation that would allow a high copy content, accommodate all ALBAA projects, membership information, have our objectives continually viewable, be rich in photographic material and, of course, be easy to navigate. Not an easy brief! Now that the site has been live for some time I think all would agree that the time spent in the design and engineering phases of this project was well spent!

Special thanks must also go to Sarah Gough for supporting Christian's endeavours and putting up with some late nights in front of the computer!

Although websites are often seen as semi-static every effort is made to keep the regular updates coming so that when you log on to www.albaa.com.au there's plenty of new material to review and you can enjoy the time spent with a few light refreshments winding down from work.

What's next for www.albaa.com.au?

Over the next few months we will be working on putting a **photo gallery** together so you can check out some of the special captures and places that ALBAA members devote so much of their time too. We hope that this will give you an insight into the

motivation behind ALBAA members tireless devotion to their club and its objectives.

Letters to the Editor.

Keeping up the communication!

We would like to invite our readership to write letters to the editor with a view to having them published in future issues of this newsletter. It's one thing to have a pretty newsletter and a great website but the information transfer through these mediums, till now, has been one way. All of our projects are geared toward co-management principles and shared responsibility so in the interest of consistency please feel free to put pen to paper or bang away on the keyboard and send any correspondence to: publicity.officer@albaa.com.au

Either that or just flick us an email and tell us where all the fish are!

Membership Update

Membership to the Australian Land Based Anglers Association (ALBAA) for 2009 is now open.

At the recent ALBAA AGM it was resolved to align our yearly activities with 30th June, in an attempt to streamline all future activities and bring all current competitions and membership periods in line with other recognised critical dates. The resolution also extended the membership period to the same date for all paid up financial members.

ALBAA is currently offering a membership period that will run until the 30th June 2009, with the



associated membership fee being pro-rata at \$16.00. ALBAA is not in a position to offer pro-rata rates for the compulsory ANSA membership fee.

If you are not currently a member of ANSA, then the following additional ANSA Membership fees are payable;

- Senior membership: \$19.00
- Family Membership: \$24.00
- Student Membership: \$7.00
- Junior Membership: \$4.00

The ALBAA membership form can be downloaded at: <http://www.albaa.com.au/membership.htm>

The ALBAA Committee would like to thank you for your ongoing support through the last year and we look forward to working together into the future. ALBAA will also be welcoming new members so for those that have been waiting for the next round, it has arrived!

For more information please contact Peter Oberg on 04 27 497 011 or email:

public.officer@albaa.com.au