

CATCH



April 2020 Newsletter

The Catch - April 2020

Introduction

Much has been written about the current situation and as I'm not qualified to comment on pandemics, I'll let this go, other than to ask that we all stay safe through this societal trauma we are confronted with.

We live in one of the best places in Australia for maintaining a confident level of isolation, lets be compassionate towards those that don't have our residential privileges, as we navigate through this.

We also have a few less well amongst our membership and I pray that through all of this there is some light at the end of the tunnel for you as well.

Club Closure Update

We will continue to be proactive in determining what's best for our members as we get close to exiting this current incident.

Lets be clear, just because Clubs and Pubs might reopen, until your Committee is certain there is no risk to our members we will not be opening.

We have postponed every planned Event for the foreseeable future. This also includes fishing for our annual club species awards and trophies.

When might we reopen "competitive" fishing? This will be dictated by what both Government and our guiding bodies advise. Again, your Committee will remain very conservative on this decision in the interests of all our health.

Our Financial position

Much is received on email about the financial position of our local sporting clubs, and businesses.

We are fortunate that your Committee's predecessors have left us with healthy reserves that will tide us over. We will be able to pay the never-ending bills that arrive with regularity.

Yes, we have a zero income stream over this period.

Yes, we still have plans to undertake the major project of our Jetty redevelopment. Whilst the construction costs need to be met by Grants, in order to apply for these grants we need to be "shovel ready", meaning we have to have our Development Application approved. There is every chance as we exit this incident, grants will be more freely available to stimulate our economy – let's hope that we can benefit from this.

So we do need to be very careful with our reserves.

What will really help is our annual member subscriptions which will be due from 1 June, for the 2020/2021 year. We will be emailing out invoices this year for your subscriptions and an early payment will take pressure of maintaining our reserves.

In regard to our Supporters, we should spend a moment reflecting on what they are going through. Most of them are in the entertainment and services industry, industries that have essentially shut down! It will be completely disingenuous to expect any support from these wonderful businesses for the balance of this year and no doubt well into 2021. In fact, our roles have reversed; we need to go out of our way to support them when all this lifts.

To this end the generous prize pools we have been able to offer members and event participants will be severely constrained. Your Committee will work hard to get an appropriate balance for upcoming events and presentations, but like everyone around us we need to be prepared for some changes. I trust we will get full support from all members on this.

Your Committee

Its funny how preoccupied we all are during the normal course of organizing our annual calendar, and rely on the Web site to record detail like, who is the MBGLAC Committee? Let me introduce your Committee.

I should also add that some of us are relatively recent appointees and we are still finding our feet. It has been tough with the bushfires and now this incident. But as the President I am really proud of the work each one of your Committee are undertaking on your behalf. We are really committed to ensuring that this Club remains relevant and moves forward with the times, whilst celebrating the heritage of our forefathers. After all, your Club was formed in 1936 so we have plenty of heritage to protect.

Committee Members and their principal roles are:

Peter Haar - President

Alan Wilkins - Vice President and Assistant President

Tim McConnachie - Vice President and Bar Manager

Chris Young - Secretary

Keryn Wilkins – Treasurer and recorder

Martin Bartlett – Angling Coordinator

Clinton Bush – IT and Web coordinator

Merrily Bell – Social Coordinator

Heather Sutterby – Merchandise and Growth strategies

Stuart Green – Property Maintenance

Peter Lawler – assistant recorder and social coordinator

Ron Achison – Social support

Your committee still has a monthly “virtual meeting” where progress and issues are discussed via phone calls, email and then recorded as the minutes of the meeting.

MRM Pontoon Redevelopment

Marine Rescue have commenced replacement of their pontoon set up.

It came as a real surprise as to what was being constructed versus what we had been led to believe was planned.

As I write this we are corresponding with all stakeholders to better understand the process that has lead to this outcome, and whether the outcome has in fact received all stakeholder approvals. This is an intense process and it is being undertaken with transparency in regard to both the Bega Valley Shire Council and Marine Rescue Merimbula.

Merimbula Bar

The Merimbula Bar continues to get shallower as the false channel grows in size. The Club has escalated and sought help from agencies to seek a resolution to this.

Boating incidents are now weekly and care is needed by all boaters when accessing the ocean over this bar.

We have had Crown Lands Maritime Infrastructure Delivery Office undertake a hydrographic survey of the channel last week, so authorities are spending some effort on our issue.

BUT, what we need now is ACTION, and it looks like it might well fall on our Club to try and get this action to happen.

We have the full support of the Charter businesses in town, Marine Rescue and all boaties. What we will be seeking is tourism support and then political support to get something done.

So that's our priority at present.

Wish us luck!!!



Artificial Reef

On a brighter note and a demonstration of what our lobbying can produce is the life around our Artificial Reef. During a brief period where tide and swell permitted Chris Young managed to get some great video footage of life around the Reefs, data for DPI. Look at the flathead sitting comfortably on the seabed adjacent to the reefs.



Upcoming Events

Whilst all events are in postponement lets look forward to what might be possible for the balance of 2020.

July 7th Salmon Sunday

Is it possible that this might be the first event that we can hold as scheduled???

One can live in hope! Otherwise it too will be postponed.

15th August Presentation Night

If we can't hold this as scheduled it will be rescheduled as soon as possible after this date. By then I feel we will all want to celebrate a return to more normal times and what better excuse than a celebration of our members angling successes during the "Corona Shortened" 2019 / 2020 angling year.

17th August Annual General Meeting

Your committee will make a decision as to how the AGM will work under a lock down scenario as we approach this date. Hopefully, this will not be necessary and we can practice the traditional democratic process.

Just a reminder, we are always looking for members that have the energy and passion that can assist us to run the Club. Have a think about it and discuss your thoughts with us.

9th – 10th or 23rd – 24th October Trip Away Gone Fishing Day

Please note this event has been reset to one of the above weekends. A change in date and flexibility required to ensure maximum participation.

We do propose that we will hold this event again at Wonboyn for 2020 and the park has a tentative wedding booking for the later weekend that we would prefer. We will resolve ASAP with the park. As we get more certain we will communicate to all members on what steps to take to secure accommodation.

Please place the revised dates into your diary.

21st 22nd November Tri Estuary

Ensure this date is locked into your diaries.

Merchandise

Heather has secured additional stocks of shirts and we now have all sizes both long and short sleeve.

These are available now. Please feel free to contact me and we can arrange a safe way for you to get your shirt(s).

We can fish, and we need to remain sun smart!

In Closing

I hope members find this edition of The Catch informative.

These are difficult times when we can't get together over a beer at the Club.

But phones still work! Call me if we can be of any assistance, or you want clarification on any of the matters raised.

Please, all lets continue to follow the guidelines established for us, the results are currently very encouraging.

Stay safe and tight lines.

Peter Haar
President
Merimbula Big Game and Lakes Angling Club