

CATCH



November 2021

The Catch - November 2021

Hi Members

We certainly are now living with COVID, with a number of members caught up as secondary contacts, restrictions, testing awaiting results just part of our life.

The good news is we are back to the 2 square metre rule, 40 persons in our clubrooms and additional on the veranda.

So reservations for Friday nights can be dispensed with, but please note: login is required, double vaxxed is required and you need to follow the health and hygiene rules including face masks when not taking refreshment.

We held our Annual General Meeting on 25 October and the major reports are attached under for those interested.

Your Committee for 2021 / 2022 comprises

Executive,

Peter Haar - President

Alan Wilkins - Vice President

Chris Young - Secretary

Keryn Wilkins - Treasurer

Committee Members,

Dale Hayton

Shane Mayberry

Stuart Green

Philip Jacobs

Adam Blacka

Blain Sharman

Corey Walker

I am really excited with our new faces on the Committee, and am confident that we can really focus on fishing, whilst still delivering all the other programs we invariably get involved in.

We still have vacant Vice President and Committee Member positions, don't be afraid to come forward! but we enter this year with a strong and energetic team.

Upcoming Events

Tri Estuary

All our focus should be on the upcoming weekends (20-21 November) Tri Estuary competition. All details available off our Web Page and has been communicated via email and Facebook. Good luck to all the competitors.

Xmas Party

Our Xmas Dinner is being held at the Lakeview on Saturday 11 December. 6:00pm for a 6:30 start.

If you booked for presentation then you are already on our attendance list, unless you have expressly cancelled.

A call out to all other members – come and join us for some fun, a feed, and a celebration of our Club Champions with an Xmas flavour. \$35 per adult and \$10 per junior, for nibbles, choice of main and dessert.

If you want to book, give me a call and I will make the arrangements. A separate invite will also come out in a week or so.

Monster Raffle

Whilst not strictly an Event, our Monster Raffle is a campaign that calls for members to volunteer and help man our presence in the streets over the holiday period. A separate call out for helpers will come out shortly.

Also, help sell books of tickets to family and friends over the pre and post Xmas period. Contact Peter Haar or Phil Jacobs and we will get tickets to you.

This year is extra exciting with the Compleat Angler's offer of a \$10 voucher with every book of 5 raffle tickets that are purchased for \$20. What a deal!

Have a look at the quality prizes.

And our motivation should be even higher this year, with all planning looking very positive for a start and completion of our jetty replacement project during 2022.



MONSTER RAFFLE

\$10 Compleat Angler voucher with every book of tickets purchased

<https://www.rafflelink.com.au/mbglacraffle2022> for convenient on-line ticket purchase.

Prizes

1st Prize – Weber Genesis BBQ
RRP \$1,499



2nd Prize – Paddle Board Boss Bamboo Package
RRP \$1,499



3rd Prize – Engel 40l Platinum Fridge
RRP \$1,375



4th Prize – Weber Q
RRP \$799



Tickets: \$5 each or 5 for \$20 + \$10 voucher
 Tickets on sale through Club and at selected locations.
 Drawn Sunday 30th January 2022 at 3:30pm, Spencer Park Merimbula. All winners will be notified.
 All proceeds to MBGLAC Jetty Reconstruction – A project the whole community will benefit from – also see www.mbglac.com.au
 Thanks to Bega Beta Electrical and Merimbula Camping World and Compleat Angler. \$10 voucher redeemable at Compleat Angler Merimbula, Fyshwick and Sth Nowra

Jetty Update

Progress summary:

We have closed quotations and are clarifying scope and price with our responders.

We have offers from two government departments for grant funding.

We will enter into a Deed for funds, which then allows us to enter into a Contract with our supplier.

All this should happen over the next few months. Obviously sensitive times ensuring all our I's are dotted and T's crossed!!

All details will be shared with members once we have certainty of grants and contractor.

Members who are interested in more detail, feel free to engage me on a Friday Night or give me a call.

Tight Lines to all members

Peter Haar
0417021066

AGM Reports

For those interested the following are the Executive reports tabled at the AGM.

Presidents Report

What a roller coaster of a year!! Just when we thought Xmas 2020 was going to be normal the second wave of the pandemic hit Vic, then, just when we thought things were on track for “normal” NSW coped its second wave, and then poor Vic with another . Under the ever changing health orders and obligations on our club’s management, it has been very hard to run a syllabus.

But, we did and we can proudly reflect on what was a very successful year.

We ran all our major fishing tournaments, with great numbers, great fishing and in all cases with a social aspect as well. Thanks to the teams that organized these events and our wonderful generous sponsors. Our numbers were good for all our tournaments and reinforces the strength of the interests our broader community has in competitive fishing and the opportunities this represents.

Our Open was impacted by the inability of Victorians to travel but we had great support from our local

teams and trophy Yellowfin were caught which made it a huge success.

Our Annual trophy and rewards process support is growing and the number of entrants, records broken and members who received prizes is testament that it is very popular.

Our Jetty Replacement project commenced in 2018 with investment in the likely costing, design, environmental approvals and the BVSC development application. We received development approval in February this year and then received Grant funding for all the costs associated with the development application process. We are now in the great position of having two major construction grants offered – we will have to chose one! The vision is being fulfilled.

Our Monster Raffle had a slightly different format over the 2020 – 2021 Xmas period. It wasn’t linked to Gala, it was drawn end January, its proceeds committed to the Jetty Replacement, we had awesome prizes thanks to Betta Electrical and Camping World Merimbula, we didn’t do the intense – every day sales campaign and thanks to Stuart Green’s personal contribution to caravan park sales we exceeded all expectations.

Financially we turned around our annual results from losses over the past three years to a profit this year. As Keryn will provide the detail, I will just reiterate that whilst the profit for this year is extraordinary, taking a multi year perspective it simply repays the losses of the previous year and contains income that will be spent this coming year on commitments we have already made. But to be in this solid position after a year that had all sorts of constraints on our trading, it is a great result and one that members can be very proud of.

Our Growth has been very pleasing. Membership numbers have grown. At time of the AGM we have 125 paying members with 270 total memberships. We are seeing a resurgence of family participation with the youth of our Club enthusiastically participating thanks to mum and dad's encouragement. Around us, like clubs are struggling so our results are all the more pleasing. Don't know what the magic formula is but we will keep doing what we are doing!

Our Committee has worked hard this year. We are all very passionate about fishing and the vehicle our Club provides for others to enjoy their fishing. My huge thanks to Alan and Keryn Wilkins, Chris Young, Stuart Green, Phil Jacobs, Shane Mayberry, Dale Hayton, Heather Sutterby, Malcolm Robinson and Martin Bartlett.

For our Committee, running your Club is demanding, occupying significant physical and mental time. This year has been especially tough. Your committee at times had quite disparate views on matters. This is not a bad thing, as we slowly steer the ship through the storm that is change. I hope that with a new and fresh committee from this AGM we find the calmer waters that will lead us to more growth, participation and success.

Members are always welcome to provide guidance to the committee or me. I am occasionally challenged by members as to whether we are open enough, do we communicate enough?, are we inclusive enough?, are we progressive enough?, do I preside or rule?. The answer to all of this is not straight forward and will likely be very different depending on whose view you are seeking. But one thing is a given, I am thirsty for feedback, its feedback that fuels the engine to keep going, if its negative, it does need to be presented politely but may fuel the engine of change. Our Committee is here to receive feedback, you are welcome to message or formally address the Committee at any time, on any matter that you believe would result in an improvement to our Club. Or catch me on a Friday night and provide some feedback whilst leaning on the railing watching the sunset over Merimbula.

In closing our Sponsors need to get a special mention. With 130 sponsors on our list we really are in a privileged position. Many of them have also done it tough and require our support more than ever, in particular our hospitality and retail sponsors.

Special shout out of thanks this year must also go to, Josie Buhlman – who took up managing the Friday Night roster, ensuring that we had members present to help with the nibbles and food handling COVID compliance, Darragh Reynolds – our Barman on most nights, Peter Lawler – who provided our Recorder Keryn valuable assistance in running the annual trophy process, Blain Sharman – who took on our web page and social media communications challenge and Merrily Bell and Rob Wood for being our mentors.

Peter Haar

Secretaries Report

Covid - what another disruptive year! Truly a once in a hundred year event! Nevertheless our President Peter Haar has managed the Club's activities exceedingly

well. His report details the Clubs activities and these I will not repeat. Communication with our Members is more and more successful through the Club's Website, Facebook and Email. Thanks here to Blain Sharman and Alan and Keryn Wilkins.

During the year the Secretary has been involved in:

- Keeping Minutes for all Committee Meetings and the AGM.
- Replacing the ageing Jetty with a modern floating jetty. Work In progress.
- Merimbula Artificial Reefs: Some good snapper reported at mid depth, we look forward to the day Kingfish appear. We need volunteers to undertake routine "Citizen Scientist" baited remote underwater video (BRUV) surveys of the reefs for the DPI.
- Sea Urchin Reef Barrens: We have a small grant to undertake a survey and remediation of an area about the Merimbula Fishing Platform in partnership with John Smythe President of the Abalone Association. Culling will begin as soon as the weather improves. This is a three year monitoring project.
- The Club supports SWAMP: a Community Working Group Vs The Merimbula Sewerage Plant Proposal for Upgrade and Deep Ocean Outfall. MBGLAC has submitted a response to the Planning Secretary of the DPIE in response to the public consultation process for the Treatment Plant Upgrade Project. This response points out significant deficiencies in the EIS proposal with the resulting consequences of irresponsible conservation practices and a heightened risk to the marine environment.
- Gone Fishing Day: This DPI event held annually provides funds and fishing materials towards the promotion of angling in NSW. The Club regularly seeks involvement and has been granted \$2,000 towards the event which we may use up until March 2022.
- Merimbula News Weekly; Our fishing report is published by Merimbula News Weekly (Bega and Eden) and placed on Facebook and the Club's website. Support from members is welcome from the Friday evening fishing report and always seeking good photos. Best without hats and sunglasses!

The Club's next event is the Trip Away for the Mex Williams Memorial Fishing Comp, based at the Ocean Lake Caravan Park Wallaga Lake for 29-30 October, let's hope the pandemic allows us to enjoy this lovely venue. This will be followed by the Tri Estuary on 20-21 November, so ably organized by Shane Mayberry and Alan Wilkins. Our Xmas get together and Trophy presentation is then at the Lakeview Hotel on 11 December.

Normally during November and December the Club is preparing for its annual Gala Fishing Competition, seeking sponsorship and interacting with all our wonderful business supporters. Gala is one of the Club's major events but now postponed to 2023. It has not been held since January 2020. Now with many new members in the Club and Committee, it is timely to remind us all what Gala actually is:

"Starting with the Fishing Competition on Saturday; club members, locals and visitors all are invited to fish both ocean and estuary to provide fresh fish for the club's Monster Fresh

Fish Auction "Anglers only need to present their fish to the Clubs weigh station to be eligible for one of 28 prizes donated by local business." We would then anticipate a massive turnout of locals and visitors on Sunday afternoon at Spencer Park for the Gala Monster Fish Auction.

Gala is truly a heritage event for Merimbula and harks back to the humble beginnings of the club in 1936. As precursor to the charity fish auction, Gala has taken various forms over the years. Some events have included rowing and raft races from town to Spencer Park as well as carnival sideshows, talent quests, chocolate wheels and even a billy cart race. Given this heritage and with the club boasting its wonderful PA system, courtesy of Southern Phone grants, Gala would today see us present professional entertainers and on-stage live music to entertain those awaiting;

- the Fishing Competition prize giving,
- drawing of the annual Gala raffle and
- the Charity Fish auction

The Gala Day Monster Fresh Fish Auction, is a once a year only opportunity for the locals and visitors to bid for just caught fresh fish. Under a licence provided by the Department of Primary Industries and Bega Valley Shire Council, the Merimbula Big Game & Lakes Angling Club donates all proceeds of the auction to Charity.

There is a bias to bags of ocean Flathead – Sand and Tiger - which are very popular at the auction and considered sustainable by the DPI. Each bag cannot exceed 10 fish to meet DPI regulations. Seniors and Juniors are all eligible for prizes for heaviest bags of Flathead and Mixed fish. Merimbula Marine Rescue was the Club's partner and charity in 2019, in recognition for its tireless work during the year. *"Last year the Proceeds of the fish auction allowed the Club to donate \$2,500 to Marine Rescue"*.

Merimbula Marine Rescue pitched in on the day to run a great public BBQ which commenced at 11.30am for all those looking to bag a prime spot for the auction. Zac's Coffee was on site and there is also the ever popular "Seafood in a Wheelbarrow" raffle. After the huge fish auction, members also host a cleaning and filleting station so you can get the perfect fillet for a small donation.

Finally thanks to all our Club Members, too many to name, who have all assisted in the operation of our wonderful Club. Thanks especially to Darragh Reynolds operating the Bar such a great way.

Let's look forward to recovery over the year ahead and Membership of the Club being successful and fulfilling for all.

Chris Young

Treasurers Report

Good evening members and guests, It has been another difficult year for our community with Covid -19 continuing to plague our country. We hope for a future with some form of normalcy, in the coming months and year ahead.

The MBGLAC Financial Audit was completed by Kothes Merimbula. The Clubs financial position is currently healthy with bank balances as at 30 June 2021 totaling \$102,945.61

As per our Audit our Club is in a very healthy position. However, even though we show a profit of \$46,936 we must remind ourselves that last year we recorded a loss of \$20,342 and in 2019 a loss of \$2,980 and a loss of \$2,000 in 2018.

The following components provide a breakdown of what has contributed to this year's profit:

1. A part of our profit this year restores the \$20,342 loss reported last year, this includes

Pontoon maintenance \$4,538 Reimbursement from BVSC (reimbursement of actual costs incurred in previous years), and
Jetty Replacement DA costs grant \$14,850. Reimbursement via Grant of previous years expenditures, restoring some of last year's loss.

Total \$19,388

2. Another part of our profit is income from last year that is committed for expenditure in 2021/2022 that has no corresponding income attached to it, this includes:

Cleaning Pontoon Grant \$4,000. This is a grant we applied for that has been paid to us to cover costs incurred in subsequent years, and Seafood Dinner \$3,322 Seafood Dinner held in May, paid to Wharf this financial year (21/22)

Total \$7,322

3. And extraordinary incomes. These include:

Monster Raffle \$6,000 Our last year's raffle netted \$14,000+ when typically we net up to \$8,000. All raffle proceeds were raised for the Jetty replacement, Open Prizes income \$5,516 Prizes awarded during the 2021 tournament were valued at their recommended retail price and the funds available to replace items are now held in trust for future tournaments (included in our financial statements), and

Extraordinary sponsorship \$8,000 The Financials show two lots of presentation night sponsorships and multiple other generous sponsorships. Considered advisable to treat this estimate of \$8,000 as not necessarily being realised this year.

Total \$19,516

For a grand total of \$46,226.

Therefore, with the information provided we can confidently report a profit, although small during a year that had major interruptions to our activities and business. In summary, we have had another most extraordinary year and we should be very grateful for the results we have achieved.

Compared with many other businesses in town we can confidently say that we have survived, and in fact we have survived well and truly under such stressful and difficult times.

I would like to thank the Committee for their support in my role as Treasurer over the past 12 months.

I thank all Members and Committee Members who have volunteered their time and efforts contributing to a financially successful year.

I would like to thank Darragh and Dale for their support in the Bar enabling us to provide a friendly atmosphere, a fully stocked bar with competitive bar prices to our members and guests.

I would also like to thank the members and volunteers who have helped me over the year with club events & competitions collecting monies and collating data... In conclusion I would like to thank all those who have supported and assisted me and the club and look forward to a successful year ahead.

Keryn Wilkins