



August CATCH

Newsletter



From the President

Welcome all to the new fishing year of the Merimbula Big Game and Lakes and Angling Club. Firstly, I would like to thank the outgoing committee members that have stepped back. Dianne Hayton, Glen Rollason and Fiona Beasley. You have all been a great help for me and the Club over your time on our committee. Fiona won't get off that easily as she will still get to do the Facebook and Instagram duties each week.

With our new fishing year beginning on June 1st, we have had 75 fish entered through our fish capture entry system for this year's trophy board. This includes four nice yellowfin caught this year, along with some nice table fish.

With the weather improving, it won't be long before the fishing starts to hot up again.

So, tight lines everyone.
Shane Mayberry

New Committee for 2026 - 2027

Merimbula Big Game and Lakes Angling Club recently held its Annual General Meeting, with a mix of familiar faces and some new members stepping up to help guide the Club over the coming year.

Shane Mayberry continues in the role of President, supported by Phil Jacobs and Sheree "Sas" Hugen as Vice Presidents. Sue Lafferty takes on the role of Secretary, while Leanne Hoath takes up the reins as Treasurer.

Returning to the Committee are Greg Ford, Matt Walmsley and Avon Rollason, bringing valuable experience and continuity. We're also pleased to welcome newcomers Garry McKeanie and Giddy Brandauer to the Committee and thank them for putting their hands up to get involved.

A big thank you goes to everyone who has volunteered their time to support the Club. Committees are an important part of keeping MBGLAC running, organising events, supporting members and continuing the work that happens behind the scenes throughout the year.

There are still three vacancies remaining on the Committee, so if you've ever thought about getting more involved in the Club, now is a great opportunity. You don't need years of committee experience—just an interest in the Club and a willingness to lend a hand.

We look forward to another great year for MBGLAC with the new Committee at the helm, plenty of fishing, a few good yarns and hopefully plenty of tight lines along the way.

Know the rules – Make every catch count!

With a new fishing year underway, it's a good time for members to refresh themselves on the **MBGLAC Annual Fishing Awards and Trophy Board Rules**. The rules explain eligibility, fishing boundaries, how catches are measured and submitted, and how our annual awards are determined. The full rules can be viewed here: [Annual Fishing Awards and Trophies - Full Rules](#)

When entering a fish through the **Fish Capture portal on the MBGLAC website**, please take a little extra time to make sure all information is **complete and accurate**. Capture details and photographs must be lodged within 14 days of the catch, and measurements for non-game species are verified from the photograph provided.

Was this a Club Event/Weekend?

One field that is particularly important when completing your online Fish Capture entry is: "Was this a Club Event/Weekend?"

This question is used to determine catches that are eligible to contribute towards the Club Champion trophy. The Club Champion is calculated using eligible species caught on weekends or during organised Club events or tournaments.

So, when completing your entry:

- **Any Saturday or Sunday during the fishing year - select YES.**
- **An organised Club event - select YES.** This includes events such as the **Mex Williams Memorial Trip**, where the official fishing period may commence on a Friday.
- A fish caught on an ordinary weekday - select **NO**, unless it is during an organised Club event.
- **School holidays**, Monday to Friday **do not by themselves - select NO.**
- However, **NSW Public Holidays** that fall on a weekday - **select YES.**

Getting this question right is important, as an incorrect response can affect the calculation of Club Champion points.

There are plenty of trophies and awards up for grabs throughout the year, so get out there, enjoy your fishing, enter your catches accurately and within the required timeframe, and keep an eye on the Trophy Board. Tight lines!

Catch Details

Capture Date * 	Length in mm * Measurement is from the Nose to the Tip of the Tail. For non Game Fish Only	Where fish was caught 	Was the fish released * ☐ Yes ☐ No	Tagged Number Game fish only, if game fish was tagged please provide tag number	Game Fishing Only. Line class in kg Game Fishing Only, Line class in kg
Game fish capture weight in (kg) GAME FISH ONLY, FISH Weight in kg	Catch Photo *  Drop a file here or click to upload Maximum file size: 10MB	Was this a Club Event/Weekend * ☐ Yes ☐ No	Fishing From * ☐ Boat ☐ Shore	Fishing In * ☐ Ocean ☐ Estuary/River/Lake	

Salmon Sunday

This year's Salmon Sunday was held on 2 August at Mogareeka, Tathra Beach, giving members a change of scenery and a chance to enjoy a relaxed day of fishing, food and good company. A small group made the most of the sunshine, although the big swell made fishing conditions challenging and only a handful of fish were landed. The salmon showed little interest in lures on the day, with the successful catches all taken on bait. Lea Hoath claimed the honours with the biggest salmon, measuring 564 mm.

The Club supplied a sausage sizzle at Lions Park, with plenty of extras to enjoy, including scones with jam and cream baked by Lydia McKeanhie and a very popular potato salad made by Lea Hoath. One of the highlights of the day came when Phil Jacobs was caught completely off guard by a cheeky local kookaburra, which swooped in and snatched half a sausage sanga straight out of his hand just as he was about to take a bite. Clearly the bird thought the catering was pretty good too! Despite the tough fishing, X participants enjoyed the day, the sunshine and the chance to share a few laughs by the water. A great little outing and a nice change of venue for Salmon Sunday.



Participants enjoying the weather



The fishos enjoying the sunshine. (Above & below)



Lunch is ready!



The sanga thief!



And the winner is.....



Shane Mayberry presents Lea Hoath with the winner's trophy.

LAKEVIEW HOTEL

MERIMBULA

Annual Presentation Night

MBGLAC's annual Presentation Night was held at the Lakeview Hotel on 8 August, bringing members together to celebrate another successful year of fishing, friendship and club competition.

As one of the Club's major sponsors, the Lakeview Hotel once again provided a great venue for the evening. A good night was had by all, with an enjoyable meal, plenty of conversation and the opportunity to recognise the achievements of our anglers across the 2025-26 season.

Congratulations to all of this year's winners, including **Geoff McMahon, Club Champion** and **Men's Champion**, **Merrily Bell, Ladies Champion**, **Kade Jenkins, Junior Champion**, and **Riley Holley, Small Fry Champion**. **Phil Jacobs** took out **Shore-based Angler**, while **Glen Rollason** was named **Lake & Beach Angler**.

There were plenty of impressive catches recorded throughout the year, along with a **new club record** for **Tristin Chippindale**, with a 471 mm bream caught in April.

A big thank you to the Lakeview Hotel for its continued and valued sponsorship of MBGLAC, and congratulations to everyone who received an award on the night. Most importantly, thanks to all our members who took part throughout the year and helped make another season a memorable one.

Club Champion		
Place	Name	Points
1st	Geoff McMahon	60
2nd	Shane Mayberry	58
3rd	Riley Holley	55
4th	Matt Walmsley	50
5th	Glen Rollason	43
6th	Peter McMahon	42
7th	Leanne Hoath	39
8th	Fiona Beasley	38
9th	Kade Jenkins	37
10th	Doug Hodsdon	34



Club Champion - Geoff McMahon

Adult Winners						
Species	1st	Length	2nd	Length	3rd	Length
Bass	Tristin Chippindale	505	Doug Hodsdon	490	Geoff McMahon	460
Luderick	Chris Young	419	Shane Mayberry	415	Glen Rollason	347
Bream	Tristin Chippindale	471	Glen Rollason	447	Doug Hodsdon	420
Butterfly Gurnard	Fiona Beasley	571	Peter McMahon	553	Merrily Bell	547
Drummer	Phil Jacobs	500	Shane Mayberry	410		
Estuary Perch	Glen Rollason	473	Doug Hodsdon	448	Shane Mayberry	399
Dusky Flathead	Avon Rollason	892	Brendon Pryor	715	Stuart Green	714
Ocean Flathead Sand	Merrily Bell	582	Peter McMahon	575	Alan Wilkins	565
Ocean Flathead Tiger	Merrily Bell	555	Geoff McMahon	510	Fiona Beasley	423
Flounder	Jeff Knox	315	Lea Hoath	293	Matt Walmsley	290
Jewfish	Glen Rollason	879	Avon Rollason	826	Doug Hodsdon	790
Leatherjacket	Leo Vandermay	462	Bernie Vandermay	450	Peter McMahon	360
Morwong	Robert Wood	536	Peter McMahon	525	Leo Vandermey	496
Salmon	Phil Jacobs	680	Fiona Beasley	657	Peter McMahon	631
Gummy Shark	Geoff McMahon	1585	Robert Wood	1153	Marita Brandauer	1139
Snapper	Geoff McMahon	755	Fiona Beasley	641	Brendon Pryor	610
Tailor	Lex Haigh	569	Phil Jacobs	540	Merrily Bell	471
Trevally	Lex Haigh	515	Samantha Trewin	505	Glen Rollason	504
Brown Trout	Lea Hoath	600	Matt Walmsley	557		
Rainbow Trout	Matt Walmsley	443				
Whiting	Bruce Myles	474	Glen Rollason	457	Les Dirou	420
Bluefin Tuna	Geoff McMahon	6 fish				
Yellowfin	Trevor Chippindale	9 fish	Geoff McMahon	6 fish	Brendan Chippindale	4 fish
Game Fish – Other	Leeanne Hoath	6 fish	Geoff McMahon	4 fish	Trevor Chippindale	2 fish
Marlin	Trevor Chippindale	8 fish	Stewart Jeffrey	8 fish	Kerry Chippindale	8 fish



Men's Champion - 1st Geoff McMahon (left), 2nd Peter McMahon (right) and 3rd Matt Walmsley (centre).



Ladies Champion - 1st Merrily Bell (centre), 2nd Leanne Hoath (left) and 3rd Fiona Beasley (right).



Lex Haigh received a 1st place for his tailor and trevally in the adults section.



Patrick Jeffrey caught the largest leatherjacket for a small fry.



Sophie Holley caught the longest tailor and 3rd longest bream for small fry.



Elsie Pryor got the largest slimy mackerel and largest whiting for Small Fry.

Junior Winners						
Species	1st	Length	2nd	Length	3rd	Length
Luderick	Kade Jenkins	390				
Bream	Kade Jenkins	406	Ethan Death	391	Luke Major	305
Drummer	Kade Jenkins	387				
Dusky Flathead	Ethan Death	769	Kade Jenkins	687		
Ocean Flathead Sand	Luke Major	475				
Flounder	Kade Jenkins	323				
Salmon	Ethan Death	698				
Gummy Shark	Luke Major	800				
Snapper	Logan Walker	660	Ethan Death	624	Jack Fulton	560
Tailor	Kade Jenkins	467	Luke Major	378		
Trevally	Kade Jenkins	417	Luke Major	415		



Above: Junior Champion, Kade Jenkins (right) and 1st runner-up, Ehtan Death (left).

Below: Peter Lawler was a very deserving recipient of the Clubman of the Year Award, recognising his ongoing commitment and the many jobs he quietly takes care of behind the scenes each week. His reliability, willingness to help and consistent contribution are an important part of keeping the Club running smoothly. Much of Peter's work happens without fuss or fanfare, but it certainly doesn't go unnoticed. Congratulations Peter, and thank you for everything you do for MBGLAC.



Above: President Shane Mayberry kicks of the formalities for the evening.

Small Fry Winners						
Species	1st	Length	2nd	Length	3rd	Length
Bass	Baxter Pryor	505	Bronson Pryor	400		
Bream	Bronson Pryor	390	Lachlan Wilkins	380	Sophie Holley	361
Butterfly Gurnard	Riley Holley	496	Lachlan Wilkins	412		
Dusky Flathead	Lachlan Wilkins	577	Riley Holley	558	Hudson Gilligan	520
Ocean Flathead Sand	Baxter Pryor	610	Riley Holley	483		
Ocean Flathead Tiger	Riley Holley	423				
Flounder	Riley Holley	253				
Jewfish	Baxter Pryor	750				
Leatherjacket	Patrick Jeffrey	415				
Game Fish - Tuna - Albacore	Riley Holley	8 fish	<i>Small Fry Champion Riley Holley (centre) with 1st runner-up, Baxter Pryor (right), and brother, Bronson Pryor, 2nd runner-up (left).</i>			
Slimy Mackerel	Elsie Pryor	355	Riley Holley	340	Baxter Pryor	314
Marlin	Riley Holley	1 fish				
Morwong	Baxter Pryor	495	Riley Holley	402		
Salmon	Lachlan Wilkins	646	Olivia Wilkins	605	Riley Holley	566
Gummy Shark	Bronson Pryor	1068				
Snapper	Riley Holley	797	Baxter Pryor	680	Bronson Pryor	665
Tailor	Sophie Holley	511	Riley Holley	470		
Trevally	Riley Holley	442	Bronson Pryor	425	Lachlan Wilkins	411
Brown Trout	Bronson Pryor	450	Baxter Pryor	428		
Whiting	Elsie Pryor	295	Lachlan Wilkins	281		



Lake & Beach winner, Glen Rollason (right) and 3rd place, Kade Jenkins (left).



Phil Jacobs, - winner - Shore-based angler.



Tristin Chippindale achieved a new club record for his 471mm bream.



Leanne Hoath achieved won the trophy for the largest brown trout.



Avon Rollason got the trophy for the year's longest dusky flathead.

Right: Riley Holley won the trophy for the largest snapper at 797mm.



Game Fish Trophy Winners		
Category	Name	Points
1st line Class Yellowfin Tuna over 25kg	Trevor Chippindale	66.3kg
Heaviest Marlin	Riley Holley	72.5kg on 15kg tackle 5 256pts
Heaviest Tuna	Trevor Chippindale	66.3kg on 24kg
Heaviest Shark		
Heaviest other Game Fish	Riley Holley	20.2kg Albacore
Highest Point Score T & R Male	Trevor Chippindale	97 475pts
Highest Point Score T & R Female	Leanne Hoath	61 500pts
Highest Point Score T & R Junior		
Highest Point Score T & R Small Fry	Riley Holley	4 025pts
Highest Point Score T & R Boat	Sea Hog	271 000pts
Highest Point Score Capture Male	Trevor Chippindale	66.3kg Yellowfin on 24kg 2 527.52pts
Highest Point Score Capture Female		
Highest Point Score Capture Junior		
Highest Point Score Capture Small Fry	Riley Holley	72.5kg Marlin on 15kg tackle 5 256.25pts
Highest Point Score Capture Boat	Sea Hog	11 579.09pts
Most meritorious capture	Riley Holley	5 256.25pts



Jeff Knox caught the largest flounder for the adults.



Fiona Beasley achieved 1st for butterfly gurnard, 2nd for salmon and snapper and 3rd for tiger flathead for adults.



Steward green achieved 3rd place for dusky flathead.



Brendon Pryor achieved 3rd place for snapper.



Marita Brandauer received a 3rd place prize for her gummy shark.



Samantha Trewin received a 2nd place for her trevally.

Coming Events.



Mex Williams Memorial Club Trip 16 - 18 October 2026



204 Daunceys Road Wonboyn
0499 334 555
Book online at
www.wonboynlakeresort.com.au

2 nights accommodation including:
discounted booking fee of 10%
no charge for boat moorings and;
late checkout Sunday

Contact Peter directly on the number
above to get the MBGLAC deal.



Tag us to show off your catch
@mbglac
#mbglac



www.mbglac.com.au



Kayaks were a hit last year at Wonboyn with the kids.

Mex Williams Memorial Club Trip

The annual club trip and specifically the fishing competition for the longest dusky flathead is in memory of Mex Williams.

As quoted by Mex, "I am only a dumb stupid bricklayer", in the club's eyes, Mex was a happy go lucky fellow who loved a VB. Mex loved to chase dusky flathead and his favourite lure was a Gulp 3-inch, nuclear chicken shad and they were always successful for Mex at Wonboyn.

Mex loved all fishing, but game fishing was his passion. He loved to get a feed of sand flathead and in the estuaries he targeted dusky flathead. He classed trout as nothing but spotted carp and he always had a "bunger" (firecracker) in his pocket, especially at Wonboyn. He was in trouble many times for letting them off around the petrol pumps back in the day. No one was safe.

Mex was a committee member, President and Life Member of our club and for 13 years penned the fishing reports for the Merimbula Newspaper.

RIP Mex Williams - Life Member, MBGLAC
8th September 1958 - 2nd August 2012



October 2025 Trip

The MBGLAC held the annual Mex Williams memorial fishing trip on the weekend of 24th, 25th & 26th of October, hosted again by Peter of the Wonboyn lake resort.

Thank you for your hospitality once again Peter. In total we had 18 members attend - 15 adults & 3 juniors.

We had our friendly competition set to start at 12pm on Friday set to finish at 12 pm on the Sunday with the aim of catching the biggest flathead for the Mex Williams memorial trophy. Most members arrived around 11am so as to unpack and hit the lake by start of fishing time. Unfortunately there was a stiff SW wind blowing around 20 knots, although this didn't bother the fish all that much. They were willing and hungry.

The SW progressed to about 30 knots by early evening so most decided to call it as Saturday's forecast was for fine weather so beer o'clock was called.

Saturday morning came and we all woke early to the sounds of the local wildlife.

The Sharmans chose to leave their boat home and elected to fish entirely from the jetty area for the weekend.

Most other anglers hit the lower river, main lake basin section catching numerous species. Mid morning came as did everyone's appetite and most headed back for a cuppa and debrief on the mornings start.

The tide was on the turn to start coming in, so most headed for the famous yellow peg.

We decided to head for the entrance catching some terrific trevally and had an absolute ball. Everyone was reporting lots of flathead averaging around 46cm, quite a lot of flounder, although only small.

Up river was very quiet from all reports.

After lunch the kids decided it was time for some fun so the kayaks and sup boards were sort out. Young Leo Sharman joined in who had never used either before quickly learning and loved the experience.

Saturday arvo went very much the same as the morning's events although as the light NE wind started and the tide slowed the fish began not to cooperate.

Saturday evening saw us all gather together in the resort function room for our bbq night. MBGLAC provided the meat from Goodalls Butcher with salads & desserts provided by our attendees.

It wasn't long though and most were keen to hit the jetty for a night fish as the jetty fishing was reported as excellent that day.

Quite a few fish were captured, but it would have to be said, the highlight was when young Sophie Holley hooked up to what appeared to be a really good fish. She battled it and was cheered on from everyone present. When it appeared from under the pontoon, her prized fish turned out to be a rather large conger eel. Once it hit the deck of the pontoon, everyone was so impressed by its colours.

Afterwards stories from past & present were shared while enjoying the sounds of the river.

Sunday morning everyone woke to the sound of rain but this wasn't stopping anyone from hitting the lake in search of that big flathead that had eluded everyone so far.

Most decided to continue fishing from the jetty. 2 boats hit the lake in search of that big girl before the end of fishing. We all gathered again in the function room for a quick bbq before we announced the winners of the weekend.

In total we registered 30 fish, but there were many more than that. Flathead, bream, trevally, tailor, snapper and flounder were all captured. We had 2 extra prizes this year kindly donated by Robyn Moore. She had made a timber serving board with lovely kookaburra artwork etched into it for the ladies valued at \$80. Holley customs donated 1 of his handcrafted swimbaits to go alongside the biggest flathead trophy.

MBGLAC provided lure and jighead packs and vouchers for the lucky winners. Biggest flathead taking the memorial trophy was small fry angler Riley Holley with a 558mm fish.

Male best fish went to Glen Rollason for a trevally at 495mm. Female best fish went to Emily Sharman with a flathead of 540mm. Junior best fish was won by Sophie Holley with a flathead/eel at 449mm.

Best jetty fish went to Blain Sharman for a trevally at 370mm.

Two boats remained and decided to have one last crack on the lake Sunday afternoon and Robyn Moore captured a great flathead at 666mm.

Avon Rollason captured a beautiful little jewfish of 685mm. Congratulations on two nice fish to finish off but unfortunately after the comp had finished.

Thanks must go to everyone who attended and helped out and made this a great weekend. We look forward to next years trip and we hope to see many more faces join in the fun to be shared.

Nobby Holley
October 2025



Riley Holley, winner of the Mex Williams Memorial trophy for the longest dusky flathead.

Emily Sharman won the serving board made by Robyn Moore.





Glen Rollason winner of the best fish for an adult male.



Blain Sharman won the best fish from the jetty.



Sophie Holley won the junior section.



Robyn Moore with a quality bream.



Avon Rollason landed a 685mm Jewfish.



Holley customs beautifully hand-crafted swimbait was a welcome addition to the prizes.



Emily Sharman (above) with what turned out to be the 2nd biggest flathead.

Kelly and Sophie Holley with a pair of trevally.



All things Game Fishing

NSWGFA Presentation & AGM



Matt Walmsley and Leanne Hoath attended the NSW GFA Presentation night and the AGM over the weekend of 17th - 19th July in Kiama as representatives of the club for game fishing. Matt accepted awards in the Southern Zone for highest total points in 8 categories for Tag and release in both the adult and junior/small fry sections.



A huge congratulations to Riley Holley who received his NSWGFA awards at our recent presentation night. Riley won the coastal Waters Trophy - Bermagui BGAC Tag & Release for Junior Small/Fry Angler, scoring the highest total points for T&R Tuna with 4025 points. Riley also received the Tom Roche Trophy for the small fry angler scoring the highest total points for capture with over 5000 points. Finally, Riley achieved an Australian Small Fry record for his capture of an Albacore on 15kg line class with a weight of 20.25kg. What a great year you had Riley.

IMPORTANT

NSW DPI - Billfish Tag Supplies

NSW DPI has informed clubs that there will be fewer tags available this year than in previous seasons. With the increasing costs and finite resources available, there is a greater need to ensure that every tag issued provides maximum value to fisheries research. As a result, they will be placing increased focus on tag accountability and the quality of data returned through the program.

Priority must be given to ensuring tags are being used effectively and that accurate tagging records are being returned. Each tag represents an investment in fisheries science, and the value of that investment depends on complete and reliable data being collected.

In light of this, **ALL EXISTING TAG ALLOCATIONS MUST BE USED AND ACCOUNTED FOR BEFORE REQUESTING ADDITIONAL TAGS.**

As tags will no longer be issued in large quantities, careful management of tags stocks is essential!

All things Game Fishing

COTW Results - Southern Zone June 2026

TAG & RELEASE PONTS FOR MONTH

Boat	Points	Club	SZ Points
Lady Jean	8,500	Shellharbour	5

PROGRESSIVE CAPTURE POINTS 2026-27		PROGRESSIVE TAG & RELEASE POINTS 2026-27	
Shellharbour	10	Shellharbour	5
Jervis Bay	10		

SOUTHERN ZONE EVENTS CALENDAR 2026-2027

Zone weekend	July 11-12
Zone weekend	July 25-26
Zone weekend	August 8-9
Zone weekend	August 22-23
Zone weekend	September 12-13
Zone weekend	September 26-27
Zone weekend Labour Day	October 3, 4, 5
Zone weekend	October 10-11
Zone weekend	October 24-25
Zone weekend	November 14-15
Zone weekend	November 28-29
Zone weekend	December 12-13
Zone weekend – Christmas	December 25,26,27,28
Zone weekend – New Years Day	January 1,2,3
Zone weekend	January 9-10
Batemans Bay Tollgate Island Classic*	January 15, 16,17
Zone weekend	January 23-24
Bermagui Bluewater Classic*	January 23, 24, 25
Ulladulla Jess Sam's Tournament*	January 29, 30, 31
Zone weekend	February 13-14
Tathra AFC Tournament*	February 12, 13, 14
NSWGFA Interclub*	February 25, 26, 27, 28
Shellharbour GFC Bluewater Classic *	March 12,13, 14
Zone weekend	March 13-14
Jervis Bay White Sands Tournament*	March 20-21
Zone weekend - Easter	March 26, 27, 28,29
Shoalhaven Open Tournament *	April 3-4
Zone weekend	April 10-11
Zone weekend ANZAC Day	April 24, 25, 26
Zone weekend	May 8-9
Canberra Yellowfin Tuna Tournament*	May 15, 16, 17
Zone weekend	May 22,23
Zone weekend Kings Birthday	June 12, 13, 14
Zone weekend	June 26-27
Southern Zone AGM & Presentation Lunch	July 4
Zone weekend	July 10-11
Zone weekend	July 24-25

NB: Zone weekends are the second and fourth full weekends of every month. Fish tagged or captured at the NSW Interclub will be counted in SZ monthly Cock O the Walk competition. All gazetted NSW Public Holiday long weeks are included. * denotes nominated tournaments eligible for Zone points plus the Columbus and George Bass trophies.

All things Game Fishing



Although not a game fishing member, Baxter Pryor caught a nice yellowfin tuna earlier this month.



Junior member, Isla Chippindale caught herself a nice yellowfin of 25.5kg on 15kg line.



Small fry game fishing member, York Chippindale also managed a yellowfin of 59kg on 24kg line whilst out with Dad, Brendan.

