



Annual Report

18/19

Our purpose is great fishing experiences
for all in the WA community forever



Chairman
Tim Bray

Recfishwest Staff

Chief Executive Officer
Andrew Rowland

Operations Manager
Leyland Campbell

**Partnerships and Business
Development Manager**
Tim Grose

Business Support Manager
Vanessa Abbott

Fishing Development Officer
Matt Gillett

Policy Officer
Aaron Moses

Research and Development Officer
James Florisson

Research Officer
Steph Watts

Research Associate
Sam Bock

Communications Coordinator
Alanna Hubbard

**Communications and
Research Assistant**
Nicholas Drummond

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Department of
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Department of
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Regional Development



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Letter from the Minister

The McGowan Government is committed to enhancing the recreational fishing experience in Western Australia to see more people enjoying a great time outdoors. Supporting recfishing is also about growing tourism and supporting the economy and jobs, particularly in the regions.



As a Government, we want WA's recreational fishing experience to get even better and build on our reputation for having some of the most sustainable fisheries and being one of the best places in the world to fish.





Since we came to Government in March 2017, we've made some big improvements to grow fishing opportunities for recfishers. The highlights:

- We removed seasonal restrictions on the WA recreational rock lobster fishery so recfishers can catch lobster year-round.
- We're buying back commercial fishing licences in the Peel-Harvey Estuary to ensure there are better recreational crabbing opportunities.
- We've deployed artificial reefs off Esperance and Exmouth and progressed the \$1 million metropolitan artificial reef that will be deployed off the coast of Ocean Reef.
- Stocked Lake Kununurra with hundreds and thousands of barramundi to make it one of the best sports fishing spots in Australia.
- We're helping more people living with a disability who love to fish get out and cast a line after we increased funding to Fishability by 25 per cent.
- We're rolling out a network of Beach Emergency Number (BEN) signs across WA beaches. BEN signs have a unique code that police, ambulance and other emergency services can use to more quickly pinpoint the location of an emergency. These are helpful for the many recfishers who enjoy casting a line from one of our many beautiful sandy beaches.

Over the coming year keep an eye out for more projects we'll be announcing to continue to deliver on our commitment to create better recfishing experiences in WA.

Dave Kelly
Fisheries Minister

Board of Management

1.1 Chairman's Report



Welcome to the Recfishwest Annual Report for 2018/2019 and on behalf of the Board I am very pleased to present a strong report on the activities of your organisation.

I would firstly like to thank all the team led by CEO Andrew Rowland and my fellow directors for their tireless efforts throughout the year. Our 2018/2019 report highlights the activities and achievements of Recfishwest aligned with our strategic direction and were driven by a purpose that is clearer than ever.

Recfishwest continues to be driven by our commitment to protect, promote and create sustainable, accessible, enjoyable and safe fishing experiences. We want our fish stocks to be abundant, not just sustainable, meaning there's a chance people can catch that fish of a lifetime, every time.

Membership and Communications

A key part of the organisation's strategy always has been, and continues to be, to grow our membership base and in the 12-month period of 2018-19 our membership grew by just over five per cent to more than 11,000 members.

We've engaged our members more than ever with increased face-to-face activities, provided more avenues to 'have your say' and frequent

'Member's First' emails – making sure you're the first to know about issues affecting your fishing in WA. The support of our ever-growing membership base is extremely valued by the Recfishwest Board and the staff. Listening and acting on their behalf is what we're here to do and, together, we can achieve great things to make fishing better.

Derby Delight

Working with the commercial fishing sector peak body WAFIC (Western Australian Fishing Industry Council) and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), a number of outcomes have been achieved that benefit both fishing sectors and shows we are leading the nation when it comes to proactive fisheries co-management.

The resolution in Derby saw recreational fishing licence money used for the first time ever to negotiate an outcome that resulted in more barramundi left in the water for local and visiting recfishers to access. High abundances of barra on the doorstep of Derby is critical to great fishing experiences of this iconic Kimberley species.



The issue was not one of sustainability, but rather how the sustainable catch close to town was shared. In May 2019, following a mediation process, Recfishwest and WAFIC finalised a joint proposal to the Minister that proposed spatial separation between commercial and recreational fishing sectors as a solution.

Importantly, the proposal included an agreed set of principles for determining compensation for any loss incurred by the commercial licence holder, based on historic catch efforts. This is how working together towards a common goal using common sense can achieve equitable outcomes.

Pink Snapper Protection

We now have an extra month for the annual Cockburn and Warnbro Sounds pink snapper closure. DPIRD's science showed an anomaly in the snapper stock which meant more needed to be done to protect the spawning fish in the population. Previously the 1 October closure signalled the approximate spawning time for metro pink snapper. But hearing calls from concerned members and

local fishers that the fish had started schooling to spawn earlier over the past couple of years, meant something had to be done to protect our important snapper stocks. An extended spawning closure, coupled with existing bag and size limits and the community Snapper Guardian program, means that we, as a fishing community, can honestly say we're doing our bit for snapper.

Leading is not always easy, but we know this was the right thing to do to protect the fish for years to come. We want our fish stocks to be abundant, not just sustainable, so protecting spawning fish now will only lead to great numbers of pinkies on the doorstep of Perth for many years to come.

Bring Back the Big Crab

It is critical we prioritise our efforts for highly valued recreational species. With over one million caught each year, and a decline in size and numbers, the iconic blue swimmer crab was once again at the forefront of our efforts. Protecting breeding female crabs was key to ensure a better crabbing experience, with a vision to 'bring back the big crab'.

1.1 Chairman's Report *cont.*

Increased protection of female crabs led to another positive working relationship between WAFIC, DPIRD and Southern Seafood Producers Association. Longer seasonal closures, bag limit changes and reduction in commercial crab licences were announced by the Fisheries Minister in August 2019 to begin to restore the species to its former glory.

A Fresh Approach for Freshwater

Freshwater fishing is another aspect of WA's fishing landscape that needs some new direction with a vision to grow. I commend all involved in establishing the new WA Inland Fisheries Research Advisory Committee. Bringing together Recfishwest, WA trout fishing experts, trout stocking specialists from DPIRD and the South West Regional Development Commission, the committee's objective is to steer the future direction of research and development of inland fisheries with a particular focus on the Pemberton Trout Hatchery. The successful trout stocking program of the past 80 years or so, has been phenomenal for the development of freshwater fishing in the South West, with over 600,000 freshwater trout stocked every year.

As well as developing freshwater fishing in WA, I am eager to see how the discussions around stocking native endemic freshwater species play out with other species such as Aussie bass, silver perch and golden perch getting closer to a reality. Recfishwest has been working away on the concept and wants to see this happen as a priority, and I am looking forward to seeing action on this within the next year or so.

Capital Gains from Economics

One of my proudest moments as Chairman of Recfishwest was to be joined by members of our fishing community, the boating, tackle and charter industries, along with WA Premier Mark McGowan and Fisheries Minister Dave Kelly, in launching the 'Economic Dimensions of Recreational Fishing' in March 2019 at the WA Maritime Museum. They heard how West Aussie fishers spend a whopping \$2.4 billion every year, including \$1.8 billion on fishing travel and \$160 million on fishing gear every year. I'm sure that last stat is no surprise to most recfishers who always seem to need 'more gear' (me included).

We have some of the best fishing experiences on the planet in some of the most amazing scenery. World-class sportfishing for salmon on world-class beaches, stunning Kimberley back-drops catching metre-plus barramundi in Kununurra, giant gamefish such as marlin and sailfish in Exmouth and Broome. We have a world-class pink snapper wilderness fishery in Shark Bay and our world-renowned cray fishery is only getting better. All these experiences provide huge value to the community - social value, conservation value or local economic value. Our fisheries are important to us and we want to ensure healthy, abundant fish stocks keep people spending on great fishing experiences. That's why we need to continue to work with Government to deliver great fishing experiences and seize the opportunity in front of us. Recfishwest's role is to invest and innovate in new fishing development projects that create more places to fish and more fish to catch. Make sure you catch the stats here: www.recfishwest.org.au/catch-the-stats/

Real Opportunities in Artificial Reefs

Lastly, I'd like to touch on our vision for artificial reefs in WA. Humans don't tread lightly and building resilience in our oceans is vital to ensuring the environment has a fighting chance and communities have enhanced experiences for many years to come.

On the success of the Exmouth Integrated Artificial Reef, where Recfishwest and partners transformed steel structures donated from BHP into a fishing playground inside the Exmouth Gulf, Recfishwest is driven to pursue similar opportunities right around the State. After some exciting discussions with regional communities, utilising and repurposing oil and gas infrastructure and turning them into artificial reefs is a real possibility. As leaders in this space, we'll be exploring opportunities that can open up massive underwater structures for fishing that already hold masses of fish and other marine life. Two words ring true here 'opportunities' and 'communities'. If we can make the most of opportunities to build more productive fish habitats around the State, our fishing communities, as the beneficiaries, will have more places to fish and more fish to catch, while being part of an innovative solution to sustainable fishing.

See you out there.

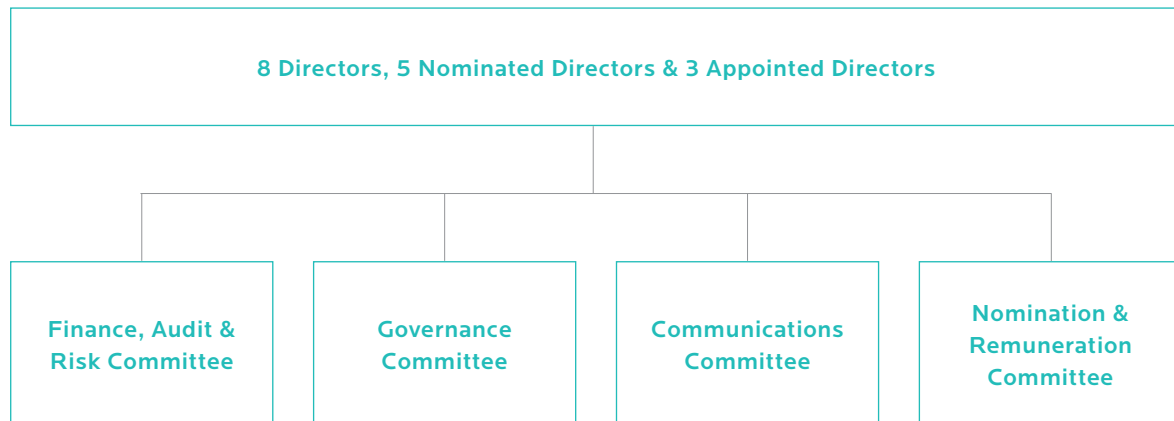
Tim Bray
Chairman



1.2 The Board

The Recfishwest Board contains eight directors, comprising five nominated directors elected by the Recfishwest membership and three appointed directors.

Board Structure



Committees

Recfishwest Committee meetings are generally held prior to Recfishwest monthly Board Meetings allowing recommendations and outcomes of committee meetings to be tabled at the Board Meeting.

Finance, Audit & Risk Committee	Governance Committee	Communications Committee	Nomination & Remuneration Committee
Geoff Ellis Tim Bray Gary Thorniley Liam Surridge (Associate)	Kevin Gammage Dean Thorburn Simon McLernon	Simon McLernon Jeff Cooper Tania Douthwaite Luke Doherty (Associate)	Tim Bray Geoff Ellis Kevin Gammage Dean Thorburn Gary Thorniley



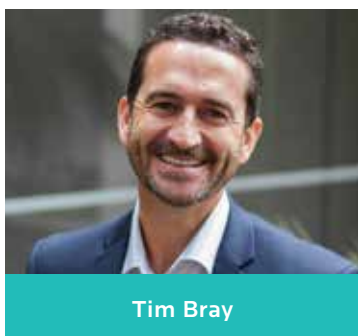
Board Member Attendance at Board Meetings

Elected Director	Number of Meetings Attended
Tim Bray	7
Geoff Ellis	8
Dean Thorburn	4
Kevin Gammage	5
Simon McLernon	7
Jeff Cooper	5
Tania Douthwaite	5
Gary Thorniley	6

8 meetings held between September 2018 and August 2019



Board Members



Chairman Elected Director

Tim is an independent, non-executive Director of Recfishwest and Chairman of Recfishwest. He is also Chair of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee and a member of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. Tim was first appointed to the Recfishwest Board in 2012 for a one-year term and subsequently re-appointed for a two-year term in October 2013. Tim worked as a fisheries scientist, fisheries manager and senior advisor to the Minister for Fisheries over a 14-year period before joining Western Power as Manager Corporate Affairs. Tim was also the General Manager of Corporate Communications with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry for two years before joining Ecocentric Energy as its inaugural CEO. Tim is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a fellow of the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation. Tim was elected to the Recfishwest Board at the 2017 AGM for a two-year term.



Non-Executive Director, Deputy Chair and Chair of Finance Audit & Risk Committee, Nomination & Remuneration Committee

Geoff is an independent, non-executive Director of Recfishwest. He is currently the Deputy Chair of the Board and Chair of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. He also represents Recfishwest on the Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme. Currently semi-retired, Geoff is a Director of Super Nova Motor Yachts trading as Offshore Marine and has been for the past 25 years. He has also managed several retail boat and caravan sales businesses in WA. Geoff has held the following positions: President/Finance Director of Boating Industry Association WA, member of Caravan Industry Association WA, member of the Motor Trade Association, licensed motor vehicle dealer and licensed second hand dealer. Geoff was elected to the Recfishwest Board at the 2017 GM for a two-year term.



Board Members *cont.*



Kevin Gammage

Non-Executive Director, Chair Governance Committee, Nomination & Remuneration Committee

Kevin is an independent, non-executive Director of Recfishwest and also Chair of the Corporate Governance Committee. He is currently serving his second term as one of the three appointed Directors of Recfishwest. Currently, Kevin is a partner in the corporate law firm Nova Legal. Prior to being admitted to practice in Western Australia, Kevin worked in the corporate sector, spending 16 years at senior management level and CEO level in listed and unlisted companies with annual sales revenue between \$50-\$90 million. In these roles, Kevin led negotiations relating to business sales and acquisitions, supply agreements, intellectual property licensing, structuring of shareholder arrangements and capital raisings.



Jeff Cooper

Non-Executive Director, Communications Committee, Finance Audit & Risk Committee

Jeff Cooper is the past President of the Broome Fishing Club and former Chair of Broome Boating Facility Community Reference Group. Jeff is also a former board member for the Marine Park Reserves Authority and a representative of the International Game Fishing Association. Jeff is currently a Training Manager at the North Regional TAFE (former Kimberley Training Institute) for Aquaculture, Fisheries, Maritime (including the Broome Maritime Simulation Centre), Community and Children's Services, Conservation and Land Management, Pastoral, Tourism and other areas. He is also a mentor for the Recfishwest Young Future Leaders programs. Jeff has been a major proponent for barramundi stock enhancement in the Kimberley and has been heavily involved with restocking Dampier Creek, as well as being a project leader for the Lake Kununurra restocking project. Jeff is extremely enthusiastic about game fishing and has previously worked with Dr Julian Pepperell to tag sailfish with PSAT and SPOT tags to determine their movements and behaviours around Broome as part of a Woodside-funded program.



Board Members *cont.*



Gary Thorniley

Non-Executive Director

Gary has a career spanning agricultural research at CSIRO and Department of Agriculture (now DPIRD), technical and business advice, marketing, financial services and leadership. Gary is a Senior Private Client Advisor at Morgans Financial in West Perth, Chairman of Ecocentric Energy and was previously Director of a financial advisory firm. He is a member of the AICD, early adopter member of Conscious Capitalism Australia, Perth Angels and is a CFP member of the FPA. Gary has a particular interest in directly contributing to the success of businesses and organisations that have a strong value proposition, make a real impact and demonstrate a positive culture. Gary grew up boating and fishing at Port Gregory and still enjoys getting on the water when he can. Gary is a keen cyclist and supports charities through multiple fundraising events including riding in WA's iconic Hawaiian Ride For Youth.



Simon McLernon

Non-Executive Director, Chair Communications Committee, Governance Committee

Simon was elected to the Board at the 2016 Annual General Meeting. He brings a wealth of external experience from his work as an engineer from a variety of industries over the past decade including shipbuilding and subsea engineering. Simon has previously volunteered his engineering skills to design and manufacture the Bluewater Safety Float to help increase safety for divers and other boat users. Currently, Simon is working in a partnership for a small start-up company 'Old Man Blue' which designs and manufactures cray loops and spearfishing gear. Simon has a particular interest in shark behaviour and is currently developing prototype shark deterrent devices and experiments aimed at reducing shark bite-offs in the North West. Being an avid diver and fisher throughout his life, Simon has a strong interest in marine life behaviour and the sustainability of WA fisheries. Simon was the Events Coordinator for Bluewater Freedivers of Western Australia for two-and-a-half years and was the Vice President for two years.



Board Members *cont.*



Dean Thorburn

Non-Executive Director, Governance Committee, Nomination and Remuneration Committee

Dean is a non-executive Director of Recfishwest and a member of the Governance Committee. Dean was elected to the Recfishwest board in October 2011, re-elected for a two-year term in 2012 and again at the 2014 AGM. Dean is a biologist with 15 years of professional experience in marine and aquatic studies and specialises in fish biology and ecological investigations of riverine and nearshore waters. Dean is the Director and Principal Scientist of an environmental consulting company and has occupied that role since 2006. In this current role, Dean continues to work on the biology of numerous bony and cartilaginous fish species and conducts environmental monitoring programs, impact assessments and aids with government approvals for various projects throughout northern Australia and south-east Asia. Dean is also a member of the Bluewater Freedivers of Western Australia.



Tania Douthwaite

Non-Executive Director, Communications Committee

Tania is a non-executive Director of Recfishwest and a member of the Communications Committee. Tania was elected to the Recfishwest board at the 2017 AGM for a two-year term. Tania is a marine scientist and marine science communicator with professional experience in the environmental consulting, commercial diving and recreational freediving industry. Tania was a former Recfishwest Young Future Leader in Recreational Fishing in 2011 and has been a keen freshwater and saltwater fisher for over 20 years. Tania was the Vice Chairman of the West Australian Undersea Club Inc. serving on the committee for five years in the role of Safety and Education Officer. She has a particular passion for freediving spearfishing safety education and marine ecology. Tania currently works as a freediving instructor and marine artist. She is a dedicated and passionate individual who is interested in protecting the sustainability, enjoyment, accessibility and safety of WA recreational fishing.

1.3 CEO's Report

"At Recfishwest, we protect, promote and create great fishing experiences for the WA community forever. We make sure we never take for granted or undervalue the great fishing WA has to offer!"

- Recfishwest CEO **Dr Andrew Rowland**



Welcome to another year's annual report showcasing our activities and achievements of 2018/19.

It has been another huge year in the world of fishing, especially here in WA with plenty of new developments focusing on protecting and enhancing people's fishing experiences.

Firstly, thanks to my team. It's a pleasure to work with a dedicated and passionate group of fishing experts every day in the office who believe in what they do and genuinely want to see the best outcomes for fish and fishing in WA. Repeat efforts to action priorities, while being agile enough to change tack on issues as they arise, is a testament to a team that is in tune with the fishing community and know what needs to be done to achieve the small and big wins.

Secondly, I'd like to thank our Board of Directors and Chairman Tim Bray for their guidance and governance of an organisation that is rapidly evolving and delivering great things for our community, with a clear and focused purpose.

Thirdly, and most importantly, I'd like to thank the Recfishwest members. We work hard to keep as close as possible to our members. I enjoy receiving feedback on our regular communications. With

only a small team and multiple pressing issues State-wide, we have to be disciplined in how we prioritise and focus our efforts, but the Members First communiqué is a great way to express the urgency, importance and transparency of what we're dealing with and how you can help. Essentially, I want you to know what we know first – arming you with the tools and information to talk on our behalf around the Saturday night barbeque, or at the bowls club or down at the boat ramp. As a member of Recfishwest you are an important voice on the street for making fishing better!

2018/19 was a big year for positive fisheries management changes and developments. Just some of the highlights included:

Blue Swimmer Crabs

A review of blue swimmer crabs in Perth and the South West will result in more protection for the female crab breeding stock and is a step towards bigger, better crabs in the near future. Crab sizes and numbers have been in gradual decline over the years, and are definitely a long way off what they used to be when I was growing up. We had approximately 4,000 crabbers complete our



survey around management changes, proving crabs are king! These changes included:

- Permanent removal of commercial fishing licences in Cockburn and Warnbro Sounds and from Mandurah to Bunbury through a voluntary buy-back scheme. This will ensure more protection for the female crab breeding stock and more crabs and bigger crabs to fish for.
- The buy-back of commercial fishing licences in Cockburn Sound opens the real possibility for recreational crab fishing to resume in Cockburn Sound.
- Introduction of a three-month seasonal closure – September 1 to November 30 – in all waters from the Swan and Canning Rivers (inclusive) to 15 km south of Bunbury.
- A bag limit of five in the Swan/Canning rivers (the boat limit of 20 stays the same).
- In Geographe Bay, the bag limit stays the same at 10 crabs but now with a maximum of five females (the boat limit stays the same and still no seasonal closure).

Pink Snapper

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development released an updated stock assessment for snapper in July 2019 which essentially confirmed local Cockburn fishers concerns about the timing and extent of the spawning closure. The science update presented a compelling case to seek immediate action to increase protection for spawning pinkies and we were ultimately pleased that the minister supported our proposal to start the spawning closure in September and extend the spawning zone further to the west. The great support for these changes from recfishers means we will be able to avoid the situation in which South Australia now finds themselves – where snapper fishing has recently been banned for three years.

Derby Barra

A moment in WA history that saw for the first time recreational fishing licence money used to resolve a resource sharing conflict in a specific area. The Minister for Fisheries approved the removal of commercial barramundi netting for King Sound South near Derby following a formal mediation process conducted by Recfishwest



1.3 CEO's Report *cont.*

and the West Australian Fishing Industry Council involving community representatives and the commercial fisher. This barra issue was not one of sustainability, but rather how the sustainable catch close to Derby was best shared. It was great to see recfishing licence money used in this adjustment and in effect provide high fish abundances close to town for local and visiting fishers.

Kununurra Barra

Another year, another 100,000 barra for Lake Kununurra. I spent some time up in Kununurra with the Lake Kununurra Fish Stocking Group who were on hand with some locals and the Fisheries Minister to release the latest batch of juvenile barra. Now with 600,000-plus fish stocked into the lake and consistent catches of 1 m-plus, it's safe to say the stocking of this man-made waterway is proving to be a huge success. A tourism promoter's dream with great weather, pristine scenery and big trophy fish, it is a bucket list fishing destination and one I have personally fished and recommend for anyone wanting to catch a fish of a lifetime every time.

Habitat Enhancement Structures

The latest reefs in Exmouth and Esperance are already a success in the local community. King Reef in Exmouth has developed very fast, holds lots of bait and is already delivering some pretty great fishing particularly for pelagics like mackerel and cobia. Cooper Reef in Esperance is also regularly holding a lot of skipper and sambos providing a great fishing option for families in smaller boats. Recfishwest has a team of local champions at each of these locations who monitor the reefs and do an amazing job dropping cameras down and collecting footage of what's happening below the surface.

We're currently exploring more reefing opportunities that incorporate repurposed steel structures to form new fish habitats in a similar manner to Exmouth and our partnership with BHP. A concept being practised in many other parts of the world, reefing materials that can aid with habitat enhancement to build more resilient oceans and provide productive habitat for marine life is something the community and Recfishwest are extremely excited to pursue.

I'm looking forward to the next 12 months and to making significant progress on stocking new Australian native species (let's get support from all Aussie native species lovers not just those who want Aussie bass), scaling up marron stocking activities, finding solutions to the shark bite-off issue, installing FADs in some new locations, expanding our Reef Vision program and delivering on better fishing rules.

This year, we welcomed on board Shimano Australia as a Supporting Partner of our popular Smartphone App, supporting sustainable fishing in Western Australia. Healthway continued their support of our SunSmart Fishing Clinic Program – they have funded this program for 20 years now – and the kids and families of WA can't thank you enough! We also welcomed BHP in 2019 who became an important Partner of our Exmouth Reef Vision Program.

Thanks also to all of the other project and working partners who help us achieve positive outcomes for the fishing community of Western Australia.

Andrew Rowland
Chief Executive Officer



Recfishwest Staff

Staff Members



Andrew Rowland - Chief Executive Officer

"Plenty of highlights this year, however, the number one for me was improving the barramundi fishing situation on the doorstep of Derby. This followed a formal mediation process lead by Recfishwest and the Western Australian Fisheries Industry Council (WAFIC) involving community representatives and the commercial fisher. I was extremely pleased to see a satisfactory solution for all parties. This was the first time in WA that recreational fishing licence money was used to resolve such a resource-sharing conflict in a specific area. These types of fisheries challenges can be extremely difficult to resolve and so often the sectors end up in a Mexican stand-off that lasts for years and provides nobody any certainty or benefits. High fish abundances close to town are critical to high-value fishing experiences and this outcome achieves more barra left in the water for local and visiting fishers. While not easy, this positive solution represented a real breakthrough, and I must thank Matt Gillett for all his efforts."



Leyland Campbell - Operations Manager

"While my kids' highlight of the year was Troutfest – where they got to have a close encounter with trout that they are still talking about – my highlight of the year was the launch of the Burley Brick in conjunction with Mendolia Seafoods. The Burley Brick is an innovative bait source made from 100 per cent biodegradable cardboard and filled with off-cuts from locally sourced fish products, making the entire product plastic-free and utilising parts of fish that would otherwise have been thrown away. I know recreational fishers are the greatest stewards of our aquatic environment and innovative products like the Burley Brick help to demonstrate to the non-fishing community just how much recreational fishers care for our environment. It is little wonder the Burley Brick was this year's winner of the Environment award at both the 2019 National Seafood Industry Awards and the 2019 WA Seafood Industry Awards."

Staff Members *cont.*



Tim Grose - Partnerships and Business Development Manager

"Leading the 'Economic Dimensions of Recreational Fishing in WA' launch event was my 2018/19 highlight. I enjoyed working with the project economists and our Strategic Design Team to best represent and communicate how West Aussie fishers spend an amazing \$2.4 billion on fishing each year – providing great economic stimulus to the State's economy. Overseeing one of the most important events in my tenure at Recfishwest was a proud achievement and to have the Recfishwest board and staff standing alongside the fishing community, our tackle industry partners, the Minister for Fisheries and WA Premier Mark McGowan was an important and historic moment for all West Aussie fishers."



Vanessa Abbott - Business Support Manager

"In my new role as Business Support Manager, highlights for 2018/2019 included overseeing an increased degree of management reporting and support for project development and financial projections. I was also excited to catch a good-sized whiting, amongst other fish, in Nornalup with my colleagues this year."



Matt Gillett - Fishing Development Officer

"Seeing the community's care and responsibility for our south-west crab stocks was a stand-out for me. In response to a discussion paper released by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) in October last year, nearly 4,000 passionate West Aussies put forward their views on how crabs should be managed. The vast majority of this feedback indicated support for much more stringent management to ensure that one of Western Australia's favourite pastimes could be continued well into the future. Crabbing in WA's South West is a rite of passage for all of the community. The fact that the community's views went on to lead a management package that will ensure not only the ongoing sustainability of crabs, but will also support the fantastic crabbing experiences that we enjoy each year, made me extremely proud."



Aaron Moses - Policy Officer

"Having joined the Recfishwest team in November last year, I had never fished for marron, let alone held one. Fast forward to early January and I was knee-deep in mud, collecting marron out of the hatchery pools and sorting them for release back into Harvey Dam. I feel very fortunate to have been involved in the restocking of an iconic species in the South West, and to see the community get involved with the release was a huge highlight of my year."

Staff Members *cont.*



James Florisson - Research and Development Officer

"Over the last 12 months, we have been working closely with the energy resources industry to repurpose recycled steel and concrete as habitat enhancement structures. Following the efforts of King Reef, which is creating some great fishing within the Exmouth Gulf, we hope to continue to provide a greater benefit to the community. Another great moment this year was the deployment of Esperance's Cooper Reef, which was highly anticipated by the whole recfishing community. The community have been involved in every aspect of the process; from site selection to sourcing local materials and building the reef, and now helping with the research and monitoring component. We have already seen a large array of key species on the reef, including Samson fish, skippy, flathead, and whiting, which highlights how quickly the area has been transformed into a productive fishing location."



Sam Bock - Research Associate

"I am very fortunate to have become more involved with Recfishwest and the recfishing community over the last twelve months. I recently completed Recfishwest's Young Future Leaders program, which helped me develop valuable leadership skills. Since then, I've had the pleasure of helping out with Troutfest and biological sampling at Gamex fishing tournament, allowing me to experience the excitement of these great fishing events, and give back to the recfishing community across WA. In my new position as part of the research team at Recfishwest, I already feel like I am contributing towards creating better fishing experiences around the State through artificial reefs."



Steph Watts - Research Officer

"A massive highlight for me this year was going up to Exmouth to be a part of the annual Gamex fishing tournament, where we helped teach the kids a few new fishing tips at the family fishing fun day, collected important data through the tournament monitoring program during the weigh-in, and shared valuable info about the fish and the program with the community. I also enjoyed my recent trip to Esperance where I was able to share the evolution of Cooper Reef with the fishing club, and went out on the water with Reef Vision volunteers to monitor the development of the reef. It's great to be able to work with the community to learn more about the fish we love to catch and the greater marine environment to help make fishing better."

Staff Members *cont.*



Alanna Hubbard - Communications Coordinator

"It's been another exciting year at Recfishwest, as we've advocated for various management changes to protect the future of our fishing here in WA. I've enjoyed maintaining communication between the organisation and the community, planning and implementing campaigns, liaising with media and Government departments, overseeing the State-wide Safety Strategy and organising events. A highlight for this year was running the annual Swanfish event and being part of the National Seafood Industry Leadership Program, working alongside people from all sectors of the industry to achieve a common goal and present in Canberra later this year."



Nicholas Drummond - Communications and Research Assistant

"The highlight for my time at Recfishwest would have to be when I got the job here. In the previous years before my employment, I had been part of many Recfishwest research trips, events and the Next Wave Future Leader programs, so I knew the team well. When they heard I had just finished chemotherapy, they offered me some casual work to help replace staff going on leave. The work brought some much-needed structure and direction back into my life after moving away from my previous rural aquaculture job for treatment here in the city. The team here were, and continue to be, awesome to work with. I've been lucky enough for my role to slowly evolve, allowing me to continue to work with this sensational team and represent recreational fishers across our huge State."



Sedin Hasanovic - Communications Assistant

"The biggest highlight of my year would most definitely have to be the second annual Salmon Campout, which was held at Cheynes Beach in March 2019. Being able to catch my first ever salmon and enjoy one of the most amazing beaches in Western Australia is an experience I could never forget. Being able to be part of a great fishing community, meet new people and learn more about fishing through stories and great experiences like this gives me the motivation to do more and I look forward to participating in more community events in the future."



Staff Members *cont.*



Kate Sewell - Fishing Clinic Coordinator

"It has been such a busy year with the Recfishwest SunSmart fishing clinic program. So many new young recfishers experienced that 'first-fish-ever' feeling and seeing anyone catch their first fish is such a pleasure. Something I'm really proud of this year was to be invited to join the technical working group charged with creating the good practice guide specific to angling. Managed by Australian Adventure Activity Standards (AAAS), which helps with the continuous improvement of adventure activity good practice in Australia, this project was one of a handful of other guides created in 2019 specific to some increasingly popular outdoor activities. Representing the peak body for recreational fishing in Western Australia and our very successful Fishing Clinic Program, I feel I have made a valuable contribution to establish a benchmark for anyone looking to deliver angling activities and instruction to dependent groups across the country."



Ruth Sprague - Membership & Events Officer

"Over the last 12 months, it has been great to be part of this very accomplished and knowledgeable team with such a passion for everything fishing. I have enjoyed being in a position to play a central role in the planning of many events we do at Recfishwest, from Swanfish through to Troutfest. One of the highlights was the delivery of the Purple Fly Fishing Event for Breast Cancer Care WA. Our first Clubs and Communities Conference was successful getting to interact with our members on a daily basis and assist them in getting great fishing experiences makes coming to the office every day worthwhile."



Staff Members *cont.*



Yvette Guy - Office Manager

"It was exciting last year to be able to part of the inaugural planning of the online ballot voting system for the 2018 AGM through an organisation called 'True Vote'. This was the first time that members could vote using this customised electronic voting system that streamlines the voting process. There are cost savings in terms of staff time, postage and production costs. Voting was able to cast by way of email or mobile phone and the auditing of votes was immediate and confidential. The 2018 AGM voting was by far the most successful voting year by the membership Recfishwest has had."



Fleur De Vries - Office Support

"I feel privileged to be part of the Recfishwest Business Support team involving Accounts, Administration and Membership. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn more from Recfishwest and be part of their passion for all things fishing. I look forward to supporting the volunteers in our Fishing Clinic Program which contributes to the fishing community in such a positive way. It's a pleasure to be a part of such a dedicated and passionate team."

News & Highlights

3.1 Representation & Consultation

In order to effectively represent the views of the recreational fishing community, Recfishwest undertakes consultation throughout Western Australia using a number of different methods. Recfishwest engages with recreational fishers and stakeholders through surveys, meetings with clubs/individuals, regional consultation, correspondence, reference groups, association and industry working groups, as well as representing and promoting recreational fishing interests on various committees and at selected workshops and events.

Recfishwest used this direct contact with our community to collectively gauge the attitudes, drivers, beliefs and aspirations of recreational fishers.





This engagement has allowed Recfishwest to provide the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and the Minister for Fisheries with qualified, consolidated advice on a range of recreational fishing-related issues, while at the same time allowing Recfishwest to communicate changes in fisheries management directly to stakeholders.

Our focus is entirely on helping to create and promote wonderful fishing experiences here in Western Australia and we believe there is nowhere better.

3.1.1 | WA's \$2.4 Billion Lifestyle

Fishing in WA is a part of our culture and lifestyle, with hundreds of thousands of West Aussies choosing to spend their hard-earned dollars and valuable family time on accessing the great fishing experiences for which WA is known.

The results - a staggering \$2.4 billion is spent by fishers each year!

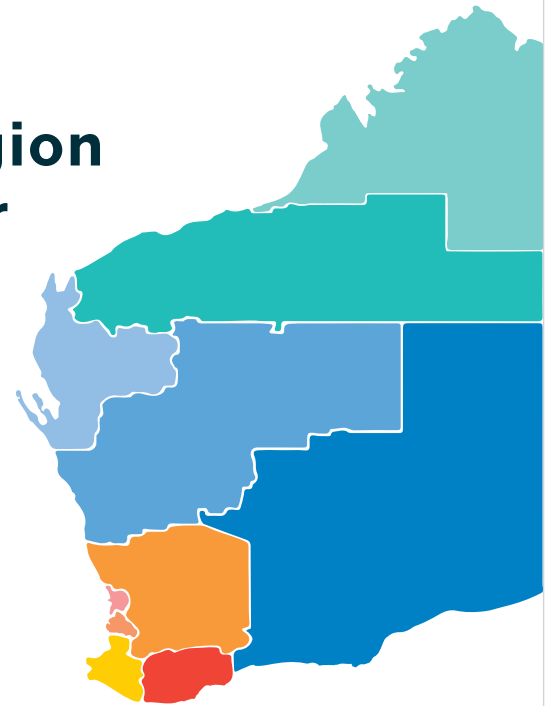
"The \$2.4 billion yearly injection into the State's economy demonstrates that recreational fishing in WA matters."

- Recfishwest CEO **Dr Andrew Rowland**



What residents of each region spend on fishing each year

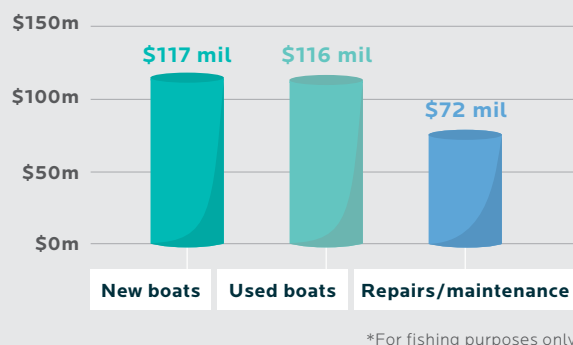
Kimberley - \$184.1 mil	Wheatbelt - \$42.9 mil
Pilbara - \$189.8 mil	Metro - \$1.1 bil
Gascoyne - \$27.5 mil	Peel - \$217.2 mil
Mid West - \$76 mil	South West - \$305.6 mil
Goldfields - \$146.6 mil	Great Southern - \$45.8 mil



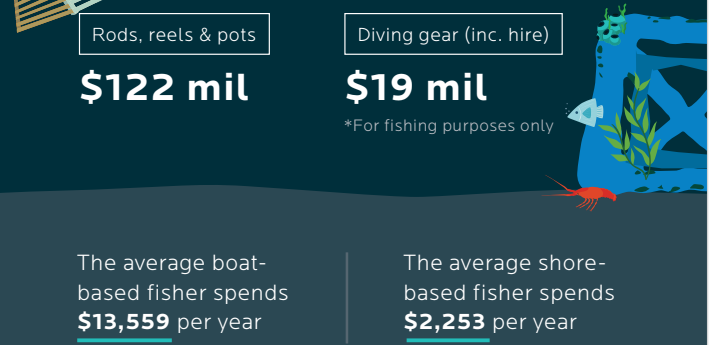
Trip expenditure per year - \$1.8 bil



Boat expenditure / yr - \$389 mil



Gear expenditure / yr - \$159 mil



3.1 Representation & Consultation *cont.*

3.1.2 | Westport Taskforce – Cockburn Sound Pink Snapper



Recfishwest will not support any port options that are most likely to impact on our fish, their habitat or our fishing experiences.

A position on Cockburn Sound and the outer harbour was put forward to the Westport Taskforce.

Recfishwest will continue to fight to protect pink snapper and the great fishing provided by Cockburn Sound.

3.1.3 | New Crayfishing Rules



New rules introduced for rock lobster fishers to mitigate against whale entanglements.

As stewards of the marine environment, recreational fishers were happy to do their bit to minimise any interaction with protected species.

New rules also improve safety by reducing pot ropes getting entangled with boat propellers.

3.1.4 | Shimano Australia Supporting Sustainable Fishing in the West



International industry leaders, Shimano, have teamed up with Recfishwest to become proud Supporting Partners of Recfishwest's Smartphone App.

Shimano believes the App plays a vital role in helping people fish for the future and encourages people to get out fishing.

Shimano's support will help us continue to deliver great fishing experiences for all West Aussies.

SHIMANO

3.1.5 | Blue Swimmer Crab Review - Overwhelming Response on Crabs

- After more than a decade since Recfishwest first raised the issue, breeding female crabs are finally getting the protection they deserve.
- 3,961 fishers provided comment on a crab management paper released by DPIRD.
- A buyback leading to the permanent closure of commercial oceanic crab fisheries will see a return of bigger and better crabs and crabbing experiences.

Everyone in Western Australia has a crabbing story.





3.1.6 | Crayfish Industry Growth Plan Must Protect Inshore Reefs

- In December, the Minister for Fisheries announced a plan to grow the rock lobster industry by increasing the quota available to the commercial sector by 1,700 tonnes.
- Recfishwest will never support anything that adversely impacts recfishing experiences and therefore put forward critical comments on the Growth Plan.
- We worked with the Government to get a positive outcome for the community.

All WA fish stocks must be managed to provide optimal benefits to the WA community.



3.1 Representation & Consultation *cont.*

3.1.7 | Canal Rocks Boat Ramp to Remain Open



Fantastic win for the south-west fishing and boating community who worked hard to ensure Canal Rocks boat ramp will remain open.

Decisions such as this support access to high-quality fishing experiences and benefit the local community and economy.

Recfishwest was proud to work alongside the community to ensure this important piece of infrastructure remained open for all.

3.1.8 | Proposed Exmouth Gulf Development to Undergo Public Environmental Review



Subsea 7 has a proposal to construct and operate an onshore pipeline fabrication facility approximately 35 km south of the Exmouth townsite.

The Exmouth Gulf is a unique and extremely important fishing location for West Australians and must be retained.

The recreational fishing community called for the proposal to undertake a Public Environmental Review and the EPA agreed.

3.1.9 | Derby Barramundi Resolution



The removal of the commercial barramundi netting in King Sound South was approved by the Minister.

This is the first time that recreational fishing licence money has been used to resolve a conflict between the recreational and commercial fishing sectors.

Precedence set for the future of Government working towards agreed solutions to resource-sharing issues.

3.1.10 | 'Salmonitis' and Our Stance on Salmon

Fishing for salmon is a West Australian tradition and these quality fishing experiences must be maintained.

- Tens of thousands of West Aussies travel to our State's South West each year to catch salmon.
- Using these iconic sportfish solely as a commercial bait product is not acceptable.
- All fish stocks in WA must have clear and transparent management objectives. Recfishwest is seeking clear objectives established for the future of salmon in WA so that the value and benefits for all users is recognised and clearly articulated in Government policy.





Daniel Schluter

WA has some amazing recreational fisheries with people travelling huge distances to target trophy size fish and search for the ultimate wilderness fishing experience. It's important that WA's fisheries are managed in a way to provide an abundance of fish, as abundant fisheries underpin our world-class fishing opportunities.

3.2 Fishing Development

Recfishwest is committed to ensuring great fishing experiences for all in the WA community forever.

3.2.1 | Marine Parks Mapping Now a Feature of the Recfishwest App



- App helps community understand complex Marine Park rules.
- Better identification of fishing areas.
- One-stop shop for fishing and rules information.

3.2.2 | Innovative Steps to Plastic-Free Fishing



- Mendolia Seafoods and Recfishwest team up to launch new burley and bait product.
- Completely biodegradable and filled with locally sourced fish.
- Another step towards plastic-free fishing.

Mendolia Seafood's Burley Brick won Environment awards at both the 2019 National Seafood Industry Awards and the 2019 WA Seafood Industry Awards.





We are always looking for new, innovative ways to improve fishing experiences and practices, as well as supporting healthy aquatic environments.

3.2.3 | Fifth Cohort of the Next Wave Young Future Leaders Program



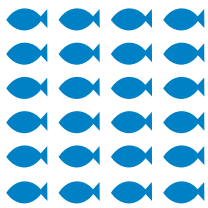
Training creates new young advocates for recfishing in WA.

Investing in the now to create the future we strive for.

Past programs have given fantastic benefits back to the sector.

3.2.4 | Lake Kununurra Evolving Into a Sensational Fishing Destination

- **More Barra Stocked into Lake Kununurra.** 100,000 more barramundi fingerlings stocked into Lake Kununurra, funded through the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund.
- Barramundi are reaching one metre in length within three years of age!
- **WA Wilderness Fishing Location Producing Whoppers!** As planned, Lake Kununurra is now regarded as a world-class trophy barramundi fishery (plus there are no saltwater crocs or huge Kimberley tides to deal with). If these quality fish continue to grow as expected it won't be long before the lake could hold Australia's biggest barra.
- The restocking program for Lake Kununurra is driven by locals in the Lake Kununurra Barramundi Stocking Group, with fish being bred at the North Regional TAFE aquaculture facility in Broome and funded by the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund.



650,000

**BARRAMUNDI
FINGERLINGS**



**STOCKED
SINCE**

2012





3.2 Fishing Development *cont.*

3.2.5 | Swan River's First Mussel Reef Trial



- Health of river system set to be improved.
- Habitat restored = food source = abundance of black bream.
- Improved recreational fishing experiences.

3.2.6 | Seagrass Reseeding Trial in Cockburn Sound in Partnership with OzFish and UWA



- Restoration of lost seagrass meadows is key focus.
- Providing more habitat and food sources for popular rec species such as pink snapper and blue swimmer crabs.
- Community involvement and stewardship of Cockburn Sound continues.





We don't just want fish to
be sustainable...we want
them to be abundant.



3.2 Fishing Development *cont.*

3.2.7 | Rottnest Fish Towers Fire Up!



Producing pelagic species like samson fish and yellowtail kingfish.

Demersals also showing up such as dhufish, baldchin groper and queen snapper.

Sensational development since 2017 deployment.

Tower 1 coordinates: 32° 07.527'S, 115° 27.013'E
Tower 2 coordinates: 32° 07.461'S, 115° 26.978'E

3.2.8 | Better Fishing for Bunbury



Most fished artificial reef in WA expanded by 50 per cent.

Extra fish habitat and better fishing opportunities.

More than 60 species observed through the Reef Vision Program.

Coordinates: 33° 18.500'S 115° 35.900'E



3.2.9 | Esperance - Cooper Reef a Reality

- Community's dream of an artificial reef close to town has been realised.
- A tireless team of local volunteers made this vision a reality.
- Improved access to families in small boats – safe fishing.
- Coordinates: 33° 52.2638'S 121° 58.834'E

This project is supported by the State Government through the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund and Royalties for Regions.



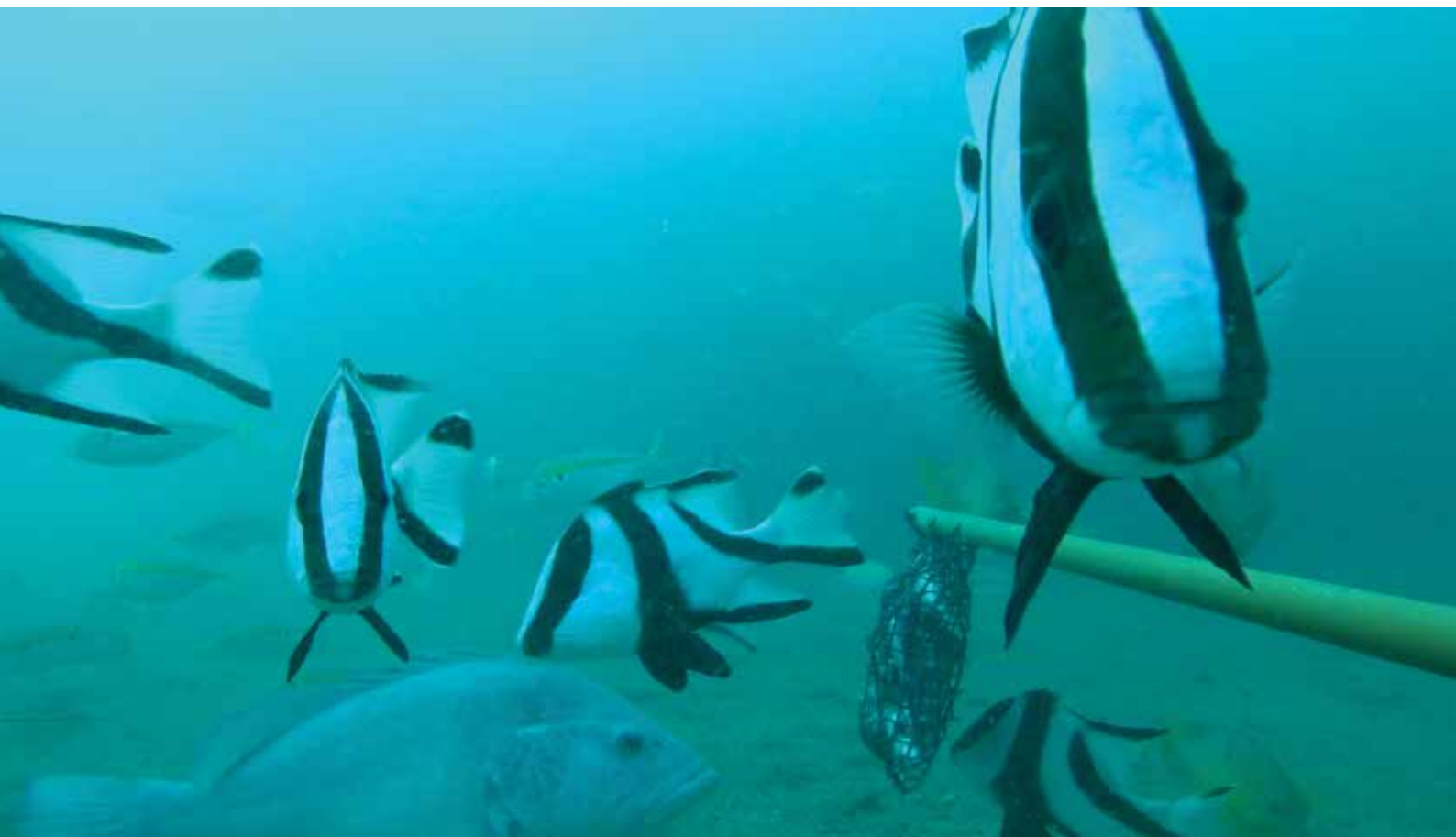
3.2.10 | King Reef – WA's Fastest Developing Reef

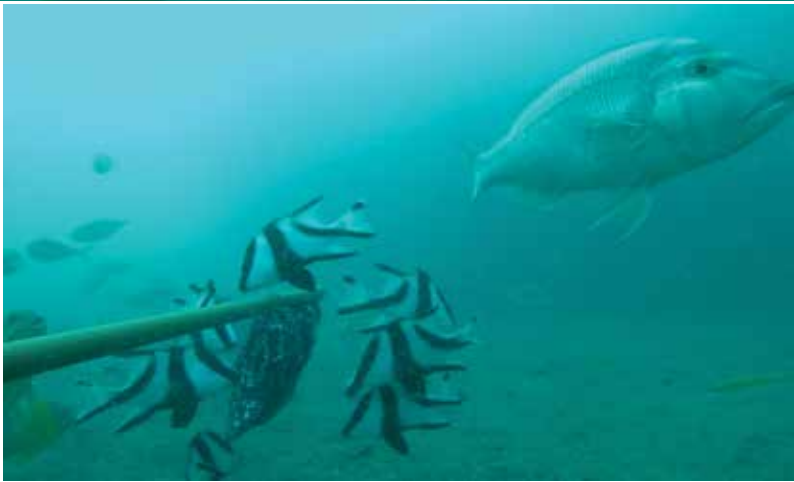
- Australia's first integrated artificial reef teeming with life!
- Golden trevally, amberjack and saddletail seaperch have joined abundant juvenile red emperor, big estuary cod, rankin cod, spangled emperor, tuskfish and flathead – just to name a few.
- Artificial reefs provide more places to fish and more fish to catch. King Reef is a product of community drive and passion, with local fishers pushing for a reef to transform an area devoid of bottom structure and habitat to create an underwater 'forest'.
- Coordinates: 21°54.938'S 114°11.235'E

Humans do not tread lightly, but science, driven by the right reasons, can create new fishing oases using recycled materials from an old world.

ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT
TO THE SIZE OF
**11 OLYMPIC-SIZED
SWIMMING POOLS**

**PROVIDING SAFE
AND ACCESSIBLE**
EXPERIENCES FOR FAMILIES
IN SMALL BOATS





3.2 Fishing Development *cont.*

Recfishwest Artificial Reefs - located across Western Australia

Artificial reefs are rapidly shaping Western Australia's coastline, with six reefs already deployed, they are creating some sensational habitat for a plethora of fish species. These reefs combined provide over 140,000 m² and 1,500 tonnes of fish habitat – which provide greater fishing opportunities for fishers. These reefs stretch from as far south as Esperance, right up to Exmouth! Our artificial reef experts, along with our trusted partners, have built extensive artificial reef capabilities and knowledge to ensure artificial reefs have a consolidated place in Western Australia's ongoing conservation of important aquatic habitats.

For more information on our Artificial Reefs, visit recfishwest.org.au/our-services/artificial-reefs/





Bunbury Artificial Reef Site

Coordinates 33° 18.500'S 115° 35.900'E **Depth** 17 metres
Module Type 30 concrete fish boxes x 6 clusters, additional 90 mixed concrete reef modules



Dunsborough Artificial Reef Site

Coordinates 33° 33.962'S 115° 9.980'E **Depth** 27 metres
Module Type 30 concrete fish boxes x 6 clusters



Esperance Artificial Reef Site (Cooper Reef)

Coordinates 33°52.2638'S 121°58.834'E **Depth** 31 metres
Module Type 128 mixed concrete reef modules x 6 clusters



Exmouth Artificial Reef Site (King Reef)

Coordinates 21°54.938'S 114°11.235'E **Depth** 17 metres
Module Type Six steel reef towers, 49 mixed concrete reef modules



Mandurah Artificial Reef Site

Coordinates 32° 31.59'S 115° 34.98'E **Depth** 25 metres
Module Type 30 concrete fish boxes x 6 clusters



Perth Fish Towers

Tower 1 **Coordinates** 32°07.527'S 115°27.013'E **Depth** 45 metres
Module Type 12 metre high steel structure

Tower 2 **Coordinates** 32°07.461'S 115°26.978'E **Depth** 45 metres
Module Type 12 metre high steel structure

Our artificial reefs supporting partners help make fishing better right across WA!

3.3 Events and Community

3.3.1 | Third Year of Recfishwest's Annual Troutfest Event

- Licence-free weekend and community trout stocking event provides unique opportunity for families to experience freshwater fishing in the South West.
- The initiative is working towards improving fish stocks and supporting great fishing experiences.

“What a fantastic event Troutfest was, so well organised with great fishing expertise to tap into and we’ll definitely be back with the kids next year. Thanks, Recfishwest!”

- Troutfest participant



3.3 Events and Community *cont.*

3.3.2 | Clubs and Communities Conference



Helping make fishing clubs attractive to the next generation is a vital part of the Annual Clubs and Communities Conference.

A great number of fishing clubs continuing to have a strong presence in WA.

The future of fishing clubs is to remain an integral part of local communities and the landscape of WA's fishing scene.

3.3.3 | Barra Slayer 'Bubbly Tiger' a Must-Have in Your Tackle Box



Five Recfishwest limited edition lures have now been designed by the fishers of tomorrow.

2019 winning design awarded to eight-year-old Sarah Stopforth.

Sarah's prize included a tour of Halco Lures Australia and a number of top-quality lures for Sarah to keep.



3.3 Events and Community *cont.*

3.3.4 | 20 Years of Getting Kids Hooked on Fishing

Over the last two decades, Recfishwest in partnership with Healthway, promoting SunSmart, has delivered fishing clinics to kids and community groups across WA.

The success of our fishing clinics is mostly due to our dedicated and passionate volunteer clinic instructors, many of whom have been part of the Recfishwest team from the beginning. They generously share their expertise, knowledge and experience with WA's next generation of fishers.





88
FISHING
CLINICS

63 METRO

13 RURAL

10 REGIONAL

2 REMOTE

211 HOURS OF INSTRUCTOR AND VOLUNTEER HOURS

2,500 PARTICIPANTS | **1,100** PARENTS AND SPECTATORS

Fishing Clinic Partners



Some of the groups to which Recfishwest delivered clinics included:

Dolphin Discovery Centre, our Swanfish event, Ocean Reef Senior High School, Fremantle Sailing Club, Yanchep Secondary College, Cambridge Scouts, City of Bayswater, Hillarys Yacht Club, Ocean Reef Senior High School, our Troutfest event, Binningup Fishing Club, Mandalay Resort, Gamex, Hyden Primary School, Fishability, Ozfish Unlimited, Nickol Bay Fishing Club, King Bay Game Fishing Club, Grovelands Primary School, Melville Senior High School Dolphin Watchers, Secret Dad's Business (Hammond Park), Somethin' Fishy (Nearer to Nature), YMCA Dianella, Mary MacKillop Catholic Primary School and Whitfords Catholic Primary School.

3.3 Events and Community *cont.*

3.3.5 | The Second Annual Great Southern Salmon Campout



The annual salmon run provides the world's best fishing on the world's best beaches.

Sustainable, accessible, enjoyable and safe fishing experiences for all.

These incredible fish support a thriving local tourism fishery for many towns between Esperance and Perth.

3.3.6 | Threads Connecting Community Spirit



Plentiful threadfin salmon and barramundi in Roebuck Bay as a result of 2013 management changes.

Trophy-sized catches are a common occurrence.

Broome fishing clubs continue to hold fishing competitions taking advantage of sensational fishing.

3.3.7 | 'Catch More Fish, Catch Less Sun, Hooked Gear' Teams up with Recfishwest



New partnership encourages kids and families across WA to 'get hooked' on sun-safe fishing.

Hooked Gear fits well with our fishing clinic partner Healthway, promoting the SunSmart message and looking after West Aussie kids.

Shared vision of ensuring safe, sustainable, accessible and enjoyable fishing opportunities for the community forever.



3.3.8 | Future-Proofing Marron Stocks

- Trial stocking project investigates new and innovative ways to future-proof WA's iconic marron fishery.
- **Community release at Harvey Dam** – 5,500 juvenile marron released into the dam with help from local community
- An Estimated 20,000 individual days are spent marroning, providing a significant economic boost to regional towns in the South West. Protecting, maintaining and enhancing our quality fishing experience is something to strive toward.
- We would like to take this opportunity to thank the project lead, Andrew Matthews, from Ecotone Consulting, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, the Pemberton Freshwater Research Centre, as well as the volunteers who made this stocking possible.

Species in decline can be boosted and waterways can be rejuvenated.

3.3 Events and Community *cont.*

3.3.9 | Getaway Outdoors Teams Up with Recfishwest to get WA Kids into Fishing



- More kids off the couch and into fishing.
- Partnership with Getaway Outdoors assists in ensuring all West Aussies have access to great fishing.
- Important to have partners who believe in our values and align with our vision.

3.3.10 | Peel Reef Vision Monitoring Underway



- Local Peel recreational fishers join Citizen Science Reef Vision Program.
- Community monitoring program sees volunteers drop specialised cameras on Mandurah's artificial reef.
- Video footage will provide greater understanding of reef development and fish species.



3.3 Events and Community *cont.*

3.3.11 | Purple Fly Fishing



- Recfishwest and Breast Cancer Care WA team up.
- The physical action of fly casting is proven to be beneficial for recovery.
- Wellness and mindfulness activities accompanied hands-on fishing activities.

3.3.12 | Perth's Premier Family Fishing Event



- 34th year of Swanfish encouraging families to get outdoors and enjoy the magnificent Swan-Canning River.
- Second year of the 'catch, click and release format' via the TrackMyFish App.
- The river system is important to the community with 19 different species making up the catch.

A healthy river means healthy fish stocks and with more than 270 fish caught and released during this year's Swanfish event, the river showed why it is a favourite with fishers.



3.4 Safe Fishing

As great as fishing is, there's no point if you don't live to tell the tale. At Recfishwest, we work tirelessly to promote the need for safety to be part of every fishing experience within our community.

We work with local communities, land managers, government agencies, ambassadors and key partners to drive fisher behaviour change through community awareness, messaging, safety initiatives and the installation of lifesaving equipment across the State.

It is with this support that we have been able to achieve some outstanding projects over the last six years.



3.4 Safe Fishing *cont.*

Activities this Financial Year

- Two new loan lifejacket locations established in Dunsborough and Albany
- Six new angel rings installed along the coast from Quaggi Beach to Hopetoun
- Three new locations identified in Bremer Bay for angel ring installation in the new financial year
- New anchor point installed in Esperance
- Five new fishing safety ambassadors joined Recfishwest to represent different fisheries
- Increased face-to-face engagement with migrant communities
- Consistent input into public policy - Department of Transport's Safety Review for Recreational Vessels, Albany's Coastal Rock Fishing Safety Committee, Abalone Season Planning Committee and Albany Salmon Holes Lifejacket Trial
- Key safety messages highlighted in all communications – website, articles, social media
- Regular safety features in Recfishwest's monthly e-newsletter (78,000 subscribers) and weekly fishing reports (9,500 members)
- Regular safety blog articles posted on Fish and Survive website
- Fish and Survive search engine optimisation – improved ranking on Google
- Digital lifejacket campaigns
- Fish and Survive photo/video competition
- 4,000 'Snag it, Tag it' danger tags distributed to fishers to combat dangers of snagged fishing gear
- 'Spearsafe' video launched in partnership with Australian Underwater Federation
- Various surveys undertaken with lifejacket customers to learn about behaviours and attitudes
- Annual Easter Salmon Fishing Campaign – 'Keep the sand between your toes' messaging
- Annual Abalone Safety Campaign



3.4 Safe Fishing *cont.*

Our Fishing Safety Ambassadors



Simon McLernon
f @SimonMcLernon
Perth



Brody Laroux
f @Blaroux
Perth



Chris & Aaron Dixon
f @Dixonbrothersfishing
Albany



Graham Cooper
Esperance



Scott Coghlan
f @Westernanglermagazine
Albany



Robbie Riches
f @perthfishingsafaris
Perth



Allan Bevan
f @pinksnapper
Fremantle



Li Chen
Perth



Juli-Ann and Vince Brozek
f @BrozekMoseying
All over Australia

3.4 Safe Fishing *cont.*



Recfishwest continues to promote and support the Free Lifejacket Loan Scheme in many tackle stores around the State, through which recreational fishers can go in and hire a free lifejacket before they head out fishing.

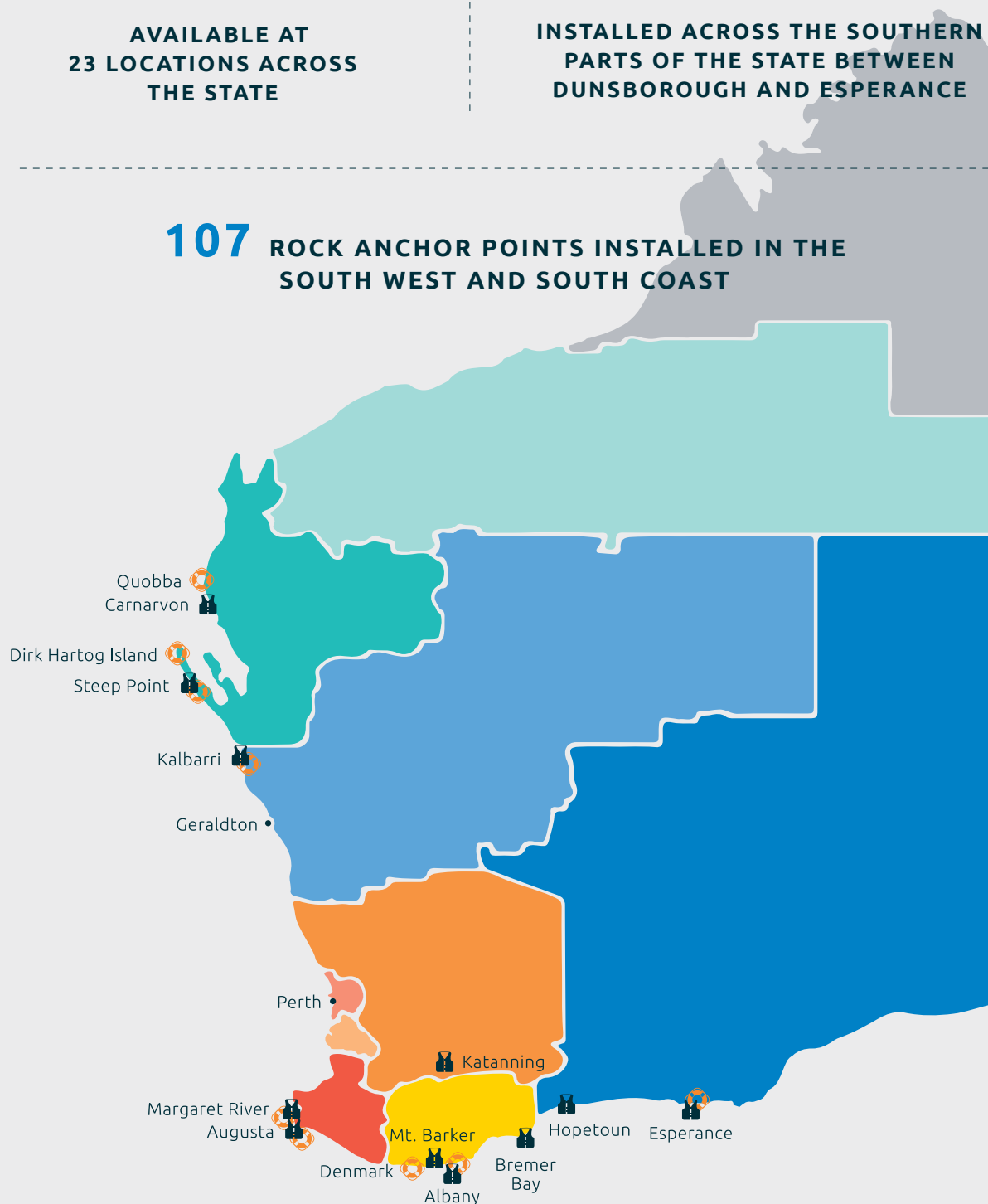
172 LIFEJACKETS

AVAILABLE AT
23 LOCATIONS ACROSS
THE STATE

70 ANGEL RINGS

INSTALLED ACROSS THE SOUTHERN
PARTS OF THE STATE BETWEEN
DUNSBOROUGH AND ESPERANCE

107 ROCK ANCHOR POINTS INSTALLED IN THE SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH COAST



SECTION 4

Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund (RFIF)

Every year, 25 per cent of recreational fishing licence revenue is allocated to the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund (RFIF). After a thorough application process, which involves input from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), a prioritised list of projects is presented to the Recfishwest Board. The Board then provides recommendations to the Minister for Fisheries for projects that the recreational fishing community of Western Australia would like to see funded. These projects provide enhancement to WA's recreational fishing sector and are an example of recreational fishers working together with the State Government to ensure recreational fishing licence money provides benefits to the sector.





Round 7 RFIF Projects

In Round 7 of the RFIF, Recfishwest supported utilising RFIF funding to reallocate crab and finfish resources of the Peel/Harvey from the commercial sector to the recreational sector through a Voluntary Fisheries Adjustment Scheme (VFAS) – leveraging an election commitment off the Labour Government. RFIF funding was also used to resolve sectoral conflict around commercial catches of barramundi around Derby. In addition, multi-year projects funded through other rounds of the RFIF were either ongoing or completed during 2018/19.



Community Grants

Round 9

The Recfishwest Community Grants Program provides funding for community-driven projects that are aimed at enhancing recreational fishing in WA.

This program invests modest amounts of money into community projects, delivering multiple outputs that are valued and supported by the community. Since 2011, the Recfishwest Community Grant Program has provided assistance to over 97 community-based projects. Individuals, research institutions, community groups and fishing clubs have been previous recipients of community grants and Recfishwest encourages all members of the community to apply for funding.







Round 9 of Recfishwest's Community Grant Funding was granted to the following projects:

Applicant	Project	Grant Amount (inc. GST)
AAA (WA Branch)	Snag It - Tag It Safety Campaign	\$2,250.00
Adreno Scuba Diving	Tanks for Trash Initiative	\$2,000.00
AUF	Spearfishing Safety Videos	\$2,500.00
BWFD of WA	Customised remote First Aid course	\$2,000.00
BWFD of WA	Short Range Operators Certificate of Proficiency training	\$800.00
Broome North Fishing Club	2019 Threadfin Competition	\$2,000.00
Carnarvon Chamber of Commerce	Carnar-fin economic study	\$3,000.00
Cockburn Power Boats Association	Junior new to fishing initiative	\$2,000.00
Exmouth Game Fishing Club	Biological Sampling at GAMEX/Family Fun Day	\$2,750.00
Fishability	Videos to raise the profile of Fishability	\$4,400.00
Fremantle Sailing Club	Two family fishing days	\$1,200.00
Kalbarri Offshore & Angling Club	Kalbarri Kids Whiting Comp 2019	\$2,500.00
King Bay Game Fishing Club	Manual for running a safe fishing competition	\$2,000.00
Lancelin Angling & Aquatic Club In	John Bray Classic	\$2,000.00
Mandalay Holiday Resort	2019 Mandalay Holiday Fishing Clinic	\$2,200.00
Mandurah Offshore Fishing & Sailing Club	Replacement of 30 Rods and Reels	\$1,920.00
Mangles Bay Fishing Club	Assist with cost of security fencing	\$3,000.00
Mary Island Fishing Club	2019 West Kimberley Women's Fishing Clinics	\$2,600.00
Ocean Park Aquarium	Two days of diving to clean up Steep Point	\$1,000.00
Point Samson Community Assoc	Point Samson Easter fishing event	\$3,000.00
South East Recreational Fishing Council	Fishing clinics, safety outcomes, reef monitoring	\$5,000.00
Walpole CRC	Two group sessions about recreational fishing safety	\$2,000.00
West Australian Coarse Angling Club	Improvements to club facilities	\$2,500.00
Whitey's Tackle & Camping	Instore Recfishwest app and recreational licence portal	\$1,800.00

Communications

Reaching Our Community

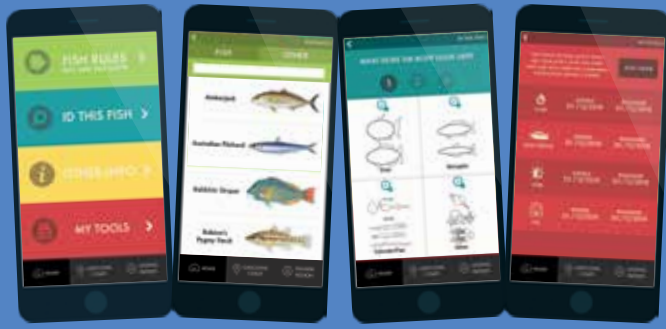
Recfishwest's Communications team works hard to effectively represent the interests of WA's recreational fishers through strong engagement with our grassroots, regular stakeholder surveys, consistent and clear messaging, well-developed communication plans and strong relationships with various media outlets and stakeholders.

Recfishwest has a number of communication channels from which we raise awareness of and support for sustainable fisheries management.

We will stay close to our community. We will speak out fearlessly on those things that matter and be the voice of authority on fishing in WA. We will celebrate and tell our story more creatively than ever.



Recfishwest app



100,000+
DOWNLOADS (4.7 million screen views / yr)

9,250

STATE-WIDE WEEKLY
FISHING REPORT
SUBSCRIBERS

77,250

MONTHLY BROADCAST
NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIBERS

Social media channels

f 20,000
followers

2.6 mil
reach

2,500
followers

1,000
followers

Recfishwest website

15,000+
sessions per month

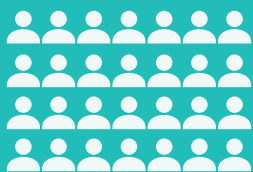
I Love Fishing website

15,000+
sessions per month

Fish and Survive website

2,000
sessions per month

SunSmart Community Fishing Clinic Program



2,300
PARTICIPANTS AND
SPECTATORS EVERY YEAR



57
COMMUNITY
CLINICS

15,000+

LISTENERS TO ABC
RADIO PERTH WEEKLY
FISHING REPORTS
AND UPDATES

145 REPRESENTATIONS IN THE MEDIA PER YEAR

Face-to-face engagement

10,000+

State-wide fishing tournaments,
community events, regional
activities, fishing club member
events, workshops

Association Reports

Boating Industry Association of Western Australia Report (BIAWA)

Since 2011, we have enjoyed a growing relationship with Recfishwest that has benefited our members by giving them access to up-to-date information about recreational fishing developments and the important work being undertaken by Recfishwest.

We've been pleased to be able to provide Recfishwest with the use of our facilities at Burswood Water Sports for holding meetings and consultative forums.

BIAWA continues to work with Recfishwest providing input on planning and developments to benefit the community and the boating and fishing industries.

The strength of Recfishwest and BIAWA's relationship will help progress

the work that still needs to be done on regional Commonwealth marine reserves management plans.

In addition to these Commonwealth activities, BIAWA, along with Recfishwest, sits on the State committee which provides advice regarding marine parks, with this form also benefitting from Recfishwest's leadership.

We would like to commend Recfishwest's management and staff for their assistance with events, boat shows and 'Explore Boating Days' at Cockburn, as an integral part of our commitment to the public to showcase recreational boating and fishing activities.

Sheryl Swarbrick
President, BIAWA





Western Australian Trout & Freshwater Angling Association (WATFAA)

The club has been very busy this year as we have been working to raise the profile of the club in the Pemberton Manjimup area.

It was with this in mind and seeking a worthy cause, that the club made a \$1,000 donation to the Pemberton Volunteer Ambulance Service. A presentation was held on the Saturday during the 2019 Winter Wash that was held in March.

The club also wrote to the Hon. Minister Dave Kelly and asked several questions about water flow or the lack of it during the summer period. Although we did not manage to speak with him directly, we did have a meeting with his representatives. Although some of the answers were disappointing, it was still a useful exercise, as we now have a communication channel and contacts that we can pursue with further questions in the future.

Once again, the club was involved with Recfishwest's Troutfest at Drakesbrook Weir. With the help of many WATFAA members, we were able to offer an insight into fly casting, fly tying, soft and hard-bodied

lures and generally promote the club. The day was a great success and we look forward to participating again this year.

The club was also involved with helping Recfishwest with its Purple Weekend at Clover Cottage where we teach and help men and women with breast cancer to fly fish. I would like to thank all of our members that contributed to this worthy event.

The club has also successfully held its three annual club competitions, namely the Fish a Fest, the Perch Bash and the Winter Wash. Overall, the trout fishing in the rivers and our dams has over the last couple of years been very good. I would like to draw your attention to the hard work done by the staff of the Pemberton hatchery. It must be rewarding for them to see that their efforts are having a positive effect on freshwater angling in the South West.

Stewart King
WATFAA President



Australian Angling Association (AAA) Report

It is with pleasure that I once again present the Annual Report of the Australian Anglers Association (WA Division) Inc. to the members and Board of Recfishwest.

The last year has again been an active year for members of the association in Western Australia. We have conducted four State championships – State Rock and Beach, State Estuary, State Boat Angling Championships and State Dry Casting championships. Attendances at these State championship events were down a little on previous years, generally due in no part to inclement weather on the day of the event.

There was an amazing amount of work done behind the scenes to ensure these events were successful. Unfortunately, there are too few willing volunteers for the amount of work required to be done - State and inter-club events don't just happen. If it wasn't for the efforts of a few, the many would not have any events in which to participate.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our sponsors who so willingly support these events as well as those people who have given their time and effort so willingly in performing often onerous tasks, as without their efforts our events would not take place.

The various angling competitions produced some excellent results with very good bags being presented at all venues. These competitions are all species-based and highlight the skill of the angler rather than who can catch the most. This format has proven very successful in all competitions run by the association with many clubs also adopting this form of competition. The State

Dry Casting Championships also produced some excellent results for the competitors with close competition in most sections.

Western Australia was also represented at the National Angling Championships and Convention at Harrington in NSW in June and, although only a small team, they acquitted themselves well and were quite competitive. In conjunction with these championships the National Association held its Annual General Meeting and Western Australia was again charged with coordinating the Australian Anglers Association Records Authority. This body maintains, manages and coordinates all National AAA Angling and Drycasting records and the National Angling Record Chart.

The next Convention and National Angling Championship will be held in Agnes Waters / 1770 in Queensland in September 2020 with the mid-term meeting and Annual General Meeting held in September 2019.

The Association has been active in the Fishing Associations Reference Group with Recfishwest and in other activities organised by Recfishwest. It is with pleasure we've been able to prepare the tag packs for the 'Snag It – Tag It' program which is done in conjunction with Recfishwest, the Rock Lobster Council and Ozflex Fishing and Outdoors to help bring anglers home safe. The AAA (WA Division) wish to express our gratitude to the staff and Board members for their support and guidance throughout the past financial year.

John Curtis

President, Australian Anglers Association (WA Division) Inc.



Australian National Sportfishing Association (ANSA Western Australia)

Junior anglers at our northern club have been fishing with great vigour and a lot of excitement. Submissions for records have come in thick and fast with dozens of State and national claims, along with a world record submission.

Promotion of junior involvement has seen the club grow in membership despite the uncertainty within the mining sector.

ANSA WA has been working with InfoFish and now have a revised database system to keep a tally on tagging data. Continual updates are received via the Periscope data software which shows a weekly update of tagged species and catch data using pie

charts, which is proving very handy for all Westaggers and for our members.

The State's acceptance of individual members through Westag – the official fish tagging program of WA – has seen membership increase. These new members have brought further insight into the continued need for data collection with concerns raised over some species in specific areas and times. We at ANSA WA feel privileged to be the custodians of our members' data along with that from other programs conducted over the last quarter of a century.

Steve Wiseman

President, ANSA Western Australia



West Australian Undersea Club (WAUC)

Spearfishing and Freediving in Western Australia is booming in popularity. In the 60 years that the WA Undersea Club has been running, we've never had so many keen enthusiasts dipping their feet into life beneath the surface. Looking at the sport across the world makes it clear the driving force behind this is our unique position of having one of the world's best and most well-managed fish resources on our doorstep.

Breath-hold diving will always come with inherent risks – rough seas, sharks, boat

traffic and shallow water blackouts to name a few. Thanks to the ongoing support of Recfishwest, WA Undersea Club has put over 100 divers through internationally accredited freediving courses; teaching them to dive safely and how to rescue those in danger. We're proud to say that this initiative and our trained divers have saved lives thanks to their training – the spearfishing community is a safer one because of it.

Rory MacLeod
WAUC Chairman





Bluewater Freedivers of Western Australia (BFWA)

Bluewater Freedivers had a great year enjoyed by all members, many of who attended our monthly meetings which include discussions of all things spearfishing and club issues such as past and upcoming events, environment and records.

The club has held some fantastic events this year with highlights including an event held in Hamelin Bay in mid-December. This event was a weekend enjoyed by all divers and their families in which both boat and shore divers captured a nice range of species, including abalone, crayfish, cuttlefish and King George whiting.

These fish were then enjoyed by everyone who attended with a huge seafood BBQ and awards presentation, with diver Clint Strickland taking home the number one prize.

The Pelagic Pairs held on 30 March was another awesome event in somewhat trying conditions with a good turnout. Barry Paxman and Ashley Walsh were crowned Pelagic Pairs champions.

The annual club awards night was recently held at AQWA – a great night that included an hour or so to enjoy the aquarium followed by a lovely sit-down dinner and awards presentation. With a number of memorable fish this year the club has happily accepted 11 new State records with some great captures from all around the State. Club members also participated as part of the West Australian team at the national championships.

Barry Paxman

Bluewater Freedivers of WA Club President

Reference Groups

Recfishwest Reference Groups are composed of passionate and dedicated fishers who are interested in contributing to the management of fishing in WA by providing advice to the Recfishwest Board on issues associated with specific fisheries. Members apply through an expression of interest process and sit for a three-year term.

Positions on all of Recfishwest's Reference Groups are voluntary, and these members should be recognised and congratulated for giving their time to make fishing better.

Recfishwest's current reference groups and members below:

Freshwater Fisheries Reference Group	Advice on fish stocking locations Marron fishery management
Western Rock Lobster Reference Group	Eight Recreational Rock Lobster licence holders Advice on all aspects of rock lobster management

Freshwater Reference Group



Ian Sewell (*Chair*)



Peter Fragomini



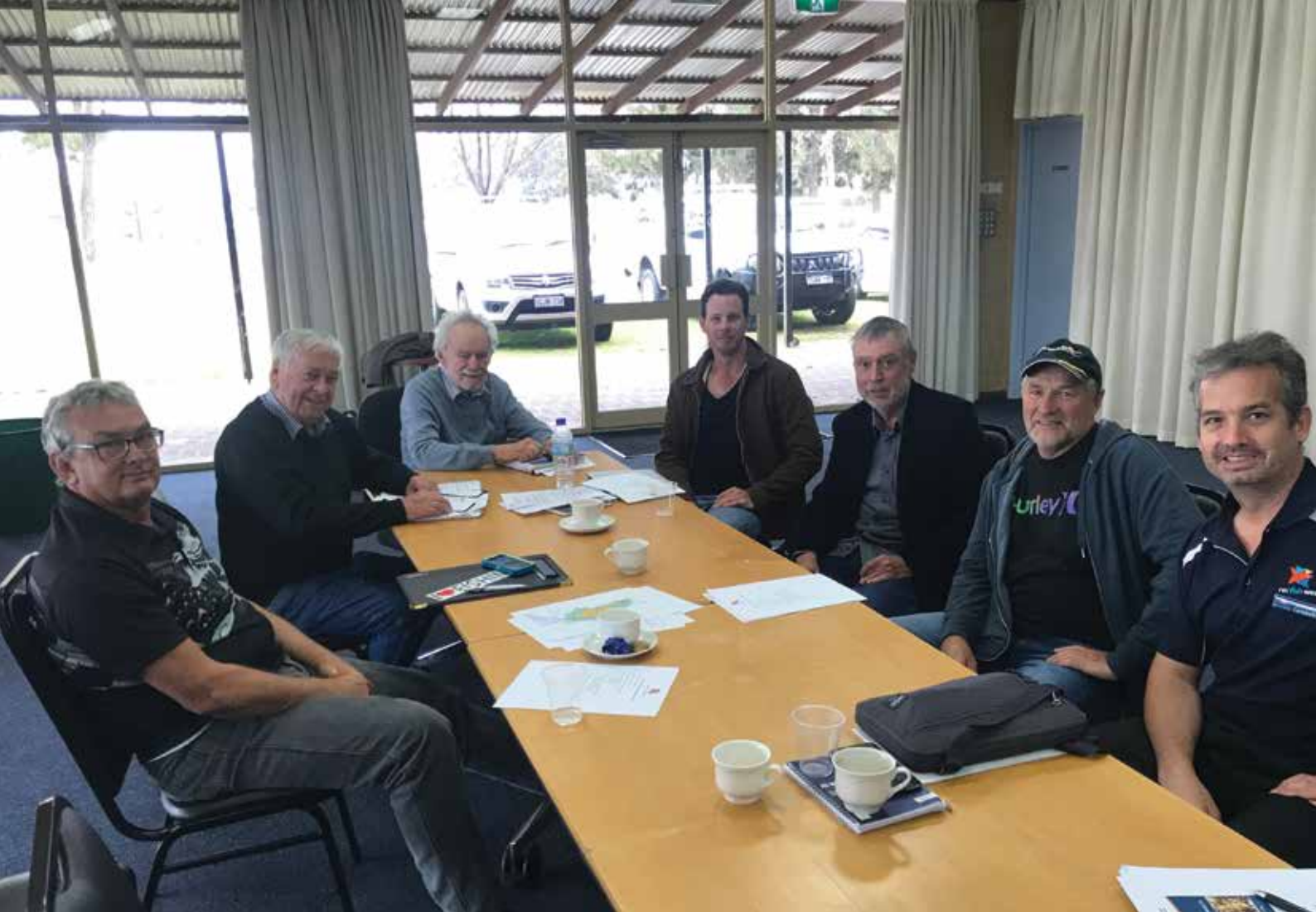
Glenn Edwards



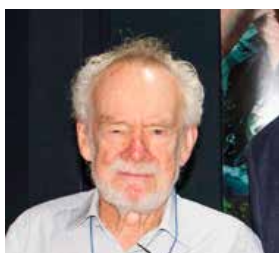
Liam Surridge



Russell Hanley



Western Rock Lobster Reference Group



Norman Halse *(Chair)*



Michael Heslewood



Bob Urquhart



Brody Laroux



Ross George



Brian Snook



Rob Hoefhamer



John Baas

SECTION 9

Financial Statements & Governance

9.1 Audited Financials



The Board of Directors of Recfishwest is committed to excellence in corporate governance and enhancing the interests of the association's members.



WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC.

**STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
INCOME			
OTHER INCOME			
Other income		19,675	5,488
Interest Received		14,155	8,015
Fisheries Grant		1,257,300	1,155,000
Other Grants		817,386	845,032
Membership		26,010	22,158
Inventory Sales		54,336	85,847
Profit on Sale of Fixed Assets		-	21,467
		<u>2,188,862</u>	<u>2,143,007</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Administration Expenses		255,545	321,838
Cost of Sales		38,764	55,209
Communications Expenses		241,007	226,665
Project Expenses		220,854	278,809
Depreciation		36,029	35,465
Motor Vehicle Expenses		17,272	17,636
Salary and on cost Expenses		<u>1,267,916</u>	<u>1,152,742</u>
		<u>2,077,387</u>	<u>2,088,364</u>
Surplus for the year		<u>111,475</u>	<u>54,643</u>
Surplus for the year		<u>111,475</u>	<u>54,643</u>
Reserves at the beginning of the financial year		<u>317,672</u>	<u>263,029</u>
Retained Reserves at the end of the financial year		<u><u>429,147</u></u>	<u><u>317,672</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC.

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2019**

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents		532,553	594,340
Trade and other receivables	4	320,138	225,400
Inventory	5	12,951	10,784
Prepayments		37,976	16,451
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>903,618</u>	<u>846,975</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	6	96,311	121,296
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>96,311</u>	<u>121,296</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>999,929</u>	<u>968,271</u>
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade Creditors		17,383	174,685
GST Payable		19,999	7,924
Provision for Annual Leave		61,696	63,284
PAYG Withholding Payable		20,922	18,525
Credit Cards		15,610	15,044
Provision for Long Service Leave	7	152,218	124,840
Accrued Expenses		59,865	54,978
Grants in Advance		15,000	191,319
Contract Liability		208,089	-
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>570,782</u>	<u>650,599</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>570,782</u>	<u>650,599</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>429,147</u>	<u>317,672</u>
RESERVES			
Retained Surplus	8	429,147	317,672
TOTAL RESERVES		<u>429,147</u>	<u>317,672</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

The financial statements cover the operations of WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC. and have been prepared to meet the needs of stakeholders.

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

1 Basis of Preparation

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of The Associations Incorporation Act WA. and other applicable Australian Accounting Policies.

The Board has determined that the Council is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

Significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and are consistent with prior reporting periods unless otherwise stated.

2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Income Tax

The Council is exempt from Income Tax.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Long services leave is calculated at current rates based upon 13 weeks leave after 10 years.

WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Council has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is recognised when the Council is entitled to it and is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

Interest revenue

Interest revenue is recognised on receipt.

Other income

Other income is recognised on an accruals basis when the Council is entitled to it.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as part of receivables or payables in the balance sheet.

Accounts Payable and Other Payables

Accounts Payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the Association during the reporting period that remain unpaid.

WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

	2019 \$	2018 \$
3 Motor Vehicle Expenses		
Petrol & Oil	11,464	11,716
Registration & Insurance	1,959	1,109
Repairs & Maintenance	3,849	4,811
	<u>17,272</u>	<u>17,636</u>
4 Trade and Other Receivables		
Current		
Trade Debtors	<u>320,138</u>	<u>225,400</u>
5 Inventory		
Current		
Inventory	<u>12,951</u>	<u>10,784</u>
6 Property, Plant and Equipment		
Plant & Equipment	107,511	117,649
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(86,276)</u>	<u>(91,661)</u>
	21,235	25,988
Motor Vehicles	112,974	112,974
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(37,898)</u>	<u>(17,666)</u>
	75,076	95,308
Total Plant and Equipment	<u>96,311</u>	<u>121,296</u>
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	<u>96,311</u>	<u>121,296</u>
7 Employee Benefits		
Current		
Provision for Long Service Leave	<u>152,218</u>	<u>124,840</u>
8 Reserves		
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	317,672	263,029
Surplus for the year	<u>111,475</u>	<u>54,643</u>
Balance as at the end of the financial year	<u>429,147</u>	<u>317,672</u>

WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC.

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

The Board has determined that the Council is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Board the financial statements :

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC. as at 30 June 2019 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTFISHING COUNCIL INC. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:

Chairman: _____



Dated this

28th

day of

October 2019



In Focus Accounting Pty Ltd

ABN: 16 009 252 019

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, AUDITORS & BUSINESS ADVISORS

DIRECTORS:

ANDREW LOWRY CA
LEONARD TEBBUTT CA

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTSFISHING COUNCIL INC A.B.N: 77922817608

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTSFISHING COUNCIL INC which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2019, and the income statement, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory information and the statement by members of the Board.

Auditors' Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTSFISHING COUNCIL INC presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position of WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTSFISHING COUNCIL INC as of 30 June 2019 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the Associations Incorporation Act Western Australia 2015.

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the association to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act Western Australia 2015. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Board's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Board of WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTSFISHING COUNCIL INC is responsible for the preparation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act of Western Australia and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Board's responsibility also includes such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

A

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
WA RECREATIONAL AND SPORTSFISHING COUNCIL INC
A.B.N: 77922817608

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditors consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Board, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Name of Firm: In Focus Accounting Pty Ltd
Public Accountants & Auditors

Name of Partner:


Andrew Lowry

Address: 358 Oxford Street, Leederville WA 6007

Dated this 27th day of September 2019



In Focus Accounting

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Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation



9.2 Governance Statements

Recfishwest Corporate Governance Charter and Governance Statements

The Board of Directors of Recfishwest is committed to excellence in corporate governance and enhancing the interests of the association's members. In order to achieve these objectives, the Board has broadly adopted the ASX Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations as amended in 2010 (ASX Principles and Recommendations). These principles have been modified so as to properly reflect the fact that Recfishwest is an incorporated association rather than an ASX reporting entity.

Purpose

The Governance Committee is charged with ensuring that Recfishwest, to the greatest extent possible, complies with the principles and recommendations espoused below. To this extent, the Governance Committee maintains a compliance report which is included in the annual report of the association and which records the association's compliance with each of these principles and recommendations in the preceding twelve months.

The Recfishwest Governance Committee regularly reviews its governance systems with the aim of ensuring that Recfishwest continues its commitment to good corporate governance by having regard to all relevant developments in its operating environment.

The Nomination and Remunerations Committee is responsible for scheduling performance reviews of each Director and the CEO which is tabled at the Board level for discussion and recommendations with respect to remuneration and professional development. Board performance reviews are undertaken every second year – the latest review commenced in September 2019.

Recfishwest Board and management recognise that effective risk management is integral to the continued maintenance and governance of our business and requires a structured risk management framework and approach. Our Risk Management Framework includes a defined risk management process to identify, assess, evaluate, treat, and monitor risks. Our risk management approach is based on a practical and pragmatic approach integrated into our business planning and decision making.

Recfishwest's Risk Management Framework includes a documented Business Risk Register which records identified risks and information about the assessment, evaluation and treatment of business risks. The Business Risk Register allows for ongoing review and monitoring of the risks to ensure they remain current, with current, effective controls and risk levels that remain acceptable to Recfishwest. Our risk management framework and approach is based on good practice risk management:

- AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 Risk Management – Principles and Guidelines.
- HB 327:2010 Communicating and Consulting About Risk.
- HB 436:2013 Risk Management Guidelines – Companion to AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009.

9.2 Governance Statements *cont.*

		Location in 2019 Annual Report (AR) or on website	Compliance
Principle 1 - Lay solid foundations for management and oversight			
1.1	Establish the functions reserved for the Board and those delegated to senior executives and disclose those functions.	Website: See Delegations Register	Yes
1.2	A process in place for evaluating the performance of senior executives.	AR Section 9.2: Recfishwest Governance Statement	Yes
Principle 2 - Structure the Board to add value			
2.1	A majority of the Board should be independent directors.	AR Section 1: The Board	Yes
2.2	The chair should be an independent director.	AR Section 1: The Board	Yes
2.3	The roles of the chair and chief executive office should not be exercised by the same individual.	AR Section 1: The Board	Yes
2.4	The Board should establish a nomination committee.	AR Section 1: The Board Website: See Nominations and Remunerations Committee Charter	Yes Yes
2.5	Disclose the process for evaluating the performance of the Board, its committees and individual directors.	AR Section 9.2: Recfishwest Governance Statement	Yes
Principle 3 - Promote ethical and responsible decision making			
3.1	Establish a code of conduct and disclose the code or a summary of the code as to: 3.1.1 The practices necessary to maintain confidence in the Company's integrity. 3.1.2 The practices necessary to take into account their legal obligations and the reasonable expectations of Recfishwest stakeholders. 3.1.3 The responsibility and accountability of individuals for reporting and investigating reports of unethical practices.	Website: See Code of Conduct for Board of Directors; and Code of Conduct for Employees Website: See Whistle-blower Policy	Yes
3.2	Companies should establish a policy concerning diversity and disclose the policy or a summary of that policy. The policy should include requirements for the board to establish measurable objectives for achieving gender diversity and for the board to assess annually both the objectives and progress in achieving them.	Website: Diversity Policy	Yes
3.3	Companies should disclose in each annual report the proportion of women employees in the whole organisation, women in senior executive positions and women on the Board.	AR Sections 1 and 2: 'Board of Management and 'Recfishwest Staff'	Yes

9.2 Governance Statements *cont.*

		Location in 2019 Annual Report (AR) or on website	Compliance
Principle 4 - Safeguard integrity in financial reporting			
4.1	The Board should establish an audit committee.	AR Section 1: The Board of Management	Yes
4.2	Structure the audit committee so that it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consists only of non-executive directors. • Consists of a majority of independent directors. • Is chaired by an independent chair, who is not chair of the Board. • Has at least three members. 	AR Section 1: The Board of Management	Yes
4.3	The audit committee should have a formal charter.	Website: See Finance Audit & Risk Committee Charter	Yes
Principle 5 - Respect the rights of members			
5.1	Design a communications policy for promoting effective communication with members encouraging their participation at general meetings and disclose their policy or a summary of that policy.	Website: See Communication Committee Charter and Communications Policy	Yes
Principle 6 - Recognise and manage risk			
6.1	Establish policies for the oversight and management of material business risks and disclose a summary of those policies.	Website: See Finance, Audit and Risk Committee Charter	Yes
6.2	The Board should require management to design and implement the risk management and internal control system to manage the Company's material business risks and report to it on whether those risks are being managed effectively. The Board should disclose that management has reported to it as to the effectiveness of the Company's management of its material business risks.	Website: See Finance, Audit and Risk Committee Charter AR Section 9.2 Recfishwest Governance Statement	Yes
Principle 7 - Remunerate fairly and responsibly			
7.1	Establish a remuneration committee.	AR Section 1: The Board of Management Website: See Nominations and Remunerations Committee Charter	Yes
7.2	Structure the remuneration committee so that it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consists of a majority of independent directors. • Is chaired by an independent chair. • Has at least three members. 	AR Section 1: The Board of Management	Yes
7.3	Clearly distinguish the structure of non-executive directors' remuneration from that of executive directors and senior directors.	Website: See Recfishwest Constitution	Yes



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