

Fishcare Update

Southern Region

Stephen Thurstan, Southern Education Officer

NSW Department of Primary Industries
43 Reddall Parade
Lake Illawarra NSW 2528
P: (02) 4220 8484, M: 0438 245 190
E: stephen.thurstan@dpi.nsw.gov.au

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Department of
Primary Industries



Dear Southern Region Volunteer,

This Spring saw some much needed rain along much of the south coast, ending a long dry spell. Luckily, the rain didn't interfere with the many events that Fishcare Volunteers participated in over the last three months. Although it didn't look good at the start of the Gone Fishing Day event at Huskisson, the light showers in the morning cleared by 11am to enable a great event. The first kids fishing workshops for the season at Gaden got off to a great start with good weather and lots of fish being caught by lots of happy kids. Bookings for the six January workshops are going well at this stage so it will be a busy time for the Fishcare Volunteers again.

Happy Birthday

December

Wendy Robertson, Diane White,
Peter Whiting

January

Graham Perrin, Damian Balfour,
Max Castle, Mike Byron

February

Malcolm Campbell, Anneke
Campbell,



FCVs Dieter and Eddie giving casting lessons at Huskisson GFD with Ian Osterloh



Spring Volunteer – Michael McEwan

(See page 5 for details)

Recent Activities – September

3rd – Schools Enviro Day, Wollongong

FCVs Terry and Marlene assisted at this big event that had 25 schools participating in “enviro” themed activities at the Wollongong botanical gardens. We managed to deliver our fishing lessons on rules, fish ID and habitat to three of the five schools, before heavy rain cancelled the day.



FCV Marlene teaching fishing rules at Enviro Day

7-8th - Berry Small Farm Field Day

FCV's Terry, Wendy, John and Diane assisted at this years field day held at the Berry Showground. The bluey trailer recorded 317 contacts for the two day event. The fishing game proved to be very popular with the big number of kids at the event.



FCVs Terry, Wendy and John all busy at Berry

10th & 28th - GFD Working Bees, Nowra

FCV's Leon, Eddie, Terry, John, Wendy, Michael and Bob assisted in the production line required to sort, count and pack all the gear that had to be sent to the 40+ fishing clubs running their own gone Fishing Day events. The help they provided saved several days work by DPI staff and facilitated the equipment being shipped out on time.



FCVs John, Bob, Leon and Terry all on a roll, 796 to go!



LOG ON / LOG OFF number:

1800 807 359

(See page 5 for details)

REMINDER

LOG ON / LOG OFF

It is vital that you log on/off for all of your Fishcare activities, IT ALL COUNTS, capturing the hours that you do assists with our reporting, insurance and importantly building your hours of service also contributes to each volunteers eligibility to attend AGM's and enhancement training.

All activities carried out as a Fishcare Volunteer must be pre approved by your Education Officer prior to performing activities.

Hours that have not been pre approved will not be validated.

14th - Warrawong High Fishing, Shellharbour

FCV Eddie assisted 11 kids from Warrawong High Marine Studies class with a fishing event at Shell Harbour. We collected some animals from local rock pools to show the kids before a 90 minute fishing session. Despite the water temperature being sub-15 C four wrasse and two puffers were caught by the kids.

15th – Koori Football Carnival, Wollongong

Along with the RMS, we used this opportunity of having a large number of aboriginal people attending this event to engage them with information about recreational fishing, safe boating and road safety. FCVs Terry and Michael assisted at the Bluey trailer and running a casting competition.



FCVs Terry and Michael supervise the casting competition

30th - Gone Fishing Day, Tuross Head

Local FCVs Merve, Max, David, Regina and Mike did a great job organizing and running this event at Tuross Head. It included a fishing competition in the morning and fun activities at the Golf club in the afternoon. Weather was a bit nippy in the morning but it turned into a great day with lots of kids participating and having a lot of fun. FCV Michael drove down with me from the Illawarra to assist.



FCVs Max, Regina and Mike appreciating Snappys crab joke

Recent Activities- October

2nd – Retirees Fishing , Greenwell Point

The first retirees fishing for the season at Greenwell Point got off to a great start, great weather, lots of retirees and lots of FCV's. Dieter, Terry, Wendy, Milton, Phil, Leon and John were all kept busy looking after the retirees although there wasn't a lot of fish caught, apart from a couple of puffers, as the water was still cold. Some large trevally were spotted in the burley trail and several were hooked on unweighted baits but only one was landed by Milton as they were dirty fighters amongst the pylons and boats.



A busy wharf of retirees fishing at Greenwell Point

5-6th – Kids Fishing Workshops, Gaden

With snow on the mountain tops and the threat of storms we managed to get through both days with just a bit of drizzle on the Friday and a nice sunny day on Saturday. All kids caught at least one trout on the Friday, as usual, but we had to work hard to catch fish on the Saturday. The previous record for the maximum number of fish caught at a workshop (9) was smashed by 12 year old Thomas, who caught 12 fish. He caught his first fish at a workshop as an 8

year old and is now a keen angler. FCVs Bob, Leon, Dieter, Merve and Andy did a great job teaching the kids and helping with fishing. We are grateful for assistance from local FO Allison, Meg and the hatchery staff.



FCV Bob nets a nice one

10th - GFD Working Bee, Nowra

Some items ordered for Gone fishing day didn't arrive until the last week before the event. So a final working bee was organized to pack and label all the boxes to be sent out. FCVs Eddie, Wendy and Leon assisted several staff from the Nowra office to complete the packing.



Leon, Wendy and John looking good in their new shirts and still smiling after a hard days packing

14th - Gone Fishing Day, Huskisson

Like most of the NSW coast on the day, Huskisson started off some heavy showers in the morning that fortunately eased and finally cleared by 11am. The wind, however, didn't ease all day so the fishers had a 10—15 knt NE wind in the face to contend with. Once the rain did clear, good numbers of people, estimated at over two thousand, came out to the event. As in previous events, casting, fishing and the touch tank proved very popular and were kept busy for most of the day. Fishing didn't result in much catching with the water being cold and full of slimy red weed. After a lot of effort a salmon, two puffers and a trevally were landed. The Bluey trailer only recorder 106 contacts, so the public must have been tempted by all the other stalls. We had a great turn out of FCVs, their efforts were much appreciated by

the organisers. Thanks again to FCVs Avi, Bob, Damien, Diane, Dieter, Eddie, Leon, Michael, Milton, Phil, Terry and Wendy.



FCV Merve holding Mels' pretty rainbow trout



FCV Bob training another potential fly fisher



FCVs Damian and Avi supervising fishing at Huski wharf

14th - Gone Fishing Day, Queanbeyan

FCVs Mal, Anneke and Merve assisted at the first Gone Fishing day held at Queanbeyan. An estimated 1500 - 1800 people attended on the day and 250 people took part in the fishing workshops. Great feedback was received from the public that attended and the organizers were pleased how the day went.



FCVs Anneke and Malcom busy with casting at Queanbeyan

23rd - Schools Enviro Day, Mittagong

FCV Michael joined me again on the trip to the highlands for this terrific event. This year, we were assisted with our presentations by Fisheries Manager Threatened Species, Jillian Keating who was keen to pass on the message about the threatened Fitzroy Falls Spiny crayfish. Once again the live yabbies we used in the presentation were a big hit with the local kids. Many had been yabbing but none were aware of the local spiny cray. Five 30 minute lessons were run for groups of 23-28 kids. Each lesson had two activities, the fishing game to learn about rules and fish ID, as well as information about the spiny cray that included practice handling live yabbies.



Conservation manager Jillian Keating talking about Fitzroy Crays

27th - Shoalhaven River Festival, Nowra

FCVs Phil, Eddie and Richard helped out on the Bluey Trailer that was set up right at the rivers edge near the burnt out sailing club. The weather was perfect and we had 198 contacts form the public at the trailer.



FCVs Richard, Phil and Eddie at the river Festival

Recent Activities –November

3rd – Eden Whale Festival

This years festival was at a new location because of the major construction work going on at the harbor jetty to accommodate larger cruise ships. The new site was three sports ovals near the high school. Despite the great weather we only had 106 contacts at the trailer. FCVs Mal, Anneke and Jim assisted at the Bluey.



Thar she blows! A rare blue whale at the Eden Whale festival

5th - GH Bermagui

FCVs Mal, Anneke, Andy, Regina, Mike, Peter and Merve assisted Daniel with a fishing event on Bermagui River for Bermagui Public school. They came close to landing a good fish but ended up with a big puffer and a small luderick.

8-9th - GH Windang

FCVs Wendy, Michael and Dieter assisted Daniel with fishing events for three classes of the local Windang Primary School. Three DPI staff from Nowra also assisted on the Thursday. The kids had a great time even though the fish weren't biting and just one medium size puffer fish was caught.



FCV Wendy watching, Sydney EO Simone explain knots

9-11th – Outdoor Expo, Moss Vale

This three day event has been growing every year and has a wide range of displays and retailers covering all outdoor activities. FCVs Bob and Diane assisted at the Bluey trailer that had 463 contacts over the three days.



FCV Diane explaining NSW regulations on using cats for bait

13-14th - GH Sydney, Gunamatta Bay

FCVs Michael drove up to Sydney with me to assist the Sydney team with a big class of young Cronulla kids with a fishing event. Some light showers passed through during the lessons but it was just windy a bit for fishing. Plenty of small bream, snapper and whiting were caught to keep the kids excited.

18th - Emergency Services Expo, Greenwell Pt

This years event was at the Greenwell Point Bowling Club, a great location that's right on the water. Other agencies represented were RMS, Water Police, Marine Rescue, Fire Brigade, Marine Cadets and SES. FCVs John, Milton and Phil assisted at the Bluey trailer for 236 contacts. Marine Rescue run cruises of the river were popular, as was the fishing game the FCVs ran for the local kids.



Milton helps a new fisher with his catch

FCV

Get Hooked It's Fun to Fish!

GET HOOKED 2018 SCHOOLS WORKSHOPS

We are coming to the end of another great year in the Get Hooked Program. So far over 1000 students have participated in our free schools workshops with many more still scheduled in the coming weeks.

Daniel Mallen, our Senior Education Office for Get Hooked has been travelling the state for months and months and has run over 50 workshops and incursions so far. What an amazing effort!

Registrations for 2019 are now open!! For more information and registration forms please contact us!



If you are interested in getting involved in the Get Hooked program or have any questions please contact our schools Senior Education Officer Daniel Mallen on (02) 9741 4706 or email gethooked.fisheries@dpi.nsw.gov.au



Volunteer of Spring



The volunteer for **Spring** is FCV **Michael McEwan**. Michael was a big help at the Mittagong Schools Enviro day, travelled down to Tuross Head to assist with their GFD, helped with the Koori Football day, and helped out at two Get Hooked events, one at Windang and another in Sydney.



FCV Michael supervising the fishing game at Tuross Head

Volunteer of the Year



The Southern Fishcare **Volunteer of the Year** is Montague regions **Merve Roberts**. Merve joined the Fishcare team in September 2015 and has logged over 334 hours. He has made himself available for almost every Kids Fishing Workshop on the south coast since he joined, often driving an hour north to Batemans Bay one day then even further to Merimbula the following day. He is an avid motorist with a collection of vintage cars that he regularly shows. So its not surprizing that he is keen to hit the road, even driving 3 hours to Gaden hatchery workshops is no problem for Merve. He is a keen fisher who conveys his passion and excitement for fishing to the kids that he teaches. This can often be seen in the great pictures he has posed for with the kids he has just helped to catch a fish. Its often hard to tell whos the happiest.

State Co-ordinator Dee Payne and myself wish to congratulate the Fishcare Volunteer of the Year and Month winners and thank them for the great work they have contributed to the program

Upcoming Events – December 2018

1st – Far South Team Xmas Meeting- Bermaqui

1-2nd– Brogo Bass Bash- Brogo Dam

4th-Retirees Fishing- Greenwell Point

7th – Illawarra/Shoalhaven Team Meeting- Gerroa

8th–Lake Illawarra Cockle Advisory Blitz

11th – School Fishing Event – Greenwell Point

15th–Lake Illawarra Cockle Advisory Blitz

Upcoming Events – January 2019

8th– Kids Fishing Workshop-Greenwell Point

9th – Kids Fishing Workshop- Illawarra

11-12th – Kids Fishing Workshops - Gaden

16th - Kids Fishing Workshop – Batemans Bay

17th - Kids Fishing Workshop-Merimbula

Upcoming Events – February 2019

5th - Retirees Fishing-Greenwell Point

9th - Lake Illawarra Cockle Advisory Blitz

Thanks to all the Southern Volunteers that have assisted with our events over Spring. If you hear of an event coming up that may be suitable for us to attend, please let me know.

Summer is a busy time on the south coast with lots of Kids Fishing Workshops in January, and several advisory events. Remember that the Kids fishing Workshops need many helpers to run well and I'd appreciate you letting me know if you can help out at any of the workshops near you as early as possible. I look forward to catching up with you at some of these events soon.

Regards



Stephen Thurstan – E.O.-Southern Region



The very photogenic Southern FCV of the year Merve Roberts

New Fishing Advisory Material

The new freshwater and Saltwater guides and DL's arrived mid-September. The Saltwater guide has the new mulloway bag limit and a tide chart that goes until the end of 2019. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the new guides so you are able to direct people to the information they seek at advisory events.



A bass and a whiting feature on the new guides covers