

NEWSLETTER – January 2002

Wild
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A Future

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1854

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Stories were deemed correct at the time of publication.

We apologise for any unforeseen omissions or errors.

COORONG MULLET TASTINGS AT ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW

Do the public love Coorong Mullet? Well if the response to the two free tasting sessions held at the Adelaide Show is an indication, our fishery has a large fan club in Adelaide and surrounding areas.

The SFA, Women's Industry Network, Coorong Good Food Program (CGFP) and Meningie Area School SACE students worked together to produce a very professional and delicious presentation as part of the Murraylands Regional Development Board display in the PIRSA Food and Fibre pavilion.

Over many weeks leading up to the show several meetings were held to plan the tasting sessions. Jenni Lutze, Project Manager of the CGFP worked tirelessly to bring everything together including designing some Good Food BBQ recipe books and Coorong Mullet recipe leaflets.

Denise Mason and her class tested the recipes and over a few lessons cooked mullet patties to freeze down for the show. Some ladies from the fishery assisted the students to make some of the 800 patties.

Thanks to Margaret Ayres, Christine Hera-Singh and Sue Elphick for their assistance. Thanks also to Tim & Juleen Richards, Glen & Tracy Hill and Garry & Christine Hera-Singh who donated all of the fish.

The recipes served were Herbed Mullet Patties, Soused Mullet with Muntires and Pan Fried Mullet. The students cooked and served the samples. Tracy Hill made announcements over the radio mike about the products, and information about the CGFP, Meningie Area School and the Lakes and Coorong Fishery.

It was a real combined effort and once again demonstrates the commitment of the fishery to be a valued part of the community.



Hon. Dean Brown, member for Finniss, enjoying a sample of Coorong Mullet from Tracy Hill, member of the Coorong Good Food Program steering committee.

FOOD SAFETY WORKSHOPS

On 22nd October a HACCP workshop for the fishing industry was held in Meningie and was attended by over 40 people, including fishers, partners and deckhands.

Organised by the South Australian Fishing Industry Council Inc. and funded by Farmbiz, it is the first stage of a program designed to help each fishing business prepare a Food Safety and Quality Manual using HACCP principles. Once completed it will be then form the basis for each business to be accredited.

Although the process appeared daunting, the TAFE lecturer went through the program in very simple and easy to follow steps. Most fishers will not have to do any major changes to the way they operate, while others may have to review their work practices and implement some new ones. Everyone will have to do additional documentation and ensure that they keep good records.

As with all other quality and safety programs the ultimate cost will have to be borne by the consumer, as it is for their benefit these changes are being made.

President's Piece

Garry Hera-Singh

Since 19th May 2001 Lakes and Coorong fishers have lived with uncertainty over whether we will remain a viable fishery (as well as to our families and our communities).

Defending our heritage fishery has been a time consuming task and daunting for many honest and hard working fishers. The bureaucratic machinations, perceptions and handling of information almost sent a third of our fishery to the financial scrap heap.

On a personal note, I have put the "for sale" sign back in the shed and I've temporarily stopped looking in the employment section of the paper. There are very few positions available for skilled fishing industry related jobs for 45 year olds. I have noticed a couple of fisheries managers positions advertised (interstate) however I lacked the academic qualifications they require as a prerequisite.

Even if there were the remote possibility of an interview, I think once the agency found I had a close alliance with industry, I would have been shown the exit door immediately. Here in SA it appears that any manager or scientist that has a close alliance with an industry sector is labelled and eventually removed.

Honest, science and innovative co-management exposes the truth and denounces many mis-conceptions and perceptions within fisheries.

Such a positive approach to fisheries management also undermines the power-base and political egos of some of our bureaucrats.

The then Minister Kerin (now Premier) announced on 27th September that our fishery would undertake various strategies eg. Management Plan, stock assessments and additional compliance officers.

Our industry has been trying for years to have a Management Plan finished. We ended up drafting our own 2 years ago. Inland Waters fishers have been paying \$77,000 per annum for several years for stock assessments and compliance officers! Under the current government policy, fishers pay 100% cost recovery for the management by the government of our commercial fishery.

The community has been fantastic supporting our industry with letters to the Minister and the Southern Fishermen's Association. Our proactive approach and achievements in addressing the degradation of habitat issues has and will hold on course for a successful Marine Stewardship Council Certification.

Due to an immense workload and family commitments our team has been late with recent editions of our newsletter. We will make every effort to have the next issue out on time.



Back from left: Donna Kartinyeri, Roxanne Farrow, Denice Mason (Home Ec.Teacher),
Jessica Gibbs, Chelsea Gibbs, Mikaela Mason, Jenni Lutze (CGFP Project Manager)

Front: Tracy Hill and Rachel Farrow

Absent from Photo: Alison Cooper

Casting the Net Workshop 2001

Several ladies from the fishery travelled to the Riverport Motel at Goolwa to take part in a two-day course.

The workshop was conducted by Rural Directions and was a pilot for similar workshops to be run around the country for women in the fishing industry. The workshops were initiated by the Women's Industry Network, administered by SAFIC and funded through AFFA.

For attendees it was a chance to brush up on existing skills as well as learn some new ones to help with business planning, financial strategies, marketing and goal setting.

The evening session was very entertaining with several "volunteers" taking part in a food safety roleplay. A few quiet drinks helped with the stage fright, and may or may not have helped with the calibre of the acting. We have it on good authority that the General Manager of SAFIC may be receiving an Emmy next year.

SFA - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM was held on August 6th at Wellington Hall. It was well attended and as usual after the formalities, there was plenty of business to attend to.

The guest speaker was the Hon. Annette Hurley, Shadow Minister of Fisheries and she outlined the Labor party's approach to fisheries management should they be successful at the next election. Her comments were received favourably and she answered questions from the floor in a careful but candid manner.

Garry Hera-Singh was re-elected as President. His job over the past 12 months has seen some of the most difficult issues the fishery has had in many years.

A Presidents report was tabled and a verbal report on the proposed closures of Area 1 the Southern Lagoon was given and discussed.

Gloria Jones presented a S.A. WIN report which was supplemented with a report from Tracy Hill about local WIN activities.

The new SEANET officer, Cherie Hayes was introduced to the L&C fishers. She stated that she would be coming to the fishery soon for a familiarisation trip and she looked forward to working with them.

On day two Director of Fisheries, Will Zacharin was a guest speaker. His presentation was very informative and he took questions from the group. It was clear that many participants would have liked the opportunity to ask more specific questions but time did not permit. However, he did say that he was happy to see people when they came to Adelaide if he was available.

These types of workshops can be very valuable by taking the focus away from the daily grind and problems of running a business, and put it back onto the tools for effectively managing and planning to successfully build wealth and security.

The workshops were well run and the emphasis was on fun. There were sessions about understanding what motivates people, investment planning and benchmarking, marketing, and managing information.

This workshop was another example on how WIN gets things done for industry.

Dr. Bryan Pierce made his last presentation to the meeting in his capacity as SARDI Inland Waters Senior Scientist. He has left SARDI to undertake other projects. His efforts as our Inland Waters R&D person will be sorely missed. It is rare to find a scientist who has a commitment to working with all stakeholders as well as ensuring win/win outcomes for industry and the environment.

Subs are now due and payable. Full membership for license holders is \$110 inc. GST. Associate and Affiliate membership is \$27.50 inc. GST

A membership application is attached to this newsletter. To ensure your membership please return ASAP to The Treasurer, PO Box 113, Meningie SA 5264

COMMITTEE MEMBERS for 2001-2002

President: Garry Hera-Singh

Secretary: Rod Ayres

Treasurer: Glen Hill

Vice-President: Ian Przibilla

Executive Committee

Delegates: Daryl Hera-Singh
Mark Elphick
Adrian Phillips
Darren Hoad
Tracy Hill



Southern Fishermen's Association

Ethical, Sustainable Harvest

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

FINANCIAL YEAR 2001-2002

A tax invoice will be sent to you upon acceptance of the application.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ MOBILE: _____

FAX: _____ EMAIL: _____

LICENSE NO: _____

Please tick applicable box

<input type="checkbox"/> FULL MEMBERSHIP (license holders)	\$110.00 Inc. GST
<input type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP	\$27.50 Inc. GST
<input type="checkbox"/> AFFILIATED MEMBERSHIP	\$27.50 Inc. GST

For Associates - state relationship to license holder

For Affiliates - provide a brief description of activities of organisation/individual

I require a copy of the Southern Fishermen's Association Constitution YES / NO