



BWA 
BOATING WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.
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ON DECK
July 2026

bringing you the latest in marine and boating news



FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is well within the realms of probability that we will encounter birds and possibly other animals on the water/ Beaches/Islands, and they need to be reported for investigation.

There have been quite a few mentions on FaceBook for Coogee Beach (2 birds as I remember) – but luckily they did not pass with the virus.

RecFishWest have provided relevant information- so please be on the watch for such instances, and report them. Do not touch them. There have been 2 other encounters as listed in the West Australian Newspaper Approx Tuesday and Thursday. So this problem is "Live" and if we can – lets assist by reporting any sightings.



Bird flu arrives in WA - fishers can play their part in protecting our coast

Photo: Lori-Ann Shibish

[Esperance Wildlife Hospital and Sanctuary](#)

Australia has confirmed its first cases of highly pathogenic H5 bird flu (H5N1), with three infected migratory seabirds detected near Esperance, one near Dunsborough, one on a northern Perth beach and another detected in South Australia.

While, there is currently no evidence of widespread impacts to wild bird populations or poultry, the detection marks an important milestone in Australia's monitoring and response efforts.

As environmental stewards, fishers are uniquely placed to help protect our wildlife, poultry and other animals against H5 bird flu. Hundreds of thousands of fishers spend time on beaches, jetties, estuaries, islands and offshore waters and are often among the first people to notice unusual wildlife events, including sick or dead birds, marine mammals or fish.

Front cover photo courtesy of Paul Nicholls

If you see multiple sick or dead birds, or other animals showing signs of illness, do not touch them. Instead:

- Avoid contact with the animal
- Record what you see, including the location and number of animals affected
- Report it to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888

By remaining vigilant and reporting what we see on the water and along the coast, we can continue playing an important role in protecting Australia's marine and coastal environment.

[CLICK HERE MORE MORE INFORMATION](#)

Boating WA Board Members recently met with the Rottnest Island, at their "Newish Premises" – The Endeavour Boatshed in Mews Rd Fremantle.

It was attended by Hamish Beck Chairman of the Rottnest Island board. Mr Beck has also been Chairman of the Swan river Trust . He has a hands on approach to looking after the environment , and was recently presented with the Order of Australia Medal for his efforts in conservation and environmental protection

Mr Jason Bank, CEO; of Rottnest, under whose stewardship we have seen a huge movement forward in development of the Island, and facilities around the Island that attract and make comfortable the many Boaters who attend the Island.

It was a very frank and forward looking discussion, and some the newer projects – such as moving the Barge Landing , rebuilding the Army Jetty, surveying of the moorings to ensure the best possible distribution and if there is any improvement potential among the moors for improvements

So be safe.

Plan your trips well

Happy and safe Boating



Colin Lockley PRESIDENT

Boating Western Australia Inc.



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Slow Down Before Someone Else Decides for Us

by Boating Western Australia Inc.

There is an old saying that every boater is an ambassador for boating. Whether we like it or not, every time we head out on the water, the public judges all of us by what they see.

Unfortunately, too many people are seeing boats travelling well above the 5-knot speed limit in the upper reaches of the Swan River.

The photographs accompanying this article show two examples. Both boats were photographed upstream of Windan Bridge, in an area where the speed limit is clearly signposted as 5 knots. Both appear to be travelling substantially faster than the legal limit.

This article is not about naming or shaming the owners of those boats. We have no interest in that. It is about highlighting a growing problem that threatens every responsible boater.

The upper Swan is one of Perth's most treasured waterways. It is shared by paddlers, rowers, anglers, sailing clubs, wildlife enthusiasts, riverside residents, families enjoying the foreshore, and recreational power boaters. It only works when everyone respects the rules and each other.

Travelling above 5 knots creates more than just a larger wake. Higher speeds reduce reaction time, increase stopping distances, disturb wildlife, erode riverbanks, create unnecessary wash, and place slower river users at risk. It also sends a message to everyone watching from the shoreline that power boaters cannot be trusted to regulate themselves.

That perception matters.

There are already many people who believe powered vessels should be excluded from the upper reaches of the Swan River altogether. Every speeding boat becomes another piece of evidence supporting that argument.

The vast majority of Western Australian boaters do the right thing. They understand that boating is a privilege, not a right. They slow down in restricted areas, give way where required, and show courtesy to others on the water.

Sadly, it only takes a handful of people ignoring the rules to damage the reputation of the entire boating community.

History shows that when enough complaints accumulate, governments eventually respond. The response is rarely greater education or increased enforcement alone. More often it comes in the form of tighter regulations, additional restrictions, or outright bans.

Nobody in the boating community wants to see that happen on the Swan River.

The solution is remarkably simple.

If the speed limit is 5 knots, travel at 5 knots.

Not 8 knots because you're in a hurry.

Not 12 knots because you think nobody is watching.

Five knots means five knots.

As boaters, we all have a role in protecting access to our waterways. That means leading by example, encouraging friends and family to follow the rules, and remembering that every trip on the river is seen by hundreds of people.

The future of boating on the upper Swan will depend not only on what the regulations say, but on how responsibly we conduct ourselves:

If we want to continue enjoying these beautiful waters, we need to show the wider community that power boaters are part of the solution, not the problem.

The next time you pass under Windan Bridge heading upstream, ease the throttle back.

Your licence, your fellow boaters, and the future of boating on the Swan River may all depend on it.



Two vessels photographed upstream of Windan Bridge travelling well above the 5-knot speed limit.

Boating WA is using these images not to identify the operators, but to remind all boaters that every skipper represents the wider boating community.

- **Yacht Grot adds a new level of service for BoatingWA Members!**

Roger and his Team at Yacht Grot have been serving BoatingWA Members (individually) for around 30 years – with every conceivable boating part and accessory.

To formalise our partnership, Roger is offering an individual discount to BoatingWA members on the production of their membership card.

It will not take the form of a set discount, as every item in stock has a different margin on it. It will be up to you to ask Roger and the Yacht Grot team – What is my BoatingWA price?

Discounts will vary on the item – but discounts are discounts, and the store that as given our members the best service and prices for this long – it will certainly be worth producing your BoatingWA Membership card.

Introduce yourself to Roger and the Yacht Grot team - and enjoy the expertise and old world values that Yacht Grot has to offer.

Roger even has an extensive amount of used antique equipment. Might not be useful on your boat, but it sure will look great in your bar!

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Are the old trailer boats dead and dying?

by John Gray – BoatingWA Committee.

Well, we certainly hope not. Some might say that the boats built in the 70's 80's and 90's are simply relics of the past and vastly inferior to the trailer boats of today. Personally, I would disagree. Trailer boat design has no doubt morphed over the years and not always in good ways. They are generally built lighter and cheaper these days as building techniques have improved out of sight in some cases though there clearly are design elements that were cornerstones to a good riding hull and in many cases those elements endured.

I am of course speaking mostly about composite boats, truthfully I have no interest in plate boats which might spark a riot amongst their faithful followers but for me personally, it's all about fiberglass. It's not that I love getting itchy or dusty, it's more about the final result. That said and I must concede, there are times where a plate boat just can't be beaten, especially if you're looking to regularly beach it or bash it in the mangroves and shallow creeks, in that instance you just can't beat an ali hull.

So, my Wife and I (not sure how involved she was in this process but this will make here giggle 😊) decided we needed a good demonstrator trailer boat for the second release of our upcoming technology, feel free to take a look at www.tobatechnology.com. So, what do you do next? Well of course you find and purchase a 48 year old Chivers Seamaster and break out the grinders and a diamond wheel. I love these old boats, not solely due to the fact that they were built right here in the South of Perth by a good mate's Dad but also because if cray-fished from one for a long time when a brother of mine who owned the Sports Fisher model. We cray-fished from that thing for years and sadly now, my mate has passed on and we haven't cray-fished since. So now, we figure that it's time to go again. We loved it, it was stable, solid and yes perhaps a little poorly trimmed but I trusted that boat like my own Mum. Sometimes you just get used to loving an old work horse like this as it never lets you down and you get to know its limits out there in the pond.



What then will be the plans for this old boat, newly resurrected and transformed? We began by cutting the cabin off and gutting the hull down to frames. We'll raise the deck up to make her a self-draining, fabricate a new 400L fuel tank, turn her into centre console (admittedly this is quite predictable but retains enormous utility) and repower her with something good, something different oh and please for the love of all things holy, something with some actual grunt.

I've never nailed my colours to the mast when it comes to engines and manufacturers. I like well-engineered power plants and don't really care who they come from. It would be the easiest thing in the world to simply drop in a V8 Mercruiser or build a pod and slap some power on the back then call that a good thing but no, not on my watch. My goodness, what a yawn. Instead, we'll marinize a trusty old Ford Falcon 4.0L Barra engine, slap a turbo on it for some spice then couple a Volvo Penta DPSA sterndrive behind it. Why not aye? It'll be a very lazy 400 or so horsepower and for a Ford Barra, that is very lazy but we're not looking to race to Rotto in 15 minutes here, we're looking to top out at about 40 knots and cruise at 20 knots like it's on a smoko break with its feet up.

The build is well underway and we have Australia Day 2027 as a tentative finish line. We'll keep you posted on how this very, very old girl gets a very new lease on life.



Westport Community Update

Welcome to the Westport community newsletter. We are excited to share the latest updates with you.

Watch: how marine science has been shaping port decisions



The WAMSI Westport Marine Science Program set out to better understand Cockburn Sound's ecosystem and inform future port development and environmental planning.

In this video, WAMSI CEO Dr Luke Twomey and Westport Managing Director Patrick Seares explain how independent, peer-reviewed science has been used to shape key design decisions - including the location of the port footprint - and inform environmental approvals, modelling and the long-term management of Cockburn Sound.

[Watch the video on YouTube](#)

Westport launches **Innovation Hub** to invite ideas for WA's future container port system



Our Innovation Hub is now live – a front door for industry, researchers, start-ups and technology providers to submit their ideas.

Westport is designing Western Australia's future container port during a period of rapid change in global trade, technology and supply chains.

We are seeking ideas that can improve the efficiency, sustainability and resilience of the future port and its supporting infrastructure.

[Visit the Innovation Hub](#)

Westport Sustainability Strategy: a new roadmap for sustainability



Westport has released the updated Sustainability Strategy that sets out how sustainability will be considered in decision-making across the program's definition planning phase.

The strategy focuses on three areas: delivering positive long-term benefits for the environment, creating opportunities for the community and industry, and incorporating sustainability into program governance and strategies to ensure decisions benefit Western Australians.

The supporting Action Plan includes practical actions, such as expanding workforce capacity and diversification to deliver the program and supporting economic and capacity building for Aboriginal businesses.

[Read more on our website](#)

Did you know? How hydrography is helping inform design decisions for the new port



Hydrography is the science of measuring and mapping marine and water areas and predicting how they may change over time.

At Westport, hydrography is an important way we gain data to inform the design and development of the new port in Kwinana.

We conducted bathymetric surveys, a type of hydrographic survey, of the proposed port area and new shipping channel. The surveys formed the basis of a map of the underwater terrain and provided data on the depth of the seabed.

This essential data is key to many aspects of the project such as wave modelling, engineering design and our understanding of the marine environment.



Great Southern

Advice: Installation of Pressure Sensors - Wilson Inlet, Denmark

Mariners are advised that water monitoring pressure sensors have been installed within 1 nautical mile of the entrance to Wilson Inlet, Denmark.

The sensors are bottom-mounted and protrude approximately 0.2 metres above the bed of the inlet. There are no surface markers attached to the sensors.

The instruments are located at the following coordinates:

- -35.02126°S 117.33164°E
- -35.01595°S 117.33282°E
- -35.01201°S 117.33499°E
- -35.00886°S 117.33801°E

Mariners are advised to maintain a proper lookout at all times and proceed with caution when navigating in this area.

Chart reference: WA337 - Wilson Inlet

Location: -35: 0.8547°S 117: 20.0103°E

Start date: 19/6/2026

End date: 1/6/2027

Issued: 2/7/2026

Mid West

Advice: 5x Metocean Data Collection Objects, Lancelin

Mariners are advised that there will be 5x various metocean data collection objects deployed around Lancelin on the 2nd of October 2026, with a retrieval date of October 2026. The shallowest object will lie 3.5m below the surface at LAT.

Operations will be undertaken from a research vessel and objects will be positioned by divers.

The international code flag "A" will be exhibited whilst diving operations are in progress.

All vessels taking part in these works will display lights and shapes in accordance with the Prevention of Collisions in State Waters Regulations 1983 at all times.

Objects will be positioned at the following locations:

- (-31;0.7913 S, 115;18.5696 E)
- (-31;0.5898 S, 115;19.4139 E)
- (-31;0.8933 S, 115;19.6363 E)
- (-31;1.1260 S, 115;19.5608 E)
- (-31;0.0221 S, 115;19.3062 E)

Chart reference: WA1276 - Lancelin

Location: -31:0.5898°S 115: 19.4139°E

Start date: 3/10/2025

End date: 31/10/2026

Issued: 26/9/2025

Peel

Advice: Decommissioned Fishing Platform – Reduced Lighting - Old Mandurah Estuary Bridge

Mariners are advised that the old fishing platform beneath the Mandurah Estuary Bridge, Mandurah Road is no longer in service and public access has been permanently closed.

As a result of the structure being decommissioned, lighting on the platform has been reduced, resulting in decreased visibility at night.

Mariners are advised to navigate with caution when transiting the area during darkness or low light conditions.

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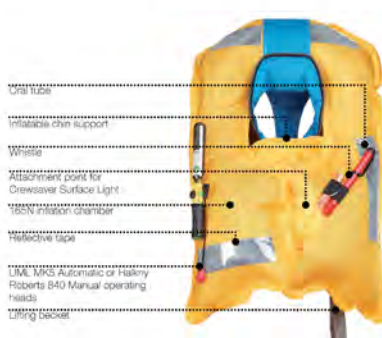
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Chart reference: WA913 - Cape Peron to Dawesville

Location: -32: 32.9320'S 115: 43.0691'E

Start date: 17/3/2026

Issued: 17/3/2026

Perth

Advice: Temporary Installation of Floating Platform with Vertical Turbines - Cockburn Sound

Mariners are advised that a floating platform will be installed on a mooring 1 nautical mile off the coast of Henderson in Cockburn Sound.

The platform is 48m x 43m and is equipped with vertical turbines. The structure will be marked with lit Special Marks displaying a yellow light with a flash rate of 30 flashes per minute.

The platform is expected to be recovered on 30 September 2026

Mariners are advised to maintain a proper lookout at all times and proceed with caution when navigating in this area.

Chart reference: WA001 - Ocean Reef to Cape Peron

Location: -32: 10.467'S 115: 44.928'E

Start date: 16/6/2026

End date: 30/9/2026

Issued: 16/6/2026

Pilbara

Advice: Hydrographic Survey – Approaches to Port Walcott

Mariners are advised that Discovery Marine Australia Limited is undertaking hydrographic survey operations on behalf of the Australian Hydrographic Office. The survey area is located north of the Dampier Marine Park, to the north west of the Dampier Archipelago, and abutting the port limits of Port Walcott.

The survey area is bounded by the following coordinates:

- -20° 08.12'S, 116° 54.38'E
- -20° 07.96'S, 117° 36.52'E
- -20° 14.71'S, 117° 33.72'E
- -20° 14.71'S, 117° 14.69'E
- -20° 17.36'S, 117° 13.19'E
- -20° 17.37'S, 116° 50.01'E

The survey will be conducted between 27 July and 9 October 2026, taking approximately nine (9) weeks to complete. The survey vessel MV Outer Limit (VJN3640), a 35 metre catamaran, will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at slow speeds (<10 kts), conducting sounding operations along planned survey lines oriented predominantly in an east–west direction.

All vessels taking part in these works will display lights and shapes in accordance with the Prevention of Collisions in State Waters Regulations 1983 at all times.

Two bottom mounted instruments with lit surface floats will be deployed for the duration of the survey at the following locations:

- Madeleine Shoals (North) – 20° 17.2'S, 116° 49.8'E
- Pt Walcott Fairway (North East 2) – 20° 07.8'S, 117° 36.7'E

Operators will monitor Marine VHF Channels 14 & 16.

Mariners are advised to maintain a proper lookout at all times and proceed with caution when navigating in this area.

Chart reference: AUS327 - Port Walcott to Montebello Islands

Location: -20: 12.80'S 117: 14.60'E

Start date: 27/7/2026

End date: 9/10/2026

Issued: 30/6/2026

South West

Advice: Environmental Monitoring Equipment – Collie River, Eaton

Mariners are advised that environmental monitoring equipment has been deployed in the Collie River, Eaton.

The monitoring instruments are secured to the riverbed and suspended beneath a surface float. The equipment is marked by an unlit yellow triangular buoy, approximately 1 metre in height, fitted with reflective tape.

Location: - 33° 18.6730'S 115° 42.9950'E

Mariners are advised to maintain a proper lookout at all times and proceed with caution when navigating in this area.

Chart reference: WA776 - Preston to Bunbury

Location: -33: 18.6730'S 115: 42.9950'E

Start date: 2/7/2026

End date: 31/10/2026

Issued: 2/7/2026

Swan and Canning Rivers

Advice: Advice – Pile Inspection works Fremantle Traffic Bridge

Mariners are advised pile inspection works will be conducted beneath the Fremantle Railway Bridge, Swan River from Thursday 26 June 2026 until Friday 31 July 2026, daily between 6:45am and 5:15pm.

The inspection will be conducted by divers beneath the surface, and a diver assisted vessel will be positioned in the area, particularly between the south and central spans of the railway bridge. Access through the navigational span will be maintained; however, partial obstruction may occur during certain stages of the works.

Spotter vessels associated with the current removal works for the Fremantle Traffic Bridge will be managing the river traffic while operations are underway within the navigable span of the rail bridge and the traffic bridge, with one navigational span remaining open at all times.

The spotter vessel will alert approaching vessels to the works ahead and coordinate with the diver assist vessel to allow river traffic to pass safely. Spotter vessels will communicate through Marine VHF Channel 71 (and monitor VHF Channel 16) during operational hours.

All vessels associated with the works will display appropriate lights and shapes in accordance with the Prevention of Collisions in State Waters Regulations 1983 at all times.

Mariners are advised to maintain a proper lookout at all times and proceed at a safe speed to minimise wake and wash.

Chart reference: WA898 - Swan and Canning Rivers

Location: -32: 2.47'S 115: 45.27'E

Start date: 26/6/2026

End date: 31/7/2026

Issued: 25/6/2026

Advice: Reduced Bridge Height – Navigable Span - Fremantle Traffic Bridge

Mariners are advised that due to scaffold installations on the Fremantle Traffic Bridge, the clearance height of both navigational channels will be reduced from 9.1m to 8.1m at Highest Astronomical Tide from Friday 3 July to Friday 11 September 2026.

A barge will be used during installation works and will be managed via spotter vessels communicating through Marine VHF Channel 71 (and monitor VHF Channel 16) during operational hours.

Mariners should maintain a proper lookout at all times and proceed with caution when navigating under the bridge.

Chart reference: WA898 - Swan and Canning Rivers

Location: -32: 2.47'S 115: 45.27'E

Start date: 3/7/2026

End date: 11/9/2026

Issued: 25/6/2026

Event: SUPWA Paddle Loop – Ascot, Swan River

Mariners are advised that approximately 15 participants will be competing in the approved 'SUPWA Paddle Loop' event between Ascot Kayak Club and Sandy Beach Reserve on the Swan River from 8:45 am to 10:00 am on the following dates:

- Sunday 14 June 2026
- Sunday 12 July 2026
- Sunday 2 August 2026
- Sunday 6 September 2026
- Sunday 4 October 2026

Mariners are advised to navigate with caution when transiting in this area while the event is taking place.

Chart reference: WA898 - Swan and Canning Rivers

Location: 31: 55.3051'S 115: 56.7270'E

Start date: 14/6/2026

End date: 4/10/2026

Issued: 5/6/2026



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NEWS FROM THE CLUBS



FREMANTLE SAILING CLUB

2026 AGM – Key Dates and Information

Ahead of the AGM on Tuesday 21 July, members are encouraged to read the latest update covering the Board election, how to vote, candidate statements, AGM details and important dates. [View here](#).

FREMANTLE SOUTHERN BREAKWATER REFURBISHMENT WORKS

The Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure (DTMI) will carry out maintenance works on the Fremantle Southern Breakwater from July to November 2026.

During this time, public access to the breakwater will be closed and temporary navigation arrangements will be in place at the Fremantle Fishing Boat Harbour entrance.

While the works are unlikely to affect most FSC members, those boating in the area are encouraged to stay informed.

For project updates and the latest notices, visit the [Transport WA Fremantle Fishing Boat Harbour Projects](#) page.





Committee Nominations & Voting (Full Members)

It's that time of year again, with Committee nominations and voting just around the corner. The information below is relevant to Full Members only, so please take a moment to note these important dates and have your say in shaping the future of the Club.

Key Dates

Nominations Open: Thursday 16 July

Nominations Close: Thursday 30 July, 5:00pm

Online Voting Opens: Monday 17 August

Online Voting Closes: Friday 21 August, 4:30pm

Voting Results Announced: Friday 21 August, 6:00pm

Annual General Meeting: Thursday 27 August, 6:30pm

Thank you for playing an active role in the future of Swan Yacht Club. We encourage all Full Members to participate in this year's voting process.

Bunbury Yacht Club

Find us on 

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MAIL: Post Office Box 1351 Bunbury 6231



Who We Are

We are one of the oldest Yacht Clubs in Australia formed in 1882.



Winter Boating:

by Ray Watson - Vice President BoatingWA

The cold winds in many winter mornings should not deter you from giving the boat a run-after 10am anyway. With the typical dying easterly giving way to a mild (if any) seabreeze, there are many opportunities to visit your favourite KG spot on your way to a shared mooring at our islands. Being on the shared mooring system really makes it easy to select a bay calm enough to go to. The bigger swell and sometimes tides does make bay selection important and Thomsons Bay at Rottneſt nearly always comes out on top. Last Sunday only 10 boats, 6 big RIB's and 4 jetskis had the calm bay to themselves.

Watching the ferries come and go and the barge delivering limestone rocks for the new barge landing at the old Army "jetty" in between herring or squid catches takes a lot of beating.

Make the most of these days and please use the excellent Fremantle Sea Rescue radio checks for peace of mind as well."



Preparations begin for new Barge landing area

Works, service improvements, and other changes occur periodically across Wadjemup / Rottnest Island.

Henderson Ablution Upgrade | Late June to December 2026

Henderson Avenue Ablution Block

Commencing: Late June 2026

Completion: December 2026

The existing Henderson ablution block will be demolished and replaced with a new facility, including family rooms, lockers, charging stations and accessible amenities.

The Henderson toilet facilities, including Changing Places, will be unavailable during construction. Fencing, signage and alternative arrangements will be in place to guide visitors during the works.

Watjil Place, Kingsway and Digby Drive Road Maintenance Works | July–August 2026

Watjil Place, Kingsway and Digby Drive (near Boreham Way intersection)

Commencing: 13 July 2026

Completion: 7 August 2026

Road maintenance works will be undertaken at various locations including Watjil Place, Kingsway and Digby Drive. Works will involve repairing potholes, resurfacing a section of road near the Boreham Way intersection, and rectifying trip hazards along Kingsway.

Minor traffic disruptions and delays may occur while works are underway. Kingsway will be closed between 7am and 4pm on 24 July 2026, with traffic management in place throughout the project.

Digby Drive Ablution Re-tiling | July 2026

Digby Drive Ablution Block

Commencing: 20 July 2026

Completion: TBC

Works will involve the temporary closure of the Digby Drive ablution facility for installation of new slip-rated tiles throughout the building.

The facility will be unavailable during the works. To minimise impacts on visitors, six portable toilets will be installed nearby for public use.

Hotel Rottnest Boardwalk Upgrade | July 2026

Settlement (Hotel Rottnest entrance)

Commencing: 22 June 2026

Completion: 31 July 2026

Works will involve the replacement of damaged concrete steps at the entrance to Hotel Rottnest, along with construction of a new concrete landing designed to improve drainage.

The main entrance to Hotel Rottnest will be temporarily closed during the works, however alternative access points will remain available for visitors.

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GIFAA Newsletter July 2026

An update from your committee

Hello GIFAA Members

We hope this newsletter finds you all well. Winter has certainly arrived but there have been some fine, calm days so hopefully you are all still getting in a piece of island time.

Members Reminder - NO RAFTING

Members are reminded that rafting of vessels is prohibited in Herring Bay and Pig Trough Bay

Rafting is the tying together of two or more vessels in any configuration as per the examples below. GIFAA Members may use approved secondary vessels as long as they are registered with the association.



Why is it important?

GIFAA manages the moorings under the Recreational Moorings Management Policy for the Controlled Naval Waters of Garden Island (2005). The policy and the GIFAA Constitution set out the requirements for recreational boats to use the moorings within naval waters.

It is essential that GIFAA members adhere to the policy to help ensure that we maintain our relationship and compliance with the Department of Defence so that we can continue the safe use of the island and moorings.

- Rafting of vessels results in congestion within the mooring area
- Rafting of vessels can interfere with the swing of moorings resulting in damage to vessels
- Rafting of vessels may load the mooring beyond its design or cause other damage.
- Non-compliance with the policy may lead to issues with ongoing use of the island and moorings.

What can I do?

- All members should adhere to the policy at all times. It is important that we set an example for the public.
- If you see a non-member rafting, politely let them know about the policy and the signage at the entrance to Herring Bay.
- You can download a copy of the [WELCOME TO GARDEN ISLAND BROCHURE](#) from the GIFAA web-page and pass to non-members
- With the use of large floating pontoons becoming more popular please be mindful of the potential impact of its use in the restricted space of the mooring area.

Facilities Update

Our Ranger has been hard at work making our piece of paradise even. More beautiful and you may notice the area behind the wall in the picnic area at Herring Bay has been cleaned of weeds and mulched. It looks fantastic.

All 4 BBQ's are now operational so fingers crossed we will have plenty of room for all over the summer months.

The footpath from the beach has been extended and is holding upon well. The landscaping and planting is really taking hold. It makes it so much easier to make the trek top the hill so a big shout out to everyone that has assisted with this project.

Island clean up.

Over the winter period the amount of rubbish that ends up on our pristine beaches is quite astonishing. Many of you may have witnessed our Treasurer, Aaron and his helpers on the daily pilgrimage trekking the beaches with beach clean up bags. The work that Aaron does is amazing and we would like to formally recognise his efforts caring for the environment that we all enjoy. Please say g'day next time you see him and feel free to grab a bag and help along the way. Our Beach clean up bags (Only \$10) are available to be purchased at any of our events.

We are currently investigating ways to recycle as much of the plastic waste that is collected, mainly cray pots and baskets etc so if anyone has any suggestions, they would be more than welcome.



An important message from DOT



Government of Western Australia
Department of Transport
and Major Infrastructure

Dear Boat Owner,

The Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure (DTMI) - Maritime delivers services that allow Western Australians to enjoy our waterways safely. We value the contribution of the Western Australian boating community to creating a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

We are writing to you to advise you of recent changes to the Navigable Waters Regulations 1958.

DTMI now has stronger and more comprehensive laws to remove marine objects that create a hazard and/or obstruction and to recover costs. The object could be anything from a car to a shipping container, or a vessel that is illegally using a mooring. When it is deemed a threat to safety or the environment, DTMI officers can now remove objects immediately without notice. After taking charge of the object, the new streamlined laws allow DTMI to sell or gift it, and legal action can be taken against the person responsible to recover any outstanding costs.

New penalties apply for:

- failing to remedy a hazard or obstruction (up to \$5,000)
- causing a hazard or obstruction (up to \$15,000)
- accessing or interfering with a hazard or obstruction (up to \$10,000).

If a notice to remedy the situation is ignored, a daily penalty of \$200 may be applied until the issue is rectified.

It is hoped that the new laws act as a deterrent and make it significantly easier for DTMI to dispose of abandoned or illegally moored vessels and recover the costs incurred.

To find out more, please visit our website: [Boating rules in WA | Transport WA](#)

For any questions or assistance, please email us at mspolicy@transport.wa.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Chris J. Mather

Executive Director, Maritime

State Government | Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure

A Message from our Ranger

Austral Shield Exercise 2026

As you may have heard or noticed, the ADF is currently conducting Exercise Austral Shield 2026 on Garden Island and surrounding areas.

The exercise commenced on 3 July and will continue until 19 July. During this period, all areas of the island—including operational areas, public Defence areas, and naval waters—may be utilised by ADF personnel for training activities. Exercises may occur at any time, including during the day, night, and early morning hours.

Members of the public and GIFFA members visiting the island should continue to follow normal procedures. Any breaches of the Defence (Public Areas) By-laws or suspicious behaviour should be reported to the Emergency Control Centre (Wilson Security) on 9553 2222. If possible, please also notify the Ranger on 0455 604 646.

More information:

<https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/releases/2026-06-16/australian-security-strengthened-part-exercise-austral-shield>

Avian Influenza (H5 Bird Flu)

Another important and evolving situation is the recent Avian Influenza outbreak, with confirmed cases of the H5 bird flu strain now detected in Western Australia.

Multiple strains of avian influenza are currently circulating globally. Of particular concern is the highly pathogenic strain H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b, which has affected wild birds, poultry, and both wild and domestic mammals in many parts of the world.

The WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is leading the State response, in collaboration with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and the Department of Health. The risk to humans remains low and, to date, only individual migratory seabirds have been affected in Western Australia. However, the situation is evolving, and everyone is encouraged to remain informed and follow government advice. Anyone who observes a sick or dead bird, marine mammal, or other wildlife should report it to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

The Message Is Simple: **AVOID – RECORD – REPORT**

Avoid

- Keep a safe distance from sick or dead wildlife
- Do not touch, handle, or move affected animals

Record

- Note the species, number of affected animals, location, date, and time
- If safe to do so, take photographs or videos from a distance

Report

- Report sightings of sick or dead animals to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888
- follow the advice provided

Additional Reporting for Garden Island

If an affected animal is observed on Garden Island or within the surrounding naval waters, please also notify Emergency Control Centre: 9553 2222 and/or Ranger: 0455 604 646, as this will help facilitate a timely local response.

Signs of H5 Avian Influenza in Wildlife

Symptoms may include:

- Sudden death
- Lack of coordination (tremors, difficulty standing, walking, flying, or holding the head upright)
- Difficulty breathing, coughing, or sneezing
- Discharge from the mouth, nose, or eyes
- Cloudy or abnormal-looking eyes

More information:

<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/departments/departments-of-primary-industries-and-regional-development/avian-influenza>

The H5 Bird Flu situation is likely to continue evolving over the coming months and into spring and the new boating season. I will provide further updates if the response plan for Garden Island and surrounding waters

changes. If you decide not to issue a winter newsletter, I would appreciate it if you could include an updated H5 Bird Flu article in your next spring edition.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Otherwise, I'll see you around the island!

Kind Regards,

Linda Hocke

Ranger – Garden Island | Swan Coastal District

Regional Fire Management Services | Parks & Wildlife Service

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation, and Attractions

M: 0455 604 646 | E: linda.hocke@dbca.wa.gov.au | W: <https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au>

Calendar of Events

Members Open Day

- We will be conducting our annual GIFAA Opening Day on Sunday 4th October at the Cockburn Power Boat Club. The event will run between 12pm and 4pm
- We will have a light meal and refreshments on the day as well as plenty of auctions and raffles so please come along and support your association as we head into no the warmer boating weather,
- We will also have available on the day the new GIFAA Beach Clean Up Bags \$10 each, new GIFAA Bumper stickers \$5 each and the new GIFAA Burgee Flags \$25 each. Please bring along some cash if you would like to secure these hot items.

GIFAA Mooring Surveys

- Scheduled to commence the third week in October, weather permitting. If you are available to spend a day on the water assisting the mooring team, please let either myself or Ken know your availability

GIFAA AGM

- Wednesday 18th November at CPBA. Details to be advised closer to the date.

Keep Smiling

- Why do milk stools only have 3 legs?....Because the cow has the udder
- How do you organise a space party?....You planet early
- What do you call glass bakeware in Jamaica?.....Pyrex of the Caribbean

And finally

Someone glued my deck of cards together. I'm having a hard time dealing with it.....

Take care and be diver aware.

Pete Fry

Secretary



Media release

7 July 2026

Survey underway to catch fisher data

Recreational fishers are encouraged to take part in the latest statewide Recreational Fishing survey to capture fishing data and support the State's sustainable fisheries.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) undertakes the survey every three years in collaboration with Edith Cowan University (ECU) and Recfishwest. The last survey was completed in 2023-24.

The survey collects information from boat-based recreational fishers about where they fish, what species they have caught and the size of the fish.

The information is captured over a 12-month period through phone-diary surveys conducted by the ECU Survey Research Centre on behalf of DPIRD.

Data are also collected by DPIRD staff talking to fishers at boat-ramps and remote camera video monitoring at popular boat ramps to understand fishing catch and effort across the State.

The recreational fishing data, along with commercial and charter catch data, assists DPIRD fisheries scientists to undertake periodic stock assessments to ensure the sustainability of WA fish stocks.

DPIRD principal research scientist Karina Ryan said fishing was one of the most popular recreational activities in WA, with one in four West Australians fishing at least once per year.

"This is the seventh survey to be undertaken since 2011. More than 8000 fishers participated in the 2023-24 survey to help measure the health of our fish stocks," Dr Ryan said.

"The results of the 2023-24 survey showed the species caught the most by rec fishers was Western rock lobster with 375,000 caught, followed by blue swimmer crabs with 337,000 caught.

"The most popular finfish species caught were school whiting with 252,000 caught, followed by 130,000 Australian herring and 120,000 pink snapper.

"The most frequently caught pelagic fish were samsonfish followed by Spanish mackerel and Southern bluefin tuna."

Dr Ryan said the 2026-27 phone survey started last month.

"So far we have had a great response from recreational fishers wanting to be involved in the survey," she said.

"Fishers participating in the survey over the next 12 months will provide current data on what they are catching and where they are fishing to support the science and management."

More information on the statewide Recreational Fishing survey is available on the DPIRD website www.dpiird.wa.gov.au/recfishingsurvey

New Shoprite Member Benefits App

shoprite.com.au

Our friends at ShopRite have developed a new member benefits mobile app to make it easier for members to access their benefits, save not only money but also time.

The app will be replacing the cards currently sent out to members.

You will need to create a ShopRite digital account, using your BWA member number. If you don't know your number, please contact our secretary at secretary@boatingwa.com.au

How do I create a ShopRite digital account? Its simple!

1. If you do not have an account, go to "Sign In or Register", found at the top of the page, and enter the required information.
2. Click the "Register" button at the bottom of the form to complete your registration.



Dear BoatingWA Members ... Explore your endless discounts and benefits!



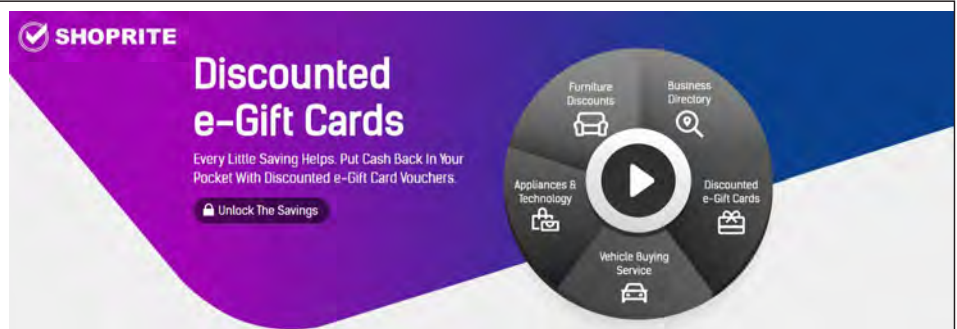
Are you aware that your BoatingWA membership gets you other great benefits outside of representing your interests and the interests of your fellow recreational boaters?

As a member of BoatingWA, you qualify to use Shoprite exclusive Benefits Service. All deals are negotiated on your behalf!

Visit the Shoprite Website to access discounts on a large range of suppliers <https://www.shoprite.com.au/>

The Shoprite team have been working hard and negotiating to secure more benefits and special deals for members. Our most recent additional benefit is Discounted eGift Cards.

Here are some of the brands below:



- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| • Woolworths | • Barbecues Galore | • Kathmandu |
| • Coles | • BCF | • Flight Centre |
| • JB HiFi | • David Jones | • EB Games |
| • Retravision | • Ray's Outdoors | • Endota Spa |
| • Harvey Norman | • Red Balloon | • BWS |
| • Good Guys | • Priceline | • Dan Murphys |
| • Ticketmaster | • Myer | • BigW and many more. |

The Shoprite team are currently in talks with many new businesses who are most eager to join their network and offer preferential discounts to members. Watch this space!

www.shoprite.com.au

Media release

22 June 2026

Illegal take of sea urchins leads to hefty fines

Two men from the Mandurah area were fined more than \$1500 each in Geraldton court late last week for an illegal haul of sea urchins taken from Port Denison last October.

The 61-year-old man from Silver Sands was fined \$1,604 for taking 78 sea urchins from an inter-tidal reef near the Port Denison Marina, exceeding the bag limit by 58.

He was accompanied by a 52-year-old man from Falcon, who was ordered to pay \$1,504 for exceeding the bag limit by 53.

The daily bag limit for sea urchins in Western Australia is 20 per person per day.

In a separate court matter, two Geraldton men were convicted of netting in the closed waters of the Greenough River and were penalised a combined total of \$2424.

The men, who were captured on drone footage, had used a 50-metre haul net in December to catch six sea mullet, one yelloweye mullet and an undersized black bream.

The Greenough River is closed to all net fishing, meaning it is illegal to use a net in that river.

Fisheries officers with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development intercepted the fishers who had attempted to hide the net in bushland adjacent to the river.

The officers also located one undersize mullet, which had been caught with a fishing rod the previous night.

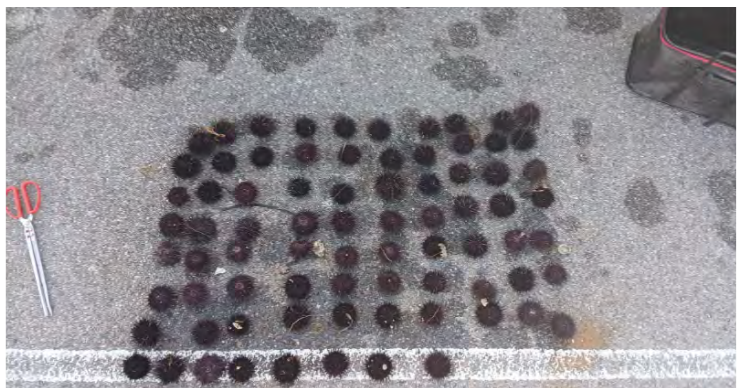
The 33-year-old man was fined \$1,634 for giving a false name, netting in closed waters, taking a totally protected (undersize) black bream and possession of an undersized mullet. The 39-year-old man was fined \$790 for his offences.

DPIRD Regional Compliance Midwest Director Mick Kelly said fishers should be aware of Western Australia's fishing rules for various species before fishing.

"Taking more than a bag limit allows, taking undersize fish or using a net illegally could threaten the sustainability of our fisheries," Mr Kelly said. "FishWatch is available 24/7 to take calls from anyone who suspects illegal fishing activity on 1800 815 507 or via the online form on Crimestoppers."

Media contact: Ashley Malone, DPIRD media liaison - mobile 0418 901 767

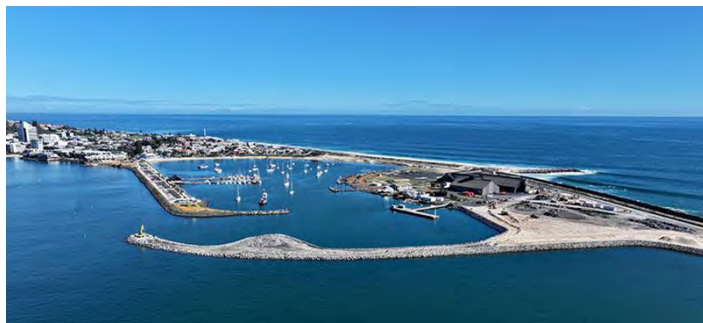
PHOTO: Some of the sea urchins seized by Fisheries officers near Port Denison Marina



Bunbury boaties - winning big

A further \$89.1 million in funding was confirmed for improvements at Casuarina Boat Harbour at Bunbury in the recent State Budget.

As part of the Transforming Bunbury's Waterfront (TBW) project, a new inclusive community recreation precinct will be developed to support the planned accessible fishing platform and the number of boat pens at the harbour will nearly double to meet demand.



DTMI will deliver the upgrades which add to earlier improvements at harbour along Jetty Road, at the launch ramp and the recent completion of the new breakwater structure.

[Explore Bunbury's waterfront transformation](#)

Want to get your kids out on the water?

Every year thousands of primary school students in WA participate in the Junior Crew program.

If your kids are not already involved, talk to their school about getting involved. It's a fun, hands-on experience, delivering important safety messages on and around boats.



[Get your kids started with Junior Crew](#)

Did you see our great collab with the Albany Shantymen?

We've been working with this amazing WA group on a series of sea shanties to help chart a safer course for skippers.

The first release is about lifejacket wearing Albany Shantymen. And there will be other shanties released soon about keeping a lookout and checking the weather.



[Watch the lifejacket sea shanty](#)

USEFUL LINKS

- **Major Projects Rottnest Island**

Click: <https://ria.wa.gov.au/major-projects>

- **Boating on Rottnest Island**

Click: <http://www.rottnestisland.com/boating>

- **Rottnest – Temporary Notice to Mariners**

<http://www.rottnestisland.com/boating/boating-information/temporary-notice-to-mariners>

- **Rottnest Marine News**

<https://mailchi.mp/rottnestisland/latest-rottnest-island-authority-marine-news?e=0a6b7000a1>

- **Garden Island Fishing and Aquatic Association GIFAA**

Click: <http://www.gifaa.com.au/>

- **TEMPORARY NOTICES TO MARINERS LINK**

[Click Here](#)

- **TIDE PREDICTIONS LINKS**

For general tidal predictions around WA: [Click Here](#)

Tide Tables for Western Australia: [Click Here](#)

For 2021 Fremantle tidal predictions: [Click Here to Download](#)

- **FSC DIVERS GROUP**

This is a page to showcase the comings, goings and doings of the Dive Section at Fremantle Sailing Club.
More info: [Click Here](#)

- **BOATING COMMUNITIES NEWSLETTER**

Stay up to date with the latest news relating to recreational boating in Western Australia through the Department of Transport's Boating Communities Newsletter. [CLICK HERE](#)

Other useful links

ShopRite – <http://www.shoprte.com.au/>

River Guardians – <http://www.riverguardians.com/>

Fremantle Sailing Club News – <http://www.fsc.com.au/home/latest-news-information/>

Swan Yacht Club News – <http://www.swanyachtclub.com.au/news/>

Bunbury Yacht Club: <https://www.facebook.com/p/Bunbury-Yacht-Club-100067325569262/>

Perth Game Fishing Club News – <http://www.pgfc.com.au/news>

BoatingWA does not take responsibility for the accuracy of the material included from a third party, it's the responsibility of the members to do further investigation into the subject before relying on its accuracy especially when it comes to boat regulations, safety and navigation.



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