



BWA 
BOATING WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.
TM ABN 54 351 799 424

ON DECK
September 2026

bringing you the latest in marine and boating news



REFLECTIVE WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT.

Peter John Anderton "Pete or Ando" born May 1960 and departed August 2026.

Thursday 27 Aug 2026, marked a very sad day for the Fishing/Boating fraternity with the funeral for Peter John Anderton (Cockburn Power Boats).

'Pete' has been a Pioneer in fishing circles and there is very little of today's technology and techniques (Fishing for the Future) that he did not Develop or champion.

Peter also happened to be my Brother in Law, and I remember him as a "keen young 13 year old" who used to race home from school and strap a couple of rods to his "dragstar" bike and pedal down to the South Mole, only to return at sunset with anything from Bonito to Flathead and the obligatory Herring. Pete's Father, Ivan, (a North Fremantle Lad), knew a great deal about fishing and imparted a huge amount of knowledge to him. For my part, being 8 years older than Pete, I brought my boat, bigger rods and – and it wasn't long before he was teaching me some new tricks and improving my fish skills. Diving was my enjoyment and he was a complete natural at Snorkelling.



It is when you spend a considerable amount of time "shoulder to shoulder" with another fisho in the confines of a boat, that you truly get to know their morals and principles. Any fish that Pete did not keep, he returned respectfully and gently to the water.

Blown flotation bladders etc are distressing on fish being returned to the water, and Peter made a couple of "Deep Release Hooks" to always be carried in the side pocket of my boat. Different gaff sizes and nets for smaller fish were another stipulation for the correct handling of captured fish. A "Catch Esky" filled with brine ice was a must, and fish needed the correct treatment to keep them fresh for the trip home.

Bag limits were strictly adhered to, size limits were strictly adhered to – and the question was always asked – do we really need to keep this fish. Sport Fishing enthusiasts such as Pete work to take a good feed for the day and then return any further fish to the water. Hence the need to refine your release techniques. Tagging of fish and collection of tags was paramount, and learning the Japanese technique of "IKI JIMI" was essential to correctly despatch your fish, reduce any suffering and ensure the close down of gut and blood functions to minimise any spoiling of the fish flesh. Then into the Brine Ice. Lures, Jigging, Baits – whatever the fish wanted on the menu – Pete would have it. He also kept meticulous records of how, where and when he was successful with fish.

My point in being so descriptive above, is that Pete was happy to take his few fish, but believed that if you're going to take a fish, you need to respect that fish and ensure that the fillet, and cleaning process were as close to perfect as you could make them. Why would you kill a fish and then not respect the product of that fish. Do it correctly or don't do it. Many a time he would assist a "novice"

Front cover photo courtesy of Paul Nicholls

just to ensure that the fillet and the process were well done. He was an excellent teacher/Coach. His filleting displays were in great demand.

Peter introduced me to “stand up Game fishing” wherein the fish are given a chance in the process/sport of capture.

There is not a huge amount of skill in hauling in a 1 kilo fish on 15 kg line. So – why not take the line class down, perhaps to 10kg , and maybe then down to 6kg. This is where the skill of the fisherman comes into play. A fish will pull around 4 times its own weight in fight on the line – So the competition becomes you and the fish – as well as keeping to record of captures and line class to measure your skills against other boats and fishing mates. Voila – you now have a fishing contest that does not rely solely on killing fish, and to show that you truly wish to ENSURE THE FISHING FUTURE , you can have a mate witness your catch and return it to the water – WHICH WOULD GAIN YOU DOUBLE POINTS FOR THAT RELEASED FISH. Every fish pulls with a different power, and that measured against the size of the fish is how points in the competitions are calculated.

This takes you to ensuring that you have the best possible equipment so Peter and I (under the tutelage of Ron McPhee) started importing Sabre Stroker Blanks and building our own rods. The best reel seats, Teflon runners – I shudder to think what that was costing us. Even turning out (enlarging) the drag seats and manufacturing washers from Macchi Jet Brake materials to get the best drag action. During your entire battle with the fish – you remained standing to give the fish a fighting chance – hence the name “STAND UP GAME FISHING” . When a fish pulls around 4 times its own weight , and we did catch some biggies – you got dragged all over the boat.

Pete saw that many people were operating outside the rules, so he took it as a personal challenge to assist them and show them a better way to do what they wanted to do. He freely gave of his time, was a guest speaker at a few of our BoatingWA - AGMs, where he was happy to speak on both fishing and filleting and care of your catch. At his own Club Cockburn Power Boats, at the Boat Show – and many found fun and information in his articles in the Western Angler.

Education is far better than legislation. Peter gave freely and fully of his time to educate Fishos on :

- The rules and limits and why they were imposed.
- Fishing Techniques – doing it better.
- Filleting and preserving your fish.

FISHING FOR TOMORROW !!

Thank you, Peter for caring about our Marine Environ and for the personal effort you put into insuring its health and continuity for future generations.

Thank you for your mateship Peter – and a lifetime of memories.

Safe boating up there.



Colin Lockley

PRESIDENT

Boating Western Australia Inc.



BoatingWA (BWA) 2026/27

Dear Boating WA Member,

As we prepare for another boating season, your Team at BoatingWA has continued working hard to ensure that your interests, safety and enjoyment on the water are properly represented and safeguarded.

During the past season we have:

- *Met six times with the **Department of Transport and Marine Infrastructure**, raising issues that directly affect Recreational Boaters throughout WA.*
- *Attended two meeting with the **Rottneest Island Authority/Board**. Working tensure that jetties, moorings, and directional markers are accurate, safe and ready for your use.*
- *Participated in the Recreational Boating Funding scheme, **Helping direct approximately \$2.7 Mil into boating infrastructure** and safety of WA recreational Boaters.*
- *Negotiated **Boating Insurance arrangements** with Club Marine, providing members with access to competitive boating insurance options.*
- *Developed purchasing benefits and **Member Discounts**, including on all retail products – including savings available through participating chandlers and boating suppliers.*

These are just some of the ways your membership helps Boating WA speak up for you!

Your Membership makes a difference!

There is only one association dedicated to representing the views, safety and amenity of Recreational Boaters across Western Australia – BoatingWA!

When you renew your membership, you are not simply paying a subscription. You are helping to maintain a strong independent voice for WA Boat Owners and Recreational Boaters when decisions are being made by government and other authorities. We encourage you to renew your membership for the coming season and continue to be part of the BoatingWA Team.

Thank you for your continued support.

Colin Lockley

President *Boating Western Australia Inc.*

JOIN OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP HERE



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.



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



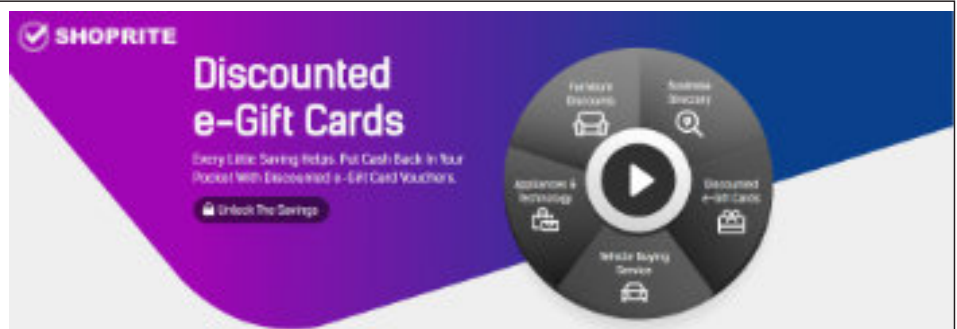
Are you aware that your BoatingWA membership gets you other great benefits outside of representing your interests and the interests of your fellow recreational boaters?

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
- Coles
- JB HiFi
- Retravision
- Harvey Norman
- Good Guys
- Ticketmaster

- Barbecues Galore
- BCF
- David Jones
- Ray's Outdoors
- Red Balloon
- Priceline
- Myer

- Kathmandu
- Flight Centre
- EB Games
- Endota Spa
- BWS
- Dan Murphys
- 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

Boating: The Art of Making It Work

There is something wonderfully democratic about boating.

It doesn't matter whether you're heading offshore from Exmouth, exploring the Kimberley, fishing off Esperance, cruising the Peel-Harvey system, drifting down the Swan, or simply spending an afternoon on one of WA's many inland waterways. Eventually, every boater discovers the same fundamental truth:

Boating is largely about compromise.

The boat might not be quite as big as you'd like. The weather may not be quite as calm as you ordered. The fish may not have received the memo. The tide might be inconvenient, the ramp crowded, the wind coming from the wrong direction and somebody will inevitably forget the sandwiches.

And yet, somehow, we still have a pretty good day.

Perhaps that's one of the things that makes boating so enjoyable. We learn to adapt.

Take the photograph accompanying this article.

Our four-legged crew member had a perfectly reasonable expectation. He wanted to see what was happening over the stern of the boat. Unfortunately, the boat's designers had not consulted him. The gunwale was too high.

The solution wasn't to buy a different boat.

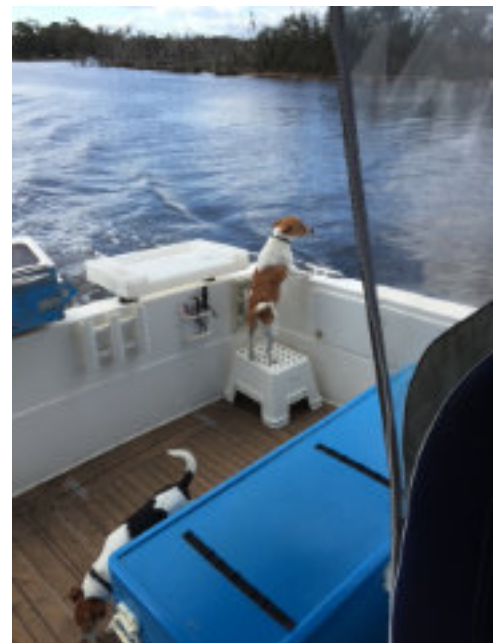
It wasn't to modify the transom.

It certainly wasn't to explain to the dog that naval architecture had already made its decision.

We gave him a step.

Problem solved.

It is a small example, but it captures something fundamental about boating.



We adapt our boats to our lives, rather than expecting our lives to fit perfectly into the boat.

That might mean adding a shade, rearranging the cockpit, fitting a different anchor system, finding a better way to store fishing gear or making a modification that makes getting aboard easier for an older crew member. It might mean changing the way we use the boat as circumstances change.

Sometimes the compromise is bigger.

A forecast may mean abandoning the offshore fishing trip and exploring sheltered waters instead. A strong afternoon breeze might turn a planned cruise into a leisurely lunch at anchor. A low tide might change the destination. A new restriction or changed waterway conditions might mean finding another route.

None of those things necessarily means the day has been ruined.

It simply means the plan has changed.

And perhaps that is one of the great advantages of boating in Western Australia. We have an extraordinary variety of places in which to do it.

Our coastline stretches from the temperate waters of the south to the tropical north, with bays, rivers, estuaries, islands, reefs, beaches and countless sheltered corners in between. Inland, there are lakes, dams and waterways offering an entirely different boating experience.

There is no single definition of a WA boater.

One person may be happiest chasing a marlin offshore. Another may spend weekends crabbing. Someone else might take the family for a picnic on a quiet river, while another boater simply enjoys sitting at anchor with a cup of coffee and nowhere particularly urgent to be.

Different boats. Different destinations. Different reasons for going.

Good boating is about having enough knowledge and experience to make sensible adjustments so that everyone can enjoy the day.

And occasionally, you just need to put a plastic step on the deck because the most important passenger aboard has short legs.

NB: Dogs/Pets are not permitted within 500m of the shoreline on Garden Island and as Rottnest Island is a Class A Reserve and domestic pets (including dogs) are not permitted on the island or in its waters.



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Kwinana Bulk Terminal Redevelopment update



The Kwinana Bulk Terminal (KBT) is a critical component of the Western Trade Coast, supporting bulk imports and exports across the State's largest industrial precinct. KBT is nearing the end of its operational life and is expected to reach capacity and functional limits by around 2032, creating increasing pressure on bulk trade operations at Kwinana Port.

Westport and Fremantle Ports are working as an integrated team to plan and deliver the [Kwinana Bulk Terminal Redevelopment](#).

The KBT redevelopment was previously included as part of the environmental referral for the Container Terminal (Outer Harbour Port Development), but is now proposed to proceed as a separate project because it is needed sooner. It has now been referred to the State regulator and will be referred to the Commonwealth regulator later this year.

Please note, the amendment does not change the overall location or development envelope of the proposed Outer Harbour Port Development. It only removes the KBT replacement infrastructure from the project scope currently being assessed.

[View the proposal](#)

- **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!

Get down to Yacht Grot and get yourself a great price on great equipment.



Yacht Grot

57 Queen Victoria Street, Fremantle, WA 6160

T: +61 8 9430 6766

E: info@yachtgrot.com.au

<https://yachtgrot.com.au/>





Eye catching safety trailer design turning heads

Our newly reskinned Maritime Safety education trailer recently hit the road.

Featuring a striking, brand-new design, the trailer reinforces key messaging from DTMI's current boating safety campaign telling skippers to Check weather or not you should be on the water.

The trailer serves as a moving billboard to promote boating safety, travelling throughout the State annually to bring the latest information to skippers at the launch ramp or at community events.



The new artwork on the trailer aligns perfectly with our current mantra to boat owners to check the weather conditions before heading out and while on the water and be prepared to change your plans if the conditions are not suited to your vessel.

Our education team has received some great feedback on the new design and is looking forward to showing it off throughout WA during the coming year.

[Check out the campaign →](#)



Great Southern

Advice: Installation of Wave Energy Converter Prototype – King George Sound, Albany

Mariners are advised that the Wave X LSP Wave Energy Converter Prototype device is scheduled to be deployed from 5 October 2026 to 30 April 2027. The device is not to be accessed by unauthorised personnel.

The device will be towed to the installation site in the King George Sound, to the southeast side of Seal Island. It will be lit by a white flashing light (Fl 5s) 6 meters above water level.

Location: -35° 4.64'S, 117° 58.68'E

[Diagram of Installation Site](#)

Mariners are advised to maintain a proper lookout at all times, observe works related vessel traffic, and proceed with caution when navigating in this area.

Chart reference: WA1083 - Albany

Location: -35: 4.64'S 117: 58.68'E

Start date: 5/10/2026

End date: 30/4/2027

Issued: 9/9/2026

Advice: Installation of Temporary Mooring – Albany Waterfront Marina

Mariners are advised that works to install the Wave X LSP Wave Energy Converter Prototype will take place from 14 September 2026. The device is not to be accessed by unauthorised personnel.

The device will be assembled on a temporary mooring in the Albany Waterfront Marina, deployed into the water and commissioned. The mooring is scheduled to be installed on 14 September 2026 and may remain up until 27 November 2026 and will be marked with a yellow special mark.

Mariners are advised to maintain a proper lookout at all times, observe works related vessel traffic, and proceed with caution when navigating in this area.

[Mooring Installation Dimensions](#)

Chart reference: WA1083 - Albany

Location: -32: 1.93'S 117: 53.36'E

Start date: 14/9/2026

End date: 27/11/2026

Issued: 9/9/2026

Perth

Advice: Geotechnical Investigation Works – Cockburn Sound

Mariners are advised that geotechnical investigation works will commence from 10 to 30 September 2026 in the eastern waters of Cockburn Sound near the Oil Refinery Jetty. Operations will take place 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Operations will be undertaken from the jack up barge “Sealift 2” and multiple support vessels. All work vessels including the barges, will be visible on AIS.

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.

Operators will monitor Marine VHF Channels 12 and 16.

Mariners are advised to navigate with caution when transiting the area and to maintain a minimum 50m exclusion zone around the barge at all times.

[Geotechnical Works Locations](#)

Chart reference: WA001 - Ocean Reef to Cape Peron

Location: -32: 13.522'S 115: 45.035'E

Start date: 10/9/2026

End date: 30/9/2026

Issued: 9/9/2026

Advice: Semi-Submerged Dinghy on Courtesy Mooring - Mangles Bay, Rockingham

Mariners are advised that a 3.7 metre dinghy (55191) is currently semi-submerged on courtesy mooring A0470 in Mangles Bay, Rockingham.

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: 16.3996'S 115: 43.1523'E

Start date: 7/9/2026

Issued: 7/9/2026

Pilbara

Warning: Port Walcott No. 17 Starboard Beacon Unlit

Mariners are advised that Port Walcott No. 17 Starboard Beacon has been reported as unlit.

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

Chart reference: AUS55 - Approaches to Port Walcott

Location: -20: 29.7828'S 117: 15.8487'E

Start date: 14/9/2026

Issued: 14/9/2026

South West

Advice: Temporary Beacon Deployed – Port of Bunbury

Mariners are advised that a beacon has been deployed approximately 40m east of the east end of Berth 1 at the Port of Bunbury due to an accretion of sand.

The reduced depth extends approximately 15m east of Berth 1.

The beacon exhibits a flashing yellow light with a characteristic of Fl.Y. 3s.

Mariners are advised to maintain a proper lookout at all times, proceed with caution, and give the area a wide berth.

Chart reference: WA859 - Bunbury to Port Geographe

Location: -33: 18.3500'S 115: 38.771'E

Start date: 14/8/2026

End date: 30/11/2026

Issued: 19/8/2026

Swan and Canning Rivers

Advice: Fremantle Harbour J-Berth Refurbishment Works – Swan River

Mariners are advised that demolition and reconstruction works at the Tug Boat Jetty and associated mooring dolphins at J Berth, Victoria Quay, Fremantle Inner Harbour, are scheduled to commence in September 2026 and continue until approximately August 2027.

Works will be conducted between 7:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

The project will involve the use of a shore-based crane, a piling barge, and a small utility barge/pontoon. The piling barge (UVI 455194), measuring approximately 16.5 m x 10.5 m, will remain on site and secured by spud legs for the duration of the works.

A 50-metre exclusion zone will be established around the work area, marked with lit yellow navigation buoys. Mariners are requested to remain clear of this area at all times.

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

The International Code Flag "A" will be displayed whenever diving operations are being undertaken. Diving activities will occur on an as-required basis.

All project vessels will maintain a listening watch on VHF Channels 16 and 12 throughout the duration of the project.

Mariners are advised to reduce speed, limit wake and wash in the vicinity of the exclusion zone and maintain a proper lookout at all times when navigating in this area.

Chart reference: WA898 - Swan and Canning Rivers

Location: -32: 02.6136'S 115: 45.0681'E

Start date: 1/9/2026

End date: 31/8/2027

Issued: 28/8/2026



FREMANTLE SAILING CLUB

FSC SAFE MARINA 2026: FIRE PREVENTION STARTS WITH ALL OF US



This week we're launching FSC Safe Marina 2026, an eight-week campaign focused on fire prevention and emergency preparedness across the marina.

Each week, we'll focus on one practical area of marina fire safety, from shore power and batteries to fuel, LPG, firefighting equipment and emergency response.

Week 1 is all about fire prevention. Members are encouraged to take five minutes to look over their vessel, checking electrical leads, looking for fuel, oil or gas leaks, keeping access and emergency equipment clear, and removing unnecessary combustible materials.

This week's action: Complete the five-minute Safe Boat Self-Check and take care of any simple issues before they become bigger problems.

[Read the full Week 1 update](#) | [Complete your Safe Boat Self-Check here](#).



MILESTONES & MEMORIES

We're looking forward to this special evening in October, as we come together with Howard Park Wines for Memories & Milestones, celebrating our Club's rich history and 40 years of Howard Park winemaking.

Enjoy a five-course matched dinner inspired by historical FSC menus, with Howard Park wine pairings, historical displays and live music bringing the evening together.

[Take a look at the menu](#) and [click here to learn more and book your seat](#).



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Wilson Marine offers a huge range of boating and marine products along with reliable, friendly advice on all your boating requirements.

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*Please note that some items are excluded due to low margins, ask our staff for more information.

Contact us:

www.wilsonmarine.com.au

Phone: 9336 1111

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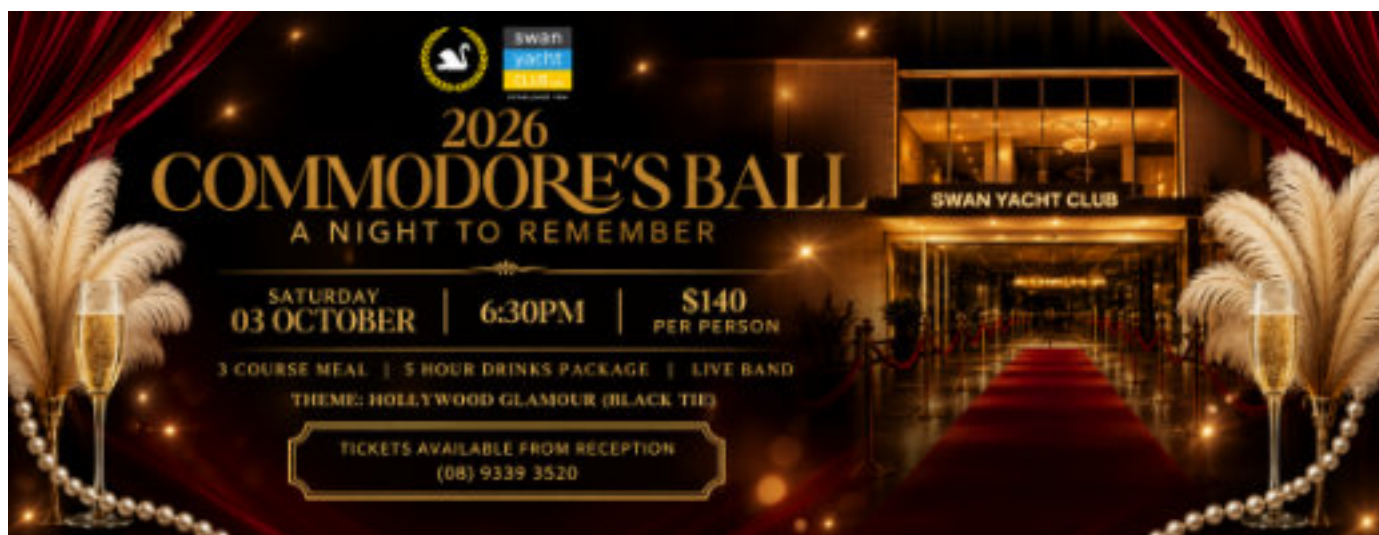
Dear Members,

As the weather starts to warm up and we head into a busier time at the Club, we'd like to remind everyone to take a little extra care when visiting, particularly around the river!

Please note that there is no lifeguard on duty at the Club and children must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times.

The Club is also getting busier, with multiple functions taking place this Sunday, 20 September, so we're expecting parking to be limited. If you're visiting the Club, please allow a little extra time to find a park and, where possible, consider carpooling or using public transport.

Thanks for helping us keep things safe and running smoothly as we head into the warmer months.





Bunbury Yacht Club

Find us on 

EMAIL: byc_365@outlook.com

MAIL: Post Office Box 1351 Bunbury 6231



Who We Are

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

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A short ferry ride is all that separates you from the world's largest quokka population. Now is a special time to visit, with quokka joeys beginning to leave the pouch. Venture beyond the main settlement to discover the best places to spot quokkas in their natural habitat.

[*Explore the Guide*](#)

Rottnest Island Authority own and operate a range of marine infrastructure on Rottnest Island which serve multiple purposes.

The major fixed marine infrastructure includes:

- Main Jetty
- Fuel Jetty
- Army Groyne
- South Thomson Seawall

[*The Rottnest Island Management Plan 2023-28*](#) identifies the need to redevelop the Army Groyne to alleviate increasing demand for commercial marine and barge services at the Main Jetty.

A WA State Government investment of \$31.9 million is enabling the relocation of the existing barge and freight operations from the Main Jetty to South Thomson Bay, with the redevelopment of the Army Groyne into a Marine Logistics Hub.

Stage 1 of the works include:

- Dredging.
- Breakwater/groyne upgrade and extension.
- Hardstand / laydown area and barge landing construction.
- Access roadworks.

Stage 2 of the project includes (unfunded):

- Land-backed wharf (alternative ferry berth).
- Small craft refuelling berth and fuel facility.
- Storage building construction.



Joint media statement - New Fremantle Traffic Bridge to open on 1 November

The Albanese and Cook Labor Governments have today confirmed that the new Fremantle Traffic Bridge will open ahead of schedule on 1 November 2026.

The Albanese and Cook Labor Governments have today confirmed that the new Fremantle Traffic Bridge will open ahead of schedule on 1 November 2026.

A community celebration will be held on Sunday, 1 November to mark the historic milestone, with attendees able to walk across the new bridge before it officially opens to traffic later that evening.

The old Fremantle Traffic Bridge was closed on 1 February 2026, with the closure originally expected to continue for up to 12 months and the new bridge earmarked to open in the first half of 2027.

Despite a challenging construction environment, an innovative method for fast-tracked construction has enabled an early opening.

Ahead of the opening, work is continuing to complete the road across the new bridge, with terracing and landscaping works progressing on the southern side of the bridge adjacent to Beach Street.

Opening the new gateway to Fremantle in November will improve connectivity to the port city ahead of summer and the Christmas trading period, supporting local businesses and visitation.

Finishing works will continue on the bridge and surrounding areas after the opening, with the bridge's lighting to be finalised during that time.

This innovative and unique program of architectural and feature lighting, funded by the WA Government, will celebrate stories of the crossing that date back thousands of years, recognising the historical, cultural and spiritual significance of the area.

Community members will get a sneak peek of the lighting with testing planned to start in mid-September.

Following the bridge opening, the temporary road network changes made prior to the bridge closure will be removed, including access to and from Fremantle via Canning Highway and other initiatives that helped keep the network flowing during the closure.

Further details about the community event will be provided in the coming weeks.

Anyone interested in attending is encouraged to sign up via the Main Roads website: [Swan River Crossings / Main Roads Western Australia](#).



- **Safety campaign launched to remind skippers of wind risks**

Skippers are being reminded ahead of the summer busy season to check the wind forecast and consider the risks before departing as part of this year's Weather or not safety campaign.

- Second year of Weather or notboating safety campaign launched
- Campaign focuses on the risks of boating in windy condition, with wind highlighted as factor in a third of serious boating incidents in WA
- Skippers told to check the weather and know the forecast wind conditions

Skippers are being reminded ahead of the summer busy season to check the wind forecast and consider the risks before departing as part of this year's Weather or not safety campaign.

Coinciding with the Perth Boat Show, the Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure has launched the second year of its Weather or not safety campaign 'Check weather or not you should be on the water' with a new focus on wind conditions.

Wind was a factor in more than a third of serious boating incidents in Western Australia during the past year (2025-2026) contributing to 27 of the 88 total number reported to marine authorities.

The campaign reinforces the importance of checking and understanding the weather forecast. Similar to the first year of the campaign, which focused on waves, seas, and swell, it promotes a simple guide showing the size of craft needed to be safe in different wind conditions.

It shows that a gentle breeze up to eight knots is generally safe for boating, a gentle to fresh breeze up to 18 knots is usually safe if you have a vessel larger than five metres long while above 20 knots wind conditions are too uncomfortable and unsafe to be on the water unless your vessel is more than 10 metres in length.

Common boating incidents caused by wind include capsize, collision, sinking, flooding, swamping, or grounding.

Weather or not campaign is a five-year safety campaign focused on weather-related messaging.

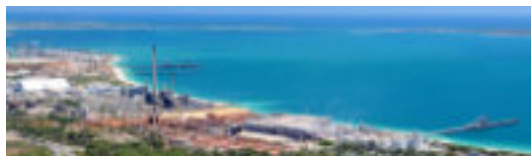
To find out more about the campaign, visit www.transport.wa.gov.au/weatherornot

Comments attributed to Minister Assisting the Transport and Major Infrastructure Minister John Carey:

"As we head into summer, we want to remind the skippers of the more than 100,000 registered recreational vessels to check the wind forecast before pulling up anchor.

"Knowing what conditions are safe for your vessel, and what the wind forecast is, will help keep you out of harm's way while you're out on the water.

"Our Weather or not campaign gives skippers practical advice on what to consider before launching their vessel and serves as a timely reminder of the potential life-threatening risks of boating in dangerous conditions."



• New members for Cockburn Sound Management Council announced

The Environment Minister Matthew Swinbourn has announced the appointment of new members to the Cockburn Sound Management Council.

- Appointments bring diverse range of knowledge and expertise to council
- Strong representation of Aboriginal, industry, conservation and recreation views
- Council advises on protecting environmental and community values of Cockburn Sound

The Environment Minister Matthew Swinbourn has announced the appointment of new members to the Cockburn Sound Management Council.

Established in 2000, the council oversees the water quality monitoring program and provides advice to the Minister on the environmental management for the ongoing health and protection of the Cockburn Sound marine ecosystem.

The council's new independent chair, Associate Professor Judith Fisher, is a principal socio-ecologist who brings a wealth of experience in the environmental, marine natural resource management and social sciences fields, as well as significant expertise as a chair.

Associate Professor Fisher is joined by 18 others selected for their knowledge, experience and skills to make up the council. The members are representatives of the community, conservation interests, recreational interests, industry and all levels of government.

For the first time, council membership will include the appointment of members from Noongar Regional Corporations established through the South West Native Title Settlement, the Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation and the Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation.

This reflects the value the State Government places on stakeholder input into the environmental health of Cockburn Sound, known as Derbal Nara to local Noongar people.

The appointments are for a one-year term, with a further two-year option.

For a full list of the council membership visit [*Cockburn Sound Management Council / Western Australian Government*](#).

Comments attributed to the Environment Minister Matthew Swinbourn:

"I'm pleased to welcome the new and reappointed council members to the Cockburn Sound Management Council.

"The members, from Aboriginal corporations, industry, government, conservation and the community, bring a wealth of knowledge, experience and diversity of perspectives. Each has a vital role to play in ensuring a healthy future for Cockburn Sound, under the expert guidance of new chair Associate Professor Judith Fisher.

"I am excited to appoint Regional Aboriginal Corporations to the council for the first time as they provide essential knowledge about the cultural and spiritual values of the Cockburn Sound.

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Did you know that as a BoatingWA membership you can purchase the latest Crewfit self-inflating, slim fitting style lifejacket at a discounted price of \$75*+ delivery if required while stocks last

Interested? Contact us at secretary@boatingwa.com.au

CREWFIT 165 SPORT

The Crewfit 165N Sport uses the latest 3D technology, ensuring maximum comfort levels. Entry level to the 3D range the Crewfit 165N Sport has the essential features to ensure the recreational user remains safe when out on the water.

Key Features:

- ✓ Robust outer cover
- ✓ Centre buckle adjuster
- ✓ Crotch strap (optional)
- ✓ Soft loop D-ring for attaching harness (Harness version)

Labels on the yellow lifejacket:

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Reminder to stick to demersal fishing rules

Media release The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is continuing to ensure fishers are complying with the fishing rules for demersal scalefish with ongoing patrols and inspections being carried out across the State.

First published: 11 September 2026

Last updated: 11 September 2026

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is continuing to ensure fishers are complying with the fishing rules for demersal scalefish with ongoing patrols and inspections being carried out across the State.

Since June DPIRD's Fisheries and Marine Officers have engaged around 5000 fishers and undertaken over 2800 catch inspections across the north, south and metropolitan areas.

This work resulted in 47 infringement notices and 38 warning notices being issued for recreational fishing offences.

It is timely to remind fishers the entire West Coast region from Kalbarri to Augusta is currently closed to boat-based demersal fishing as part of the stock recovery measures following two cases in court last week for possessing demersal fish during the closed period.

In the Joondalup Magistrates Court last week a 58-year-old man from Balga plead guilty to possessing demersal fish in the West Coast bioregion during the closure and fined a total of \$2584 and had his Recreational Fishing from a Boat licence suspended for 12 months.

In March this year DPIRD FMOs inspected a vessel at sea off Ocean Reef and located eight fish fillets with no skin attached concealed underneath the floor of the vessel.

The Master of Vessel initially stated they were 'kingy fillets' however during subsequent discussion with FMOs he admitted the fillets were from one WA dhufish and one baldchin groper. The fish fillets were seized.

In a separate matter a 25-year-old man from Duncraig also plead guilty to possessing a demersal scalefish in the West Coast bioregion during the closure and was fined \$1399 and had his Recreational Fishing from a Boat licence suspended for 12 months.

In May this year the man was observed by FMOs onboard a vessel fishing in waters west of Pinnaroo Point and later admitted to being in possession of a WA dhufish he had caught when inspected by officers at the Hillarys Boat Harbour boat ramp. The dhufish was seized.

Director of Regional Compliance – Metropolitan Todd A'Vard said FMOs continued to be out at boat ramps and on the water conducting day and night-time patrols to make sure fishers were sticking to the rules, particularly in the West Coast region, to help support the recovery of demersal fish stocks.

“It is pleasing to see the majority of boat fishers continuing to respect the demersal closure to allow stocks to recover,” he said.

“Those who are found doing the wrong thing may face substantial fines and additional penalties, which can include the suspension of Recreational Fishing from a Boat licence.

“The rules for recreational fishing are available in the [Recreational Fishing Guide 2026](#) and information can also be found online by [searching the rules by species and location](#).”

Court deals with abalone offences

Media release Two men were successfully prosecuted in Joondalup Court last Friday for illegally taking Roe’s abalone out of season in November last year.

A 23-year-old man from Wannamal was issued a fine, additional mandatory penalty and costs totalling \$2,004.90 for his part in the illegal take of 41 Roe’s abalone from coastal waters north of the Mindarie Marina.

The court heard he was observed fishing for abalone by Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) fisheries officers on 2 November and was found with a bag containing the abalone. Another man entered a plea of not guilty, and his case was adjourned to 20 October.

In a separate matter, a 22-year-old man from Wilson was ordered to pay \$1,366.10 (including court costs) for collecting 20 Roe’s abalone on 30 November last year from waters north of Mindarie Marina, near Clarecastle Retreat.

Fishing for Roe’s abalone is open for licensed recreational fishers in the Western Zone between the Greenough River Mouth in the north to Busselton Jetty in the south on four designated fishing hours between December and February.

It’s an offence to fish for abalone in the Western Zone outside of the designated fishing hours.

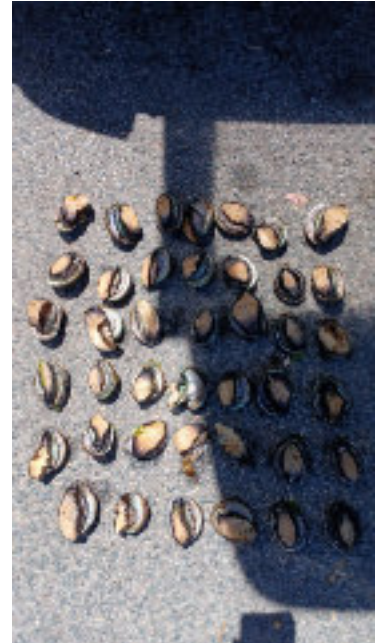
DPIRD Director of Regional Compliance for the metropolitan area Todd A’Vard said the Western Zone abalone fishery was tightly managed to ensure it remained sustainable and available to local recreational fishers into the future.

“Fishing out of season, taking undersize abalone, fishing in closed waters or exceeding the bag limit can attract significant penalties,” Mr A’Vard said.

“It is also illegal for recreational fishers to sell their catch. Fines as high as \$40,000 plus up to ten times the prescribed value of the catch may apply.

“People must not be in the water if they are wearing or carrying abalone fishing gear, except during the abalone fishing season.

Anyone who suspects illegal fishing activity should call [FishWatch](#) on 1800 815 507 or report the matter via the online form on Crimestoppers.



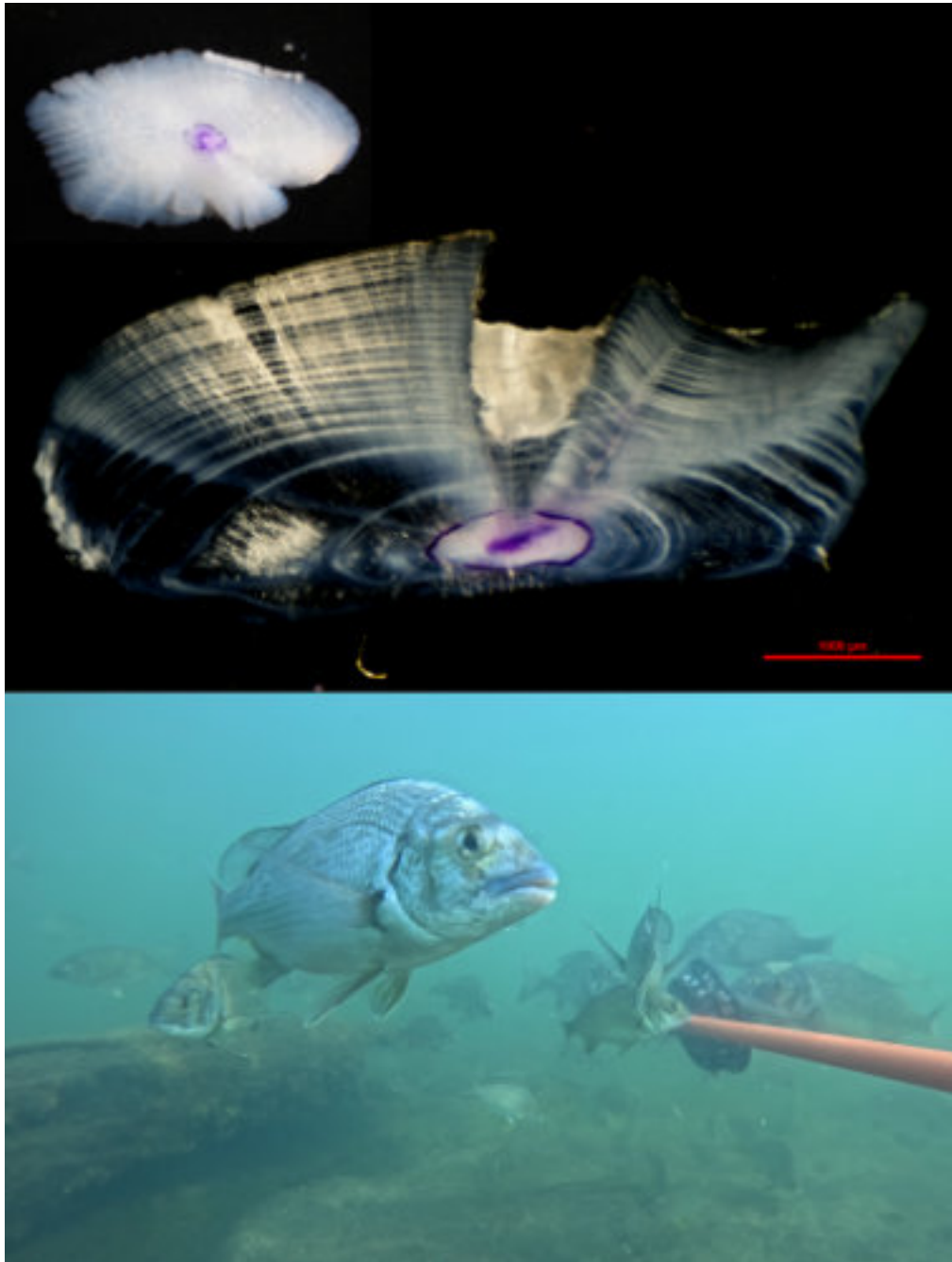
Abalone illegally fished from waters north of Mindarie Marina

Otoliths reveal long-term survival of stocked black bream

Media release A black bream caught during recent estuary monitoring in the Blackwood River by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) has provided an insight into the long-term outcomes of a fish stocking project undertaken more than 20 years ago.

First published: 3 September 2026

Last updated: 3 September 2026



School of bream recorded during baited underwater video (BRUV) surveys in the Blackwood River.

A black bream caught during recent estuary monitoring in the Blackwood River by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) has provided an insight into the long-term outcomes of a fish stocking project undertaken more than 20 years ago.

Researchers from DPIRD's Nearshore, Estuarine and Freshwater team captured the 34 centimetre black bream while undertaking fish stock and ecosystem health surveys in estuaries across the South-West.

When examining the fish, researchers discovered it had unusual, purple-coloured otoliths (ear bones).

By counting the annual growth rings on the otoliths, the fish was aged at 22 years.

DPIRD Research Scientist Dan Yeoh said the purple colouring indicated the fish had been part of a stocking project conducted in the Blackwood River, near Augusta, more than two decades ago.

The stocking was undertaken by a collaborative team from Challenger TAFE and Murdoch University to help replenish depleted black bream stocks in the estuary.

"Juvenile black bream involved in the project had their otoliths stained with a purple dye before being released into the estuary, a method known as otolith tagging," Dr Yeoh said.

"Being able to identify stocked fish from wild fish (which have plain white otoliths), allows researchers examine growth and survival rates of stocked fish and their contribution to the overall population."

The finding demonstrates the value of long-term monitoring and highlights how stocking programs could influence wild population dynamics.

"Restocking may help supplement fish stocks, but its success depends on a range of factors, including environmental conditions and habitat and food availability," Dr Yeoh said.

"If environmental factors are limiting a population, simply releasing more fish is unlikely to achieve the desired outcome."

Estuaries are important transitional environments between freshwater and marine ecosystems and support a range of valuable fish species, including black bream, however, they are also vulnerable to the impacts of human activity and climate change.

DPIRD continues to monitor estuarine ecosystems across Western Australia to improve understanding of how fish populations and habitats are responding to environmental change and to assess potential management options, including restocking.

This knowledge will allow researchers to ensure that important estuarine fish stocks like black bream will be sustainable for future generations.



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>

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