

STATE CAPTAIN'S REPORT

The 34th National Angling Championships and Convention are over and Queensland had 28 dedicated soles who made the trip to the would-be Promised Land - the land of big snapper and plenty of fish for all. However, somebody forgot to tell the fish! But of this I must admit, the sand crabs were in plague proportion. We caught just on 20 in an hour before the first estuary competition started, and if you cared to throw a squid jig around, there was no end of those critters at Wallaroo. But that's not what we were there for. It was a fishing comp!

Six of our members dragged boats the almost 2000 km (some further) and some of our members were able to get seats on a charter boat, but we were still fairly light handed in the fishing area. I can honestly say we were not disgraced in any of these areas, as our top catches were on a par with the rest. We just plainly didn't have enough of them. It was just lack of numbers and consistency that proved to be a problem for Queensland ending up in the winner's circle.

The weather also seemed to be against us – when does it stop blowing down there? Last time we attended a carnival in Wallaroo, the weather was just perfect, but this time it seemed for every competition, it blew up to and over 20 knots. Try fishing for gar and tommies in that – it just don't work! Well as you could guess, our offshore was postponed, and thus we had no rest for days - it seemed like forever. I don't know about anybody else, but I was just standing at the end and was pleased to see it all over.

Casting is fast becoming our forte and this is where we had our best results. After our win in the men's event at Caloundra, I had high hopes at Wallaroo, but we turned up one caster short in the men's and I was seconded into the team. That was more of a disadvantage than an advantage. They went down by just 3 points at the end of the day, and I feel for the guys after the big effort they all put in. Maybe just a tad more practice with accuracy will do the trick, as I think that was what let us down. Andrew Curtis is still knocking on the door with his second place and it's only a matter of time before he becomes the National Champion.

The ladies team went into this event as red hot unbackable favourites; with two former Australian Champions and one runner up to the champion, how could they be beaten. First round a throw out of court and a break off! All the dreams we had were shattered. Long faces on our girls sitting in chairs and now with no hope of winning; just keep throwing them down the middle. Results were very slow coming to hand and when they, they were not necessarily correct.

4 days later, NSW ladies were listed as the winners! 5 days later, Qld was declared the winner by one point. NSW asked, "How can this happen? Check the scores again!" But the result came back - Queensland girls received the trophy on presentation night.

More drama in the individual section! After 3 days, we finally got the winner of the ladies - it was Brenda Lee Shelly from Queensland. Wow, we didn't see that coming – how great is that! Well it didn't take long and it changed again. Leanne North (NSW) was listed as the winner – I'm thinking, "I'll jump off the Wallaroo jetty."

Well thanks to Pam who went to work on the scores and got the correct result, Brenda-Lee Shelly won by just.01 of a point. Thank goodness the junior result was not so complicated. Johnathan Crone made up the Queensland Junior team and was the winner over 3 South Australian boys. Unfortunately he was not so lucky in the individual and was runner up.

These were the trophies received on presentation night by Queensland members -

Runner up Men's Champion Caster	Andrew Curtis
Ladies Champion Casting Team TAREE ANGLERS TROPHY	Brenda Lee Shelly, Lurline Curtis Rachel Bunker, Jane Clark
Champion Lady Caster YAMBA FISHING CLUB TROPHY	Brenda Lee Shelly
Junior Champion Casting Team LEAD CRAFT SINKERS TROPHY	Johnathan Crone
Runner up Junior Champion Caster	Johnathan Crone

The following is a list of the best performances by Queensland members and winners of the relevant trophies. Each winner gets to hold the perpetual trophy until the next carnival and received a \$100.00 open order on BCF.

By the way, remember the scoring for AAA and for Queensland winners has now changed and all events (including casting) are taken into account. The trophies are no longer for angling only. Also, scores are based on the top catch/casting at 100% for each event and the rest percentage from there.

Male	Bruce Crepin	334.0	12 th overall
J.W SANDERS MEMORIAL TROPHY			
Lady	Brenda Lee Shelly	105.6	65 th overall
ROY SWAIN TROPHY			
Veteran male	John Crone	243.3	19 th overall
Q.A.F.C.A. TROPHY			
Veteran Lady	Pam Crone	81.4	87 th overall
Q.A.F.C.A. TROPHY			
Junior	Johnathan Crone	109.4	64 th overall
KIWI TROPHY			

I would personally like to thank all Queenslanders who participated in these championships. You did your state proud, for you were always pleasant to be around and only enhanced the great name of the Sunshine State. I ask you all to consider looking at attending the 35th National Championships to be held at Harrington in June/July 2018. Maybe we can give NSW some of that good old Queensland State of Origin stuff.

John A Crone

State Captain

Note!! For a complete set of results for these AAA Championships, go to –

<http://anglersa.org.au/> -> Wallaroo 2015 -> Competition Results