

REPORT FROM AAA HARRINGTON 2018

Thirty six competitors from QAFCA took part in the 35th National Angling Championships at Harrington and they fared better than expected. There were over 200 nominations, mainly from New South Wales, so it is very hard to beat the locals in their own back yard.

Our crowning glory was the win by Jane Clark in the Ladies Rock and Beach Championship - an excellent effort! She also led the team to a win in the ladies section of the competition. The veteran men had a win in the Rock & Beach team competition also, so we were able to celebrate all three wins.

I had high hopes for our men's and ladies' casting teams, but I think the occasion and nerves got the better of them and it was not to be. Perhaps it was the inclement weather! Had they performed at their best, they would have still struggled to topple New South Wales.

Most had a great time in Harrington, but the weather was unkind most of the time. When we first arrived, it was showering and blowing at about 30 knots. There were white caps in the Manning River and it was virtually impossible to have a look around before the competition started. So we 'out of towners' were at an extreme disadvantage when we went into the competition.

The first event was the estuary and I had decided to fish the shallow water; my deckhand showed the way. Two casts - two bream; this is good! Next cast was a bloody great pelican that we struggled to get in the boat; you should have seen two blokes trying to remove a hook from the bottom jaw of this great bird with the top bill flapping up and down trying to nail you. We succeeded and were only too pleased to see it fly away.

We ran a creditable second in the Warrnambool Trophy for the Champion State, although we fielded teams in Men, Ladies and Veteran Men only. We were against stiff opposition - NSW 1, NSW 2, and SA who each had teams in all 5 categories: Men, Ladies, Veteran men, Veteran ladies and Juniors. The NSW Captain was skiting about 4 in a row, so I am looking for a State of Origin performance over them when they come to the Discovery Coast. We certainly were not disgraced and I firmly believe the boot will be on the other foot when we go to the Discovery Coast in 2020.

These were the AAA trophies received by Queenslanders on Presentation Night –

Champion Lady	Rock & Beach	Jane Clark
Champion Ladies Team	Rock & Beach	Jane Clark, Caresse Cranwell, Sherrie Rallings, Melissa Newton
Champion Vet Men's Team	Rock & Beach	Rob Crepin, Robert Watson, Lyle Guy Phil Walsh, John Holeszko

The following is a list of the best performances by Queensland members and winners of the relevant trophies -

Male	Andrew Curtis	348.83	5 th overall
J.W SANDERS MEMORIAL TROPHY			
Lady	Jane Clark	203.51	30 th overall
ROY SWAIN TROPHY			
Veteran male	Rob Crepin	256.67	16 th overall
Q.A.F.C.A. TROPHY			
Junior	Blade Payne	75.31	109 th overall
KIWI TROPHY			

I would like to thank all the Queensland members who participated in the event, especially our state captain, Andrew Curtis. This job takes a great deal to learn as there are many rules of the competitions one needs to become conversant with. However, this was difficult at Harrington as the carnival book was not produced until after the competition started.

Thank you all! *John A Crone OAM*

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

<http://nswfca.com.au/aaa2018.html> "Competition Results"