



# SUNFISH FRASER COAST

www.sunfish.com.au

P.O. Box 5164  
Torquay Qld. 4655  
(07) 41280700  
32 587 780 659

Ph.:

A.B.N.:

E-mail:

secretary@sunfish.com.au

**Chairman:**

**Mr Ray Ozich**

**Secretary:**

**Mr. Martin Bellert**

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT SUNFISH FRASER COAST 2008/09

This past year has been one of mixed success for the Branch. The least successful activities have been in dealing with the Qld. Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries on many issues. They appear to fail to recognise the true Economic value of the Recreational Fishing Industry, and fail to act accordingly. I will deal with this in some detail later.

The most significant local achievement is the completion of the Gatakers Landing Ramp. This was a major win for recreation Fishers in the Bay. Another milestone was the complete revamp of the Branch web page *sunfish.com.au*. This project had a shaky start but we are there now. The Branch's relationship with Sunfish Queensland and other groups throughout Queensland concerned with the Recreational Fishing Industry continues to grow and many strong alliances are now being built.

### Management Committee.

Firstly I want to thank the management committee. They are a solid group all prepared to share the load. It has not been easy for me to attend every meeting but I know that the Branch's affairs and operations will proceed with good outcomes. We are in a sound financial position and this is the reason why we have not increased fees for many years.

### Gatakers Landing Ramp

A long slow process but we now have a free public high quality ramp at the northern end of the Bay. I'm not going into any details re the steps taken to get there--they were many..The Fraser Coast regional Council have spent approx \$750,000 in the provision of a green car park and all the on ground services like turning bays standing areas and of course 48 places for parking. I don't have the exact figures but I estimate that Queensland Transport spent approx \$350,000 giving us a new ramp and access through council land. This branch with funding from the Recreational Fishing Community Grants Scheme has contributed \$100,000 towards lighting [turtle friendly] landscaping, plumbing, Fish cleaning tables [2]and shelter, queuing beach and drainage from the area.

### Other Boat Ramps

Burrum Heads is like a never ending story. The community says its needed. QT say its needed, Recreational Fishers say the same thing but it is now stuck in a bureaucratic ooze involving the GSMP and the Dept. of Natural Resources. Toogoom still only has 7 spaces and we have a completely renovated ramp. Council is the issue here.

### Sunfish Web Page

We received a grant of approx \$10,000 from the Rec. Fishing Community Grants Find to completely rewrite the branch web page. The new page *sunfish.com.au* is appealing and informative and will grow in popularity.

### Inshore Fin Fish Plan

Recreational Fishers were screwed on this plan .New bag and size limits were introduced for most of the popular species .The Sunfish position was that we would accept these limits provided that the Government introduced a TAC [Total Allowable Catch] for all the popular regulated species. The Government said it was too hard to implement. Many claims were made about reduction of effort but it was all to little avail except for the shark fishery. It was a good example of re arranging the deck chairs.-- Still netting in GSMP ,and a lot of other issues. The plan came in for some strong criticism from the Federal Environment Dept. , but QDPI&F decided to ignore the findings of the Garrett report .

Stage 2 of the Plan is about to start and [the hard part ] --resource allocation and we are not happy with the way the Qld Fisheries has started on this part .We have already made representations along with Sunfish Qld to the Minister, Premier and the FRDC.

### Management Advisory Committees [MAC]

Since the March election all MAC's e.g. net , crab ,trawl, line etc. have been abolished – I was a observer on the Net MAC---- A new single MAC for all fisheries is proposed and we are awaiting details of how it will operate.

### Angler Education

We ran 4 days for the Lifestyle Kids Fishing Days.

By far the most enjoyable days were the two we conducted for Seniors and Retired Persons. They were enormously successful and we thank the Fraser Coast Regional Council for their support .We took one group of disabled persons and their carers on a days outing to a fish farm .

### RSL Club Donation

During the year we had to replace the computer used by the Treasurer for financial management and the management of the Angler Education project. We are pleased to say that the Hervey Bay RSL Club made a donation of approx \$1000 to assist us to replace the old Unit.

### Marine Safety

At one stage MSQ were going to remove all lateral marks from Beelbi Creek. With assistance from this Branch the community managed to reverse this decision and we now have all marks replaced and located to the appropriate position. Also we requested lateral marks for the Gatakers Landing Ramp and they have been installed.

### Cooperation with EPA GSMP Issues

Initially when the GSMP was made there was only the official map. We instigated discussions with the EPA with the result we now have smaller maps with zones overlaid on a type of air photo. They are easier to use because visual points can be identified as well as GPS readings.

We are following the mid term review with interest and you can be assured that the Branch will make sure we get a better deal including the removal of the red hatching over the Conservation Park Zones in the plan.

### Other Issues

- Detailed response to the Review of FHA in Qld.
- Support for Sunfish Qld in their opposition to the introduction of fees to drive on Teewah and other Beaches in the Cooloola area.
- Watching brief and support for the Greater Mary Assn in maintaining the rage against the proposed Traveston Dam.
- Surveyed all candidates in 4 electorates prior to the March election regarding Recreational Fishing issues.
- I am a member of the Technical Working Group in QDPI&F looking at a management Plan for the Snapper Fishery as it is showing some indicators that it may not be sustainable in the long term.
- The Branch is developing a number of strong links with other groups throughout Qld in an effort to bring a unified position when Recreational Fishers are dealing with Government Agencies.
- The communication with members will I hope get better as we update our email address list. Information can be relayed to members in a timely and cheaper manner.

I look forward to a better future for recreational fishers on the Fraser Coast. We have an reinvigorated Sunfish Qld willing to take the issues up to the Govt. We need to look at the issue of a Salt Water Fishing Recreational Licence not only buy out commercial effort but for a whole range of other projects. Any licence scheme must be based around the monies going into a trust account like it does in NSW and Vic and completely controlled by a board of recreational fishers.

Ray Ozich  
Chairman  
16 September 2009

# **SUNFISH WEB PAGE**

## **LOOKING FOR INFORMATION GO TO**

**sunfish.com.au**

- **Where to fish**
  - **Marine safety**
  - **Legal fish sizes**
    - **Knots and how to tie them**
    - **Information on Boat Ramps**
    - **Latest Sunfish news**
    - **Weather Forecasts**
    - **Fishing reports**
    - **Boating Weather Conditions**

The management Committee usually meets on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month in the Board Room of the Hervey Bay Boat Club at 7pm.

1280700 as sometimes it is necessary to change dates and venues.