



South West Rocks Anglers Association President's Report October 2024

It has been 12 months since the launch of the Angler's Association, which is long enough to make an appraisal. Of the original objectives, only some have been achieved. I assumed that there would be an enthusiastic membership uptake from young people keen to learn how to fish. I assumed that financial sponsorship for the provision of monthly competition prizes from local businesses would be easier to obtain than it has been. I also assumed that there would have been numerous residents who would support an improvement in management strategies of the fish stocks in the Macleay River and surrounding beaches.

This has not happened, probably because the community generally is not particularly interested.

The small core of original members remains committed to continuing the fight for responsible management of fish stocks by the Department of Primary Industry. So far, our concerns have been trivialized and basically ignored. To get even a recognition that there is an ongoing decline in stocks has been fruitless. We will continue to lobby the DPI, because no one else in our area is.

The social networking and dissemination of information, the skills clinics and monthly weigh ins will continue. Unfortunately, the provision of prizes will not, due to the previously mentioned difficulty in obtaining financial sponsorship in the present economic climate.

At this point I would like to thank our wonderful competition sponsors, especially the South West Rocks Country Club for their financial assistance in setting up our club, a continuing home base to work from and a platform for disseminating information to the residents of the Macleay region.

Regards

Damien Ashley

President SWRAA Inc