



GERALDTON
FISHERMEN'S
CO-OPERATIVE

Rock Lobster Exporters

the BROLOS Catcher

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Issue No. 133

Welshpool Update

We've had lobsters in our Welshpool tanks for several weeks now, and have conducted many pack-outs, exporting up to 11 tonne at a time. Productivity has already reached levels we would expect from Fremantle, and our managers and staff have done a wonderful job adapting to the new facility.

There are 3 independent lobster storage systems in the facility, but GFC has only had access to two of them, while our construction partner DRA are still completing work on the 3rd system. We took this approach so that we could take advantage of the additional storage space during the busy Chinese New Year period. Working around the ongoing construction activities presented its challenges, and we have encountered some problems as a result. We were able to shift operations from Sultan Way to Welshpool a couple of weeks ago, but due to some of the equipment not performing to design specifications, we had water and lobster quality issues which unfortunately flowed through to the market.

Only this week did we learn that the seawater refrigeration units were not operating correctly. With more hot weather on the way, it isn't possible to hold the temperatures down and so we have made the decision to suspend lobster storage at Welshpool for the time being. We've decided it's best to get everything perfect before we recommence use.

Obviously we are disappointed to take this step, but looking on the bright side, this will allow the engineers full and unimpeded access to the facility so that they can finish off the third system, sort out the refrigeration gear, and complete a range of other smaller items on their list. These would have involved temporary shut-downs and work-arounds if we still held lobsters in the system, but that won't be an issue now. Once DRA have completed everything down to the final detail, and formally handed over control of the site to GFC, our own staff will be happy not to have to work around the construction team.



Above and below: The semi-mechanised packout system currently under construction at Welshpool.



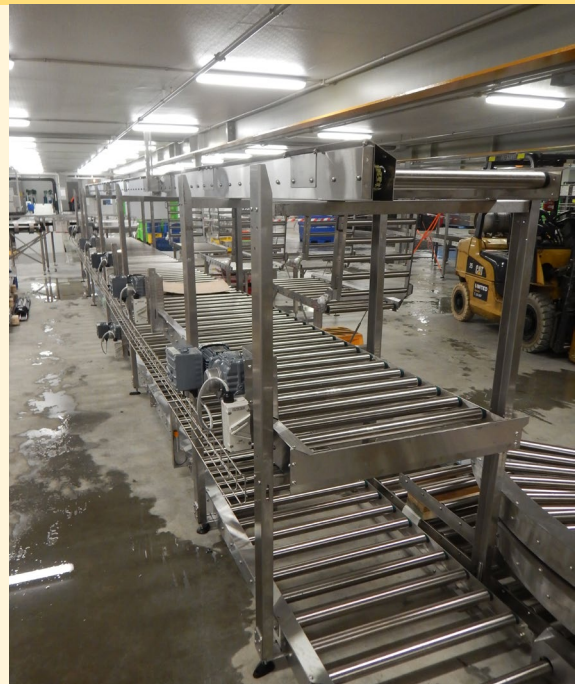
Welshpool Update (cont.)

Our competitors have been keen to spread and amplify any negative Welshpool news far and wide. This is unbecoming of professional industry members and potentially detrimental to fishermen's interests. GFC remains focused on completing this major project that will bring long term benefits to our members.

We are very happy with the overall design and capability of the facility, but we need to get the equipment performing at full capacity before we restock. Interestingly, last night we insisted on a client video recording the un-pack of our final shipment from Welshpool, and we achieved nearly 100% survival... So despite the disruption, we are very happy with the facility, and it performs brilliantly when all the equipment is working to spec.

For now, we have returned pack-outs to Sultan Way, and we will continue exporting from there as we have done for the last few years, until the replacement equipment is installed in Welshpool, all the construction and commissioning work is completed, and the facility is handed over to GFC.

The accompanying photos are an example of the kind of construction work that is going on in parallel with exporting. These show our new semi-mechanised packout system that will move baskets of lobsters through the stun tank, allocate them to a grader, and then onto the packers and strappers etc. This was being constructed off to one side while we operated the Welshpool facility, but it can now be built in-situ, ready for when we restart full operation.



Above: Packout equipment, being built in-situ, ready for GFC to begin full operation.

GFC AFL Footy Tipping 2017

It's that time of year again footy fans!

Geraldton Fishermen's Co-operative invites you to join in our 2017 AFL Footy Tipping Competition. The joining fee is \$50 payable by Round 5.

Last year Geraldton's Kellie Stanton won the competitions, taking home a grand prize of \$3,000. In 2016 we are increasing the minimum prize pool once again to \$5,500 spread across 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

Your \$50 entry fee can be paid by cash, cheque, Electronic Funds Transfer, or can be deducted from your fishing account. Once you have joined the competition we will contact you with payment instructions. If you have any other queries please contact Matt Harrison on matthewh@brolos.com.au or 0439 104 766.

This year we're once again running our tipping competition through ESPN Footy Tips. For those who competed last year, you can simply use the same login information as last year. For those of you who may be new to the competition, creating an account is quick and easy. To join the competition [click here](#) or search for the competition GFC2017 on [ESPN Footy Tips](#). The competition password is *crayfish*.

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For all enquiries and contributions for the Brolos Catcher, contact: Matt Harrison, Stakeholder Communications & Engagement Manager

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Two Rocks Barbecue

GFC kicked off its annual program of Fishermen's Barbecues last week in Two Rocks with 22 members coming along to chew the fat—as well as a fair few sausages and steaks—with GFC staff, directors and other members alike. CEO Wayne Hosking was on hand to give an update about the market and take questions from the group. Though our BBQ's are relatively informal they are an important opportunity to connect with our members, we encourage everyone to get along and join us at the next barbecue near you. Special mention must go to Judy Dann, Two Rocks Depot Manager, who provided some beautiful home cooked sweets which kept the punters happy. Our next BBQ is in Mandurah on the 8th March at 1:00pm, we look forward to seeing you there.

Clockwise from top right: Don Kitson & Neil Cope; Graeme Mol, Judy Dann & Nick Lo Presti; Wayne Hosking & Ken McClements; Robert Bateman & Neville Tester; Leith Teakle, Tony & Marc Jurinovich.





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Marine Store

More member specials in-store!

ANCHORS AWAY!!!

Your Marine Store has a range of anchors in store and ready to go!!

We have access to all the different styles from our suppliers.



Rated galv chain, shackles and swivels are ready to pick up in store or can be delivered straight to you.

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