



**GERALDTON
FISHERMEN'S
CO-OPERATIVE**

Rock Lobster Exporters

the BROLOS Catcher

October 10, 2017

Issue No. 147

2017 Annual General Meeting

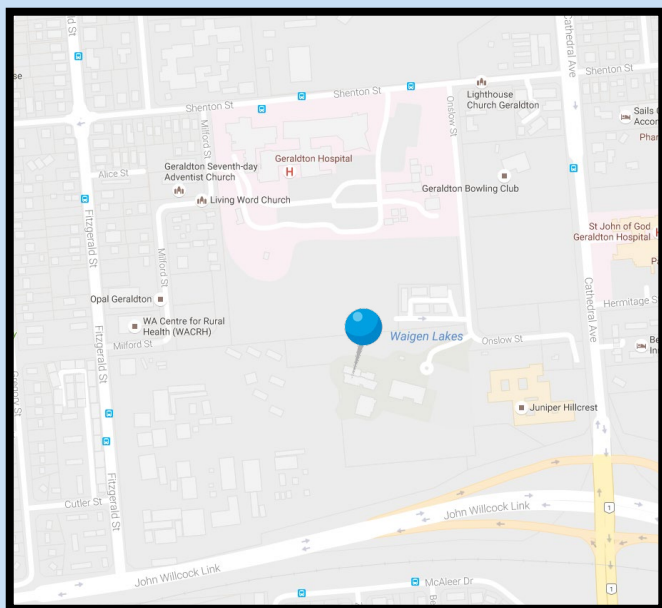
Geraldton Fishermen's Co-operative's 68th Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd November from 2:30pm. This year's AGM will be held, once again, at the Geraldton Universities Centre.

In previous years we have provided a live video link to our North Fremantle office. This year we will be shifting that link to our new facility in Welshpool. We love having our southern members participate in the AGM so please come down and join us from the Welshpool Boardroom. Or even better, head to Geraldton to attend in person.

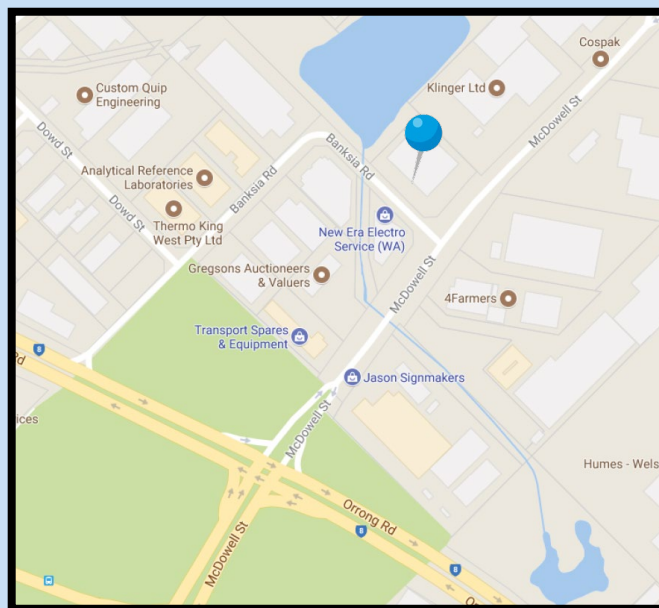
The AGM is your opportunity to learn about your company first hand from the board and senior management, to ask questions, and to meet your fellow members. We encourage all members to come along next month and participate.



Above: GFC's Robert 'Duck' Pascoe, Ron Franceschi & Jane Liddon catch up at the 2016 AGM.



Geraldton Universities Centre
33 Onslow St, Geraldton



GFC Welshpool Live Lobster Facility
62-66 Banksia Rd, Welshpool

2017 Trans Tasman Rock Lobster Congress

GFC Chairman John Ritchie and Director Kris Carlberg recently attended the 2017 Trans Tasman Rock Lobster Congress which was held in Hobart from the 23-25th September. It was great to see at least 20 GFC members in attendance and encouraging to see many younger members attending.

This was the 10th Trans Tasman Congress, which is held biennially. GFC was the major sponsor of the congress, which was supported by surplus funds left over from the last congress held in Fremantle in April 2015.

The congress aims to bring together all the lobster fisheries in Australia and New Zealand to discuss issues and opportunities confronting our industry. Each fishery had a representative deliver a presentation on the status of their fishery and the issues they are confronted with. Matt Taylor, the CEO of the WRLC, presented for the Western Australian fishery.

Issues from around the traps included quota reductions, toxic algal blooms, sustainability, resource sharing with recreational sector, effects of seismic surveys on lobster health, marine parks, integrated electronic reporting and monitoring systems and recreational catch data recording.

John Ritchie presented on behalf of GFC and outlined our Chinese market strategy which was very well received by all delegates.



Above: Svein Ruud of Norway King Crab.

In addition to the representatives of Australian and New Zealand lobster fisheries, each Rock Lobster Congress invites international guest speakers to give presentations about their respective fisheries. This year there were two international guest speakers invited. The first was Svein Ruud from Norway King Crab, which exports live King Crab to high-end markets and restaurants around the world.

The second international guest speaker was Edward Poulsen who owns boats in the King Crab fishery in Alaska, made famous by the television series Deadliest Catch. Poulsen, whose father was one of the pioneers of their industry, recounted a history of the Alaskan King Crab fishery which is regarded as the most dangerous in the world.



Above: Edward Poulsen of Bering Sea Crab Fishery.

One of the very encouraging take-aways from this year's congress is the fact that the Western Rock Lobster fishery is facing no major sustainability and environmental issues, challenges which our peers across Australia and New Zealand do face. The management of our fishery is widely admired by the other lobster fisheries in Australia and New Zealand, something for all of us in the industry to be proud of.

The next Trans Tasman Congress is scheduled to be held in Queenstown, New Zealand in August 2019.

Right: Chairman John Ritchie enjoys the congress with Co-op members John & Marise Abbott, Nev Tester and Karen Palmer.



Hidden GFC Talent Uncovered in Two Rocks

There was surprise and admiration all round at a recent Co-op function when Two Rocks Depot Manager Judy Dann presented GFC with a very personal and impressive gift.

Jude presented one of her own paintings to Chairman John Ritchie and CEO Wayne Hosking at a recent members' BBQ at our Two Rocks depot. There was some initial confusion amongst attendees, most of whom thought it was a photo until they had a closer look! It's a perfect rendering of picturesque Basile Island, in the southern group of the Abrolhos. We knew Jude was a woman of many talents, and we can now add 'artist' to a long list which includes competitive surfer, master chef, diver, deckie and of course fantastic depot manager. Jude does a great job running the Two Rocks depot, spoiling her fishermen with service that is second to none, looking after their product and always going above and beyond the call of duty. She even prepares her own amazing salads and desserts for BBQs, as she did again on this occasion.



Above: Two Rocks Depot Manager Judy Dann presents her painting to CEO Wayne Hosking and Chairman John Ritchie.

It's not every day the Co-op receives such a personal and wonderful gift from one of its own, and the painting now takes pride of place in our new Welshpool boardroom. On behalf of the GFC family, thanks Jude!

Below: A close-up look at Judy's amazing work.



Upcoming GFC Fishermen Barbecues

Now that the September school holidays have come and gone it is time to round out the year's annual program of fisherman barbecues. Over the coming fortnight we will head north to Kalbarri and Dongara, then south for our first ever barbecue at GFC's Welshpool live lobster export facility.

Next week's Welshpool barbecue is a fantastic opportunity for any of our members who missed the grand opening ceremony in June to come along, get an up-close look at your newest facility, catch up on all the Co-op news, and share a sausage or two with your fellow Co-op members. As always, directors and executive staff will be in attendance at each of these barbecues, we hope to see you there!

Dates and locations are as follows:

Location	Address	Date	Time
Kalbarri	Kalbarri Depot 592 Magee Cres, Kalbarri	Wednesday 11 October 2017	1:00pm
Dongara	Dongara Depot 3 McIntyre Cove, Port Denison	Thursday 12 October 2017	4:00pm
Welshpool	Welshpool Live Lobster Facility 62-66 Banksia Rd, Welshpool	Wednesday 18 October 2017	1:00pm

Market Update

After a positive month for prices in September, the market continues to remain relatively well supported as we head into the middle of October. Despite some slight weakening in recent weeks, slowly reducing catch rates from WA have combined with gradually softening Chinese demand and a lower Australian dollar to keep average beach prices buoyed.

As we enjoy the warmer spring weather here in Australia, our Chinese counterparts are enjoying a cooler Autumn after another hot summer. The cooler months in China tend to result in higher consumption of seafood so we expect to see demand gradually increase as we head closer to December and the Chinese New Year. We all know that our crays become increasingly dormant between now and the "whites" in late November/December. During this time, export volumes from WA tend to fall away which, combined with good demand, traditionally helps keep prices well supported. Of course, history can only serve as a guide, so how this season plays out on a grade-by-grade basis is difficult to predict and will be depended on such factors as supply from other origins, supply from the different zones in WA and other season-specific factors.

The Aussie dollar has finally come to the party and lost some value, dropping over 3 cents against the USD from a high of USD0.8100 in late September to below USD0.7750. Similarly, the AUD lost value against the Chinese Yuan over the same period, from CNY5.30 to under CNY5.15. Positive news for us as exporters!



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Marine Store

More member specials in-store!

Your Co-op Marine Store stocks a huge selection of fenders!

We have teardrop, long, small and large varieties in store now! Just email us your order and we'll deliver to your closest depot!



**GFC
Members
receive a
10% rebate!**

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