

A.F.A.

A History of the Amateur
Fisherman's Association of
N.S.W



1895 _____ 2017

**ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-TWO YEARS
OF FISHING**

The A.F.A. holds its meetings on

Wednesday nights at 7 p.m.

At Canada Bay Community Centre

1A Gipps Street Concord



Agenda includes:

Lectures on fish and fishing

Tackle maintenance

Fishing reports

Movies



The Club competes in:

Sydney/Metropolitan Division

FCA Competitions

Australian National Sports Association Competitions

and organizes its own

Competitions in the following areas:

Deep Sea, Estuary, Beach, Rock, Luderick and Freshwater

Amateur Fishermen's Association of N.S.W. Ltd.

240 PITT STREET,

SYDNEY

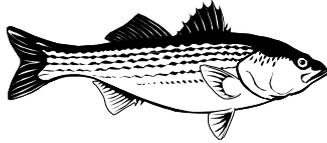
Mr. Charles Thackeray is hon. secretary of the Amateur Fishermen's Association of New South Wales. It was he who, through the columns of the "Sunday Times" first



(and the daily papers afterwards), called the meeting which led to the formation of that powerful body. He has acted as hon. sec. since the foundation of the Society in January 1895, with one short break. For more than two years he filled the position of Superintendent of the Boys' Brigade, and when the funds of that deserving institution would not allow of a con-

tinuance of his salary, he acted in an honorary capacity for a year. He has been connected with the Press for some years, most of the weeklies and some of the dailies having printed articles from his pen. He is a most enthusiastic fisherman, and there are few places where fish are to be obtained which he has not visited. Mr. J. P. Willis and he have been associated as joint hon. secs. of the A.F.A. for nearly two years. Mr. Charlie Thackeray is the man to have in your boat. He is a first-class angler and a real good fellow.

One Hundred and Twenty Two Years of Fishing



HISTORY OF THE A.F.A.

COMPILED BY DON FLEMING & ARTHUR CIANTAR

Back in the year 1885 a group of dedicated anglers got together in a café in Sydney and formed a fishing club known today as the “Amateur Fisherman’s Association of NSW Limited”.

The man responsible for the information was a Sydney journalist Mr. Charles Thackeray who was the first secretary and the driving force for many years in the club.

Mr. Thackeray held many positions on different committees within the club. He was President in 1909 to 1910 and in 1928 to 1929 and again in 1935 to 1936.

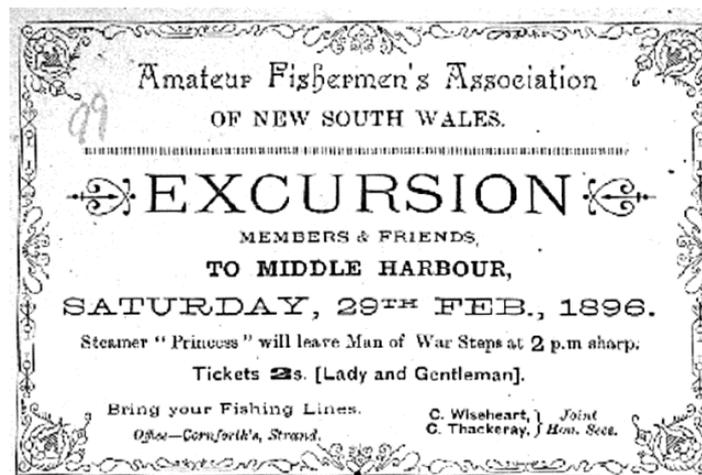
Mr. Thackeray was affectionately known as “Wobbygong” to his contemporaries. He was a popular man and devoted much of his time to the club. He is considered our founder and his photo hangs in our present clubrooms at the Canada Bay Community Centre at 1a Gipps Street Concord.



**Charles Thackeray Founder Of
The Amateur Fisherman's Association**

The first president was Mr. Shipway who held the chair for five years. The first minutes of the club meetings, which we hold in our library were written on the 3rd of February 1896 on the first Annual General Meeting. Mr. Shipway was re-elected as president, Mr. Thackeray and Mr. Wills were re-elected as joint Secretaries. The first AGM was held in the rooms of Rainfords' Club Hotel in Oxford St. Sydney. In those days it was difficult to get attendance and the minutes show meetings had to be abandoned through lack of a quorum.

Discussing this problem in June 1896 it was suggested that meetings be held fortnightly or monthly.



Another suggestion was that members be written to requesting their presence at meetings. Fortnightly meetings were introduced.

In August that year Mr. Murphy speaking from the floor off the meeting asked could the club secure a good meeting room centrally located in the City with a piano and eventually a billiard table. Games of chess, draughts and other games could be provided for members only

After much discussion it was agreed to elect a committee to look into the suggestion. After some weeks searching this committee found rooms in the Imperial arcade which could be rented for 1 pound a week (\$2.00)

On Monday the 14 September 1896 the first meeting was held in these rooms. Chairs, tables and other equipment were purchased including chessboards, packs of cards etc.

Members donated set of rope quoits with pegs. A map of Sydney Harbour was donated with other items to enhance the rooms.

With the opening of their new rooms meetings went back to weekly.

A piano was purchased it cost 30 Guineas and was paid off at 1 pound (\$2.00) per month after a deposit of five pounds (\$10.00). Members were each supplied with a key to the room at a cost of sixpence (5 cents).

Membership increased with up to 30 members attending meetings.

On the 4th of January 1887 the Treasurer reported the bank balance was 4 shillings 3 pence (42 cents). There was great concern amongst the members of the committee who took the step of asking all trustees to donate 2 pounds (\$4.00) each to the association so that rent could be paid. It was also decided to Increase the annual subscriptions (50 cents) to 10 shillings six pence (5 cents) to assist with finances.

Even with these increases it was impossible to maintain the clubrooms in these premises. The committee's immediately left the imperial arcade and moved into rooms at 11 Pitt St Sydney.

These rooms were used by a club called “The Idlers Club” and the A.F.A. was to share the rooms for 10 shillings \$1.00 per week.

Sharing a room with another club didn't work out and in December that year the club moved to room 15 in the temperance hall for a cost of five shillings or 50 cents per week paid monthly.

With the new inexpensive rooms the fees went back to five shillings (50 cents) per year with a shilling (10 cents) joining fee for 1898. The club in its fight to pay expenses put on concerts and dances.

On the 10th of May 1898 a hall was booked for the cost of 10 shillings & sixpence (\$1.05) to hold a dance. Double tickets were 1 shilling & sixpence (15 cents) and a single ticket was one shilling (10 cents) a profit of three pounds 15 shillings & sixpence (\$7.55) on the evening to the delight of the treasurer.

That year a trip was planned to the Narrabeen Lake and fishermen were warned to take their own food and water, as no facilities were available in the area.

In September 1898 the first edition of the A.F.A. News appeared under the title of the catfish budget. One of the adverts to appear in the budget was for a hotel at Como tariff was 4 shillings (40 cents per day)

DATED 3/2/1897

**AMATEUR FISHERMEN'S ASSO-
CIATION. 3/2/97**
DAILY TELEGRAPH

The second annual meeting of the Amateur Fishermen's Association of New South Wales was held in the association's rooms, Imperial-arcade, on Monday, under the presidency of Mr. W. C. Shipway. There was a good attendance of members and others. Judging by the report and balance-sheet presented last night, the association is making considerable headway, both numerically and otherwise. This, considering that the association is practically in its infancy, is a very satisfactory state of affairs. Something like 170 members are now enrolled, and it is confidently anticipated that this number will be considerably augmented during the ensuing year. During 1896, two very successful fishing picnics to Middle Harbor, and three smoke concerts, were held, in addition to a number of other convivial gatherings. It was unanimously decided to increase the annual subscription from 5s to 10s 6d, and a number of other alterations in the rules were effected. Mr. W. C. Shipway was re-elected president of the association. The thanks of the meeting were also accorded to the joint hon. secretaries, Messrs. C. Wiseheart and C. Thackeray, for their voluntary exertions in the interests of the association. Both gentlemen were unanimously re-elected. The election of the remaining officers resulted as follows:—Patrons, His Excellency the Governor, Alderman I. E. Ives (Mayor of Sydney), Messrs. R. H. D. White, W. R. Campbell, R. Fowler, and W. H. Pigott, M.S.L.C., the Premier (Mr. G. H. Reid), Messrs. J. H. Carruthers, and M. Harris, M.S.P., Dr. J. C. Cox and Messrs. G. J. Barry (Mayor of North Sydney), and Samuel Hordern; vice-presidents, Dr. Mackellar, M.L.C., Dr. Graham and Mr. C. Bull, M.S.P., Dr. Munro, and Messrs. A. Spain, A. H. Prince, G. A. Mansfield, and G. L. Goodman; trustees, Messrs. E. Morris, G. A. Mansfield, and T. Despointes; committee, Messrs. Willey, Cole, Roden, Torr, Beatty, Sykes, Serbutt, Eastway, Donaldson, Willis, Pringle, and Rutter; auditors, Messrs. J. Fogg and W. J. Smith; hon. treasurer, Mr. H. Maxwell.

That year a fishing trip was organized to Watsons Bay. The transport was by horse and cart kindly supplied free by a member Mr. Woods.

After the long trip to the bay the horses were released to graze while anglers went about their business of catching fish, some good catches were made including snapper.

THE NEXT ARTICLE WAS PUBLISHED ON THE 3/7/1897 AND SHOWS THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AMATEUR FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF N.S.W. 3/7/1897

The third annual meeting of the above association was held on Monday night in the clubroom, Imperial Arcade. Mr. W. C. Shipway presided, and there was a good attendance of members. The annual report was read and adopted, and the balance-sheet, showing the assets of the association to be £30, was also passed. The following office-bearers were elected for the year:—Patrons, his Excellency the Governor, the Hon. G. H. Reid, M.L.A., the Hon. J. H. Carruthers, M.L.A., the Hon. R. H. D. White, M.L.C., the Hon. W. H. Pigott, M.L.C., the Hon. W. R. Campbell, M.L.C., the Hon. R. Fowler, M.L.C., the Mayor (I. E. Ives, J.P.), Mr. A. Oliver, Dr. J. C. Cox, Messrs. M. Harris, S. Hordern, G. J. Barry, James Marks; president, Mr. W. C. Shipway; vice-presidents, Dr. Grabam, M.L.A., Messrs. G. Allen Mansfield, A. Spain, Dr. Mackellar, Dr. Munro, A. H. Prince, J.P., C. Bull; trustees, Messrs. E. Morris, M. T. Despointes, G. Allen Mansfield; committee, Messrs. Willey, Donaldson, Eastway, Roden, Pringle, Torr, Beatty, Rutter, Willis, Serbutt, Sykes, Cole; auditors, Alderman J. Fogg, W. J. Smith; hon. treasurer, H. Maxwell; joint hon. secretaries, C. Wiseheart, C. Thackeray.

After the fishing trip had ended the horses were harnessed up for the long trip back to Sydney.

Reported at a meeting in May 1899 a Mr. Cole had landed a 22-pound snapper from the rocks at Old Mans Hat near North Head. The fish was 3 foot 3 inches in length. A certificate was presented to the angler.

In those days row boats were available for hire for 2 shillings (20 cents) per day. A large tin of worms cost 6 pence (5 cents). Fresh lobsters were 1 shilling (10 cents) per pound.

In May of that year illegal netting was reported in Blackwattle bay. The Club wrote to the Fisheries Board in August to complain.

Before the turn of the Century, Prouds the jewelers donated a shield to be fished for annually. This shield hangs in our present club rooms today.

In 1907 the President drew members attention to the installation of the first aquarium. The same consisting of tadpoles, various water bugs as well as weeds with distinguished names. The President explained a start had been made to what should be a great aquarium. A billiard table had been added to the club assets. This proved to be the clubs main source of revenue. A stocktake of the clubs assets for insurance showed London 425 pounds (\$850.00) which included the piano and billiard table.

In 1905 Mr. Eastway one of the presidents spoke of a fishing trip to Bobin Head by motor car that the importance at the time was not the fish caught, but the means of transport to the fishing.

The same year a letter was received from Mr. Prince who was secretary of the Sheep Breeding Association complaining of the influx of women in the club room on occasions and the playing of the piano. This complaint was dismissed.

The annual report for 1905 showed the association, although not having a large cash balance 7 pound 10 shillings & 4 pence (\$15.04) was in a flourishing condition showing our assets had greatly improved.

Mr. David Stead, noted ichthyologist of the day, gave a lecture on the teeth of fish.

On the 24thg November 1905 Mr. Cec Hollingdale reported that Mr. Lead, a member of the club, had caught a 13-and-a-half-pound jewfish on a 704 Janro line in the Hawkesbury River. The line is similar to a number 24 twist. A certificate was presented.

In 1908 it was reported at a meeting that dingo's were hunting in packs in the national park and were a menace to game.

The same year it was decided to have a telephone installed in the rooms for members to use. The telephone number was City 254. During 1910 the club moved to 40 Pitt Street. Where a full time caretaker was hired for 25 shillings (\$2.50) per week. The club also registered with the Companies Office and became a Limited Company. A badge was struck; this badge is in use today

DEPUTATION TO THE FISHERIES COMMISSIONERS.

CLOSURE OF PORTION OF SYDNEY HARBOUR PROMISED.

A deputation of persons interested in the fisheries, including some of the members of the Amateur Fishermen's Association, waited upon the Fisheries Commissioners yesterday. There were present Messrs. W. C. Shipway (president of the society), Messrs. James Marks, J. B. Beauregard, A. May, S. M'Donnell, E. S. Marks, E. Morris, J. Greenless, A. E. Martin, S. J. Hayward, R. Dennis, C. Thackeray (hon. secretary), and others.

Mr. Shipway introduced the deputation. He stated that they had come specifically to urge for two matters of reform, although others were needed. They were briefly more inspection at Port Hacking and the closure of portion of Sydney Harbour within a tangent drawn from the inner North Head to Grotto Point, the northern entrance to Middle Harbour. He instanced cases from personal observation where illegal netting had been carried on opposite Warumbul, in Port Hacking, and stated that while the inspector under the Port Hacking Trust was away in Sydney prosecuting offenders netting in closed waters was carried on with impunity.

Mr. James Marks endorsed the remarks, and emphasised the necessity for a closure of Sydney Harbour in the part asked for.

Mr. A. May explained how the mesh netting along the harbour shore from Manly to North Head was doing incalculable injury to the fish. Mr. Thackeray stated that the portion of Sydney Harbour for which the closure was asked had been left open for netting when other places had been closed, and that the deputation was not in the interests of line fishermen, but that of the ultimate fisheries' welfare of the harbour. A letter from Mr. Alexander Oliver was read. It regretted that in the writer's position as a trustee of Port Hacking he could not attend, and that his other judicial capacities rendered it inadvisable for him to attend a public deputation. He was in sympathy with the request for the closure of the part of the harbour specified, and thought that a greater area of closure might with reason have been asked for. There was urgent necessity for an arrest of the present wholesale system of fish destruction by mesh and prawn nets, and the duty of doing this devolved upon the commissioners. He added that he had long ceased to attempt any fishing in the harbour, and therefore spoke disinterestedly. The fisheries in the vicinity of Sydney were "like a poultry farm whose owners had eaten all the young fowls, sold all the eggs, and turned the fathers and mothers into soup, not caring much for the curses of the next generation." The implements of destruction were more potent than the recuperative powers of the waters.

The Hon. S. H. Hyam, M.L.C. (chairman), expressed his entire sympathy with the deputation. Unfortunately, they had a faulty Act to administer, and the inspectorial staff had been cut down, so that proper inspection was impossible. He personally thought the deputation should have asked for the closure of the whole of Sydney Harbour for a term. He could promise that the portion requested to be closed would be closed, and he thanked the members of the deputation for many practical evidences of their desire to benefit the fisheries generally.

Mr. F. Farnell concurred in the necessity for the closure in the place asked for. As a member of the Port Hacking Trust, he would also endeavour to get a substitute inspector when the regular inspector was called away.

The Hon. Alexander Campbell, M.L.C., did not agree that the whole of the harbour should be closed, but thought that the part asked for was reasonable.

AMATEUR FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION OUTING.

At the invitation of the Hon. J. H. Carruthers, and accompanied by that gentleman, about 40 members of the above paid a visit to Port Hacking for a fishing trip on Saturday. The large launch and boat, Captain W. Reid in charge, had been placed at the disposal of the party by the trustees of the National Park, and the party engaged six other pulling boats, so that they could get close to the shore for bream and jewfish fishing from W. Matson's shed. Amongst the party were Mr. James Marks, Messrs. G. Allen Mansfield, W. C. Shipway (president), Captain A. Spain (vice-president), G. E. Russell Jones (vice-president), Dr. Kerr Lockhead, Dr. Marks, W. Ord, J. J. and T. J. Moloney, J. F. Cole, W. E. Clapham, S. Hayward, A. Butterworth, G. H. Rivers, E. Sabar, J. B. Beauregard, Lieutenant Falk, J. S. Dick, C. Wisheart, and others. One section of the party journeyed by an early morning train to compete for prizes offered by Mr. James Marks, the other by an afternoon train to compete for two other prizes offered by the same gentleman. Mr. B. Morris secured first prize for the greatest number of weighable fish, and Mr. J. White second prize, Mr. T. J. Moloney third, for the largest edible fish. The afternoon party failed to secure enough fish to annex a prize. The fish caught were black bream, tar-whine, flounders, jewfish, whiting, &c., a fair lot, totalling about 150 in all. Mr. C. Thackeray was elected captain and umpire for the day.



QUEENSLAND GROPER (PROMICROPS ITAIARA)

(ATTAINS A WEIGHT OF MORE THAN 400 POUNDS)

A letter was written to the Fisheries Board requesting the stocking of fish in Toongabbie Creek. The department wrote back saying that Perch would be put in the tributaries of the Parramatta River. The newly formed Journalist Club met once a week in our rooms and paid 5 shillings (50 cents) per week. Members were playing billiards and cards. The piano could be hired out for 5 shillings (50 cents) a night. Money was rolling in.

On the 18th of June 1915 a dinner was held at the Sargents Café in Market Street 95 attended and all profits went to the Belgian Relief Fund. 5 pounds 5 shillings (\$10.50) was sent in response to an appeal by Madam Melba for the Polish Relief Appeal.



At a meeting in June a member, Mr. Boxtton announced he was leaving for the front; the First World War was in progress. It was resolved to buy a suitable gift. It was also resolved that any member joining the forces would remain financial until their return.

On the 28th July 1915 the club held an auction in the room for the Australian Day Benefit Fund. The money raised was to go to the Australian wounded soldiers who were taking part in the present war with Germany, Austria and Turkey. The Australian day collection auction and raffles raised a total of 665 pounds 12 shillings and 4 pence (\$1221.23)

In August 1915 it was proposed to purchase a poker machine. The move was carried.

On 24th of August 1915 a quote was received from a company called "Althouse and Geiger" for the supply of a roll of honor stand (this sign writing company is still in business). It was resolved that all members leaving for the front be given a sheep skin vest. Carried.

On the 11th April 1916 a cast of a black bream was presented to the club the fish weighed 7 pounds 6 ounces and was caught by Mr. Negus on a fine silk japgut to a 2/0 hook at high tide at Baldface Georges River. The cast still hangs on the wall of our club room today.

Official information was received by cable on the 11th November 1918 that the armistice set by the allied powers was signed by the representatives of Germany on that day no meeting of the association was held as all members were taking part in the National celebrations.

A smoko social was held in the club rooms on 2nd November 1919 to welcome back members who had returned from the war. An ice chest was perched for members use.

In May 1920 Mr. Salmon proposed that the Association purchase a piece of land for the purpose of building a boat shed at the Hawkesbury River, Georges River or Woy Woy. A committee was elected to investigate this project.

The next year in September an auction sale was to be held for blocks of land on Danger Island. At a meeting the President Secretary and one other were instructed to purchase a suitable block at this sale to build a clock room and boat shed. It was estimated to spend up to 300 pounds (\$600) on this site. The committee purchased block number 6.

Towards the end of 1922 the building of the clubhouse was ready to begin. A community had been which called for volunteers. There were many volunteers who went with a great deal of enthusiasm. They labored on weekends and got the framework of the building erected. Unfortunately, when they went home a wind came up this blew the building over.

At the next meeting there were members who criticized the workers and suggested they were incompetent. However, a vote of confidence was given to the building committee after they agreed to employ a professional carpenter. At an extra cost of 80 pounds (\$160) the building was re-erected and remained upright

On the 30th of February 1923 Mr. G Thomas was installed in the clubhouse as caretaker. His cost to take care of the clubhouse was 6 pounds 10 shillings (7 dollars) per month and the use of a boat.

Lockers were installed in the rooms which were hired to members for 45 shillings (\$4.50 cents)per year (Supply your own lock). The club rooms were suitably furnished.

On Sunday the 20th March 1923 the Danger Island room was officially opened by Mr. Charles Thackeray and given the name of Booralee. Some months later a clubhouse was added at a cost of 25 pound (\$50).

In April Mr Thackeray drew attention to the necessity of having weather cocks on top of the town hall and other suitable buildings in the city for the convenience of fishermen and it was decided to write to the town clerk, Grace Brothers and Marcus Clark in this regard. The minutes fail to reveal any results to the suggestion the buildings seem to lack the proposed weather vanes.

On the 30th May 1924 Mr. David Stead was made life member of the association.

The same year a third billiard table was purchased together with snooker and pool balls.

In July that year Mr. Shipway the first president of the club passed away.

During the 1920s -1930s much billiards, cards and snooker were played. Games were played against other clubs including Manly A.F.A., which kept the members busy. This period was A.F.A.'s most financial time with over 4,000 pound (\$8,000)in their account , this being a lot of money in those days.

During 1926 slips for a boat and jetty were added to the Danger Island clubhouse.

It seems that during that period the N, S.W. Rod Fishing Club was and a Great Barrier Reef Club. The clubs amalgamated and a lot of the members A.F.A. joined them.

Mr. Errol Bullen was one. Out of these clubs came the N.S.W. Game Fishing Club which today operates from the jetty on Watsons bay.



Fishing report - 18 September, 1920 a Mr R. Selkrink who was a general manager of Reuters in South Africa hooked, caught and landed a man-eating shark weighing 2,176 pounds on a 18 cord line with a 11 foot rod.

The fight lasted from 2.30 pm until 7.30 pm and was conducted by Mr. Selkrink from the shore and without any assistance

During 1928 a visitor to the club was a Mr. Zane Grey from America.

In 1929 the club moved to 192 Castlereagh Street in the city.

The 1930's came with the depression and the city's finances began to dwindle. An oyster lease was taken out and built at Dangar Island .A wireless set was installed in the clubrooms on approval.

Minutes of the meeting during the 1930's are missing.

During the 1940s members and finances dropped and the Board of Directors showed concern, in 1940 the bank account was in the red. A letter was received from the bank referring to the arrears. At the next meeting took place regarding the serious financial position of the club.

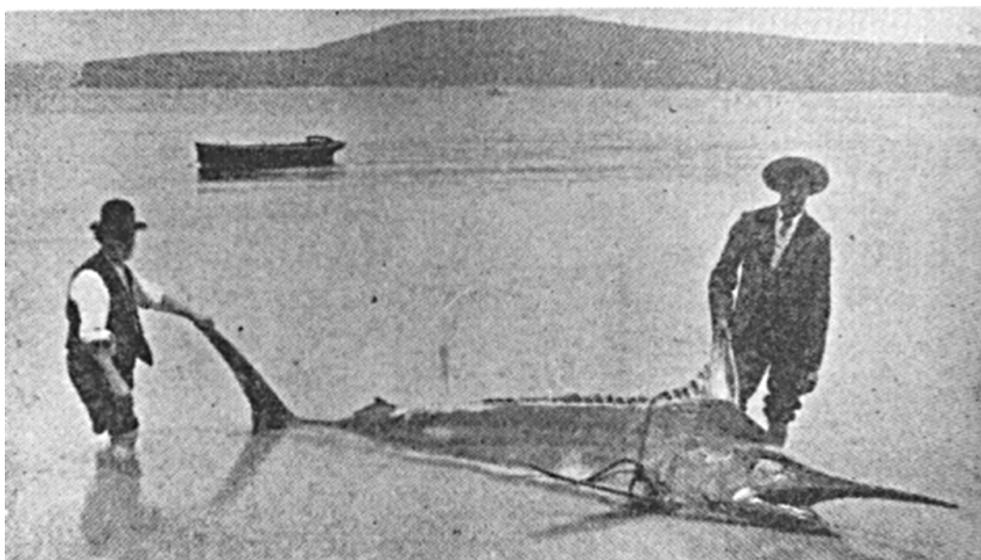
The high cost of the Dangar Island club (due to lack of supervision) was one of the reasons for the clubs' plight.

At a meeting in 1944 a member asked the Secretary to contact Mr. Thompson, Secretary of Fisheries and ask him to use his powers to eliminate the use of foreign language in the fish markets. It would appear the letter achieved nothing.

After further large maintenance bills for the Danger Island clubhouse it was agreed at a meeting in 1948 to sell the premises. This was done in October for 1,050 pounds (\$2,100).

That same year on the 5th June Mr. Charles Thackeray died.

SPEARFISH OR MARLIN SWORDFISH CAUGHT BY NET IN PORT JACKSON



A company was formed in 1949 called the Amateur Fishermen's Association Enterprises. The object of this company was to make money for the A.F.A. It was decided to produce a fishing magazine to be called the Anglers Digest. The first edition of this magazine reached the shops in September 1950 costing 2 shillings (20 cents). The Anglers Digest ran for 21 years in 1969 it was produced by Fishing News and was taken over by Modern Magazine in 1971.

An association of fishing clubs known as the A.F.C.A. was controlling fishing on the north and central coast under the presidency of Mr. Harry Pontey a past president of the A.F.A.

Mr. Harry Pontey approached Mr. Don Fleming, the then president of the A.F.A. with the view of starting a Metropolitan Division of Amateur

Fishing Clubs Association. Mr. Don Fleming called a meeting of Sydney Clubs on the 14th August 1962 in the clubrooms of the A.F.A.

At that meeting Mr. Charlie Boylan was elected President of the new division and Mr. Bob Bacina was elected Secretary. After this meeting when Mr. Bacina found it was necessary to write to all clubs in the metropolitan area he pointed out that he didn't have a typewriter. A Mr. George Pratt said that he owned a typewriter so he was informally elected secretary in place of Mr. Bacina. It is now history that Mr. George Pratt with the able assistance of his wife Joan made the Metropolitan Division the success it is today.

With 1965 came the news that 192 Castlereagh Street was to be demolished. As no rooms were available that the club could afford, all goods were packed in cartons, billiard tables dismantled and stored in a garage in Rose Bay.

For three years the club met in rooms in the YMCA cafes or hotels until the Maritime Services Board made rooms available in Kent Street city. The A.F.A. had 2 floors and the club flourished under the presidency of the colorful Hank Newman.

From 1968 till 1975 these rooms at Kent Street were headquarters for many fishermen.

The Maritime Services Board asked for a 300% increase in rents and the A.F.A. was once again on the move. Goods stored in boxes and stored in garages and meetings were held in scout halls and football clubs.

In 1980 Mr. Bob Weymouth of Western Suburbs Soccer Club was approached with the view to using a vacant room in their club. The A.F.A. moved into the premises of Western Suburbs Soccer Club in 1980 and a team of volunteers were to make the clubroom as attractive as possible.

Two years after moving the soccer club decided to use our room for a new dining room but offered a room at the other end of the top floor. The late Mr. Fred Jackson worked hard to make the room even better than the first.

In 1985 the A.F.A. celebrated its 90th birthday at the Western Suburbs Soccer Club. The A.F.A. enjoy wonderful conditions and hospitality from the Soccer Club and Mr. Bob Weymouth who was a patron while we were there.

Late in December 1989 the A.F.A. received a letter from the Soccer Club informing us that we would have to vacate our room.

Once again, the A.F.A. had to place all of their possessions into storage. The Soccer Club gave the A.F.A. permission to hold its meetings in the main auditorium of the club but found it was inappropriate because of the noise from the poker machines and patrons of the soccer club.

The A.F.A. had developed a strong following in the Western suburbs of Sydney and Mr Don Fleming visited many other clubs in the area looking for suitable accommodation. Although many clubs were prepared to allow us to hold meetings, they could not accommodate the large amount of memorabilia that we had collected over one hundred years. Other members had also been looking for alternative sites. Mr. Arthur Ciantar Found a club

at Tempe that was prepared to welcome us and our possessions. In April 1993 the A.F.A. moved to new premises at the Cocks River Motor Boat Club.

The A.F.A. purchase a shipping container at a cost of \$1,700 and took our possessions back from storage and place it all into the container until we could set up our clubroom.

Mr. Don Fleming had not enjoyed good health for a number of years and on the 16th December 1993 the club was informed that its most cherished member, Mr Michael Don Fleming had died of a heart attack while in hospital. He will be duly missed by the members of the A.F.A. for in losing him we have lost a piece of the A.F.A.

In February 1996 the board discussed our options in finding new premises independent of other clubs and somewhere we could call our own club. Hunters Hill, Drummoyne, Ashfield, Ryde, Strathfield, Leichardt and Burwood were looked at

It was decided at a meeting in May 1996 that the A F A should definitely start looking for new premises as the motor boat club has informed us that we will have to take our fish casts trophies etc. down from the walls. We decided that in not having our memorabilia on show that we would not be able to remain a separate identity from the motorboat club.

On the 6th of March 1997 the board of directors held a special meeting at the new possible club rooms at the West Harbour Rugby Union Club at 1a Gipps St Concord.

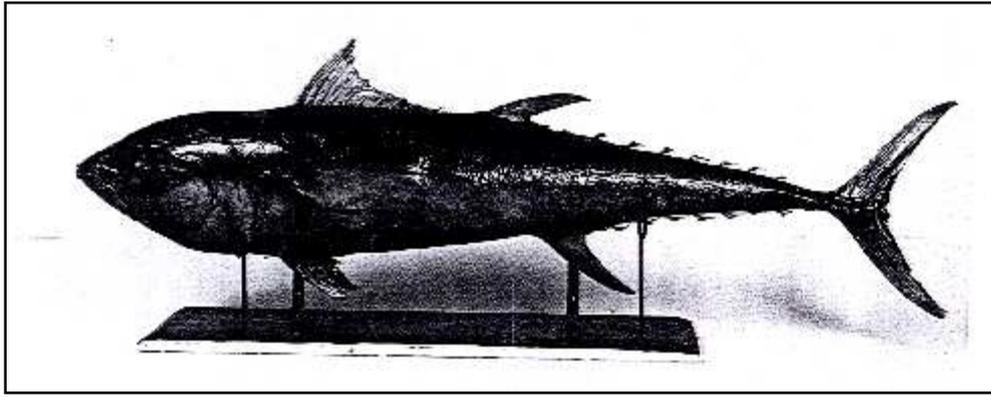
The AFA held their first meeting at the new clubrooms on the lower level of the West Harbour Rugby Union Club formally known as the Concord West Bowling Club on Gipps Street. It was also decided to hold the meetings on Wednesday nights at 8pm. As of the 9th of April 1997.

A letter from A.F.A. to the Cooks River Motor Boat Club was sent giving A.F.A.'s appreciation for the use of their club.

In 1997 AFA had troubles with Sydney Metro. regarding holding an Estuary competition at AFA's new club. Sydney Metro said that a lot of members fishing the competition would not be able to find our clubs new position. They then proceeded to give the competition to St George or Caringbah. The A.F.A. protested strongly against this.

In July 1997 the A.F.A. discussed dropping out from Sydney Metro: it was decided to send a delegation to a Sydney Metro meeting to discuss the problems that we were having with Sydney Metro. (i.e.) because of the estuary competition that they took away from us. It was decided that A.F.A. would stay with Sydney Metro after a vote from other club's delegates who did not want AFA to drop out of Sydney Metro.

On Wednesday 28th of January 1998 the A.F.A. had an Extraordinary meeting to determine if the A.F.A. will stay as a Limited Company. It was voted on by the membership unanimously that we become incorporated with the Department of Fair Trading. Once again our history has changed and from the next year we will be known as The Amateur Fishermen's Association of N.S.W. Inc.



STOLEN FROM THE CLUB ROOMS OF THE AMATEUR FISHERMENS ASSOCIATION
ON THE 6TH OF OCTOBER 1998.

On the 6th of October 1998 Harpers Tunny (a Southern Bluefin Tuna), which was the first Gamefish, caught on rod and reel in Australia was stolen from the lock up of the Amateur Fishermen's Association of N.S.W. along with a mold of a kingfish done in plaster, some fishing equipment that was to be used for raffles and a quantity of beer.

On the 23rd of January 2002 Mr. Raymond Briffa a past committee member passed away his love of bass fishing will not be forgotten RIP Ray.

The past 110 years has had its share of ups and downs and the club is once more in a sound financial position. The present Management Committee is dedicated to the advancement of the club and it is hoped that the next hundred years will be as exciting and fruitful as the first.

In 2006 the club secured the support of Angela D'Amore the local member for Drummoyne in trying to secure a permanent home for the AFA a number of sites were shown to us and the site that was preferred was

chosen in St Luke's Park Canada Bay plans were drawn up and submitted to the Department of Lands for approval.

All hopes now to rest with Angela. Unfortunately for us in March 2011 Angela was voted out of office and our hopes for a club house had suddenly faded and were put on hold for the time being.

In March 2011 the Committee had to create a new Constitution this took place over a number of months thanks to the tireless work of our Treasurer and Returning officer Mr. John McNamara and was completed in January 10, 2012 so now the AFA has a new constitution to adhere to.

Once again Arthur Ciantar was elected President for a fourth time making him the longest serving President in the clubs history. The committee has decided to investigate further to try and find a permanent home for the AFA.

On the 28th August 2017 members were informed that Mr. Michael Bowden a past president had passed away due to a massive heart attack aged 53 he will be missed by all

The A F A has been quite successful in A F C A competitions and actively promotes a healthy rivalry amongst its members.

The past 110 years has had its shares of ups and downs and the club is once more in a sound financial position. The present Management Committee is dedicated to the advancement of the club and it is hoped that the next one hundred years will be as exciting and fruitful as the first one hundred years.

Past Presidents of the AFA

1895 – 99	W.C.SHIPWAY	1905 – 06	DR. BURNE
1900 – 04	C.SPAIN	1951 – 55	J. BAKER
1948 – 51	H. PONTEY	1955 – 57	R. HAYBITTLE
1907 - 08	R.E.EASTWAY	1957 – 61	J. EXTON
1909 – 10	C.THACKERAY	1961 – 62	D. FLEMING
1911 – 12	D. AITKEN	1962 – 63	C. BOYLAN
1913 – 14	DR. BURNE	1963 – 64	S. NEWMAN
1914 – 16	E. HOLLINGDALE	1964 – 74	H. NEWMAN
1917 – 18	C. THACKERAY	1974 – 80	J. FORD
1918 – 19	J.S. JOHNSON	1980 – 85	J. CLARKE
1921 – 22	H.J. ACKLAND	1985 – 86	R. LAVENDER
1923 – 24	J. Mc GRATH	1986 – 87	J. CLARKE
1924 – 25	F.A. MILLOT	1987 – 90	A. CIANTAR
1924 – 25	W.H. WHITEHEAD	1991 – 91	J. CLARKE
1926 – 27	G.L. DAVIES	1991 – 95	A. CIANTAR
1928 – 29	C.THACKERAY	1995 – 97	M. HEIN
1929 – 30	J.C. ROYLE	1997 – 2000	J. FORD
1931 – 33	B. JONAS	2000 – 02	W.JONES
1933 – 34	J.C. ROYLE	2002 – 03	S.BOGGETT
1934 – 35	C.E. WILLIAMSON	2003 – 06	A. CIANTAR
1935 – 36	C.THACKERAY	2006 – 09	R.ZAPPALA
1936 – 38	P.CUNNINGHAM	2009 – 11	P. RYAN
1938 – 40	W.WHITEHEAD	2011 - 14	A. CIANTAR
1940 – 42	W.CHALMERS	2014 – 16	M. BOWDEN
1942 – 44	R. S. LEDGER	20 16 -18	A. McNAMARA
1944 – 48	L. DEVILLE		