



RECFISHWEST REEL NEWS

Issue 6 June 2010

RECFISHWEST/WOODSIDE COMMUNITY FISHING PROGRAM

Recfishwest have successfully completed their 24 day Northern Tour "Community Fishing Clinic Program" culminating in Derby on Thursday 20 May. The 2010 Tour was made possible through the support of new partner **Woodside Energy Ltd** and long standing partner Healthway.

There were a total of 21 fishing clinics, 9 regional towns and communities visited, more than 620 children participating and many thousands of kilometres travelled!

The tour brought the 'Fish Today for Tomorrow' and 'SunSmart' messages to Western Australia's north. These clinics encouraged sustainable fishing practices, including casting techniques, selection of bait and general rigging, recognition of species, catch and release and aquatic conservation.

Each child who attended a clinic on the tour was given a bag of "goodies" to take home which contained a small tackle box, fisheries information relating to their area and a fishing DVD.

The abundance and variety of fish always makes these clinics a highlight. Fish caught from Carnarvon to Derby included bream, snapper, stingrays, squid, flathead, gardies and catfish.

For some children these clinics were the first time they had ever cast a line using a rod and reel. Despite this, they were very quick to learn and it is very pleasing to see the big smiles and excitement when they cast on their own and are rewarded with a fish.

Community clinics with the Nickol Bay Sports Fishing Club and King Bay Game Fishing Club held in Dampier on 1 and 2 May were a resounding winner. Over 60 children participated in these clinics and were rewarded with a bbq lunch afterwards. A successful Community clinic was also held in Broome on 9 May with the attendance of Woodside Community Relations Officers learning how to cast a line!



Unfortunately large amounts of rain during the last week of the tour restricted the clinics at One Arm Point to a casting session on the school oval. Being land locked however, didn't dampen their enthusiasm and we look forward to returning next time for the fishing experience. Luckily clinics held in Broome and Derby escaped the rain. Plenty of fish were caught from the jetties even though the tides were running strong.

A dry clinic didn't dampen the enthusiasm of these students from One Arm Point



Instructor Paul Willis with two keen squid fishermen

The feedback from all schools visited was very positive with all the clinics being a great achievement. Most schools were already expressing their interest at attending future Recfishwest fishing clinics.

Recfishwest would like to pass on a big thank you to all the schools who participated in the clinics as well as teachers and parents who helped out with the students on the day.

A big “thank you” must go out to all our presenters who gave up their time to help out with the tour. A job well done!



Two students from Pegs Creek Primary with a shovel nose ray

Testimonials

“The most enjoyable part of the clinic was seeing the smiles on the faces of our children. Fishing is a recreation that many of our children participate in on weekends and holidays. Not all of them enjoy great success at it but with tips they picked up at the clinics, I am sure they will in the future”. Carnarvon Primary School

“Most children caught a fish and were engaged in the session”. Baler Primary School, Port Hedland

“It was most enjoyable to see happy and engaged students”. Holy Rosary School, Derby



Catching fish from Broome Jetty



Catch and release in Onslow

Fish today for tomorrow

www.recfishwest.org.au

