



**Media Release (for immediate use)**

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## **New South Wales Recreational Fishing Future in Safe Hands**

**The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW today confirmed the overwhelming success of the NSW Future Leaders in Recreational Fishing workshop held last week at Coffs Harbour.**

Mother nature attempted to dampen the event by dumping 600mm of rain, flooding out the original venue at Bellingen. However recreational fishers being such a diverse group, arranged alternate accommodation and facilities for the first 2 days, with the help of the staff at the Novotel Pacific Bay Resort and the National Marine Science Centre at Coffs Harbour.

Mr Poole was overwhelmed, by the fifteen participants that attended the workshop. “Their passion and desired, to face the challenges ahead to improve recreational fishing in New South Wales in the future was above all expectations. Recreational Fishing is a recreation or sport, enjoyed by in-excess of a million fishers every year, however its overall profile is slipping down the families activities list”.

The participants received an intensive introduction into the basic principles of fisheries management, introduced to a range of stakeholder views and perspectives from commercial fishing, state government agencies, fishing trades, and environmental groups, along with covering a number of key NSW Recreational Trust Funded projects in both salt and freshwater. “It is extremely important for future recreational fisheries leaders to have an understanding of what is happening within fisheries management, and respect for others who share the fisheries resource.” Mr Poole said.

Coffs Harbour provided an excellent environment allowing participants to experience and discuss many issues first hand, such as Commercial Fishing and the operations at Coffs Harbor Co op, NSW DPI – Fisheries and the Solitary Islands Marine Parks Authority, and the education and research work being carried out at the National Marine Science Centre. At the end, they enjoyed a short fishing trip offshore with two local charter boat operators who proved they knew where the fish were after all the rain.

“One of the key challenges for recreational groups, such as the Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW (RFANSW) is to ensure that more recreational fishers are able to make a lasting contribution towards improving the quality and enjoyment of any future fishing experience in New South Wales,” stated the Chairman Mr Malcolm Poole.

This program was an initiative of the Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW, with funding provided by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and the NSW Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFSTEC) and fully supported by NSW DPI who are commended for all their efforts and support.

Mr Poole concluded by stating, “this project is the catalyst to seek out and engage future leaders for the New South Wales recreational fishing sector, who are interested and willing to put something back into their fishing community, by tackling the many issues that confront fishing these days. Thus by providing them with the fisheries management and advocacy tools to engage the broader community it is hoped that they will further develop a sustainable and brighter future for recreational fishing in New South Wales”.

**ENDS**

**Media Contacts**

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**More information [www.rfansw.com.au](http://www.rfansw.com.au) or check out other successful future leaders projects at;**

**Recfish Australia's 'Next Generation of Leaders' at [www.recfish.com.au](http://www.recfish.com.au) and Recfishwest 'Young Future Leaders program' in WA at [www.recfishwest.org.au](http://www.recfishwest.org.au) .**



Standing (l to r) Steve Johnson, Gail Begbie, Jacob Crisp, Christaan Maloney, Scot Schumacher, Stewart Sewell, Terry Steele, Kimberley Stolk, Shane Jasprizza, Kate Shelton, Bob McComb (m), Max Castle (m), Gavin Beveridge, Fraser Perry, Ian Freeman, Sylvia Zukowski and Adrian Jeloudev.  
Kneeling (l to r) John Burgess(m) and Ian Cartwright. (m) denotes participant mentors.

The successful participants are;

**Steve Johnson – from Nowra**, who serves the community through his work and numerous activities, which does include sometime to follow his passion which is fishing, and fishing education,

**Gavin Beveridge – from Emu Plains**, wishes to build on his current knowledge of natural resource management and is passionate about the protection and enhancement of recreational fishing,

**Terry Steele – from Dubbo**, who enjoys taking his son fishing and working as a Fishcare Volunteer with the whole community and spreading the word about the benefits of fishing,

**Kimberly Stolk – from Corrimal**, enjoys sports fishing and working to advance her local fishing club,

**Scot Schumacher – from Hornsby**, involved in all facets of recreational fishing, as a weekend fisher to fishing and participating in club events, he is looking forward to assisting in preserving the future of recreational fishing,

**Ian Freeman – from Corindi**, is a keen angler and supporter of good fisheries management, with an aim to removing the misconceptions that are told to, or held, by the wider community,

**Adrian Jeloudev – from Oatlands**, wants to get involved in the sustainable development of fishing, and community focused fisheries research projects maintaining healthy fisheries,

**Stewart Sewell – from Bathurst**, likes both salt & freshwater fishing and is hoping to assist in improving the image of fishing through his future activities helping fishing along the right road,

**Fraser Perry – from Malabar**, would like to develop and improve the quality, enjoyment, and advancing the awareness of how environmentally friendly fishing is in NSW,

**Sylvia Zukowski – from Albury**, shows her passion for fishing during her day and out fishing on weekends, one of her current projects is researching the Murray Crayfish and working with recreational fishers,

**Christaan Maloney – from North Sydney**, a free diving spear fisher, who wishes to keep his sport alive,

**Kate Shelton – from Port Macquarie**, would like to pursue a career in fisheries management, she wishes to learn and pass on as much information and gained knowledge as she can handle to other interested fishers,

**Shane Jasprizza – from Canberra**, who wishes to meet like-minded fishers who are willing to get in and make a difference, advancing recreational fishing, its values, fishers conservation work and fishing safety,

**Gail Begbie – from Corindi**, considers the marine environment an integral part of her lifestyle,

**Jacob Crisp – from Evans Head**, who would like to assist recreational fishing's future through his studies and future career in fisheries management, ensuring we all have an understanding for good management.

**Note: Should you wish to contact and interview a Future Leaders Participant then please call Malcolm Poole on 0403 125 766 who will provide their contact details.**