



## Fishing Trip to Kangaroo Island

29 - 31 May 2026

4 members of the Fishing Group headed off for a few days fishing on Kangaroo Island in response to a generous offer of accommodation and fishing with the 'Ridgways'. Our members included Goldy, GJ, Nick W and 'Sinkers' Greg D. Sinkers nickname relates to his ability to snag and lose a range of rigs on 'loan' to him by our host. BTW, Nicko lost a 'family bait knife overboard. Our host kept it from his youth!

We left Adelaide early Friday morning to meet a deadline of 10am to board the Sea Link ferry at Cape Jarvis. A pleasant trip across the Passage to Penneshaw. We then motored down to American River and met our hosts at their home for lunch. We unpacked, changed into our fishing gear and headed off to the boat ramp where Jon was ready to launch his 7 metre Catamaran with the skills of an accomplished mariner! At various drops near to the boat ramp, we found the whiting were plentiful but most were undersized so they went back to grow! A nearby wreck was a great spot to find a school of salmon that were anxious and hungry to take our bait.

		
<p>Goldy, GJ and 'Sinkers' before launching</p>	<p>The boat!</p>	<p>The operating theatre</p>

On this occasion, Goldy had the magic touch by pulling in a series of double headers on his standard Paternoster rig and Pippi's as bait. Nicks raw prawns and bloodworms came a dismal 5<sup>th</sup>! An enjoyable afternoon's fishing giving us a couple of whiting, some wrasse and of course the salmon. We retired late in the afternoon to our hosts home with a glass of sparkling shiraz and marvellous BBQ meal of steak, sausages, kangaroo and tasty salad. A highlight was the cheeses and dip as hors d'oeuvres. Liz prepared a tasty Dutch bread and avocado dip along with the fruit pavlova for a filling meal combination.

The following morning, we headed out again and tried our luck along the coast towards Ballast Head. Further success with wrasse and salmon but the whiting catch was scarce. We came back to the old wreck near the boat ramp to 'top up' with salmon trout. A successful day's fishing but the target fish eluded us.

		
<p>Nick of the Arctic!</p>	<p>Mainly salmon</p>	<p>A double header of salmon</p>

We retired to the accommodation for a late afternoon of filleting the catch and enjoying a marvellous gourmet 'fish soup' using mainly the fish caught that day.

A change of plans! Due to the weather forecast for Monday and our trip home, we changed our booking at Sea Link to return to the mainland on Sunday evening. A wise decision given that all trips were subsequently cancelled for a stormy Monday.

We went out again on Sunday morning, but the fish were largely avoiding us so only a few salmon and a whiting caught. The waters and weather in the river area were OK and we 'weathered' a couple of showers as they passed through. We returned to the accommodation, reconditioned our fishing equipment, and sat down to a delicious traditional roast lamb and baked vegetables followed by some apple pie and 'Pav'.



Stormy fishing weather on Sunday



Goldy and GJ deep in computer magic!



Seafood feast for dinner!

We said goodbye to our excellent hosts and departed for our homeward journey on the last ferry of the day from Penneshaw.

We were very grateful to our hosts thanking them for their hospitality and friendship in supporting veterans through this 'fishing experience'. We were the second group of veterans to travel to KI this year and stay with the Ridgways. Thank you.

Written by Nick Williams. 1 June 2026