



War Veterans Fishing Group

Sid and Nick's Boating Adventure

12 - 15 October 2025

As mentioned at the last WVFG meeting, Nick was successful in getting a \$200 voucher for the 'Coast is Calling' initiative sponsored by the SA Government. I phoned Sid J and we decided to venture down to Normanville with two nights accommodation at the Echo Holiday Park. We headed off in Sid's trusty Falcon Station Wagon towing his 5-metre boat. (The Breeze has a water pump problem requiring a service at the 'Boating Scene'.

We headed off on Monday morning and arrived at Wirrina about midday. We stopped off at Thorpies to offer him a lift and fish on the following day. Unfortunately, he wasn't feeling the best and couldn't join us for fishing.

We launched at Wirrina and tried for a few squid off the breakwater at the Marina. Again, we couldn't catch any squid and decided to try our luck further along the coast at 'The Pines' near Lady Bay. We burlied up and waited for the garfish to arrive. Alas, no garfish but plenty of small Tommy Ruffs (Australian Herring). We kept most of Tommies as bait for Nick's November trip to Fowlers Bay & Yalata. We also caught 5 wrasse and a couple of leather jackets. We didn't see a single garfish, squid or whiting but we were kept busy with the Tommies!

We retired late afternoon to our cabin in the holiday park. It was a very comfortable and well-appointed cabin with great heating, stove fridge and

everything we required for a quiet night watching a little telly! Thanks to Sid's wife Kerry for a tasty Shepherds Pie and a quiet Guinness for me!



Next morning we headed back to the Marina for more action. This time we headed South to Rapid Bay. We stopped at several drops around Second Valley and stayed close to the cliffs because of the strong wind and rough sea. We finished our run at a potentially garfish hotspot off the old Rapid Day Jetty. Again, we could only find a few Tommies.



We noted several small dead leather jackets about 10cms long floating past us as we fished. They must be victims of the Algal Bloom even though the water appeared clear. We returned to the Marina a little sad that we couldn't find any decent fish.



We retired back to the Echo Holiday Park for a tasty steak and salad meal. The Holiday Park was well provisioned with a large entertainment area for a group BBQ, table tennis, pin ball machines near the beach. Apart from the lack of fish we thoroughly enjoyed the 'boating' experience and a catch up with Thorpie. The Voucher proved to be good value, and I guess we could have perhaps picked a more productive fishing location to use the Voucher. We did talk to several boaties at the ramp who advised us they also hadn't found the fish either. One couple caught 3 KGW and a flathead when they ventured along the coast to the North of Carickalinga. It seems that the effect of the Bloom has taken a toll on fish and hopefully areas on the Fleurier Peninsula will recover stocks before the summer influx of visitors and fisho's. We noticed as we drove home around Sellicks Hill that there appeared to be a lot of white foam on the beaches at Sellick's and Aldinga. The sea was flat calm, but the shoreline was white with the foam. BTW, the Breeze goes in for a service

tomorrow and hopefully the overheating problem can be fixed. It is a Yamaha 90HP with 460 hours on the clock. A normally reliable motor for me. TWT!



Thanks to Sid and Thorpie for the catchup and an enjoyable 3 days away with some fishing. I am looking forward to my next fishing adventure on the beach at Fowlers and Yalata chasing salmon and mulloway.

Nick Williamd 15 October 2025.