

# SOUTH SYDNEY AMATEUR FISHING ASSOCIATION INC

PO BOX 328, MATRAVILLE NSW 2036



## **CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL** Saturday 31/10/09.....Halloween.

Eddie & I set off for a relaxing Saturday afternoon in Botany Bay to fish for whiting. Live worms & yabbies were to be the bait for the session. We had been fishing for about 45 minutes with not much happening. The tide had just turned & we were ready for a productive session as the past few weekends had been very good with some big Whiting being caught along with a few bream.

I then caught a small stingray which is fairly common in the bay. It wasn't deeply hooked so I thought I would remove the hook & release it unharmed. As I held it down with one hand, its tail flicked up & stung me in the right wrist, just below the palm of my hand. The pain was instant & blood poured out of the small wound.

We kept fishing, but after about 30 minutes the pain was that bad we decided to return to the Motor Boat club where I jumped off the boat leaving Eddie to clean the gear & boat while I drove myself to Prince of Wales hospital at Randwick. The staff in emergency were fantastic, taking me in straight away as they could see I was in a lot of pain. After a few minutes a nurse came in & told me to place my wrist under hot running water which relieved most of the pain almost immediately. (A good tip for anyone who may get spiked in the future) I kept it under the water for over an hour.

I spent Saturday night in emergency on an IV drip with lots of antibiotics. On Sunday I was seen by, & operated on by the resident Plastic Surgeon about 6.00pm. The small wound was opened up to about 5cm long to make sure there was no tendon damage & then thoroughly cleaned to minimise the risk of infection.

I was released from hospital on Tuesday in time to watch the Melbourne Cup. It wasn't a SHOCKING injury, but very painful.

If there is a moral to this story, it is you can never be too careful when releasing any fish, let alone one that can cause injury. In future, any small Rays will not be lifted from the water & will be cut off well above the hook.

Jeff Manson.....

## **Safety Advice** – What To Do When Stung!!!!

- \*Box Jellyfish - Vinegar then dry cold compress.
- \*Irukandji Jellyfish - Vinegar.
- Stonefish - Hot water immersion.
- All other fish stings - Hot water first, if pain does not go away apply a cold compress.
- \*Cone shell - Pressure immobilisation bandage to stop the spread of venom.
- \*Blue ringed octopus - Pressure immobilisation bandage to stop the spread of venom.
- Blue bottle - Hot water first, if pain does not go away apply a cold compress.
- \*Sea snakes - Pressure immobilisation bandage.

\*The person will need to go to hospital immediately.