

# Point Samson WA

Story & Pics by Brian Williams

High up in the nor-west corner of West Australia, beyond Dampier and Karratha, and no less than 1700 km from Perth, Point Samson is in the heartland of the ochre-coloured iron ore ranges. The conditions can be fiercely hot, dry and dusty - but as Brian Williams explains, it is a different story on the water, where the fishin' action makes it all worthwhile.



**T**hrough rose coloured glasses my two boys now aged sixteen and eighteen remembered the northwest Pilbara region of Western Australia. I had been posted to the area when the youngest one was born, and my family and I stayed for eight enjoyable years.

The boys had been reminding me for a couple of years that I had promised to take them back to sample the great fishing and crabbing spots that they had heard me talk about to my friends.

They reminded me of the stories they had heard me recount of days when you had to hide the bait or the fish would jump into the boat after it.

Well, maybe the fishing was never quite that good, but there were days that most would find the fishing unbelievable unless they experienced it for themselves.

Arrangements made, holidays and school breaks organised, my wife, the two boys and I were off on the return trip to the Pilbara. I wasn't looking forward to the twenty or so hours it was going to take

to tow the boat, but after being away for eight years it was going to be very interesting to see if the fishing and crabbing had deteriorated or got better in the years since we lived there.

We planned an overnight stay in Carnarvon and this would break the long journey.

Carnarvon is also a great place to top up on fruit and vegetables, as most of the Western Australian produce is grown here and can become expensive further north where fruit and vegetables are freighted in

on refrigerated trucks.

Had the fishing deteriorated or improved with the decrease in the mining population and the advent of fly in, fly out workers? Would the fishing still be as good and would I remember the previously productive spots to put my family onto some great fishing? The fact that I still had my charts for the area and GPS coordinates was going to be a big help.

There were a number of my old fishing buddies who still lived in the area and should be able to give me up to date information with a little bit of arm twisting.

## Grey Power

The first surprise was not the decrease in the resident population but the enormous increase in the grey power brigade travelling and camping through the area.

We arrived late September and my recollection was that the tourists had all departed for cooler climates by this time of the year.

The local caravan park at Point Samson is

from satisfied customers. A check of the local papers or the Roebourne Tourist Bureau is a good place to start.

## Facilities

Point Samson is in the heart of the iron ore mining and shipping area of Western Australia and is roughly 1700 kilometres north of Perth. Karratha and Dampier, both servicing the iron ore and gas industries are probably

the better-known towns and are 50 and 60 kilometres south of Point Samson.

Dampier is also known for its fishing tournament each year where a number of Australian and World records have been broken. Wickham and Roebourne are the closest towns to Samson if you discount the town of Cossack, which was first settled in 1863 and is now a ghost town. The area is steeped in

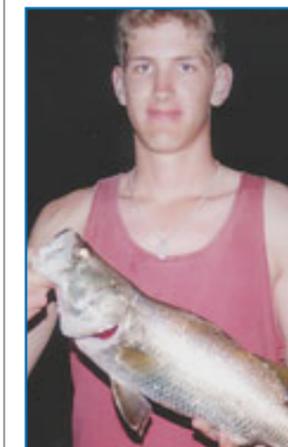
history with the towns of Cossack and Roebourne being the oldest towns in the north of W.A.

Fishing facilities are reasonably well catered for by Western Australian standards, with good ramps at Samson and Port Wallcott.

Small boat launching is available in Sams Creek and into the estuary system at Cossack. Tides must be watched as all of these ramps run out of



**Above:** Check the Causeway run-out tide flow!  
**Below:** Bryce with a Causeway barra, Denise with a red emperor from the reefs offshore.



normally very close to empty when the weather starts to heat up, but it was full. The roads north and south had a continuing stream of caravans, mobile homes, etc., and I would suggest that anyone who is intending to visit this area should check out the availability of accommodation prior to arriving. We had booked a private chalet and there are a number of these for rent or you can book into the well set-up Point Samson Lodge.

The lodge also has its own charter boat and I heard only good stories

water on the very low tides ie those of less than a half metre. The ramps had been upgraded since I had last seen them and are a vast improvement on what used to be available.

The ramp in Johns Creek (Point Samson) attached to the fishing boat harbour is regularly used by a local charter boat and as this boat is around the ten metre mark it proves you can launch large trailerable rigs if you watch the tides. This ramp has a jetty system, which is stepped to cater for the rise and fall in tides, and I found this to work very well