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August 2012 Field Day, Rottnest

The August 2012 Rottnest field day lived up to expectations, and those of us who went on the Saturday had a mind blowing fishing experience. As per last year, the thought of a Rotto field day was always an anticipation of catching great fish like Salmon, Yellowtail Kingfish, Skippy and of course Herring.

A team of some 9 SCAC fisherpersons, Mark and Wendy Hansen, Peet and Sandra Wessels, Greg Keet, Ian Taggart, Francis Ford, Josh Gorringer and Peter Osborne arrived Friday night. While the main group participated in some pizza etc at the local pub on Friday night, Josh and Francis went down and tried for some squid, but no luck. They tried again on Saturday night after fishing, with the same result. Saturday morning at 11 am the bus trip out to West End and observation gave weather very good. As one of the members had not been to Rotto before, the bus driver took us on a tour. Of course we stopped at the bakery to get a hot pie for lunch on the way out. And as in past years to mine and Sandra's palette, the lamb and rosemary pies are a real treat.

On arrival, we spread out from the Tennis Courts to Wilsons. Those that tried the Tennis Courts could not get the herring to go on the bite using bait – very unusual. Mark picked it right and again tried the Tennis Courts using small plastics for herring. Francis, Josh, Ian Taggart and I tried Wilsons for Tailor. Only Ian found that one Tailor, quite a good one. My effort gave no Tailor, but my second cast gave a Snook of just under 2 kg. Francis and Josh moved across to the hole that Ian caught his tailor, with Francis getting a healthy Tarwhine. A few Herring were on the boil for a short period then disappeared. Both Wilsons and the Tennis Court locations gave the odd Wrasse, small Skippy, and Western Rock Blackfish.

Between 2 and 3 pm most of us took a break at the bus stop to have a drink/coffee to restore energy and again engage in anticipation of what was to come. Before 4 pm we had all made our way to Radar reef.

For those not already at the Tennis Courts, even though downhill it was a tough climb down. While the swell was up a bit, no wind and a low tide gave us nearly perfect conditions for fishing off Radar.



Radar Reef on Saturday late afternoon

Initially a couple of tarwhine, some small skippy and Western Rock Blackfish were caught, and then just after 4 pm, Sandra had the first hit of a Yellow Tail Kingfish, only a monster, over 90 cm. The fish gave her a hard fought battle, but applying her skills and with her heart in her mouth, she managed to keep it away from rock and with success, she eventually struggled back to shore with this large fish under her arm.



Sandra Wessels with her 90cm, 4.72kg (gilled and gutted) Yellowtail Kingfish

From then it started to happen, however it was the skippy that made a concentrated appearance. After another half hour the yellowtail started to really show up. The first few caught were undersize, but as it went past 5pm people were managing to get size Yellowtail. Both Ian and I got busted off on reefs on big fish. Again was people to the left, people to the right, rods bent, with a real tug of war battle, mixtures of skippy and Yellowtail.

As it started to get low light and then dark, the size of the skippy increased, a few came in over the 1.5 kg mark. Peet managed to capture the largest skippy weighing in at 1.45 kg gutted and gilled.

How's that for a 1.5 + kg Skippy – one of the best sessions all of us have ever had on very large skippy.

The Skippy kept coming and coming and Wendy managed to get a couple of beauties, the first she has ever caught.

Most managed to land at least one Yellowtail. Greg Keet quietly fishing on the outside end quietly and efficiently landing Yellowtail and Skippy and slipping them into his bag – similarly at the other end of the line of Surfcasters, Mark was doing the same thing with his bag increasing in weight as the day wore on. Similarly, Francis and Josh were busy filling up their bags with skippy.

Lots of excited talk on the bus as everyone wanted to relive their successes or bust-offs. Once back in the very comfortable cottages, the foregoing was followed by a hot shower and a hot meal, and everyone slept well that night.



Peet Wessels with his 1.45kg (gilled and gutted) Skippy

Sunday morning gave a sleep-in, breakfast, gear clean-up and some making new rigs. Then a repeat of loading up the bus at 11 am, stop off at the bakery and out to West End. However the weather conditions gave a different story to our efforts.

With winds of 30 to 40 knots, Radar reef was unfishable. Again a mixture of persons heading to Tennis Courts and Wilsons, with a few more showing up at Wilsons. Fishing was hard work with the wind so strong even though at Wilsons it was basically behind us. As the day wore on, the wind got stronger. Wilsons was not as prolific with fewer herring compared to the previous day however an odd Western Rock Blackfish, Skippy, and Wrasse were caught.

Shortly after arriving at Wilsons, Peet moved across to the hole where Ian got his tailor the previous day. It didn't take long before Peet had the one and only Tailor for this day. Ian and I stayed at this location with Ian catching a good Breaksea Cod and late in the afternoon I got one just over size.

Wendy decided to relax and not battle the elements with Mark and Greg had decided not to fish the West End and stayed behind to fish the local beaches south of the jetty. A few

Herring and a good Pike by Mark was the result, undertaken in a lot more comfort than the rest of us were experiencing.

Just before dark Ian and I headed back to the bus stop as, while attempting to fish at the point at Wilsons, wind gusts were so strong that one was nearly blown over. While the tide was low, a few waves were coming in over the bit of reef we fish off and trying to do that in the dark would have been impossible, and not very safe.

The rest of the team had fished the Tennis Courts with no real luck other than Wrasse. They joined us after Ian and I managed to rest, have a drink, remove our wet suits and change into warm clothing. We had to wait in a strong wind for the bus, but at least no rain.

Back to the cottage and doing an initial clean-up we hauled our eskies of fish (or half the team in the other cabin) to the weigh-in area, a verandah of our cabin, good lighting and out of wind and possible rain. Here we admired and weighed some great bags of fish, and took photos of groups and individuals holding up their Yellowtail and/or Skippy all with a big grin on their faces. Relax again after this, hot food, shower, sleep in, and following morning load crates, then down to the bakery for a coffee etc and waited for the Ferry departure of 11am. We were lucky to have reasonable conditions for Saturday afternoon/early evening.

Again Rotto gave us reinforcement of the joy of catching some really great skippy and yellowtail kingfish.

If you can organize your calendar and budgets, I thoroughly recommend you join us on a sojourn to a Rottnest field day where you can to enjoy some truly remarkable fishing. I am going to look at the long range forecast for tides, and while we cannot forecast the weather conditions will plug low tides for usual field day dates into the selection process for 2013/14 venue selection.

Field Day Officer, Peter Osborne

A fishing report from the mainland

It was arranged George had found the best spot for championship fishing. We will show those on Rotto what real fishing is all about.

The time was getting close to go to this place of special fish called 'Floreat.' Sounds like I have done this before.

A phone call to Johnny Crompton, all was arranged to meet at Floreat with George Holman and me at 4:30pm Saturday when the tide was at its lowest and starting to rise. The sun was shining, the skies are clear, what a day for fishing.

Loaded up and left Aine at home smiling and waving goodbye. As I drove off Aine was really happy to see me go BUT I will return later full of fishy smells which really delight her. (Not really, just kidding).

Arrived at Floreat, loaded myself up for the climb over the hill towards the beach, must get there soon running out of oxygen, can't be this hard to climb over a sand track, must be all the gear I am carrying, nothing to do with age or fitness.

Finally arrive at the beach. The sea has been busy, moved all the sand from the beach, leaving about a two metre drop onto the beach. Once on the beach I spot John Crompton setting up, exchange a few words then find a fishing spot that looks good and fishy.

The breakers are well out and the water is very shallow. A sand bar has built up from just offshore to about what seems forever. It takes a George Holman cast to get out there.

Set up and get a bait in the water, waiting, waiting, then wind in bait all gone, load up and cast out again. Just settling in when George arrives puffing and blowing. "My knees are killing me," George exclaims as he arrives. On a beautiful day like today it's good to be alive.

George sets up for a fishing session, looking at the ocean, very little wave activity with a slight breeze from the south west. "Could get better later on," says George. We agree it has

to get better. With that George wanders over to John for a chat and to catch up on anything he might have missed. With all that sorted it was time to fish.

It got dark, still no fish, just pickers taking the bait. Just keep winding in and rebaiting. Somebody has to feed the fish so they will grow up to be big fish. After what seemed an eternity George dragged a fish, a just size Tarwhine which was put into a bucket to be used as live bait later on.

Still no hook-ups for John or me, meanwhile George has caught a Tailor, at least something is starting to happen. That was it for sometime then George decides it's time for his live bait to go for a swim. George is on again, another Tailor.

John wanders over, he has had enough and is packing up and going home. Two other silly buggers decide to fish on, one more cast. This turns into many more. Still no fish on my side of the beach.

George decides to wind in the swimmer who is still going, unhooks the fish, puts it into a bucket to revive then returns it to the water to swim another day.

By now it is 11pm. Time to pack up and go home. George has caught another two good sized Tarwhine so he has had a good night by the degree of difficulty in catching fish. As far as I know the three of us were the only local fishers.

Thanks for the company on the beach. It's always good to be on the beach somewhere with a line in the water.

Pat McKeown

Catch results and points for August Field Day

Angler	Weight	Species	Fish	Points
Peter Osborne	15.04 kg	7	27	270.4
Sandra Wessels	14.61 kg	5	15	246.1
Mark Hansen	12.02 kg	6	24	220.2
Peet Wessels	8.96 kg	6	13	199.6
Ian Taggart	6.97 kg	3	10	149.7
Greg Keet	6.71 kg	3	10	137.1
Francis Ford	6.68 kg	2	10	136.8
Josh Gorrige	4.9 kg	1	5	99
Wendy Hansen	1.62 kg	2	3	76.2
George Holman	1.69 kg	2	4	56.9
John Crompton				20
Pat McKeown				20

Points include Field Day and August General Meeting points. Species weighed at the Rottneest Field Day were Tailor, Australian Herring, Skipjack Trevally, Yellowtail Kingfish, Wrasse, Western Rock Blackfish, Tarwhine, Snook, Cod (other), Long Finned Pike, Breaksea Cod.

Species weighed at the Local Field Day were:- Tailor and Tarwhine.

Sportsperson of the Year winners for August 2012

Best scale fish	Sandra Wessels	Yellowtail Kingfish	4.72 kg
Best bag of scale fish	Peter Osborne	Mixed Bag	15.04 kg

Field day section winners for August 2012

Best scale fish	Sandra Wessels	Yellowtail Kingfish	4.72 kg
Best bag of scale fish	Peter Osborne	Mixed Bag	15.04 kg

Correction to weight in Field day section winners for July 2012

Best scale fish	Peter Osborne	Western Rock Blackfish	1.34 kg
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Field Day top scores for 2012/13

Total scores up to and including August Field Day and General meeting. Competition Rules section 2.4.5 specifies only the best 11 months out of 12 will count at the end of the competition year. The winners will be announced at the Presentation of Trophies in June 2013, and adjusted scores will be published after that.

Name	Points	Rank	Name	Points	Rank	Name	Points	Rank
Peter Osborne	806.5	1	John Crompton	117	11	Raymond Walker	40	21
Peet Wessels	671.4	2	Francis Gaudin	115.7	12	Chris Stickells	34.5	22
Sandra Wessels	485	3	Slavka Schilo	110.3	13	Christian Wearmouth	22.2	23
George Holman	291.2	4	Morgan Keet	109.5	14	Thomas Wearmouth	21	24
Francis Ford	251.8	5	Josh Gorringer	99	15	Allan Jones	20	25
Ian Taggart	242.3	6	Victor Schilo	93.6	16			
Greg Keet	220.5	7	Wendy Hansen	76.2	17			
Mark Hansen	220.2	8	Justin Rose	65.1	18			
Theo Van Niekerk	177.6	9	Martin Wearmouth	51.1	19			
Pat McKeown	131.4	10	Beverley Grigo	40	20			

Field Day sections 2012/13

Up to and including August 2012 Field Day.

1A	Best scale fish (1st six months)	Peet Wessels	Mulloway	7.8 kg	June
1B	Best scale fish (2nd six months)				
2	Most meritorious fish	To be awarded by Committee			
3	Best Shark (4.5kg min)				
4	Best Mulloway (2.0kg min)	Peet Wessels	Mulloway	7.8 kg	June
5	Best Tailor (1.0kg min)	Ian Taggart	Tailor	1.04 kg	Aug
6	Best Salmon (3kg min)				
7	Best Skipjack Trevally (0.5 kg min)	Peet Wessels	Skipjack Trevally	1.42 kg	Aug
8	Best Mackerel (2kg Min)				
9	Best scale fish (other than above)	Sandra Wessels	Yellowtail Kingfish	4.72 kg	Aug
10	Best bag of scale fish	Peter Osborne	Mixed Bag	15.04 kg	Aug
11	Best bag of Mulloway (2 fish Min)				
12	Best bag of Tailor (2 fish Min)	Theo Van Niekerk	Tailor	2.8 kg	May
13	Best fish on S/H rod 4kg b/s line (max)				
14	Best fish caught on fly rod	Francis Gaudin	Wrasse	0.54 kg	May