



## Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

PO Box 2834, Malaga WA 6944

ABN 29 925 237 020

Telephone 0459 183 375 Email [surfcast@iinet.net.au](mailto:surfcast@iinet.net.au)

Club Web page <http://www.surfcasters.iinet.net.au>

Kalbarri house [www.surfcasters.iinet.net.au/KalbarriHouse.html](http://www.surfcasters.iinet.net.au/KalbarriHouse.html)

### August 2013 field day Rottnest

As in past years, the August 2013 Rottnest field day lived up to expectations, and those of us who went on the Saturday and Sunday had a mind blowing fishing experience with Skippy.

As last year, the thought of a Rottnest field day was always an anticipation of catching great fish like salmon, yellowtail kingfish, skippy, tailor, misc. species and of course herring.

The Club owns an air conditioned holiday house at Kalbarri which is available for rent to the public and club members at competitive rates. Link is above.

Unfortunately although nearly a nil appearance of yellowtail kingfish and tailor and nil on salmon it was memorable weekend of catching great fish.

A team of eight SCAC fisherpersons, Mark and Wendy Hansen, Peet and Sandra Wessels, Greg Keet, Ian Taggart, Theo Van Niekerk and Peter Osborne arrived Friday night, and divided into the two pre-arranged cottages.

While one group participated in some pizza etc. at the local pub on Friday night and watched the football, the rest of us had our precooked meals run through the microwave.

Saturday morning at 11am we had the bus trip out to West End with our stopping at the bakery to get a hot pie to eat for lunch on the way out. And as in past years, to my and Sandra's palate, the lamb and rosemary pies were on the agenda as they really are a great pie. All the anticipation of this came to nought as at the time of our arrival, they were not yet cooked. We had other selections with a request to have them available for us on Sunday morning.

On arrival, we spread out from the Tennis Courts to Wilsons. Those that tried Wilsons could not get the herring to go on the bite using bait, very unusual. Mark and Wendy tried the Tennis Courts and found herring and misc wrasse. Greg Keet wasn't feeling the best and while riding out on the bus had decided not to fish and save his energy for Sunday as looking at weather reports it looked like a better day.



*Sandra at Wilsons after she caught that lone tailor, the first good fish.*

The rest of us tried Wilsons for tailor. Sandra concentrated efforts on fishing in typical tailor white water suds.

Only Sandra found that one tailor, a good one. On close inspection it was a big fish and very lean, probably due to having a ganged set of about 6/0 hooks caught up in his mouth.

A bit of light braid was tied to the top hook and looks as though the tailor bit it through.

Theo thrashed the corner for tailor, nil result on this species, but he did capture a good snook. All the fish I caught were tarwhine and were undersize. Did manage a few small herring later in the afternoon

An effort around the corner of Wilsons by Ian proved fruitless as it was full of squid latching onto and destroying the mulie bait soon as it hit the water. As we did not have squid jigs to enable a good hook-up we thought we would leave this for Sunday afternoon. On leaving

Wilsons, pretty well empty handed, and going to the top of the cliff we spotted a whale, with some breaching action, with a calf. This sighting is always a great feeling to see.

We knew we were not lost when we made our way back. Peet and Sandra had returned some 30/40 minutes prior to Ian and me, Theo a little later. Peet had a spool of ghost cotton on his belt and as he started up the cliff he must have brushed against a scrub with the cotton catching. The spool unwound with a cotton trail going up the cliff along the road to our stop point: 1.5 km of marked trail.

Following the whale sighting, about 3pm we 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. Sandra and Peet had gone down to the Tennis Courts a little earlier and did manage some reef fish, western rock blackfish, a leather jacket and wrasse. By 4pm we had all started to make our way to Radar Reef.

As always although though downhill, it is a tough climb down and a tougher one back up. While the swell was up to moderate and there was a strong SW wind, however a low tide gave us reasonable conditions for fishing off Radar.

I arriving at the rock platform and setting up our gear we could see the Wessels and the Hansens already fishing, conditions looked pretty reasonable considering a strong wind blowing into our faces. Greg and Ian had decided to take it easy for this session. When Theo and I arrived at the fishing location those fishing already had initially captured a couple of tarwhine, a couple of great skippy and western rock blackfish. Continuing, an odd skippy came in leading up to low light, but about the time one was thinking about using headlights it was skippy time.

Unfortunately I managed to miss this action. As my bait was low and I did not have my head lamp I walked in to get it. Halfway in I had a set of pretty solid swell waves come through, hence when I staggered up on the rocks, I thought no, not my thing, can't keep up that pace. Course when climbing up the cliff, I looked back and the reef appeared to be totally exposed with no waves coming over.

At the time I climbed the cliff apparently it was then as though a switch had been turned on that activated skippy to feed aggressively. The skippy kept coming and coming, all hooking up with Peet managed to get a couple of beauties. Most got their bag limit with fish averaging over 1kg uncleaned,

The yellowtail did not create much activity, a couple of undersize were caught and released with Peet landing the only just size fish. However, some had heavy bags of skippy to climb up the hill or should I say cliff.

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

The following morning, Sunday, a repeat of loading up the bus at 11am, stopping off at the bakery again and out to West End. The bakery lived up to its word and we had those lamb and rosemary pies ready and waiting for us, hot and delicious.

On arrival at the West End and viewing the sea, the weather conditions exceeded our expectations, swell low, no wind with tide still falling, with about 5 hours to low tide at 5pm.



*Typical conditions on Radar reef on Sunday afternoon at low tide  
About as good as it gets for fishing this bit of water*

We split up again with most heading to Wilson and Mark going down to the Tennis Courts. Mark, also using soft plastics ended up with a bag of 18 herring.

Round at Wilsons, the effort was worse than Saturday, only a couple of tarwhine and wrasse, except Peet caught a magnificent Green and Red wrasse. A unique fish that when subject to verification by John Curtis, should be not only be a club record, but a State and National record.



Some of Peet Wessel's bag. Note the Red and Green Wrasse (1.32 kg)

Peet and Sandra went back and started fishing the Tennis Courts mid-afternoon and managed some wrasse, western rock blackfish and a good leatherjacket to Sandra. The rest of us, Ian, Greg, Theo, and me arrived at the Rader Reef a little before 4pm. Peet, Sandra and Mark were there already and had caught an odd very large skippy.

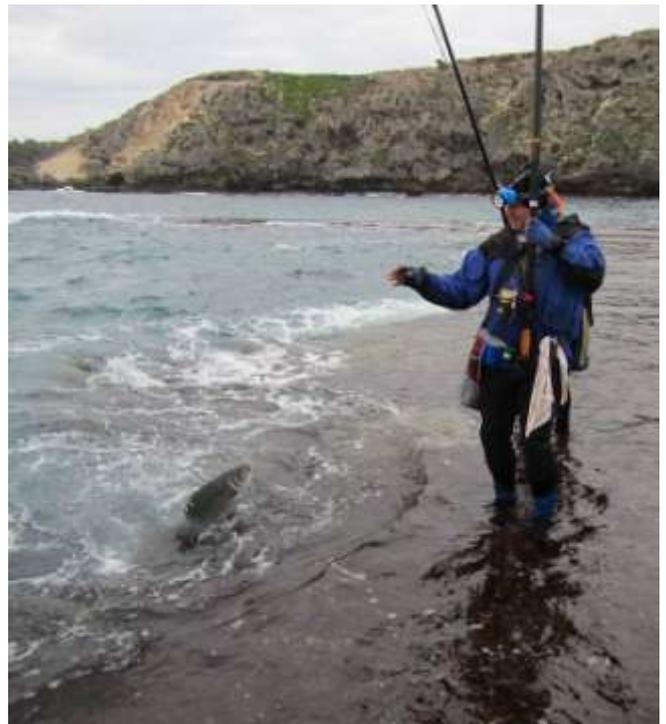
We all fished under perfect conditions with the odd skippy, tarwhine and wrasse coming in. However what bought a lot of excitement was the number of buff bream coming in. They were huge, my guess some of them would be 10+kg. The initial hit by one of these gave immediate thoughts of a yellowtail kingfish.

Have to advise that Sandra has lost the title of buffy queen as Peet's success on this species for this weekend, made him a clear winner.

However Greg appeared to want to get into this scenario. He also managed to land some huge buffy that were difficult to manage the handling during the unhooking process. Excitement also created by a wobbegong shark that kept swimming around our feet. As long as you stay still and do not kick or tread on them they are harmless.

As the previous night just about just before dark the switch was flipped to tell the skippy to go into a feeding frenzy. Suddenly all of us were on. I had 4 casts resulting in 4 skippy.

Then I had 3 misses in a row before I realized the fish were so aggressive feeding from top to bottom of the water column. If you did not immediately flip the reel bail arm take up line slack and feel the sinker as soon as it landed in the water, the bait was gone and thus no fish. Once recognizing this I soon had my bag limit of 8, hence I went back to shore.



Peet battling (no not a salmon) – a Buff Bream

During this session, it was great to look up and see 3 or 4 fisherpersons hooked up and rods bent double on skippy of 1+kg. Sandra of course making the usual South African war cries of shouting and yelling each time she hooked up. Think she was trying to tell friends back in South Africa she was having a ball. Some stopped on for a bit to undertake catch and release. While most used mulies, I had caught a couple on herring fillets which had the same reaction as casting out a mulie; Mark also caught most of his bag during this session on soft plastics.

Walking back to shore I pondered again our Rottnest trip was a really great and memorable fishing experience. When back I started gutting and clean my skippy and tarwhine. I was

soon followed by others in cleaning their fish. I then made my way up the cliff with a full load of fish. Hard work, but a smile on my face.

Again lots of excited talk on the bus as everyone wanted to relive their successes or bust-offs. Once back in the very comfortable cottages we cleaned ourselves up a bit, organized our bag of fish and went about the weigh-in. The tabling of the bags of fish was very impressive. Gilled and gutted skippy averaged from just less than 1kg, with some fish well over. Peet Wessels was a clear winner with some 17.8kg of fish and 6 species. His 2kg skippy was the largest just pipping his yellowtail of 1.95kg. The rest of us had bags of 9 to 12kg. Theo did well as he had 4 species and 12.36kg, as did Sandra with 5 species and 11.77kg.



*Theo with a couple of good skippy*



*The weigh in started with Sandra's bag*

Putting our fish back on ice we cleaned up with a hot shower and a hot meal. We said goodbye to our quokka visitor and again everyone sleeping well that night.

We all had a good sleep, followed by a hot breakfast then coffee etc. at the bakery before catching the ferry at 11am. What a trip.

### **Local Field Day**

With the boundaries opened up a bit further for the local fishing, Pat McKeown, Dean Stewart, John Crompton and Martin Wearmouth headed up to Seabird. What a disappointment, windy, rainy and all the usual beaches filled with weed.

They then decided to head south and check out fishing spots on the way back. A favorable spot, the mouth of the Moore River at Guilderton was open, generally a plus for catching mulloway, however again all weeded up.

They then went into Wilbinga, again weed, but potentially fishable. They tried for some 5 hours into the dark, losing rigs to weed, however Pat was rewarded for his effort as he managed the capture of a 1.54kg mulloway, well done considering the conditions. Unfortunately John, Martin and Dean finished up with empty bags.

Ken Howells and Gary Parkinson started at Brighton Road but it was too weedy so they relocated to the south wall at Hillarys. Ken managed a couple of herring and Gary a tailor and herring. Lot of water between the fish.



*Peet with his Yellowtail Kingfish and Skipjack Trevally. The skippy was slightly heavier at 2.0kg beating the 1.95kg Yellowtail Kingfish*

Weigh-in was undertaken at 11:45pm on Saturday and as weather and sea conditions experienced were so poor it was decided not to fish on Sunday.

Field Day Officer, Peter Osborne

### Sportsperson of the Year section winners for August 2013

Best scale fish	Peet Wessels	Skipjack Trevally	2.0 kg
Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	Mixed Bag	17.82 kg

### Field day section winners for August 2013

Best scale fish	Peet Wessels	Skipjack Trevally	2.0 kg
Best bag of scale fish	Theo Van Niekerk	Mixed Bag	12.36 kg

### Catch results and points for August 2013 Field Day

Angler	Weight	Species	Fish	Points
Peet Wessels	17.82 kg	6	20	258.2
Sandra Wessels	11.77 kg	5	13	187.7
Mark Hansen	10.66 kg	5	29	176.6
Theo Van Niekerk	12.36 kg	4	13	173.6
Peter Osborne	9.57 kg	4	17	155.7
Greg Keet	8.42 kg	2	9	114.2
Gary Parkinson	0.77 kg	2	2	47.7
Pat McKeown	1.54 kg	1	1	45.4
Wendy Hansen	0.73 kg	2	5	37.3
Ken Howells	0.19 kg	1	2	31.9
Ian Taggart	0.86 kg	1	1	28.6
Dean Stewart				20
John Crompton				10
Martin Wearmouth				10

Points include Field day and August General meeting points.

Species weighed at the Rottnest field day: tailor, herring, western rock blackfish, wrasse, skipjack trevally, breaksea cod, snook, tarwhine, leather jacket, yellowtail kingfish.

Species weighed at the local field day: mulloway, tailor and herring.

### Field Day top scores for 2013/14

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 2014, and adjusted scores will be published after that. Names with equal scores are sorted alphabetically.

Name	Points	Rank	Name	Points	Rank	Name	Points	Rank
Peet Wessels	438.9	1	Peter Pekaar	91.7	10	Christian Wearmouth	10	19
Sandra Wessels	356.7	2	George Holman	82.8	11	John Crompton	10	20
Theo Van Niekerk	310.2	3	Matt Howells	76.9	12	Neil Maxted	10	21
Ken Howells	228.4	4	Gary Parkinson	67.7	13	Slavka Schilo	10	22
Pat McKeown	191.5	5	Allan Jones	66.5	14	Thomas Wearmouth	10	23
Mark Hansen	176.6	6	Martin Wearmouth	54.1	15	Tino Baiardo	10	24
Peter Osborne	155.7	7	Dean Stewart	51.7	16	Victor Schilo	10	25
Greg Keet	114.2	8	Ian Taggart	38.6	17			
Justin Rose	106.8	9	Wendy Hansen	37.3	18			

## Update to Species Badge competition

The list of species registered to members has been updated for catches and entries during August.

Name	Bream	Flathead	Flounder	Garfish	Herring	Yellow Eyed Mullet	Mackerel	Mulloway	Pink Snapper	Salmon	Samson Fish	Snook or Pike	Tailor	Tarwhine	Trevally	Whiting	Wrasse	Number of species caught
Gary Parkinson					1								1					2

Recorder John Curtis

## Field Day sections 2013/14

Up to and including August 2013 Field Day.

1A	Best scale fish (1st six months)	Ken Howells	Mulloway	6.28 kg	May
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)	Ken Howells	Mulloway	6.28 kg	May
5	Best Tailor (1.0kg min)	Sandra Wessels	Tailor	1.75 kg	August
6	Best Salmon (3kg min)				
7	Best Skipjack Trevally (0.5 kg min)	Peet Wessels	Skipjack Trevally	2.0 kg	August
8	Best Mackerel (2kg Min)				
9	Best scale fish (other than above)	Theo Van Niekerk	Westralian Dhufish	1.96 kg	May
10	Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	Mixed bag	17.82 kg	August
11	Best bag of Mulloway (2 fish Min)				
12	Best bag of Tailor (2 fish Min)	Justin Rose	Tailor	3.9 kg	June
13	Best fish on S/H rod 4kg b/s line (max)				
14	Best fish caught on fly rod				