



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

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### August 2014 field day

**Rottnest.** As in past years, the August 2014 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, some yellowtail kingfish and miscellaneous. fish.

As per 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.

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

The weekend was scheduled to be fine except a front was to come through Sunday evening. In fact on Sunday morning, we received storm warnings on checking though the mobile phones. Swell was not too large but tides were to be a bit higher than we liked.

A team of 6 SCAC fisherpersons, Mark Hansen, Peet and Sandra Wessels, Ian Taggart, Theo Van Niekerk and Peter Osborne and visitors Paul Terpkos and son Nicolas (Nic) arrived Friday night, and divided into the two pre-arranged bungalows.

While one group participated in some pizza etc. at the local pub on Friday night and watched the football, the rest had their precooked meals run through the microwave. The bungalows are three bedrooms of 2 beds per room, the facilities are very comfortable.

Saturday morning at 11am we had the bus trip out to West End stopping at the bakery to get a hot pie to eat for lunch on the way out. And as in past years to mine and Sandra's palette, the lamb and rosemary pies were on the agenda as they really are a gourmet treat. All the anticipation of this came to naught as at the time they were all sold put. 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 tried the Tennis Courts and found herring and misc. wrasse on soft plastics. The rest of us tried Wilsons for tailor with also the hope of getting a snook, skippy or even a salmon. We all concentrated efforts on fishing in fishy looking white water suds. Nil results despite thrashing the water to a foam. All the fish I caught were small wrasse. I did manage a few small herring late in the afternoon.

An effort by Ian around the corner of Wilsons proved fruitless as it was full of small wrasse that were destroying the mulie bait soon as it hit the water. On leaving Wilsons, pretty well empty handed the main group headed to Radar Reef. The group fished the Tennis Courts as the tide was still a little on the high side. Again herring scarce but wrasse plentiful.

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.



*The group all lined up on Radar reef waiting for the action.*

On arriving at the Radar above water rock platform I was joined up with the Wessels, Mark, Theo and Paul and Nic. We all set up our gear, the heavy outfit, reels loaded with 15kg line and bait-casting with 60 or 80lb leaders. Our gear also consisted of wearing a wet suit, waterproof jacket, a floatation snake, and reef boots.

Conditions looked pretty reasonable considering a wind blowing into our faces and a high low tide. Ian had decided to take it easy for this session.

When I followed the others at this fishing location those fishing already had initially caught a couple of western rock blackfish. Cast and retrieve continued and when starting to get dark some odd skippy came in.

About this time one was thinking about using headlights as it was time for skippy to really come on strong.

It was then as though a switch had been turned on that activated the skippy to feed aggressively. The skippy just kept coming and coming, all hooking up with most of us managing to get a couple of beauties. We had a good start to achieving a bag limit for the weekend; with nearly half the fish averaging 1kg uncleaned. Mark using soft plastics caught his skippy, but switched to a mulie to enable him to land his yellowtail.



*Visitor Paul Terpkos with yellowtail*

Prior to it getting dark our expectation was for the yellowtail kingfish to appear. As light started to fade the first skippy came on the bite, along with a couple of small undersize yellowtail. When it was headlamp use time the yellowtail appeared but not in big numbers. These fish were mixed in with the skippy. Most people landed one yellowtail with Sandra and Theo bagging two.

Paul caught his first ever yellowtail much to his delight. He also got a few large skippy, including one being the heaviest caught over the weekend.

Nic, his son, only managed to land one large skippy, but got involved with the excitement with his dad. Needless to say Paul is hooked on fishing Radar and chasing yellowtail kingfish. By end of the trip he was saying, "I will have to re-join the Club."

A little over an hour of absolute adrenalin pumping fishing experience.

Lots of excited talk on the bus as everyone wanted to relive their successes with skippy and yellowtail and excitement and let-down of fighting a yellowtail only to find it was a big buff bream. Once back in the very comfortable cottages, we were all able to relax, followed by a hot shower and a hot meal, end result was that everyone slept 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. Sandra was first into the bakery and was able to get the last of the lamb and rosemary pies. Darn, I had been looking forward to one of those bakery delights but was outpaced by Sandra. Paul, Nic and Ian had decided not to fish on the Sunday.

On arrival at the West End and viewing the sea, the weather conditions met our expectations; swell a little lower, some wind with high low tide, but falling, about 4 hours to low tide around 5pm. We split up again with most heading to Wilsons and Mark going down to the Tennis

Courts. Mark, using a flick rod and small soft plastics, ended up with a bag of 19 herring for the weekend.

Round at Wilsons, the effort was worse than Saturday, no tailor, salmon, snook or yellowtail. I had some excitement as I hooked a large buff bream on my herring gear. Others tried for herring with no success. I managed one legal size tarwhine and made a friend of a pelican.

Over the past few years, Ian has had a large seagull watch over him at Wilsons. Again on Saturday when fishing Wilsons he had his favourite seagull follow him around. However I reckon the pelican was a much more impressive camp follower. The pelican broke off from me and watched over Theo for a while but returned to be my minder.

I was concerned that I could have a seriously bad hook-up as the pelican moved in directly behind me and kept eyeing my mulie, hence I had to ensure during my cast he could not grab it. Later in the afternoon he disappeared. When I went across to Radar, I saw Mark fishing the north-west corner of the Tennis Courts with the pelican watching his every move.



*Peter Osborne and his pelican "minder". He would come up within a metre of Peter's back*

The Wessels and Theo tried for herring at the Tennis court after leaving Wilsons with no success, however Peet had later caught one on his big gear baitcasting a mulie.

When I arrived at Radar, Peet and I decided to try directly out in front as there was a bit of water coming over the end of Radar. We used floats as it was shallow water and very reefy. I had some squid and handed a few to Peet saying these can work well. I immediately hooked a very large tarwhine, but on starting to lift it out of the water to put in my reef bag it dropped off. It must have been lip hooked only. I soon after caught a second good western rock blackfish and upped the ante of landing the largest buff bream, of course initially thinking it was a yellowtail. Peet of course took advantage of my change in plan using squid. Within 15 minutes he landed a cod, a good breaksea cod and a good western rock blackfish. So much for my then current lead of 7 species as until then Peet had 6 species and immediately moved to 9.

A little later, Mark had moved to the rock and joined us where we set up our big gear. On setting up big rods, terminal gear, reef bag, bait, and headlamp etc. we made our way out to the west end of radar reef. The first hour nothing much happened. Like Saturday night, we had to work hard on feeding wrasse etc until it started to get dark. Once headlamps were in full use, the skippy really came on the bite again. Of the five of us, when this started at any one time at least two rods were bent double. Sandra managed a size breaksea cod and blackfish, I also picked up a couple of reasonable tarwhine. Sandra landed a buff bream larger than the one I had caught a couple of hours earlier, to be followed by Peet landing an absolute monster of one. We then made the call for Peet as being the "Buffy King."

As it got very dark and knowing a storm was coming and with a few waves coming through that were lifting a lot higher making fishing a lot harder, we pulled up a little earlier than originally planned. We went ashore, cleaned the fish and climbed the cliff face to wait for the bus. Many thanks to Sandra and Mark for carrying up my fish for me. Unfortunately in tough conditions like this, age is beginning to catch up on me.

We had the bus scheduled to pick us up at 8:30 pm, but with storm coming and a potential 1½ hour wait, Peet decided to call a contact he has with the bus operator. Result was the small bus and trailer arrived just before 7:30pm.



*Rottneest is the place to catch yellowtail kingfish. Smiles on all faces for this great fishing experience. Paul, Mark, Peet, Sandra, Theo, Peter in front.*

With the weigh-in set up on the bungalow verandah we were all done by 9:15pm. All put gear away and went back to their respective bungalow for a hot meal etc. Not long after we started to relax, down came the rain accompanied by strong wind. Boy what a downpour. All glad we managed to get in our fishing before this front came through.

Despite our unfounded fears, the ferry trip back to Fremantle late Monday morning was relatively comfortable and fast as the waves had abated slightly and a northwest wind gave a following sea.

Results of the competition are shown in the following lists. If reviewed with past history of Rottneest in August not up with the biggest catches, but up there. The top 5 bags varied between 10 and nearly 14 kg with 6 to 9 species.

Rottneest is now a place where northern, southern species and miscellaneous reef fish can be caught. We again had some examples of this. Mark using his flick rod loaded with a small plastic worm on a number 10 hook captured a fairly rare species, a sand bass. One of the diagnostic features is large brilliant yellow eyes. The same outfit, mid afternoon he landed a WA dhufish, unfortunately undersize. Sandra bait casting a mulie landed a good western blue devil. Diagnostics give a black to very dark navy blue body with brilliant iridescent blue edges to fins and tail. A pretty fish that would look more at home in an aquarium.

All were looking forward to doing the same thing next year.

Field Day Officer, Peter Osborne

## Local Field day August



*George's mulloway. 15.6kg gilled and gutted, 1210mm long, 720mm girth*

Those of you that think mulloway are only caught really close to shore should think twice.

With the recent swells dumping heaps of sand into all our local gutters, it is difficult to find some decent holes along our local coastlines.

I have rarely seen pendulum casting at the beach but was treated to watching George Holman, Peter Pekaar and his son Andrew, smashing baits out towards the 100 metre mark in search of deep water on a metro beach.

Around 7pm this started to pay dividends as a few small mulloway were caught.

George caught his 15.6kg mulloway, a great effort on 10kg line.

Members got a demonstration of how to handle a good fish from the beach and avoid all those traps which often result in a lost fish during or after a long battle.

It was great to see the majority fishing together and impressive to see Glen Wong and Reuben Ball's commitment even though they caught few fish Saturday night.

Once again Glen fished hard Sunday as well, hence a good bag of mixed fish.

On Sunday night we did the weigh in at the Narrows Bridge.

Assistant Field Day Officer, Ken Howells

## Mulloway offcuts - yum

I got an email from Ken on Saturday night with some photos of George's mulloway soon after it was caught. I called George and he told me they had tried to swim and release the mulloway for quite a long time, without any success, so he would take it home and put it on ice overnight.

He invited me to his place on Sunday morning. George knows I like fish and will get the most out of a large fish like this, all the offcuts, backbone, wings, head etc. When we had finished filleting and packing, George only had skin to put in his bin.

I cut the back bone into pieces which would fit into a frying pan. Had some for tea on Sunday night and cooked up the rest over the next few days. Sensationally yummmmm.

Try it with your next reasonably sized fish - you won't regret it.

Reel Talk Editor, Terry Fuller



*A fish meal full of flavour.*

## **Sportsperson of the Year section winners for August 2014**

Best scale fish	George Holman	Mulloway	15.6kg
Best bag of scale fish	George Holman	Mixed bag	15.75kg

## **Field day section winners for August 2014**

Best scale fish	George Holman	Mulloway	15.6kg
Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	Mixed bag	13.84kg

## Catch results and points for August 2014 Field Day

Angler	Weight	Species	Fish	Points
Peet Wessels	13.84kg	8	16	238.4
Peter Osborne	12.31kg	7	22	213.1
George Holman	15.75kg	2	2	197.5
Sandra Wessels	10.64kg	6	14	186.4
Theo Van Niekerk	12.57kg	4	12	175.7
Mark Hansen	9.61kg	5	30	166.1
Paul Terpkos	5.46kg	2	4	84.6
Glen Wong	2.54kg	2	12	65.4
Martin Wearmouth	2.12kg	2	10	61.2
Nicolas Terpkos	0.85kg	1	1	28.5
Peter Pekaar	0.15kg	1	1	21.5
Ian Taggart				10

Points include Field day and August General meeting points.

Species weighed at the August Rottneest field day were cod, herring, leather jackets, wrasse, skipjack trevally, breaksea cod, western rock blackfish, tarwhine and yellowtail kingfish.

Species weighed at the local field day were herring, tailor and mullo way.

These results are calculated automatically by the field day scoring spreadsheet developed and maintained by Terry Fuller with data entry by the Field Day Officer, Peter Osborne. Details for Reel Talk extracted by Recorder Terry Fuller.

### Field Day sections 2014/15

Up to and including August 2014 Field Day.

1A	Best scale fish (1st six months)	George Holman	Mullo way	15.6kg	August
1B	Best scale fish (2nd six months)				
2	Most meritorious fish	To be awarded by Committee			
3	Best Shark (4.5kg min)				
4	Best Mullo way (2.0kg min)	George Holman	Mullo way	15.6kg	August
5	Best Tailor (1.0kg min)	George Holman	Tailor	1.49kg	May
6	Best Salmon (3kg min)	Peter Osborne	Salmon	4.08kg	May
7	Best Skipjack Trevally (0.5 kg min)	Theo Van Niekerk	Skipjack Trevally	1.11kg	August
8	Best Mackerel (2kg min)				
9	Best Yellowtail Kingfish, Samson or Amberjack (4kg min)	Theo Van Niekerk	Yellowtail Kingfish	2.79kg	August
10	Best scale fish (other than above)				
11	Best bag of scale fish	Peter Osborne	Mixed bag	19.56kg	May
12	Best bag of Mullo way (2 fish min)				
13	Best bag of Tailor (2 fish min)	Gary Gildersleeves	Tailor	3.99kg	May
14	Best fish on single handed rod (4kg line max)	Mark Hansen	Wrasse	0.37kg	August
15	Best fish caught on fly rod				
16	Best fish caught on single handed rod (4kg line max) and a soft plastic lure	Mark Hansen	Wrasse	0.37kg	August
17	Best fish caught on single handed rod (4kg line max) and a hard body lure				

## **Field Day top scores for 2014/15**

Total scores calculated automatically by the field day scoring spreadsheet 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 2015, and adjusted scores will be published after that. Names with equal scores are sorted alphabetically.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Rank</b>
Peter Osborne	549.5	1	Glen Wong	140.2	8	Gary Parkinson	60	15
Peet Wessels	511.6	2	Peter Pekaar	125.6	9	Terry Fuller	52.5	16
George Holman	469.3	3	Gary Gildersleeves	109.9	10	Nicolas Terpkos	28.5	17
Sandra Wessels	403.2	4	Paul Terpkos	84.6	11	Dean Stewart	20	18
Theo Van Niekerk	175.7	5	Geoff Raftis	65.3	12	Klaus Schönwolf	20	19
Mark Hansen	166.1	6	Ken Howells	63.5	13	Ian Taggart	10	20
Pat McKeown	154.7	7	Martin Wearmouth	61.2	14	Jason Zerella	10	21

Field day spreadsheet developer, Terry Fuller