



Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

PO Box 2834, Malaga WA 6944

ABN 29 925 237 020

Telephone 08 9209 2117 Email surfcast@iinet.net.au

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

June 2012 Field Day, Kalbarri

Six keen Surfcasters made the journey to Wagoe. These were Peet and Sandra Wessels, Justin Rose, Ray Walker, a newcomer to the club - Francis Ford, and myself (Peter Osborne). It is about a 7-hour drive.

We arrived at the Wagoe Chalets afternoon and evening of Thursday 31 May, with Justin arriving the following day. We were delighted with the accommodation as the chalet Peet had booked was only a couple of months old. It was a lot roomier and had all new appliances certainly a 5-star unit compared to the other chalets. Need to remember for use in the future, It is unit number 9.

With Friday a full day before competition time, we decided to undertake some exploration.

I had towed up my small boat on the basis of past successes in fishing Frustration Rock. This is a flat rock platform on the other side of the river at Kalbarri, hence need of a boat to get across the river. While the weather was kind (not like Perth) there was a fair swell running and with high tides in the morning, fishing any of the reefs was certainly out for morning fishing. We decided to fish beach in the morning and go across to Frustration in the late afternoon.

As a starter, our first beach tryout on Friday resulted in some fish, and then across to Frustration about 4:00 pm with quality but not quantity. Here are some of the stories.

Sandra got into some dart first thing, and managed one of 1.5 kg, some small and even a lot smaller. On going to Frustration on Friday, just before dark – thump, she is on. She started to fight the usual tug of war type of battle of mulloway when twang, she had a bust-off, what a disappointment. (This story continues below on my experiences.) Sandra fished hard on beaches and Frustration the following days, but only managed a couple of dart, with lots of water between fish. She and the rest of us caught lots of soapies (small mulloway) between 40 and 48 cm.

Peet, however, managed a good bag of fish over the weekend. Only dart and wirrah on Friday morning and nil result on Friday night. However things picked up for him when the field day started: dart, wirrah on the beach and off the reef midday, he picked up a good selection, a tailor, tarwhine, a little threadfin salmon, a beautiful parrot fish of some 2.4 kg, and a special catch of a different trevally – thought initially a diamond trevally, but a later check with home office expertise, (thanks John Curtis and reference books) it was identified it as a Pennantfish, *Alectis ciliaris*.

However, Peet's high point came on Sunday night with a magnificent mulloway of some 8.5 kg (7.8 kg gilled and gutted.) Given that it was dark, care had to be taken as every so often a set of larger swells would come through, but by skilful guidance Peet was able to get him up over some rock and in safe hands. A group fishing beside us on the north side also managed to land a similar fish.

Justin tried both bottom fishing and ballooning on the beach Saturday, Sunday, and Monday mornings. He was well set up with helium, large balloons, game rod and large game reel with 80 lb line and garfish bait.

Winds were generally kind early morning, although at times a bit gusty and would swing round to North east and North later in the morning but with such winds, generally skipping garfish out wide gave a good chance to meet a big one. A few Spaniards were seen jumping

and some, but not many, ballooners further down the beach or off the reef did manage to land some good fish.

While Jason had one good hit, unfortunately he had no hook-up on these Spanish Mackerel. But something I had never seen was catching an extremely large wirrah on his balloon rig. On Saturday morning before the competition start, this capture resulted when feeding the balloon out to sea, a drop in wind gusts allowed the balloon to drop with the bait going towards the bottom, over reef, and a wirrah hook-up.

Jason then guided us all down to Luck Bay. We then all tried some fishing in one of his favourite spots, but no success.

No big fish for Jason on Friday night at Frustration, but Saturday night, just on dark, a Shovel Nose Shark, (actually these are rays.) A good fight and skilful handling around rocks resulted in sliding this fish up on top of Frustration. Just after this Jason hooked onto a good fish, again a tug of war with probably a very good mulloway, the fish was just about beaten, but swell and a certain rock caught up his line and a break off – tough. Hence Jason's bag was pretty light on with only a tailor and dart.



Peet Wessels with 7.8 kg mulloway



Francis Ford with 5.5 kg mulloway

Francis was not successful off the beach, however he did have some success at Frustration. After dark, on Saturday night he hooked up on a good fish. With lots of advice coming from all of us, he slid a 6.5 kg Mulloway up the rocks. For a newcomer to the club, given pretty tough fishing conditions, this was great to see.

As you can imagine when walking back to the boat to start the journey back to the Chalets, while there were a number of dejected faces, there was one person grinning from ear to ear.

Ray did not have a particularly successful fishing trip. Apart from some good looking around he did have some unique experiences. Firstly he had his new heavy two piece rod inside his car, while he had stopped a few times and opened and shut his tailgate, this later effort on slamming his tailgate, where his rod had slid back – it pushed this rod through his front windscreen. Bit of extra ventilation.

His next masterpiece of what not to do was on Saturday night as he was not comfortable fishing from Frustration at night. He decided to fish a beach just south of Frustration. When we were walking back to the boat we came across Ray wandering around in circles looking very worried. He had dropped his keys in the sand. We all started to search; headlamps shining in all directions, but with the luck of an Irishman Ray tried retracing his steps and managed to find his keys. He wished he had bought some of that luck to his fishing. Ray went down to Lucky Bay for the Sunday night fish but while he fished some good looking water, it all proved very quiet, again no luck at Lucky Bay.

I had a good days fishing on Friday, before the field day started. Fishing on the beach Friday morning resulted in a good tailor, some dart and wirrah. However my success was at Frustration that night.

Just before dark a tap, tap and good hook-up. After a good battle, yep, managed to slide a mulloway of 8.9 kg up onto the platform. Ray went across and grabbed a handful of line to pull it up above the possible wave high point. When I got it up and onto the rock table to unhook, saw this was different. Besides my hooks under the chin it had a mouthful of snelled hooks under a twin bean sinker bait casting rig.



Peter Osborne with 8.9 kg mulloway.

This rig and some line were tangled up like a bunch of grapes with my rig. Untangled and bled the fish. I then went and asked the fellows beside me as to what sort of rig they were using. All like me were using conventional paternoster bottom rigs.

Now go back to the discussion under Sandra where she dropped a good fish on Friday night. Yep I went across to Sandra and Peet fishing 100 metres north of us on a strip of sand, and when I described the rig, Sandra let out a squeal, or should or should I saw squawk. Yep it was her rig from the fish she broke off and lost only some 5 to 10 minutes before I hooked up. Thanks Sandra for ensuring I was well and truly connected. Seems mulloway are pretty tough, i.e. go on feeding immediately despite a mouthful of hooks.

With thought of repeating Friday night, my luck changed the wrong way on Saturday night. Yes like Justin, I just about sat down and cried. I had not one but two hook-ups. First was a mulloway, not huge but certainly a good one. On winning the battle I was steering him to a spot to slide him up and onto Frustration platform and then the hooks pulled.

Half an hour later a hook-up on a really big fish I then played him a while, again was winning and preparing to slide him up onto Frustration, but with the help of a set of waves managed to get line caught up on that same rock as Justin, and ping.

I managed to get a few good skippy on Sunday morning, with no luck at Frustration on Sunday night. Our effort over there resulted in one mulloway landed each night we fished.

Monday morning went to Wittecarra creek for an hour and a half of beach fishing. I was looking for tailor as I did not have one for our field day. This effort gave bait continually stripped by small dart, however managed one size dart and a small tailor to add to my skippy bag. On returning to the vehicle after this session, my bad luck continued as someone tried to break into my vehicle and smashed the window in the tailgate.

Interclub Competition. We had a competition with Ocean Reef Sea Sports Club whose field day coincided with ours. They have started a beach fishing section and it is really firing. They had some 36 members sign on. This compared to our 6. Each club competition method of scoring was significantly different. Hence as a compromise to make it more even, we agreed upon using the following as a basis of scoring.

Each club to fish to their own rules, from this the following to be extracted: -

Five bags from each club to be weighed in.

Only one of a species to a maximum of six species to be included in the bag.

The bag weights based on the foregoing for the six best anglers for each club were to be totaled.

Best overall bag weight determined the winner.

Result was some 21 kg to SCAC and some 53 kg to ORSSC, giving ORSSC as the clear winner. If club field days for each club coincide as to dates and venue, we shall probably have another informal interclub competition.

Summary. All members of both clubs considered it a great weekend with extra big smiles from those who caught quality fish.

Peter Osborne, Assistant Field Day Officer

Local Field Day report

As it was the June long weekend most members had decided to take the opportunity and travel, the remaining members who wanted to fish local decided to meet at Floreat Beach, one of the club's spots to fish in the metro area.

I went to the usual spot on Saturday afternoon to find Victor and Slavka already on the beach ready to start fishing. They had the most amazing setup it looked like the old ice cream carts that used to get around. It had everything on it you could want even lighting for later on. It shone like a beacon at night.

Set up and started fishing when John Crompton arrived all set to go, all with lines in the water and John Curtis turns up. Bit of a chat and he wanders over to see how Victor and Slavka are going as they hadn't fished much before and are new members.

John guided them on the course of action to take. Earlier on Victor made mention that they hadn't caught much in the way of decent fish. Well, was this about to change.

The fishing gods were smiling on Victor and Slavka that day. Thought they were going to bag out on Tailor. Smiles all around, what a session they had. John, the instructor, was strutting around pleased as punch.

John Crompton caught a couple and I caught one, so we all had fish. All the fish had gone away to better, greener pastures so we all packed up and called it a night.

We waited at the vehicles for Victor and Slavka to come off the beach with their fishing trolley. When they finally made it Victor had second thoughts about using it again as they were puffing heavily. Said all our good nights and headed home.

Decided to try Ocean Reef marina southern rock wall early Sunday morning. Arrived just after 6:30am, met a couple of other fisherman who indicated very quiet fishing.

Anyway, down here now may as well give it a go. Guy just along from me was lure fishing and caught a good sized Tailor, the only fish that came ashore that morning.

Gave it away at 9:30am as all the kids are turning up. Went home and got ready for the afternoon's fishing, had arranged to meet George Holman at 4pm. Arrived at Floreat at 2.30pm, started to set up when John Crompton arrived. We start to set up and Victor and Slavka arrive minus the cart.

George arrives later just before dusk complaining how his knees, feet and anything else hurts. How much punishment can one man take for his beloved fishing?

As usual, a couple of casts just to get range and George's fish are waiting out there just for him. Quietly goes about filling his quota, wanders around bit of a chat and then back into it.

We all catch a couple of Tailor each. The sea is very calm very little breeze with some weed. A good night to fish. We really do have a wonderful coastline that needs looking after. About 9pm we decide to call a halt and go home to a warm meal.

Many thanks to Victor, Slavka, John Crompton, John Curtis, George Holman for their company on the beach.

That's club fishing, old and new members fishing and learning together.

Pat McKeown

Catch results and points for June Field Day

| Angler | Weight | Species | Fish | Points |
|---------------------|----------|---------|------|--------|
| Peet Wessels | 14.72 kg | 8 | 10 | 277.2 |
| Francis Ford | 5.5 kg | 1 | 1 | 115 |
| Peter Osborne | 3.07 kg | 3 | 6 | 110.7 |
| George Holman | 4.08 kg | 3 | 13 | 90.8 |
| Justin Rose | 0.51 kg | 2 | 2 | 65.1 |
| Sandra Wessels | 0.14 kg | 1 | 2 | 61.4 |
| Slavka Schilo | 1.75 kg | 1 | 5 | 47.5 |
| John Crompton | 1.7 kg | 1 | 5 | 47 |
| Victor Schilo | 1.36 kg | 1 | 4 | 43.6 |
| Pat McKeown | 1.28 kg | 1 | 3 | 42.8 |
| Raymond Walker | 0 | 0 | 0 | 40 |
| Chris Stickells | 0.45 kg | 1 | 1 | 34.5 |
| Martin Wearmouth | 0.11 kg | 1 | 1 | 31.1 |
| Christian Wearmouth | 0.22 kg | 1 | 1 | 22.2 |
| Thomas Wearmouth | 0.1 kg | 1 | 1 | 21 |
| Ian Taggart | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |

Points include Field Day and June General Meeting points. Species weighed at the Kalbarri Field Day were Mulloway, Dart, Tailor, Cod, Parrot Fish, Trevally, Skipjack Trevally, Bream, Salmon, Herring, Yellowfin Whiting, Flathead. Species weighed at the Local Field Day were Tailor, Herring, Yellowfin Whiting and Flathead.

Sportsperson of the Year winners for June 2012

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|-----------|----------|
| Best scale fish | Peet Wessels | Mulloway | 7.80 kg |
| Best bag of scale fish | Peet Wessels | Mixed Bag | 14.72 kg |

Field day section winners for June 2012

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|-----------|---------|
| Best scale fish | Peet Wessels | Mulloway | 7.80 kg |
| Best bag of scale fish | Francis Ford | Mixed Bag | 5.50 kg |

Field Day top scores for 2012/13

Total scores up to and including June 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 |
|------------------|--------|------|---------------------|--------|------|
| Peet Wessels | 471.8 | 1 | Slavka Schilo | 47.5 | 11 |
| Peter Osborne | 350.4 | 2 | John Crompton | 47 | 12 |
| Sandra Wessels | 238.9 | 3 | Victor Schilo | 43.6 | 13 |
| Theo Van Niekerk | 177.6 | 4 | Pat McKeown | 42.8 | 14 |
| George Holman | 167.3 | 5 | Raymond Walker | 40 | 15 |
| Francis Gaudin | 115.7 | 6 | Chris Stickells | 34.5 | 16 |
| Francis Ford | 115 | 7 | Christian Wearmouth | 22.2 | 17 |
| Ian Taggart | 82.6 | 8 | Thomas Wearmouth | 21 | 18 |
| Justin Rose | 65.1 | 9 | Allan Jones | 20 | 19 |
| Martin Wearmouth | 51.1 | 10 | | | |

Field Day sections 2012/13

Up to and including June 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) | | | | |
| 6 | Best Salmon (3kg min) | | | | |
| 7 | Best Skipjack Trevally (0.5 kg min) | Sandra Wessels | Skipjack Trevally | 1.06 kg | May |
| 8 | Best Mackerel (2kg Min) | | | | |
| 9 | Best scale fish (other than above) | Peet Wessels | Parrot Fish | 2.35 kg | May |
| 10 | Best bag of scale fish | Peet Wessels | Mixed Bag | 14.72 kg | June |
| 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 |