



Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

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June 2014 field day, Port Gregory to Kalbarri

Overview. The June 2014 away field day was spread from Port Gregory to the north side of the mouth of the river at Kalbarri with 9 SCAC members fishing beaches and reefs from Frustration rock to Wago/Lucky Bay. Overall a very disappointing weekend considering the major effort in driving north and fishing hard. However for these persons fishing north, there were some minor successes in at least capturing a feed.

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.

For the local event, 3 people fished Perth local northern beaches. Also like above not very productive except for one fisherman.

The trip. Two keen Surfcasters made the journey to the Wago Chalets camp ground. These were Peet and Sandra Wessels. Pat McKeown, Peter Osborne, Gary Parkinson, Ken Howells, Dean Stewart and Klaus Schönwolf utilized the SCAC house at Kalbarri, with a newcomer to the club, Glen Wong, using the Kalbarri caravan Park. The trip is about a 7-hour drive.

Pat and I arrived at the SCAC house late afternoon Thursday 31 May, Klaus had arrived the previous day with Glen, Gary, Ken and Dean arriving later

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 one of my favourite mulloway areas. Frustration 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 there was a huge swell running and with high tides in the late morning, fishing the reef required diligent fishing to avoid being bowled by a wave.

While Klaus, Dean and Pat fished the small beach to the north side of Frustration, I worked the north side of Frustration, moving back off the reef when a set of large swells comes through. Very hard fishing, not called Frustration for nothing. Klaus reckoned it was the hardest fishing he had ever done.

While we managed to put baits in the water, fishing was slow. No fish or bites from the gang on the beach. At one stage I thought my Christmas had come. Hard hit and a slugging run, but not long into the tussle I thought this is not a mulloway. A Shark of some 10kg +/- was the result. I released same as this black tip reef shark is only an average eating quality and I had images of better fish captures during the competition.

For the previous day, Klaus had tried Pot Alley, was busted up and landed and returned an undersized samson fish.

Friday evening we went across to Frustration again, and again hard fishing with none of us getting fish. Not a good trial run in anticipation of getting fish for the competition period. Again very tough fishing conditions with swell and weed. However to keep the interest for this spot a fellow fishing some 100 meters north of us on the beach landed a 12.5 kg mulloway just about when the sun was about to drop over the horizon.

On Saturday morning we tried Red Bluff beach. No fish again so took this off the agenda for further fishing during the club competition. However, we found that Ken and Gary had previously tried Red Bluff beach with Ken getting a tailor and Gary dropped a small mulloway just about at his feet.

After sign-on for Saturday late afternoon and evening I again went across to Frustration to chase that Mulloway. I did not stay long as the swell was up and some serious weed in the water making it just about impossible to keep a bait in the water for any period of time, so as soon as darkness appeared I returned to get a feed and good night's rest. The rest of the

gang took this hard style of fishing off their fishing agenda and went to the mouth of the river at Chinamans, but again no luck. Chinamans is a much easier place to fish and in the past has yielded good mulloway, tailor, tarwhine, whiting etc. At all places the water was fairly dirty, with a lot of sand stirring up by the swell.

Came Sunday morning I again went across to Frustration to catch a mulloway, accompanied by another keen fisherman who had paddled across in a kayak. Tide and swells were high so we could only fish the beaches adjacent to Frustration. No mulloway only a couple of tailor.

The rest of the gang tried Jacques inside reef area with some success. They fished there both Sunday and Monday mornings. Results from this location gave Ken managed to catch some big storm garfish. Nope, Pat tried but could not get those elusive gardies. Ken also got a small sweetlip, Glen captured a large cod and Pat managed a wrasse. The rest missed out altogether.



Glen Wong with a cod of nearly 1kg biggest caught in the Kalbarri area



Pat McKeown with his wrasse.

Sunday evening I again went across to Frustration. Conditions were nearly perfect, low swell, no weed, tide low so could fish from the rock platform but after 4 hours, nothing, not a touch. So left prior to 7:30 pm, but much to my disgust at leaving so early, find that for the group of people fishing the beach beside me, the young lady in the group landed a 10kg mulloway about an hour or so after I left. I gather Marie is a very keen fisherperson and is looking at joining the club.

Monday morning I started with a spot in the river that can produce whiting, tarwhine and flathead, wading opposite IGA store. No luck other than plenty of tarwhine that would not even go 10 cm. I moved on to try just inside the mouth of the river, again targeting whiting and with first 3 casts had 2 yellow fin whiting, then a series of those 10 cm tarwhine. So I decided to move to Jacques where the rest of the gang had some previous success and arrived just in time to see them leave. First cast a herring but despite plenty of burley, this fish was a loner. I then switched to the bottom with a wrasse the only result.



Peet showing how it is done with his quality dart and tarwhine



Peet's dart, a big one caught at Wago



Sandra with a dart from her bag of 5, all about this size

Sandra and Peet decided to fish Wagoë based on past experience and camped at the allocated area at the Wagoë Chalets. This gave them access to hot showers, toilets etc. While all of us were working areas around Kalbarri, Peet and Sandra were fishing various reefs down at Wagoë and did have some limited success. Like Kalbarri, swell, weed, and dirty water limited the places they could fish. Matter of driving up and down from the Wagoë chalets area to Lucky Bay and trying to pick fishable spots not occupied by other fishers.

For long weekends a lot of other clubs head to Wagoë for superior fishing adventures so places to fish were very limited. They went through over 50 rigs due to the wave conditions and reefy bottom conditions. Despite this, both caught tarwhine, cod, sweetlip and a wrasse each. However on Sunday afternoon for a short period they had a hot spot and landed several good darts, Sandra 5 and Peet 8. Peet got the biggest fish of the competition with a dart that uncleaned would have gone close to 1.75 kg. With these bags their total catches were well in excess of fish we caught at Kalbarri.



FDO with a chopper tailor at Kalbarri



Peter Pekaar's mulloway and herring. The herring in front was injured but still took a bait.

June Local Field day report

The efforts by our three local fishing Surfcasters, Terry Fuller, Gary Gildersleeves and Peter Pekaar gave the following stories.

Terry decided to fish Swanbourne on Sunday afternoon and into the evening. This is one of my favourite locations to get a feed of Tailor, especially in the summer months, and a good place for salmon in autumn and winter. Unfortunately it did not fire for Terry. Just a well undersized tarwhine and a lot of baits picked clean.

About 5 pm a fair lot of weed could be seen in the waves where it had been clear before, and of course collected on the line every cast. Terry changed to a heavier sinker to stop getting dragged sideways or pushed ashore by the weed and to leave the bait out for longer. He fished on and but without any luck and the weed kept getting worse with every cast. Another person had been fishing a bit further south and was also having a lot of trouble with the weed, so there seemed little point in shifting spots at this late stage particularly when it was getting hard to see into the dirty and weedy water.

There had been some cloud and rain bands to the south moving slowly for most of the late afternoon. The wind had been very light from the west, but by 5:30 the rain band was moving closer and the wind suddenly freshened from the south west, the clouds and rain bands got thicker, Rottnest disappeared, so the message was clear - make sure the wet weather gear was handy.

A little before 6pm, nearly dark and with no further action he decided to leave the beach. A good call as after packing up and walking for 20 minutes and then packing the gear into the car, still in dry clothing, after driving about 100 metres, down came the rain and kept raining for the 20 minute drive home to Hamersley. How is that for judging the weather correctly?

Gary also went out on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. He looked over his usual spots along the northern beaches, picked a couple of stretches that looked as though they should have potential for catching fish. If there was tailor there was lots of water between them. However he managed one good size tarwhine. But like a true fisherman he goes home and decides not to go to the weigh-in but has fresh fish for dinner.

Peter Pekaar's story reads a bit better. He fished the south side of Floreat. As he was busy Saturday he only arrived at the beach about 5pm. With a first cast he misses a bite but with the next cast he is on and gets a small but size mulloway, little less than 1.75 kg. Next cast his rod bends double with a big hit. The fish runs south along the gutter, Peter figures he has connected with a good pink snapper. Then nothing, the hooks pull "darn".

He fishes on trying to reconnect to whatever, but no luck. Goes very quiet so next morning he continues fishing and gets a short run of and lands a few herring. His gear and bait was correctly balanced as people either side of him did not get a fish. Considering the current local fishing opportunities, or lack thereof for just the few hours Peter spent fishing he had a good bag for the weekend especially comparing to the bags or lack of bags the rest of weighed in at Kalbarri. On comparing fish sizes, Peet Wessel landed the heaviest fish for the weekend being a very large dart and was just a couple of grams heavier then Peter's mulloway.

Tight lines

Field Day Officer, Peter Osborne

Catch results and points for June 2014 Field Day

Angler	Weight	Species	Fish	Points
Peet Wessels	6.7 kg	5	13	127
Sandra Wessels	3.73 kg	5	9	97.3
Peter Osborne	1.08 kg	4	6	70.8
Peter Pekaar	2.05 kg	2	6	60.46
Ken Howells	1.35 kg	2	7	43.5
Glen Wong	0.88 kg	1	1	38.8
Pat McKeown	0.16 kg	1	1	31.6
Dean Stewart				20
Gary Gildersleeves				20
Gary Parkinson				20
Klaus Schönwolf				20
Terry Fuller				20

Points include Field day and June General meeting points.

Species weighed at the June Kalbarri field day were dart, tailor, herring, garfish, cod, tarwhine, yellowfin whiting and wrasse.

Species weighed in for the Local field day were mulloway and herring.

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 editor Terry Fuller.

Sportsperson of the Year section winners for June 2014

Best scale fish	Peet Wessels	Dart	1.46 kg
Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	Mixed bag	6.70 kg
Best shark	No capture		
Best bag including sharks	No capture		

Field day section winners for June 2014

Best scale fish	Peter Pekaar	Mulloway	1.45 kg
Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	Mixed bag	6.70 kg
Best shark	No capture		
Best bag including sharks	No capture		

Field Day sections 2014/15

Up to and including June 2014 Field Day.

1A	Best scale fish (1st six months)	Peter Osborne	Salmon	4.08kg	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)				
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)	George Holman	Skipjack Trevally	0.56kg	May
8	Best Mackerel (2kg min)				
9	Best Yellowtail Kingfish, Samson or Amberjack (4kg min)				
10	Best scale fish (other than above)				
11	Best bag of scale fish	Peter Osborne	Mixed bag	19.56kg	May
12	Best bag of Mulloway (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)				
15	Best fish caught on fly rod				
16	Best fish caught on single handed rod (4kg line max) and a soft plastic lure				
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 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 2015, and adjusted scores will be published after that. Names with equal scores are sorted alphabetically.

Name	Points	Rank	Name	Points	Rank	Name	Points	Rank
Peter Osborne	336.4	1	Gary Gildersleeves	89.9	6	Glen Wong	38.8	11
Peet Wessels	273.2	2	Geoff Raftis	65.3	7	Dean Stewart	20	12
Sandra Wessels	216.8	3	Peter Pekaar	60.5	8	Klaus Schönwolf	20	13
George Holman	214.8	4	Ken Howells	43.5	9	Terry Fuller	20	14
Pat McKeown	134.7	5	Gary Parkinson	40	10			15

Field day spreadsheet developer, Terry Fuller