



Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

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March 2012 Field Day, Bluff Creek

Thursday morning 1st March finds us struggling to pack and fit all our camping and fishing gear into and on top of the Pathfinder. It seems that there is more and more stuff to pack every year. I think it is definitely time to have a closer look what are the bare necessities one needs for a long week end away. Finally by 12 noon we got going. I was so exhausted that I asked Sandra to do the first stint down to Williams. From there I drove to Katanning which was our stop over for the night.



Surfcasters at the weigh in. George, Terry, Dave, Wendy, Mark, Peet, Sandra, Louise, Theo, Frank, Martin and Chris. Sumarie took the photo.

Early Friday morning we set off to Albany where we stopped for a brunch and stocked up with the last provisions and fuel. On reaching the Bluff Creek farm gate we deflated the heavily loaded car tyres down to 20psi.

Carefully and slowly we entered the single track down to the beach. We both noticed how much the track had deteriorated since last year.

One really needs to take it very slowly and we were relieved to reach the beach without encountering traffic from the front. What a lovely feeling to breathe the fresh and cool air once on the beach. Not long after we realized we needed to deflate the tyres more. Down to 15 psi we went. The traction became so much better on the very soft sand and soon we were travelling in a slow and relaxed manner towards our camp site. The weather was just perfect and the beach had beautiful gutters all along. It just looked so fishable.

We found a convenient campsite behind the dunes with good protection against the always present wind. A couple of hours later and the camp was set up and ready for the weekend. After a little rest and a few beverages we decided to have a scout around to see if we could find a few good fishing spots.

On our excursion we met up with George, Terry and Dave. Very soon George briefed us with all the important information and much more. After driving up and down the beach we decided it was time to wet a line at one of the deep gutters we had spotted. Within half an hour we had landed 5 species and we were very happy with the fishing results. Off to camp just before dark we were settled in for the night.

Saturday morning we awoke to another beautiful day and took a few photos of the sun at daybreak. We could not resist the urge to wet a line again. We tried a few different spots but could not get past the trillion Herring that were around. At the end we put a few of these nuisances out as live bait and sat back and relaxed while waiting for the sign-on.



Sandra and bream



The Wessels' campsite

Late Saturday we met up with Theo, Louise, Frank and Sumarie. We decided to fish together and tried out the good spot from the previous day. With Theo's first cast he hooked into a Skippy of around the 1 kg mark. We all thought that it was going to be a very productive afternoon, but to no avail. It was the only Skippy for that session. We did land a few fish and we all opened our account for the Field Day competition.

With darkness fast approaching we made a beeline for our camp and it was not long before we sat around a small Weber barbecue discussing what the new day may hold.

Early Sunday morning we were on the small reef trying out our luck. After bait casting in many places we finally located an area that was reasonably good and we started to land a couple of good size Skippy. This did not last for long before the Herring absolutely drove us off to go and find some more productive waters. We found a good gutter just past the eastern side of the creek with some rocky structure around. First cast and I was on to a beautiful Bream. After another couple of casts and another nice Bream found the hook.

This continued for some time and then we decided to call it an early break and went for a little lunch and a few hours of relaxing.

On returning to the little reef we found a couple of fellow Surfcasters fishing the western side of the reef. After witnessing a couple of fish landed we decided to go east and fish a section of the beach just past the creek. The water looked so good and we were sure we would get a few good fish. However we soon realized that we were fishing on barren ground. We tried to berley but with no results. Soon we decided to move back west where we caught up with fellow members. We did land a couple of fish but decided to go for an early night's rest. After cleaning our fish we headed back to camp and had a very enjoyable evening together.

Monday morning we woke to another beautiful day and it was not long before we were out with fishing rods in the hand. The first ray of sunshine was met with the first Skippy for the day. Soon we had our bag limits of Skippy and Herring and with happy faces we were cleaning the catch and got ready for the weigh-in. By 10 am we were all gathered around the scale and it was so good to see that once again Bluff had produced reasonably well.

The biggest scale fish for the weekend was caught by George Holman with a Tarwhine of 1.17 kg. The biggest bag of scale fish went to me with a total of 10.12 kg. All too soon a wonderful weekend came to an end and it was time to pack up and make for home.

Hope the next time I see you is with a bent rod in the hand. Tight Lines

Peet Wessels, Field Day Officer

Catch results and points for March Field Day

Angler	Weight	Species	Fish	Points
George Holman	9.52 kg	5	29	195.2
Peet Wessels	10.12 kg	3	30	181.2
Theo Van Niekerk	9.8 kg	4	30	178
Sandra Wessels	8.92 kg	3	30	169.2
Martin Wearmouth	4.92 kg	5	14	149.2
Frank Gaudin	3.28 kg	3	15	102.8
Mark Hansen	2.27 kg	3	16	102.7
Terry Fuller	2.21 kg	3	10	102.1
Chris Stickells	1.26 kg	2	7	82.6
David Maxted	1.1 kg	2	6	81
Allan Jones	0.88 kg	2	2	48.8
Ian Cook	0	0	0	40
Louise Van Niekerk	0	0	0	40
Sumarie Gaudin	0	0	0	40
Wendy Hansen	0	0	0	40
Pat McKeown	0	0	0	20

Points include Field Day and March General Meeting points. Species weighed at the Bluff Creek Field Day were:- Herring, Western Yellowfin Bream, Flathead, Whiting, Tarwhine, Sweep and Skipjack Trevally. Species weighed at the Local Field Day were:- Herring and Snook.

Sportsperson of the Year winners for March 2012

Best scale fish	George Holman	Tarwhine	1.17 kg
Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	Mixed Bag	10.12 kg

Field day section winners for March 2012

Best scale fish	George Holman	Tarwhine	1.17 kg
Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	Mixed Bag	10.12 kg

Field Day top scores for 2011/12

Total scores up to and including March Field Day and General meeting.

Name	Points	Rank	Name	Points	Rank	Name	Points	Rank
Peet Wessels	1726.9	1	Ray Walker	250.3	18	Geoff Raftis	85	35
Peter Osborne	1458.3	2	Allan Jones	232	19	Melvin Wee	84.3	36
Sandra Wessels	1386.3	3	Marcia Pekaar	200.7	20	Malcolm Head	67.2	37
George Holman	1215.9	4	Christian Wearmouth	191.5	21	Morgan Keet	66.3	38
Mark Hansen	833.7	5	Sumarie Gaudin	188.5	22	Felicity Keet	62.5	39
Shane Wignell	508.3	6	Thomas Wearmouth	179	23	Wayne Shaw	57	40
Theo Van Niekerk	505.7	7	Ian Taggart	174.2	24	Stephen Pekaar	52.4	41
Wendy Hansen	404.5	8	David Maxted	173.5	25	Bev Grigo	50	42
Pat McKeown	373.1	9	Chris Stickells	172.6	26	Bob Henderson	50	43
John Crompton	366.9	10	Aniello Pizzolante	164.6	27	Dean Stewart	50	44
Sarah Wignell	361.6	11	Michael Gaudin	123.5	28	Des De Villiers	40	45
Martin Wearmouth	357.3	12	Stuart Spickett	108.8	29	Ian Cook	40	46
Justin Rose	336.1	13	Nick Edwards	103.6	30	Lachlan Spickett	40	47
Peter Pekaar	331.8	14	Terry Fuller	102.1	31	Louise Van Niekerk	40	48
Greg Keet	324.7	15	Ron Lindsay	100	32	Olivia Keet	40	49
Frank Gaudin	290.2	16	Shane Becu	100	33	Sharon Osborne	40	50
Sabby Pizzolante	261.8	17	Liam Wignell	98.9	34	John Curtis	20	51

Masters and Grand Masters caught on March field day

Grand Masters	George Holman	Tarwhine	1.120 kg
Masters	Theo Van Niekerk	Trevally, Skipjack	0.950 kg
	Peet Wessels	Trevally, Skipjack	0.780 kg
	Sandra Wessels	Trevally, Skipjack	0.620 kg
	George Holman	Trevally, Skipjack	0.680 kg
	Martin Wearmouth	Trevally, Skipjack	0.630 kg
	Terry Fuller	Trevally, Skipjack	0.570 kg

Update to Species Badge competition

The list of species registered to members has been updated for catches during the March Field Day. The Committee has amended the species Black Bream to Bream (all) so that this category will be the same as for all other Club competitions. See the write up of proposed changes to the Competition Rules elsewhere in this Reel Talk.

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
Theo Van Niekerk	1	1			1				1	1			1	1	1		1	9
Terry Fuller	1	1		1	1					1		1	1		1			8
Justin Rose				1	1		1				1		1		1	1		7
Martin Wearmouth	1	1			1							1	1		1	1		7
Frank Gaudin	1	1			1					1					1		1	6
Chris Stickells		1			1								1					3

Recorder, John Curtis

Field Day sections 2011/12

Up to and including March Field Day.

1A	Best scale fish (1st six months)	George Holman	Pink Snapper	6.55 kg
1B	Best scale fish (2nd six months)	George Holman	Tailor	1.26 kg
2	Most meritorious fish	To be awarded by Committee		
3	Best Shark (4.5kg min)	George Holman	Bronze Whaler	5.48 kg
4	Best Mulloway (2.0kg min)			
5	Best Tailor (1.0kg min)	Justin Rose	Tailor	1.92 kg
6	Best Salmon (3kg min)			
7	Best Skipjack Trevally (0.5 kg min)	Sandra Wessels	Trevally, Skipjack	1.13 kg
8	Best Mackerel (2kg Min)			
9	Best scale fish (other than above)	Peet Wessels	Yellowtail Kingfish	5.83 kg
10	Best bag of scale fish	Peter Osborne	Mixed Bag	17.38 kg
11	Best bag of Mulloway (2 fish Min)			
12	Best bag of Tailor (2 fish Min)	Justin Rose	Tailor	5.58 kg
13	Best fish on S/H rod 4kg b/s line (max)	Peter Osborne	Wrasse	0.36 kg
14	Best fish caught on fly rod	Frank Gaudin	Trevally, Skipjack	0.75 kg

Bluff Creek 2012

After reading the Reel Talk write ups on Bluff Creek I decided that I would have to give this trip a go. All I needed was someone to come with me to share the fuel expense, at the general meeting Chris Stickells was looking for a lift so that settled it pack up and get ready to go.

We decided to leave on Friday morning so I picked Chris up early at 5.30am and we hit the road, we arrived at the Bluff Creek camp site just after 12pm and found George, Terry and Dave.

After setting up camp we followed George that afternoon east up the beach to try our luck, conditions were not good with a strong breeze and swell it was hard to get and keep a line out, we did manage a few herring and returned to camp just after dark.

On Saturday we saved our fishing till after the sign on. Chris and I headed east again and did not have much luck. Again conditions were hard due to the wind and swell so we headed back hoping Sunday would be better.

Got up early on Sunday 5.30am and headed west to the reef. We fished on the beach at the west side and the conditions had improved with less wind. Chris caught a flathead first, then it was my turn on the 5th cast I got a good bite and this fish was putting up a great fight and in came a skippy about 0.7kg.



Five species in Martin's catch

After that I could not seem to do anything wrong. After an hour I had 4 nice skippy, 4 good bream, a flathead and a whiting, what a great morning.

Sunday afternoon saw us at the reef again but due to high tide I could not get out to the fish and went home early empty handed with a plan to get up early again and head back to the reef.

Monday morning about 5.30am back to the reef but no luck. I was hoping for a few more skippy but not to be, just a couple of herring.

All in all that Sunday morning made the trip well worthwhile. My biggest skippy and bream, would have liked to get a salmon, but there is always next time.

Martin Wearmouth

Bluff Creek sun, fun and squeaky sand

When I woke up on Friday morning I was so excited as it was the day of my first trip to Bluff Creek. Some time away to relax, think about things, learn new fishing info, bonding with members and go fishing. One of the club's member, Martin, was giving me a lift which is much appreciated.

Martin picked me up about 5:30am. We chucked the gear in the car. We were both eager to get the trip underway so we hit the road and after following the info In the latest Reel Talk we got there with no trouble at all. One thing we did note was the squeaky beach sand made for an unusual conversation piece. The first thing we did was set up camp which was really easy thanks to Martin's instant tent. It didn't take us long to get camp up and running.

With that done we were both eager to get some fishing done. There were plenty of herring around. This was also when I caught my first flathead, but I would catch 3 others after sign on. After sign on we spent some time relaxing and talking at camp with other members. Thank you to everyone for the tips, advice and gear. Martin and I followed George's group and we fished together. This made for a good time and great info.

Martin and I had times when we went off and fished together and this produced herring for me and a few more flatties but not the Skippy I wanted, probably due to my difficulties casting out far enough. Oh well, this just means my Skippy is still waiting for me.

Martin caught some good Skippy and bream. With fish in hand we went back to camp. The food was always good, as were the beaches, lovely blue clean water with fantastic white beaches surrounded by dunes and high hills. No mobile coverage and no buildings in sight. Rods, reels, food and good times, does it get any better people?

After weigh in on the final day some members were giving some of their fish away so I made sure to nab some herring. Thanks guys the kids will love them. Then we packed up the camp which was really quick and easy, said goodbye to the group and thanked them for everything and headed back home, with plenty of happy memories of Bluff Creek.

Can't wait for the next trip.

Christopher Stickells