



Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

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Field Day report Bluff Creek March 2013

Synopsis. The March 2013 field day was the long weekend at the beginning of the month and was at the Bluff Creek venue. While very strong winds and currents and rain at night were experienced for Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning, the weather cleared up on Sunday afternoon. Catches were down when considering excellent bags of fish caught at this location over previous years. A few good bags did get presented at the weigh-in; however a few people had a nil result. No one fished in the metropolitan area for the local field day.

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 trip. Participants in the fishing were George Holman, David Maxted, Terry Fuller, Peet and Sandra Wessels, Theo Van Niekerk, Martin Wearmouth, Shane and Sarah Wignell, Mark and Wendy Hansen, John Crompton, Ray Walker and Dean Stewart.

People did the long haul drive from Perth to Bluff Creek on Thursday and Friday and returned either Monday afternoon or Tuesday. It is a long way to go but with a venue that generally gives good catches, a lot of fun catching salmon and a field day with an extended duration over three days, it an opportunity too good to miss.



Conditions show heavy weather on entering the Bluff Creek beach

The main group set up camp at the usual place west of the actual Bluff Creek. The South African contingent set up their accommodation slightly further west close to a spot they usually fish.

All experienced and had frustrating fishing due to high winds, strong currents and rain at night for most of the weekend, but Sunday afternoon and Monday morning brought clearing and calm conditions.

Conditions improved on Sunday. The track along the beach to the east was initially wide, but at a favourite reef area the beach between the dune drop-off and the ocean was just wide enough for a vehicle to fit through. With other clubs fishing Bluff, vehicle movements restricted fishing in the gutter and reef parallel with this section of beach track.

Only a few fish came in on Saturday afternoon, however George went to the east end of the beach and found a gutter near a reef and managed a good salmon of 3.6 kg gilled and gutted, i.e. a 4+ kg as landed.

John also managed a few fish during the Saturday hard fishing conditions, but his salmon was the other end of the scale at 0.57 kg which is a great eating fish when cooked fresh over a barbecue. Martin, Sandra and Peet also caught salmon at sizes less than George in the 2 and 3 kg. range.



Peet Wessels with a typical Bluff Creek Salmon.

Peet's was the next best fish weighed in at 3.06 kg. They are indeed a handsome looking species and they put up a spectacular but clean fight.

Salmon catchers were limited to only these 5 fisher persons and only one each. Hence somewhat disappointing for this species, not the greatest to eat but a spectacular fish to land on light gear.

Of interest a number of fisher persons caught banded sweep, Terry Fuller, Mark Hansen and Peet Wessels. This means they have good distance and accuracy skills as this species generally feed and swim close to reefs, so need to place the bait on the edge of the reef or gutter structure.

Similarly other fish that tend to hang out in this sort of bottom conditions were presented at the weigh-in. Wrasse caught by Peet and Sandra Wessels, and tarwhine caught by Theo Van Niekerk and Peet Wessels.



Martin Wearmouth weighing in his catch under the Club's gazebo, Sandra Wessels recording

Eight fisher persons caught good skippy with Martin landing the biggest at 0.81 kg, and Sandra and Peet bagging out with the allowable one day limit of 8 fish of this species.

Only one tailor was caught, by our new tailor expert, Martin. This must have been a real loner and was at the low end of the size we normally catch being 0.4 kg.

Martin's catch was such that with his bag of herring, skippy, salmon, and the tailor, he is again starting to put pressure on our top fisher persons with his point count gaining momentum.

Most people got a few herring with Peet making up his field day competition bag limit of 30 fish with a catch of 17 herring.

Mark tried hard, also using lures but while managing a bag of 8 herring and a skippy and sweep but could not find that elusive salmon.

For once, Shane showed his daughter Sarah how to catch herring with a bag of 10 herring.

Unfortunately 4 fisher persons did not manage to hook into this or other species, again showing this venue this year was not up to expectations from previous years.

Points scored and results are shown below.



Dave Maxted and Terry Fuller ready for the weigh in

Of course a highlight of the weekend was the celebration of Dean Stewart's 80th birthday. I gather a bottle of scotch was polished off but not many sore heads the following morning.

Ray Walker donated a Lion's Christmas cake and four 4 LED candles for a celebration at the weigh in, but those candles wouldn't go out no matter how hard Dean blew.



Good to see our vintage Surfcaster still enjoying field day trips to a remote location.



Blow harder Dean, that's a lot of candles

Again an enjoyable experience at Bluff Creek and despite the fish captures being down the expectation is the Club will fish this venue next year.

Tight lines

Field Officer, Peter Osborne

Catch results and points for March 2013 Field Day

Angler	Weight	Species	Fish	Points
Peet Wessels	11.05 kg	6	30	210.5
Martin Wearmouth	6.46 kg	4	20	154.6
Sandra Wessels	7.14 kg	4	18	151.4
George Holman	6.2 kg	3	13	142
Theo Van Niekerk	4.03 kg	3	10	110.3
Terry Fuller	2.42 kg	3	8	104.2
Mark Hansen	1.6 kg	3	10	96
Shane Wignell	1.98 kg	2	11	89.8
John Crompton	0.94 kg	2	3	79.4
Sarah Wignell	0.45 kg	1	3	54.5
Dean Stewart				50
Raymond Walker				50
David Maxted				40
Wendy Hansen				40

Points include Field day and March General meeting points. Species weighed at the Bluff Creek Field day were tailor, skipjack trevally, herring, salmon, wrasse, banded sweep and tarwhine.

Sportsperson of the Year section winners for March 2013

Best scale fish	George Holman	Salmon	3.6 kg
Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	Mixed bag	11.05 kg

Field day section winners for March 2013

Best scale fish	George Holman	Salmon	3.6 kg
Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	Mixed bag	11.05 kg

Field Day top scores for 2012/13

Total scores up to and including March 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	Name	Points	Rank
Peter Osborne	1653.8	1	Theo Van Niekerk	287.9	14	Melvin Wee	121.5	27
Peet Wessels	1414.3	2	Debbie Korin	266.6	15	Francis Gaudin	115.7	28
Sandra Wessels	1152.4	3	Justin Rose	264.9	16	Terry Fuller	104.2	29
George Holman	1103.7	4	Francis Ford	251.8	17	Jeff Hewton	104	30
Martin Wearmouth	799.2	5	Eddie Korin	248.8	18	Josh Gorringe	99	31
Mark Hansen	648.3	6	Wendy Hansen	246.2	19	Emma Wignell	73.2	32
Slavka Schilo	583.7	7	Ian Taggart	242.3	20	Geoff Raftis	59.7	33
Shane Wignell	578.9	8	Raymond Walker	237.1	21	Rob Pekaar	41.8	34
Victor Schilo	534.8	9	Dean Stewart	172.8	22	Beverley Grigo	40	35
Pat McKeown	458.7	10	Morgan Keet	160.8	23	David Maxed	40	36
John Crompton	407.6	11	Christian Wearmouth	136.9	24	Chris Stickells	34.5	37
Sarah Wignell	375.8	12	Thomas Wearmouth	135.6	25	Allan Jones	20	38
Greg Keet	295.1	13	Peter Pekaar	125.7	26			

Field Day sections 2012/13

Up to and including March 2013 Field Day.

1A	Best scale fish (1st six months)	Peet Wessels	Mulloway	7.8 kg	June
1B	Best scale fish (2nd six months)	George Holman	Salmon	3.6 kg	March
2	Most meritorious fish	To be awarded by Committee			
3	Best Shark (4.5kg min)	Justin Rose	Shark	6.1 kg	Nov
4	Best Mulloway (2.0kg min)	Peet Wessels	Mulloway	7.8 kg	June
5	Best Tailor (1.0kg min)	Peter Osborne	Tailor	1.22 kg	Sep
6	Best Salmon (3kg min)	George Holman	Salmon	3.79 kg	Sep
7	Best Skipjack Trevally (0.5 kg min)	Peet Wessels	Skipjack Trevally	1.42 kg	Aug
8	Best Mackerel (2kg Min)				
9	Best scale fish (other than above)	Sandra Wessels	Yellowtail Kingfish	4.72 kg	Aug
10	Best bag of scale fish	Peter Osborne	Mixed Bag	15.04 kg	Aug
11	Best bag of Mulloway (2 fish Min)				
12	Best bag of Tailor (2 fish Min)	Peter Osborne	Tailor	6.1 kg	Nov
13	Best fish on S/H rod 4kg b/s line (max)	Peter Pekaar	Flathead	0.18 kg	Dec
14	Best fish caught on fly rod	Frank Gaudin	Wrasse	0.54 kg	May