



Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

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March 2015 fishing field day

Bluff Creek, 28 February, 1 and 2 March 2015.

Synopsis. The March 2015 field day was an away safari incorporating a major drive to Bluff Creek, east of Albany. Mixed weather underpinned an enjoyable weekend, of socializing, 4WD/recovery experiences and some but not high numbers of fish. Weather changed each half day from wild, wind and rain, rain to sunshine coupled with weed for the last couple of days.

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.

This resulted in tough fishing conditions except for Sunday morning which started as a glorious sunny day.

On the field day, only one salmon showed up, among many catch and release of undersize salmon) but catches included fair bags of skippy and good bags of herring. Some of our Newbies now understand the difference between a herring and a juvenile salmon - the latter being an illegal catch which needs to be returned to the water alive.

As some of the Newbies promised to put in reports on Bluff Creek I won't expand on the humour and social activities. There could be pages and pages of it - only to say you will hear a lot about a \$25 tent.

The Trip. The trip down to Bluff creek is about a 6 to 8 hour drive including an allowance for fuel and food stopovers.

A total of 14 anglers came to the away safari. George Holman with a social fisherperson, his stepson Paul Mollet, Pat McKeown, Dean Stewart, Martin Wearmouth with a visitor, his dad Gerald, Shane Wignell and daughter Sarah, Gary Parkinson, Peet and Sandra Wessels, Ken Howells, Ray Walker, Mark Nurse and Peter Osborne.

George Holman went down early on Wednesday, the second group of Ken and Gary, Pat and Dean, Ray and Peter, set track on Thursday and had their camp set up by that evening. This group stopped over at Kojonup, had a bite to eat etc. and went in convoy style down to the camp site. The track in was in the usual conditions, narrow, parts heavily overgrown, so some vehicle scratches, with some steep dunes to climb over and some soft sand spots. The run along the beach was on very, very soft sand then over a small dune and into the camping area. Ray was hauling in his camper trailer, but had the trailer swapped over to Dean who hauled this into the camp site.



One side of the "main" camping area

The initial group set up camp number 1 of tents, tent trailers etc. with the club generator already running for hooking up freezers, lights etc. and even a communal toilet.

The Wignells arrived the following day and set up camp, also tying into George's complex.

The South African teams of the Wessels and Mark Nurse also arrived on Friday and set up camp number 2 in the adjacent flat camp area.



Another camping area

Martin Wearmouth and his Dad arrived late Saturday morning and set up adjacent to Mark.

Photos show the areas involved and demonstrate a site that could accommodate camps of even greater size.

It is a great venue and with the fishing tales below reinforces why we keep going back there each year.



Ray Walker's "Taj Mahal"

The fishing. Fishing sessions were generally periods on Saturday and Sunday afternoon and Sunday and Monday mornings where fish captures were spread across these periods with Sunday morning giving the best results.

When the second group arrived they were greeted with George and Paul showing off with some pre-competition catches, some salmon. Georges had a beauty, weighing in at 5.2 kg whole. Hence on seeing this fish, we all anticipated we would have a good showing of salmon, but this was not to be.

George and Paul generally tried fishing in front of the camp adjacent to the creek. At one session George tried slide baiting with herring bait and managed a good strike but no hook-up. George captured a good bag of generally large herring and 1 yellow eyed mullet. Paul had another salmon and some herring.

For most sessions, Martin, and his dad Gerald, fished beside the reef a couple of km south of the camp site. Both managed a bag of some 8 herring with Martin getting 3 skippy and Gerald with 4 skippy. By a tad, looks like a Dad showing his son how to catch fish.

Shane and Sarah tried in front of the camp site and near the above mentioned reef. Shane bagged out with 12 herring with Sarah being one short on 11 herring. Shayne managed to add one small flathead to his bag.

Ken and Gary mostly fished in front of the camp. Ken ended up with 9 herring, 1 skippy and the biggest scale fish for the weekend being a small salmon of 1.23 kg. Gary managed to beach a good skippy of 0.6 kg.

Mark also fished this area with capture of plenty of herring, catching and releasing most, and a yellow eyed mullet. On hearing that there were good skippy off the reef on Sunday morning he went there on Monday morning. To his delight, amazement, and jubilation, he captured a good skippy, his first ever: talk about a face splitting smile and an African witch doctor dance. He also tried dropping small bait just on the edge of the reef with a successful hook-up on a whiting. His bucket list includes a salmon, but for him, not to be this weekend.



Peet Wessels and herring

Pat and Dean initially fished between the Bluff Creek mouth and the south reef, with little success, Dean getting 2 herring and a yellow eyed mullet. They spent most of the rest of the weekend helping others with vehicle problems.

Pat's knowledge of vehicles and Dean's skill with his Range Rover enabled various people to extract themselves from what looked like insurmountable problems. Personal big thanks from me for your assistance - see below. Ray also fished this area and managed 2 herring before vehicle problems limited his fishing time.



Gary Parkinson and herring

Peet and Sandra fished the reef well north of our campsite and managed additional species including banded sweep, western rock blackfish, and a flathead. They both bagged out on herring and skippy.

The quality skippy were caught on the south reef on Sunday morning. This session was the kindest weather for the weekend. From early morning, sunshine, calm seas, no wind or weed: this made it a delight to fish only made really great by having skippy turn up.



Some members who thought they could see Bluff Knoll through a break in the clouds

Returning on Monday morning, seas and wind were up, no sunshine, threat of rain and only the odd skippy turning up, i.e. fishable but only just.

I initially fished close to Pat and Dean, and then tried near the creek mouth for only a few herring. Also knowing that the south reef can produce skippy I also went there Sunday morning. Arriving just after 6am, I was a little on the late side. The main run was just about over by this time. I managed only 6 skippy, so I returned on Monday morning to get a repeat of a hot bite. But as noted above this skippy hot bite was not to be. Only a few skippy were about so I had to work hard to get 2 fish to make up my bag. I had managed to get my bag of 12 herring.

Both Peet and I had the heaviest skippy of 0.71 kg with Sandra having her biggest at a close 0.7 kg. These larger species all came from this reef.

Based on the SCAC scoring system, fish capture results and the top scores are listed below in Reel Talk.

Although bag sizes were down on previous years for Bluff Creek, most were pleased that they had a feed of fish.



Socialising



More socialising

4WD adventures. As noted above, the beach had very soft sand. Some non-fishers tore up and down the beach some not having tires down to 15 psi, resulting in sand being very cut up with deep tracks wandering all over. Tires down to at least 15 psi, and trying with care trying to stay in existing tracks and driving at a steady slow speed allowed one to get from point A to point B. Despite this lots of help to vehicles where wheels had been buried including not only strangers but some of our Surfcasters. A second vehicle with access to shovels, snatch straps and Max Tracks were the order of the day.

My personal error was undertaking a U turn with a very tight radius with probably too high a speed resulting in on a front wheel the tire bead leaving the wheel rim. Darn. With expertise and equipment from Pat and Dean, managed to change out and then drive on the spare wheel, I went fishing that afternoon, however Pat knew the tricks of how to get a tire bead back on the rim, so when I came back there was the tire already inflated. Hence changed back to the original wheel and tire, only to drive 200 metres along the beach to have the tire bead leave the rim again. Close inspection revealed some damage to the side wall. Another lesson learned was to have a high quality jack, and packing wood squares in the tool kit. The standard scissor jack provided with the Nissan was not up to it when working in sandy conditions, the screw thread picked up sand and the screwing action to raise the jack gave the jack just seizing up.

Another drama was with Ray's small Suzuki 4WD vehicle. He towed a heavy tent trailer set-up at the track entrance Dean hooked up to the trailer and was able to take the unit to our camp site. Considering previous driving/towing and with the driving by Ray along the beach the hard work resulted in a clutch failure of his vehicle.

To leave Bluff Creek, Dean towed the Suzuki out. Dean's older model Range Rover has great towing capabilities. George towed the tent trailer out. Ray managed to get a new HD clutch installed in Albany and drove to Perth on Thursday.

The biggest drama was with Peet's Nissan Pathfinder. I was following him out and we were getting near the Albany highway when Peet suddenly stops and smoke starts coming from his vehicle. On opening the bonnet he couldn't see the engine due to the volume of white smoke pouring out. At the same time I saw a piece of burning material drop from the underside of the chassis, he jumped back with a fire extinguisher and looked at the vehicle underside.

He saw a ball of flame, metal glowing red so with a well-directed aim of fire retardant he put the fire out. Quick thinking and having that tool handy bought a potential disaster to an end. Am sure if he did not have that extinguisher, he would have his vehicle and all his camping and fishing gear go up in flames. After being towed by Mark to, and using Albany as a base, he had to arrange to have the vehicle brought back to Perth for the insurance investigation and problem rectification. Another lesson learned - have a fire extinguisher in your vehicle in a very accessible location. This type of issue happens in seconds.

Local fishing. Only one Surfcaster fished locally. Due to a family obligation Glen Wong only fished the Saturday evening at Swanbourne. Glen also encountered wind, weed, and rainy conditions but kept at it until after dark where the fish finally came on the bite. He managed a bag of 4 quality tailor and a gummy shark. Having put the latter back in the past and hearing that they were good eating, he kept same whereby this shark provided a delicious fish meal for him and his family. Hence for a local short fish compared to the extended one we enjoyed at Bluff Creek, Glen's bag was the 4th heaviest of the 15 people that fished on this field day. Well done Glen.

Hope to see you at our April field day at Cape to Cape. While expectations for this venue are high review of above results gave low numbers of salmon caught at Bluff, hence it will be interesting to see that for a later period by 6 weeks if salmon will arrive at this section of coastline.

Tight lines

Field Day Officer, Peter Osborne

Catch results and points for March 2015 Field Day

Angler	Weight	Species	Fish	Points
Peet Wessels	9.58kg	5	27	155.8
Sandra Wessels	8.05kg	5	25	140.5
Peter Osborne	5.86kg	2	20	88.6
Glen Wong	4.58kg	2	6	75.8
Mark Nurse	2.13kg	4	15	71.3
Ken Howells	2.74kg	3	11	67.4
Martin Wearmouth	3.28kg	2	11	62.8
Gerald Wearmouth	3.05kg	2	12	60.5
George Holman	2.73kg	2	12	57.3
Shane Wignell	2.24kg	2	13	52.4
Peter Butland	1.79kg	2	13	47.9
Sarah Wignell	1.67kg	1	11	36.7
Gary Parkinson	0.6kg	1	1	26
Dean Stewart	0.4kg	1	2	24
Ray Walker	0.38kg	1	2	23.8
Pat McKeown				10

Points include Field day but not March General meeting points.

Species weighed at the March Bluff Creek field day were herring, whiting, banded sweep, skippy, flathead, mullet, salmon and western rock blackfish

Species weighed in at the Local field day were tailor and shark.

Catches on March 2015
Field Day

		Herring	Flathead	Mullet	Skipjack Trevally	Whiting	Banded Sweep	Western Rock Blackfish	Salmon	Shark	Tailor	Total
Pat McKeown	Number											
	Total weight											
	Weight of best											
George Holman	Number	11		1								12
	Total weight	2.6		0.13								2.73
	Weight of best											
Mark Nurse	Number	12		1	1	1						15
	Total weight	1.48		0.09	0.47	0.09						2.13
	Weight of best	0.34										
Ken Howells	Number	9			1				1			11
	Total weight	1.02			0.49				1.23			2.74
	Weight of best											
Peet Wessels	Number	12			8	1	4	2				27
	Total weight	2.06			4.07	1.09	1.36	1.0				9.58
	Weight of best				0.71		0.46	0.7				
Sandra Wessels	Number	12	1		8		3	1				25
	Total weight	2.23	0.23		4.38		0.81	0.4				8.05
	Weight of best	0.27			0.7		0.35					
Shane Wignell	Number	12	1									13
	Total weight	2.06	0.18									2.24
	Weight of best	0.22										
Sarah Wignell	Number	11										11
	Total weight	1.67										1.67
	Weight of best	0.22										
Dean Stewart	Number	2										2
	Total weight	0.4										0.4
	Weight of best											
Peter Butland	Number	12	1									13
	Total weight	1.58	0.21									1.79
	Weight of best											
Martin Wearmouth	Number	8			3							11
	Total weight	1.6			1.68							3.28
	Weight of best				0.68							
Gary Parkinson	Number				1							1
	Total weight				0.6							0.6
	Weight of best											
Ray Walker	Number	2										2
	Total weight	0.38										0.38
	Weight of best											
Peter Osborne	Number	12			8							20
	Total weight	2.26			3.6							5.86
	Weight of best				0.71							
Glen Wong	Number									1	5	6
	Total weight									1.47	3.11	4.58
	Weight of best										0.87	
Gerald Wearmouth	Number	8			4							12
	Total weight	1.23			1.82							3.05
	Weight of best											
		Herring	Flathead	Mullet	Skipjack Trevally	Whiting	Banded Sweep	Western Rock Blackfish	Salmon	Shark	Tailor	Total

Sportsperson of the Year section winners for March 2015

Best scale fish	Ken Howells	Salmon	1.23kg
Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	Mixed bag	9.58kg
Best shark	Glen Wong	Gummy shark	1.47kg
Best bag including sharks	Glen Wong	Tailor and gummy shark	4.58kg

Field day section winners for March 2015

Best scale fish	Ken Howells	Salmon	1.23kg
Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	Mixed bag	9.58kg
Best shark	Glen Wong	Gummy shark	1.47kg
Best bag including sharks	Glen Wong	Tailor and gummy shark	4.58kg

Field Day top scores for 2014/15

Total scores calculated automatically by the field day scoring spreadsheet including March Field day but not March 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	1186	1	Peter Butland	193.7	13	Thomas Wearmouth	38.5	25
Peet Wessels	1064	2	Theo Van Niekerk	175.7	14	Christian Wearmouth	38.1	26
George Holman	1012.2	3	Sarah Wignell	173.5	15	George Belin	33.7	27
Sandra Wessels	899.8	4	Peter Pekaar	157.4	16	Victor Schilo	32.3	28
Martin Wearmouth	548.5	5	Michael Pisano	151.7	17	Jason Zerella	30	29
Mark Nurse	406.9	6	Geoff Raftis	124.6	18	Nicolas Terpkos	28.5	30
Glen Wong	393.6	7	Terry Fuller	110.6	19	Slavka Schilo	22.2	31
Pat McKeown	371.3	8	Gary Gildersleeves	109.9	20	David Maxted	20	32
Ken Howells	315	9	Paul Terpkos	84.6	21	Alan Osborne	10	33
Gary Parkinson	262.1	10	Dean Stewart	82.8	22	Ian Taggart	10	34
Ray Walker	251.2	11	Gerald Wearmouth	60.5	23	Robert Pekaar	10	35
Shane Wignell	229.4	12	Klaus Schönwolf	40	24			

Field Day sections 2014/15

Up to and including March 2015 Field Day. Entries in sections 5, 9 and 10 have been corrected.

1A	Best scale fish (1st six months)	George Holman	Mulloway	15.6kg	August
1B	Best scale fish (2nd six months)	Ray Walker	Mulloway	2.19kg	December
2	Most meritorious fish	To be awarded by Committee			
3	Best Shark (4.5kg min)				
4	Best Mulloway (2.0kg min)	George Holman	Mulloway	15.6kg	August
5	Best Tailor (1.0kg min)	Peet Wessels	Tailor	1.7kg	February
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)	No entry		Previous entry listed was less than the minimum weight	
10	Best scale fish (other than above)	Peet Wessels	Cod	1.47kg	August
11	Best bag of scale fish	Peter Osborne	Mixed bag	19.56kg	May
12	Best bag of Mulloway (2 fish min)	Peet Wessels	Mulloway	3.99kg	December
13	Best bag of Tailor (2 fish min)	George Holman	Tailor	7.96kg	September
14	Best fish on single handed rod (4kg line max)	Martin Wearmouth	Tarwhine	0.64kg	September
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 spreadsheet developer, Terry Fuller