



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>

Kalbarri house www.surfcasters.iinet.net.au/KalbarriHouseMain.html

Field Day report May 2013 Rottnest

Once again members and a visitor to our club ventured over to Wadjemup, christened so by the Noongar people, meaning "place across the water".

For many years Rottnest Island has been showcased as one of our grand fishing venues on our fishing calendar. With Radar Reef our main attraction, we are always running a risk with the elements.

This weekend we were up against the elements, but still this venue gave us much excitement, fun and joy. Fishing is a great sport and when you want to compete as an athlete, you better be well prepared for this unique little Island.

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.

Saturday late morning we arrived with tons of equipment at our usual drop off, just above and between Radar Reef and Wilsons Bay. With no time to spare and in a quick hurry we all descended down to Wilsons. The day was beautiful, the sea high and lucky for us the wind was just a little breeze.

I knew that we were going to get wet, but that's what makes the Rottnest experience so different and unique.

Sandra and I were the last to arrive so we copped the worst fishing spots. Within the first minute we were wet from top to bottom. Not long and a wave cleaned out my bait box.



Theo Van Niekerk, visitor Brad Zaknich, Ian Taggart, Tino Baiardo, Sandra Wessels

On my way to resupply I noticed Sandra had hooked into Australia. I gave some advice on where and when to cast, and then went on to watch her trying to break off the 30lb Maxima line. What a battle!!

Everybody tried hard to catch the ever elusive tailor, but in vain. We did manage a couple of other species like herring, skippy, various cods and tarwhine.

Soon we ran out of time and it was time to go and peep over the hill to see what Radar Reef was looking like. To our surprise although the water was fairly high the water was very calm. We decided to go and have a much needed lunch break. After a great lunch and a little lie down on a very soft piece of tarmac it was time to descend down to the reef.

With caution and equipped with life jackets we slowly ventured out to the point. First cast and Sandra's rod bent double. With great verbal joy and effort she finally landed the much anticipated Yellowtail kingfish that turned out to be another one of those monster buffalo bream. I was still busy having a laugh, when the same fate was bestowed on me. The end of the story was three buffies to me and two to Sandra.

Next to us, Theo was battling the very hungry wrasse and in no time he had to go out for new bait supplies. Three times I hooked into some lively Yellowtail kingfish but every time they just fell short of the 60cm mark. Soon the sun dipped behind Fish Hook Bay and the much anticipated skippy hour had arrived.

Our hopes was short lived when they did not show up in numbers and with only 6 skippy between us all, we returned back over the dark and steep goat track for a well deserved night's rest.

Sunday morning and the predicted inclement weather was nowhere to be seen. With high hopes and new enthusiasm we were ready for the day ahead. We arrived at Wilsons with great anticipation. With only 3 of us now competing for good fishing spots we managed to stay dry for a little longer.

My first mulie for the day landed just where I wanted it too, right in the white water about 50 metres out. A few seconds later and Theo's landed just to the right of mine. He brought his mulie in a little faster than mine and as he lifted his mulie out mine was hit by a nice tailor just about 20 metres out.

We both were laughing at each other and thought we had a school of tailor just in front of us. Too soon we realized that the sea decides, when she gives and when she takes, as that was the only tailor for that day. We changed over to smaller hooks and targeted the herring that were in great numbers.

After a good long rest on top of the hill we decided to have a peep over and descended once again down to Radar Reef. The weather conditions were still good, but with a cold front brewing the sea was high and with waves hitting Radar from two directions, creating a mountain of water where we wanted to fish. It was just not safe even to consider walking out!



Theo Van Niekerk with 1.96kg Westralian Dhufish

Change of plan, we decide to fish inside the Tennis courts. Sandra and Theo went on to their proven dhufish spot while I rested and watched two young blokes fishing a live herring under a float. They had been there from the previous day fishing for Yellowtail using this method.

They were quite successful in hooking a couple of Yellowtails but every time their equipment failed them in the end. I was still busy looking at them taking turns on the one rod playing another big fish when I heard a loud and jubilant outburst coming from Theo as he once again landed a beautiful dhufish. I showed him the thumbs up and continued watching these two youngsters fighting a losing battle.

Next moment another outcry, this time Sandra as she jumped and shouted with joy and happiness. A beautiful King George whiting was flapping next to her. This fishing action got me moving and it was not long before I started to land a few fish of my own.

Soon it started to get dark and with an ever growing sea it was clear that we would have to wait for another day, another time to walk out on to that magic little reef.

Around the scales on Sunday night the Yellowtail kingfish and the big number of skippies were absent, but what was interesting to see was the great variety of fish species that were caught.

The 12 species consisted of various types of cods, tailor, pike, blackfish, skippy, wrasse, herring, King George whiting, goatfish, Westralian dhufish and tarwhine.

The next Rottnest adventure is planned for August. I am pleased to see a lot of interest for the coming Rotto weekend and I encourage people to pay their deposits early so that we can book and finalize the accommodation and arrangements.

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



Sandra Wessels with 0.67kg King George whiting

Peet Wessels, Acting Field Day Officer

Field day comments

As the normal Field Day Officer but away from Perth for a while, I was interested in having Peet Wessels give me a telephone briefing on the May Field day.

Rottnest is one of my favourite venues, and over the years it has generally favoured us with from great to fantastic catches.

Conversation revealed some quality fish being caught at Rottnest, however on hearing the news on results from the local field day, what a surprise.

My personal congratulations to Ken Howells on the capture of a 7+ kg mulloway at Floreat. In recent years, Allan Jones and George Holman have both caught large snapper during winter months at this venue. Many hours of effort was put in by them to achieve these captures. It is a great delight to see a new Club member roll up for his first club field day with the club and achieve such a superb catch.

I have to put you on notice that a few of us target mulloway particular at one of our northern venues. The club has set a venue along the Kalbarri to Lucky Bay coastline a little later this year, on the long weekend at the end of September. Last year at this venue we had some success, plus some bust-offs on very large fish.

I trust you can join us so you can continue to demonstrate your mulloway catching skills.



Ken Howells with his 6.28kg mulloway

Peter Osborne, Field Day Officer

Sportsperson of the Year section winners for May 2013

Best scale fish	Ken Howells	Mulloway	6.28 kg
Best bag of scale fish	Ken Howells	Mixed bag	6.66 kg

Field day section winners for May 2013

Best scale fish	Ken Howells	Mulloway	6.28 kg
Best bag of scale fish	Theo Van Niekerk	Mixed bag	5.66 kg

Catch results and points for May 2013 Field Day

Angler	Weight	Species	Fish	Points
Theo Van Niekerk	5.66 kg	7	15	136.6
Peet Wessels	4.91 kg	6	24	119.1
Ken Howells	6.66 kg	2	2	106.6
Sandra Wessels	4.04 kg	4	14	90.4
George Holman	1.28 kg	3	5	62.8
Pat McKeown	1.07 kg	2	4	50.7
Peter Pekaar	0.56 kg	2	2	45.6
Allan Jones	0.18 kg	1	1	31.8
Ian Taggart				10
Tino Baiardo				10

Points include Field day and May General meeting points.

Species weighed at the Rottnest Field day were: tailor, skipjack trevally, herring, wrasse, western rock blackfish, pike, King George whiting, Westralian dhufish, cod and tarwhine.

Species weighed at the local field day: tailor, flathead, herring, mulloway.

Field Day top scores for 2013/14

Total scores up to and including May 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 2014, and adjusted scores will be published after that.

Name	Points	Rank	Name	Points	Rank
Theo Van Niekerk	136.6	1	Pat McKeown	50.7	6
Peet Wessels	119.1	2	Peter Pekaar	45.6	7
Ken Howells	106.6	3	Allan Jones	31.8	8
Sandra Wessels	90.4	4	Ian Taggart	10.0	9
George Holman	62.8	5	Tino Baiardo	10.0	10

Field Day sections 2013/14

Up to and including May 2013 Field Day.

1A	Best scale fish (1st six months)	Ken Howells	Mulloway	6.28 kg	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)	Ken Howells	Mulloway	6.28 kg	May
5	Best Tailor (1.0kg min)	Peet Wessels	Tailor	0.64 kg	May
6	Best Salmon (3kg min)				
7	Best Skipjack Trevally (0.5 kg min)	Peet Wessels	Skipjack Trevally	0.57 kg	May
8	Best Mackerel (2kg Min)				
9	Best scale fish (other than above)	Theo Van Niekerk	Westralian Dhufish	1.96 kg	May
10	Best bag of scale fish	Ken Howells	Mixed bag	6.66 kg	May
11	Best bag of Mulloway (2 fish Min)				
12	Best bag of Tailor (2 fish Min)				
13	Best fish on S/H rod 4kg b/s line (max)				
14	Best fish caught on fly rod				