



Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

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October 2014 fishing field day

Synopsis.

The October 2014 field day was spread from Jurien to Cervantes with members fishing the Hill River area, and South Point at Jurien. Despite storm warnings and severe conditions in Perth on Saturday, all weather conditions at this venue were good, however only small catches were made with the bulk of catches being the odd chopper tailor and herring.

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.

Three members advised they would sign on, with two persons actually fishing locally with one outstanding fish being landed.

The away venue gave pleasant fishing conditions with most getting a small feed of fish. For the field day the team that went away plenty of smiles and kidding about things that went right or wrong.

The trip. The sign on at the Cervantes Service Station was at 12:30 pm Saturday 18 October with lines down at 2pm with fishing through until Sunday 19 October with the usual lines up at 10am and the weigh-in conducted at 11:30am at the sign-on location.

A total of 8 SCAC anglers and 2 juniors came to the away sign-on. Martin Wearmouth and sons Christian and Thomas, Gary Parkinson, Ken Howells, Ray Walker, Glen Wong, Peter Osborne and new members Peter Butland and Mark Nurse.

Ray Walker came up on Friday and set up camp at the mouth of the river. He fished hard on Friday evening and despite strong winds and the threat of a storm he managed some tailor. Came Saturday he could not find any tailor but found plenty of small tarwhine with only one being legal size. Ray also put out live baits hoping for a big fish. No such luck only to see Martin pull in beside him and get a shark.



Ray Walker's camp

From the photo, see a good example of Ray's very efficient small camp. Ray's set up is based on his little Suzuki 4WD with a fold out canopy with attached walls to make an enclosed tent space. This set-up gives a very comfortable protected space for sleeping, cooking meals, and relaxing in the shade.

The group of Gary Parkinson, Ken Howells, Peter Butland and Mark Nurse arrived late Friday and drove to the mouth of the river setting up camp at the river mouth just on the north and inside of the sand dune, at the time not then realizing that Ray was round the corner on the south west side of the sand dune.



Shade and swags. Ken and Peter's Nissan Patrols

Also refer to photos of how this group set up camp, noting that they employed sleeping swags. Ken also had a roll out canopy on his vehicle to give protection from sun. Good quality swags give good rain protection, are not greatly affected by strong winds and are a great efficient way to set up a sleeping area without the inconvenience of carrying, setting up, and dismantling a large bulky tent.

While they did not fish Friday evening they fished hard on Saturday afternoon and evening.

Tailor were very scarce with Ken, Peter and Mark getting a couple of chopper tailor each with the odd herring also caught.

Mark also persevered on Sunday morning and caught a couple more chopper tailor. Mark, (like our other South African members), put in a lot of time and effort and looks like he will be a competent and competitive club fisherperson.

Of course the hard luck story goes to Gary. He could not find tailor but as it got dark he landed a nice herring. Subsequently he decided to put this fish in his esky. On picking up his bucket, with lid on top and the fish resting on top of the lid then walking 50 metres back to the vehicles on arriving the fish was not on the bucket lid. Despite big torches, group searches etc. this fish could not be found. Don't know of any past club field days where people catch fish eligible for weigh-in and then throw them away – good one Gary.

Of course have to report on a purported infringement of rights on this group by Peter Osborne and Glen Wong. Peter and Glen arrived at the mouth of the river just as it started to get light. They noted some SCAC vehicles parked near the river and commented to each other this group appeared to be a sleepy lot and drove past and proceeded to set up rod holders in the sand (there was no indication that people were fishing this stretch of sand,) and started fishing accordingly. Thirty minutes later Mark walked across and started fishing some 20 metres north of Peter and Glen.

Over an hour later or possibly closer to two, Peter B, Gary and Ken staggered out of their camp and of course immediately accused us of taking their fishing spot. Hence suggestion to all club members while it may be safer to take rods back to the camp if parked some distance away, if you want to continue fishing there in the morning, leave the rod sand spikes in place. Note that in our club if there is any opportunity to needle or tease another club member it is par for the course. Gary, Ken and Peter B. are masters of this skill and applied it to the maximum for the perceived infringement.

Martin Wearmouth and sons had organized some accommodation down at Cervantes. After sign-on they went to the mouth of the river using a plan based on some fishing they had on a holiday a couple of weeks earlier. On this occasion they caught fish, in particular bream in the river mouth, although many were undersize. The action was nothing like their earlier trip with only a couple of undersize bream being caught by the boys and Martin. However Martin did manage to add to his species list with one of his bream being a 28 cm specimen.

As this area was not working well, Martin and his boys decided to shift to the point about a kilometre south of the Hill River car park. On arriving they found a family had set up in the area he usually fishes so he returned to the mouth of the river again. Martin set up between Ray and Peter B and shortly after he hooked a ray (not the Ray Walker kind) but the one with a real sting in its tail.

Shortly after this he hooked into a 5kg bronze whaler shark, much to the disgust of Ray. Again much to the disgust of Ray, Martin also managed a couple of tailor, including the biggest tailor of the field day being a 1kg fish.

He and the boys returned to Cervantes for their sleep and got up early next morning to fish the sandy point on the south side of Cervantes. Martin only managed to add one more

chopper tailor to his bag. With his shark Martin managed to get the best bag of fish for the away field day.

Peter and Glen's story. From the 2pm start on Saturday they endured a frustrating start to fishing. Peter and Glen fished the north side of the Jurien Marina to catch blowie after blowie. Trying inside the Marina gave the same result. Later that afternoon they then moved to the south side of the dog beach point to the south side of Jurien.

Expectation was high based on past Peter's experience with catching good bags of quality tailor at this location in late afternoon and early evening. Of course Glen had been pumped up on this expectation of getting a bag of tailor.

First hour was quiet with only one good whiting caught by Glen and Peter getting one herring.

Peter's excitement was countered during this time with bite-offs and pulling onto the beach a large north west blowie. The latter gave a further bit of excitement in that this animal actually bit through the hooks when the rod was fully loaded up pulling the fish onto the beach resulting in the sinker and one hook remaining come flying through the air. Peter ducked but the rig was high over his head and flew some 20 metres behind to hit his 4WD vehicle.

With late afternoon coming to a close no tailor appeared. Just before dark Glen moved to the other side of Peter and with good skill levels experienced some success. To Peter's frustration in having no bites, Glen managed to catch in short succession another whiting, a tailor, herring, pike, and a tarwhine, a good species cross section of fish to start his bag of fish.

Like the team at the river mouth we all fished hard until about 10pm. The storm, thunder and lightning was south of us but looked quite alarming and seemed to be coming closer, so we gave up at this time as it looked as though we might be affected by it. Fortunately this did not happen, only well to the south of us copped the storm. While there was only a few drops of rain, Peter and Glen had rooms at the Apex camp accommodation so did not have to worry about the storm.

Sunday morning. Getting up at 4am they proceeded to the mouth of the river where they knew the rest of Surfcasters were fishing. On arriving just as it started to get light they noted the absence of any of Surfcasters out and about so they set up their rods where Peter had previously fished successfully. From 5:30 to 9am, Peter managed to get 4 chopper tailor and a couple more herring. As noted above Mark caught a couple of tailor hence it was noted fish caught were over a nearly 3 hour period on a spasmodic hook-up basis rather than finding a hot bite on schools of these fish.

Glen fished hard that morning, but only managed one chopper tailor. He threw out a couple of burley bombs, resulting in Glen landing a small Stingray. A couple of families doing some 4WD touring had arrived so Glen was able to demonstrate his fishing prowess to a large audience. Some young girls cheered when Glen did not just the catch but undertook a successful release of the ray.

A tarwhine Peter also landed looked as though it would be legal as initial measurement gave 25 cm. On checking before weighing it had shrunk and was a good one cm undersize. Hence a reminder to all, if fish are just size when caught, they need to be remeasured before putting across the scales. While tailor and herring don't tend to shrink, tarwhine, bream and in particular flathead can shrink over a 12 hour period. Keeping fish moist and on ice does help minimize this effect.

Local fishing. Local fishos consisted of George Holman, Pat McKeown and Craig Forward. Given the conditions, a fine capture was made by George. Their story goes along these lines:

George Holman and Pat McKeown signed on locally to fish their usual spots, as did a visitor to our last meeting. Craig Forward had advised that he would fish the North Mole, but shortly after he arrived the storm moved in and as it was so severe he gave up and went home.

George and Pat went to their spot at the local beach north of City Beach. Shortly after they met up, that storm arrived and from a start of heavy rain it quickly turned to hail.



George Holman with 5.41kg mulloway

So heavy and with thunder and lightning they left their gear on the beach and ran up the dunes to find shelter and eventually huddled under a bush in these dunes. When conditions calmed down they returned to their fishing gear on the beach. With lightning still about they decided not to hold their rods and put them on beach rod holders and huddled down beside them.

With only a short period of fishing on Saturday evening Pat managed a herring and a flathead. George managed a couple of tailor (larger end of chopper size), a herring and a couple of size tarwhine and to his delight he emulated his mulloway catch of August with a good mulloway, not as big but at 5.41kg cleaned it was a great catch. With very low numbers of fish caught and small sizes of fish for the overall field day results we have an unusual situation that the local field day champion, George, ended up with the heaviest fish, the heaviest bag and the highest point score total.

Based on the SCAC scoring system, fish capture results and the top scores are listed below in Reel Talk. Everyone was pleased that they at least had a feed if only a one meal bag of fish. However bag sizes were well down on expectations for the away venue although six different species of fish came across the weigh-in table at Cervantes. Local fishos had more success for the short time they fished with five species across the scales at their weigh-in.

Hope to see you at our November field day at the same venue. There are high expectations that this time it will really fire with schools of quality tailor and other miscellaneous species showing up at the usual spots we fish.

Tight lines

Field Day Officer, Peter Osborne

Newbie report

I guess I'm going to have to come up with a new heading soon for these reports. For, with a bit of luck, I won't be a newbie for much longer. I'm sure I will think of something.

Wow do these trips get any better?. For those of you that have not been on any trips away yet, (but I'm sure you all have) you really need to get into them. This trip was a very short one, two nights in fact. This trip I shadowed Ken and Gary, also joined by another newbie in Mark Nurse. He said he was from South Africa, but I felt he was from somewhere a lot closer. I was later to find out he actually came from Scarborough. I can't wait to be a member soon and I can stop being a shadow and shadowing people.

We camped at a very picturesque spot north of Cervantes. The Hill River was our view to the front of our campsite, and the ocean was only about 100 meters to the rear. We were also sheltered from the ocean winds by a sand dune. Oh and somewhere in between lies a herring, what! a herring you ask. I will tell you more about that later. Before I tell you about some of the hilarious events that occurred. (Oh and by the way thanks to Gary, Mark and a few others for creating and giving me so much material to write about.) I think we should start at the very beginning.

At the last meeting once I found out who was going to the Field day at Cervantes. I arranged with Ken and Gary to shadow them. Ken said that he would contact me closer to this event and make arrangements. After speaking to Ken, the plan was to depart home on Friday afternoon at 4pm and meet at Cervantes Service Station at 6pm. This seemed easy enough, not a problem. Anyway the day came, Friday morning and yes feeling anxious again not knowing these two guys, and would I fit in.

For those that don't know I bought a new fishing rig so I can go tripping everywhere, and no it's not a Jeep. It's a Nissan Patrol. I had arranged with my son who has a mobile window tinting business called Evolution Window Tinting to tint my new vehicle on the Friday morning at around 10 in the morning. This went without a hitch. Once my son had finished the tinting which looks fantastic I started packing for the trip. Once again not a problem or so I thought. I finally got away just after 4pm. Not too bad I will make up time on the way, put on some

sweet music select cruise control and cruise along. I reached Wangara when I realized that I had forgotten to pack my bedding, sleeping bag and pillow. I thought for a minute, can I get by without it. I could rug up with extra clothes and bunch up some extra clothes as a pillow - nah! this won't work. I better return home and get them.

So I turned around and went back to Ellenbrook to pick them up. Anyway by the time I had returned to the spot that I had realized that I had forgotten my bedding (are you still with me) it was now 5pm, not good. I then decided to ring Ken and tell him I was running late. He said that was fine they had left at 4:30 and would go and get some tea on their arrival at Cervantes and await my arrival. We now rearranged to meet at 7pm. On the way up I thought I could tell them we had visitors at the last minute or I had a flat tyre or some other excuse I use from time to time, However later I told them the truth. Gary said that he had a check off list of items that someone had given him that helped him to remember everything that he required prior to leaving. He said he would organize one for me. He said this after he had a good chuckle though. Cheeky blighter.

I finally arrived at Cervantes Service Station at 7pm. All good, great drive up. Meet the boys, ready to go. After an initial chin wag, shaking hands etc., we headed for our proposed camping spot. When we arrived at the spot we checked out our surroundings as dark as it was.

I said before the Hill River was in front of our camp site and the ocean to our rear. No hang on I know what you're thinking, what about the herring it had not been caught yet. We set up camp and sat around and had a real talk (where have I heard words before that sound like that?).

Now let me tell you about the storm. Ken said that apparently rain had been predicted, we certainly had some and were subjected to an amazing light show put on by nature. The lightning lit up the river and turned night into day literally. It was amazing. We decided not to fish that night and retire early and enjoy the storm in our swags. Hmmm! that doesn't sound right, the storm was not in our swags we were lying in our swags listening to it. I don't know about you but I love lying there listening to the rain or what I could hear over Gary's snoring. He was in the swag beside mine at first I thought it was thunder rolling along. Oh by the way my new fishing rig is the Patrol on the right of the earlier picture. I was going to say Ken's is the maroon one and mine is the white one but I guess there all black and white now (in colour on the website, Editor).

In the morning I woke to the sound of Gary snoring. No, only joking everyone was awake, I was the last out of bed.

When I crawled out of my swag I was presented with a view of tranquil waters. The river was so calm not a ripple to be seen except for a few bream jumping and swirling the water beside the far bank. There was also a swan on the river being harassed by what appeared to be a group of terns.



The Hill river

Yes this was certainly a beautiful spot. We all woke around 6am, had breakfast and contemplated and discussed what lay ahead that day. One thing I failed to mention when we came into the camping area last night we saw a solitary tent set up on the edge of this sand dune. Not thinking too much about this we thought it must be locals camping for the night, as this area is used quite a bit. When we investigated in the morning we found out it was Ray's campsite. Gary said that he had recognized Ray's car and he was yelling out Ray, Ray, Ray trying to wake him up. I thought to myself it would be real funny if it was not Ray and it was a local.

Sign on. We were due to sign on in Cervantes at the rear of the Service Station at 12:30. So as I had no bait, Ken decided that me and Gary should drive back into town and sign on, on behalf of everyone out at the campsite. When we arrived back in town we found Peter Osborne sitting at his table waiting for everyone to sign in. Nearly everyone was camping and fishing out at the spot where we were except for Peter and Glen they were staying and fishing at Jurien Bay. Now please remember this as it is important. We then headed back to
October 2014 Fishing field day report.

our campsite and on arrival started preparing and rigging up ready to start fishing at 2pm. It was great weather and it looked like we might get some more rain. Ken said it would probably go around us. Everyone caught fish (even Gary) which was good to see.

The herring. It was about 9:30 when the fish went off the bite, and everyone decided to call it a night. I packed up my gear and started to walk back to our camp site. I noticed Gary walking along intensely shining a light on the beach. He seemed to be looking for something. I approached him to see what was going on and see if I could help. Gary told me that he had lost his herring. Unfortunately this was the only fish Gary had caught. Apparently he had his herring on top of his cutting board which was positioned on top of his bucket and as he was walking back to the camp it somehow slid or jumped off the board and disappeared in the sand. I said to Gary are you sure it was a herring. He said it was. I think it might have been a Mud Skipper. Anyway Gary, Mark and I searched the beach for the next 15 minutes or so and no herring was found. This will go down as one of the Surfcasters mysteries. Could all members and newbies be on the lookout for Gary's herring. Especially those going on the next Field day trip to Cervantes.

Sunday morning. The following morning we awoke again to a beautiful morning. The tranquil river, the swan was back again and the birds were singing.



Whose vehicle is that in the background?

All was good until we turned around and found Peter and Glen the guys that were fishing at Jurien in our exact fishing spot. Who told them that we were catching fish?. Can you see Peter/s vehicle in the back ground, and their rods stretched out along the beach.

How rude, the guys said a few colorful comments. I'm sorry I can't repeat them, I was brought up not to swear.

Glen said what was the problem he believed he was right to fish there but we knew he was Wong.

Lines out was at 10 that morning, we only had a few hours left, and rain was threatening again. We thought a downpour was possible so we decided to pack up our campsite and swags. Better to put it all in our vehicles dry rather than wet. 10am came rather quickly.

Just before 10 Martin looked as though he had hooked on to something rather big, it drifted up the beach and Martin followed it we all called time please, lines out, cut the line etc., Once he recovered his line it was a great lump of seaweed. We all packed up and headed back to the weigh in.

Prior to driving back in we had to do the customary pumping up of the tyres. While we were pumping up the tyres Mark offered some drinks around. We all held our drinks or placed them somewhere safe. Mark placed his drink on top of his wheel under the wheel guard.

He then had to move his vehicle up so the hose would reach his rear tyre. As he drove forward his can fell on the ground and he ran over it. What a shame he gave the last one to me. We all licked our cans real quick.



Where's my drink gone?

Back at the weigh in Martin again took the honors. Well done mate. A great time had by all. Thanks all for the company and friendship. We all then packed up had a bit to eat and headed home. The only thing left behind was the one that got away. Gary's herring.

Fishing memories.

New member, Peter Butland

Sportsperson of the Year section winners for October 2014

| | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|-----------|---------|
| Best scale fish | George Holman | Mulloway | 5.41 kg |
| Best bag of scale fish | George Holman | Mixed bag | 7.07 kg |
| Best shark | Martin Wearmouth | Shark | 4.67 kg |
| Best bag including sharks | Martin Wearmouth | Mixed bag | 6.75 kg |

Field day section winners for October 2014

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| Best scale fish | George Holman | Mulloway | 5.41 kg |
| Best bag of scale fish | Mark Nurse | Tailor | 1.64 kg |
| Best shark | Martin Wearmouth | Shark | 4.67 kg |
| Best bag including sharks | Each person can win | only 1 prize category | |

Catch results and points for October 2014 Field Day

| Angler | Weight | Species | Fish | Points |
|---------------------|--------|---------|------|--------|
| George Holman | 7.07 | 4 | 6 | 130.7 |
| Martin Wearmouth | 6.75 | 3 | 5 | 117.5 |
| Glen Wong | 1.38 | 4 | 7 | 73.8 |
| Peter Osborne | 1.45 | 2 | 7 | 54.5 |
| Ken Howells | 0.71 | 2 | 3 | 47.1 |
| Pat McKeown | 0.68 | 2 | 2 | 46.8 |
| Mark Nurse | 1.64 | 1 | 4 | 46.4 |
| Peter Butland | 0.83 | 1 | 2 | 38.3 |
| Ray Walker | 0.24 | 1 | 1 | 32.4 |
| Gary Parkinson | | | | 20 |
| Christian Wearmouth | | | | 10 |
| Thomas Wearmouth | | | | 10 |

Points include Field day and October General meeting points.

Species weighed at the October field day were: tailor, herring, pike, King George whiting, bream, tarwhine and shark.

Species weighed at the October local field day were: mulloway, flathead, tailor, tarwhine and herring.

Field Day top scores for 2014/15

Total scores calculated automatically by the field day scoring spreadsheet including October 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 |
|------------------|--------|------|--------------------|--------|------|---------------------|--------|------|
| George Holman | 753.3 | 1 | Ken Howells | 120.6 | 11 | Nicolas Terpkos | 28.5 | 21 |
| Peter Osborne | 740.6 | 2 | Terry Fuller | 110.6 | 12 | David Maxted | 20 | 22 |
| Peet Wessels | 573.8 | 3 | Gary Gildersleeves | 109.9 | 13 | Klaus Schönwolf | 20 | 23 |
| Sandra Wessels | 459.2 | 4 | Gary Parkinson | 100 | 14 | Christian Wearmouth | 10 | 24 |
| Martin Wearmouth | 333.3 | 5 | Peter Butland | 93.9 | 15 | Ian Taggart | 10 | 25 |
| Pat McKeown | 326.2 | 6 | Paul Terpkos | 84.6 | 16 | Jason Zerella | 10 | 26 |
| Glen Wong | 234 | 7 | Ray Walker | 79.7 | 17 | Robert Pekaar | 10 | 27 |
| Theo Van Niekerk | 175.7 | 8 | Geoff Raftis | 65.3 | 18 | Thomas Wearmouth | 10 | 28 |
| Mark Hansen | 166.1 | 9 | Dean Stewart | 58.8 | 19 | | | |
| Peter Pekaar | 157.4 | 10 | Mark Nurse | 46.4 | 20 | | | |

Field Day sections 2014/15

Up to and including October 2014 Field Day.

| | | | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------|--------|-----------|
| 1A | Best scale fish (1st six months) | George Holman | Mulloway | 15.6kg | August |
| 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) | George Holman | Mulloway | 15.6kg | August |
| 5 | Best Tailor (1.0kg min) | George Holman | Tailor | 1.51kg | September |

| | | | | | |
|----|--|------------------|---------------------|---------|-----------|
| 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) | Theo Van Niekerk | Yellowtail Kingfish | 2.79kg | August |
| 10 | Best scale fish (other than above) | Martin Wearmouth | Dart | 0.96kg | September |
| 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) | 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 | Mark Hansen | Wrasse | 0.37kg | August |
| 17 | Best fish caught on single handed rod (4kg line max) and a hard body lure | | | | |

Field day spreadsheet developer, Terry Fuller