



Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

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September 2013 field day Kalbarri

The September 2013 Kalbarri field day was spread from the Kalbarri River mouth, north side, through to Port Gregory. A local field day of the usual boundaries was also held over the 3 day long week end. Only zero to small mixed catches resulted from both of these locations.

The away trip. A team of 7 SCAC fisherpersons, Ray Walker, Gary Parkinson, Martin Wearmouth and his two sons Christian & Thomas, Pat McKeown and Peter Osborne participated in the away field day event.

The fishing time was from Saturday 28 Sept to 10 am Monday 30 Sept. Given this was Kalbarri, and based on past history, not only was attendance down, but fish captures were considerably less than expectations. It is noted that the number of species captured was relatively high, 10, but generally only one per angler.

The swell in the Kalbarri area was extremely large. Our usual haunts such as Frustration and Wittecarra Creek were unfishable. While the water ocean side of wave breaks was generally pretty clear, in some cases over 200metres out from the beach, the big wave action probably contributed to fish not moving close to the coastline edge. It was also noted that the areas visited had most of the sand beaches washed away exposing rocky reefs.

It was also noted and confirmed by Martin who had stayed over that by Tuesday the swell had considerably subsided.

Pat and Peter arrived Thursday late afternoon, and saw the swell was extremely large, guess 6metres plus. So early Friday morning they tried the corner at Red Bluff where the wave action was not quite as large. Result, one large herring. That afternoon they tried Chinaman's mouth of the river. Result lots of blowies, with a reasonable tarwhine and a perch to Peter

Saturday. Pat, Gary and Peter took the little boat and went across the river to try Frustration on Saturday morning as a test run. Barely fishable due to swell and lots of terminal gear lost, so all quit after half an hour.

Come midday Saturday and the competition period commenced. From information provided by a local Kalbarri fisho Frank Rystenber, Martin, Ray and Gary decided to try a spot up river that widened out to a lagoon. A bit of 4WD skills needed to get in and out. Water looked good although a bit snaggy. Hopes of bream, flathead etc. soon faded as action was zero for quality fish.

The rest of us turned the mouth of the river at Chinaman's to foam as action was cast and retrieve every few minute. Small fish quickly stripped mulie bait, and blowies were high on the list of captures. Peter caught a medium tarwhine followed shortly by a good tarwhine of 0.7 kg cleaned and a perch just before dark. Apart from blowies, very small whiting and tarwhine were the order of the day. Pat further honed his blowie catching skills.

We had a visitor bought in by Ray. Frank Rystenber is a Kalbarri Fishing Club member and a club champion. He gave some tips, and as below, some of us tried the upriver one on Saturday afternoon.

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.

Due to work commitments he could not fish with us but to show local knowledge is a big plus, he went down to Pot Ally, a climb down the cliffs south of Red Bluff, about 6pm on Saturday and only fished a couple of hours. He came back to the Club cottage before 10pm and weighed in, not gutted or gilled, a snapper of 3.26kg, a tailor of 2.78kg and a sweetlip of 0.7kg. Compared to the rest of us he knew what he was doing.

Sunday. Pat had a bit of an ankle problem so he gave it a rest and did not fish Sunday morning. Ray tried the river again, but Peter and Gary went across to the north side of the river just south of Frustration and into the river exit, where the wave action was not so severe.

They fished hard from 6am to nearly 9am with nil result. They were just about to give up, when Gary hooked into a small mulloway, but at 53cm was legal size. Talk about a big smile.



Gary Parkinson with mulloway. Given the lack of fish, Gary was smiling all weekend. Note the large, but not huge, swell in the background.

Hence we decided to stay on for a while where Peter managed a tailor and dart.



Martin's snapper and tailor caught at Luck Bay. A couple of well-deserved meals from these.

Martin made a wise choice and with his two boys, went down to Lucky Bay. He noted a fellow catching fish so he pulled up and found some action. A wise choice as he landed a snapper and a tailor.

Peter, Pat and Ray again tried Chainman's on Sunday evening. Ask Pat how to catch blowies. He is becoming a real expert in catching these. At Rottneest last month, Pete Wessels regained the title of buffie king taking the title from Sandra, but Pat must be our new blowie king.

Peter managed a couple of good tarwhine and a perch by casting close to reef structure. Just on dark, Peter hooked up. 90% sure was a large mulloway. With 30 lb line and good balanced beach rod, he lost the battle.

Was winning at one stage but when he worked it closer to the rocks he was standing on, the fish decided it had enough and took off out to sea and then turning left to run the line around rocks. Break-off.....darn.

Ray tried for whiting by walking further upstream, but no luck on size fish. After a couple of hours in the dark with zero result except for the continuation of blowies no result so we gave up for the night.

Martin returned from Lucky Bay in the afternoon and tried using small gear and fishing the river in front of the IGA store. He read this right and while not large fish, he captured a cod, a whiting, and a bream to give himself some species points. Well done, his planning proved spot on for the weekend as this gave him the best bag.

Monday. Come Monday morning, we all tried the Red Bluff area again. Martin tried around on the rocks at the Bluff itself while the rest of us tried in front of the car park on the hill, one of Mal Head's favourite spots. Normally this is a beach area, but sand had been washed away to leave a rock platform, although reasonably comfortable to fish from. Apart from seeing some porpoises nothing happened, and again no fish.

Weigh-in at 10am on Monday gave discussions or commiserations on the lack of fish with only Martin having what could be called a bag of fish. It is of course noted that Gary still

carried that big smile for that mulloway. When the weigh-in got underway and nearly completed, the effort was then directed to building the BBQ on the back porch.

The result was a credit to the team, in particular for bricklaying skills by Martin and the concept or design of the facility drawn up by Ray. Refer to the results elsewhere in Reel Talk.

Of course individuals had the usual hiccups and of course that person becomes the butt of jokes for onlooking members.

Without mentioning names here are some examples:

- Taking the small boat across the river on Sunday morning to try Frustration, someone forgot to put the bungs in his boat. It made for a bit of effort to re-float when the boat sitting on the sandbank ¼ full of water, Fortunately tide going out.
- Someone going up the wrong track in a 4WD and getting bogged on the upriver sojourn.
- One keen fisherman who caught no fish on Saturday, of course had to go and buy fish and chips for dinner that night.
- Leaving Kalbarri to return to Perth, someone woke up when he remembered had left his wallet on the kitchen table.



Following the field day Martin returned to Lucky Bay giving him a first ever mulloway.

Field Day Officer, Peter Osborne

Local Field Day for September

As John and Jenny Curtis had to go to Bunbury for the weekend, George Holman took over the role of FDO for the local venue for the September Field Day. This was held over the same time frame as listed above.

George had taken a look at local beaches and when speaking to interested club members advised them that due to beach washout, Floreat was out. The dog beach was fishable although some weed, as was Brighton Road. He further advised the North Beach Jetty was an option, as was the beach area just north of the first groyne at Sorrento, again some weed visible.

Victor and Slavka Schilo fished the latter area on Saturday with results only being undersized tarwhine and blowies.

George tried Trigg, no beach, just exposed rock, and reef. This effort was rewarded with a good tarwhine and some wirrah.

Come Sunday, George joined Victor and Slavka at Sorrento Beach at 4:30 pm. only to be engulfed by wind and heavy rain. George admired his two fishing partners for toughing it out in such conditions. Victor was determined to catch a tailor as George had caught one a little earlier. Victor did manage to hook a tailor but the hooks pulled when he was bringing in.

Following this, George managed to capture another two tailor, however Slavka finally succumbed to the weather conditions and the couple then both left. As George soon ran out of bait so he also went home.

George considered they did have a good team effort going under trying conditions and hoped that next time conditions would be more conducive to comfortable fishing and would give better fishing results. Others who had an initial interest in fishing the local Field Day, decided to stay at home.

An overview of all of the above. It appears that the recent heavy storms, wind and swell had altered the characteristics of most of the beaches now to exposed rocks from Perth to Kalbarri. Quality fish appeared to have moved away from the immediate coast line, leaving only small whiting, tarwhine and especially blowies feeding close in.

Field Day Officer, Peter Osborne

Sportsperson of the Year section winners for September 2013

Best scale fish	Martin Wearmouth	Pink Snapper	3.08 kg
Best bag of scale fish	Martin Wearmouth	Mixed Bag	5.06 kg

Field day section winners for September 2013

Best scale fish	Gary Parkinson	Mulloway	1.50 kg
Best bag of scale fish	Martin Wearmouth	Mixed Bag	5.06 kg

Catch results and points for September 2013 Field Day

Angler	Weight	Species	Fish	Points
Martin Wearmouth	5.06 kg	5	5	110.6
Frank Rystenber	6.08 kg	3	3	100.8
Peter Osborne	2.77 kg	5	6	97.7
George Holman	3.4 kg	3	6	84
Gary Parkinson	1.5 kg	1	1	45
Pat McKeown	0	0	0	20
Raymond Walker	0	0	0	20
Christian Wearmouth	0	0	0	10
Thomas Wearmouth	0	0	0	10

Points include Field day and September General meeting points.

Species weighed at the Kalbarri field day were tailor, mulloway, pink snapper, cod, tarwhine, whiting, sea perch, dart, bream and sweetlip.

Species weighed at the local field day were tailor, cod and tarwhine.