



Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

PO Box 2834, Malaga WA 6944

ABN 29 925 237 020

Telephone 0459 183 375 Email surfcast@iinet.net.au

Club Web page <http://www.surfcasters.iinet.net.au>

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

September 2014 field day

Overview.

The September 2014 away fishing field day was held on the long weekend from 1pm Saturday 27 September to 10am Monday 29 September and with boundaries from the mouth of the Murchison River at Kalbarri to Bowes River at Horrocks with the club members fishing beaches at Wagoie and Port Gregory.

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.

As voted on by club members, the SCAC field day was undertaken in parallel with the AAAWA State Rock and Beach Championship held in the same location from 1pm Saturday to 4pm Sunday.

As in May, a bit disappointing in that the numbers of SCAC members attending this venue was down considerably. However the results in the AAA competition showed that Surfcasters can hold their heads up high and while extreme weather conditions were encountered, Surfcasters presented some competitive bags at the weigh-in.

For the local event, there were very limited results. See the write up later.

The trip. Some of us drove up to the area on Wednesday to allow some looking around before the competition weekend.

In conjunction with the AAA briefing, the Club sign on was at the Port Gregory Caravan Park at 11am on Saturday 27 September, with some who had already signed on at the September General meeting. The fishing period was from lines down at 1pm on the Saturday with fishing through the evening with the lines up at to suit returning to the Port Gregory Caravan Park and have bags placed in the nominated AAA area by 4pm on Sunday 28 September. With lines up for the Club's fishing competition at 10am on Monday, the SCAC weigh-in was held at Port Gregory at 11am on the Monday due to the location of the majority of Surfcasters.

For the away trip a total of 11 SCAC members signed on. George Holman, Pat McKeown, Martin Wearmouth, Terry Fuller, David Maxted, Ray Walker, Peet and Sandra Wessels, Dean Stewart, and a prospective new club member Peter Butland along with FDO Peter Osborne.

Overcast with periods of rain, very windy and a huge swell prevailed for the Saturday. This gave poor fishing conditions with some favourite spots unfishable, particularly along Wagoie. On Sunday the conditions changed slightly with no rain and slightly less winds but the swell was just as high.

Peet and Sandra camped on Wagoie beach, Peter Osborne put up a tent at the Wagoie Chalets. The rest of the team had cabins etc. down at Port Gregory, which was luxury accommodation compared to camping out.

George and company fished a couple of beaches south of Port Gregory with some success. Over three days good quality tailor and dart were found with George bagging out on tailor and some dart and a tarwhine. Pat McKeown managed a mulloway of over 3 kg (uncleaned) plus tailor, dart, and one herring. Pat had the heaviest fish with that mulloway.

Martin Wearmouth managed to beach six tailor, four dart and six tarwhine with one tarwhine being caught on a single handed rod. For the SCAC weigh-in, Martin had the heaviest bag of fish, just pipping George by a few grams.

Terry Fuller managed a couple of quality tailor as did Ray Walker with Dean Stewart landing one. Prospective new Club member Peter Butland tried out his 4WD ute, fishing and then sleeping on the beach at this location. As with the rest of this group he beached three quality tailor.

The majority of tailor bags from this group had at least one tailor that was in order of 1.5 kg uncleaned weight.

The Wessels tried their favourite spots along Wago beach and reef but most were unfishable. They successfully fished one spot they knew they could catch dart. They fished a Wago beach with white water suds rolling over sand and minor reef with dart feeding well with hard to detect bites. Despite continued efforts, they could not find tailor or other species.

Peter Osborne initially tried Lucky Bay with only one dart and a tarwhine being landed during the period from Saturday lines down to 2am Sunday morning. Water looked favourable for both tailor and mulloway but these were notable by their absence. Peter fished the same spot on first light but again nil.

Peter tried around Kalbarri for smaller species but with the huge swell, he was not successful except for a wrasse. He then moved to cliffs south of Kalbarri at Pot Ally. Sunday morning success with a quality tailor and a small mulloway and on Monday morning a further sweetlip and a small cod (wirrah). Of course fishing with an Alvey reel and heavy line, the fish had to be winched up the cliff before achieving a successful capture.



Peter Osborne with 7 fish for 7 species - tailor, mulloway, tarwhine, wrasse, wirrah, sweetlip, dart.

When one tentative bite suddenly turns to a fish with real weight and line streaming out on a tight drag this was going to be a good fish. This gives a rush of adrenalin but knowledge under the fishing conditions of high cliff, huge swell and no gaff or gaff man, the landing of such a fish was going to depend not just on skill but good luck. The fish was seen as a large mulloway and estimated to be between 10 to 15 kg. No luck was found and with a set of swells coming through it wasn't long before the line wrapped around rocks and then snapped.

On the AAWA front, again SCAC can hold their head high. George was runner up in the Veterans individual section and the Veterans team of Peter, George, Pat and Terry won the Veterans team event. Martin won the prize for the heaviest dart.

Field Day Officer, Peter Osborne

"Fishing together" was the theme for the group of Surfcasters who stayed at Port Gregory.

George Holman, Dave Maxted and Terry Fuller made a holiday of the trip and stayed a week, traveling the Wednesday before the field day and returning the Wednesday after.

Martin Wearmouth and Ray Walker went up Friday returning Monday, Pat McKeown and Dean Stewart up Friday returning Tuesday, and prospective new member Peter Butland up before the weekend and returning Wednesday.



Fishing together at Port Gregory

Dave Maxted was looking after his injured right shoulder which meant he was not able to use a rod, but had come up for a holiday and to keep the others company.

Ray Walker was out and about and coping well so soon after his knee replacement operation. If only all such replacements went as well. Ray's example might convince some others with dud knee joints to take the inevitable plunge to get back some pain free mobility.

A look round on Thursday found many places completely weeded out, with banks of weed on the beach and churning up in the swells. But there were still some good looking places which were clear enough to be fished, if only a spot could be found among all the anglers who would be in the area over the long weekend.

George fished late on Thursday afternoon and caught some tailor and saw two mulloway caught by other fishers, so the hopes were up.

After the others arrived on Friday, the late afternoon found the group fishing south of Port Gregory and some very good tailor were caught.

The weather forecast for the weekend was not good, with a strong front and wind change due on Saturday, and it was spot on.

After the briefing for the AAAWA event, we went back to the same spot and waited for the 1pm start, with the northwest wind at about 30 knots straight along the beach at that spot. After the rain band came through, the wind swung to the south west, straight in, and eased as forecast and the rest of the day was reasonable for fishing.

Fish were few but the pickers were also scarce so it was possible to put a bait out and let it soak. Some nice tailor and a few dart were caught, many on rods in rod holders with the fish hooking themselves.

By Sunday morning the weather was good and the wind was kind but the fishing was much the same, with a few tailor and dart. Pat pulled in a nice mulloway which turned out to be the heaviest scale fish for the weekend.



Pat's mulloway



Pat's berley brew of minced fish and other goodies

There were some large swells coming through and at times the bay was full of foamy water and churned up sand and water ripping out from behind the reef, but then there would be a quiet spell and the water would clear to be perfect for tailor and mulloway and dart.

Pat McKeown was busy berleying up with quality minced burley, fish oil and other fish attracting goodies in a mesh bag staked at the water line, but despite all this the fish were not very plentiful.

Surprisingly despite the swells and the amount of water coming through from behind the reef, there was no weed in the fishing spot for the whole weekend.

At times the rips were very strong, but not so bad that a heavy sinker and choice of rig and bait didn't handle it and stop the rigs drifting.

Martin Wearmouth stopped on his way back to camp after dark on Sunday for a fish inside the lagoon and had a ball on tarwhine, keeping six and releasing another six or so.

Although there was a lot of water between the fish, and it seemed that it was a lottery if the few that were around would take your bait, everyone had caught some tailor, except Dean.

He was casting well and putting his baits in the right place, putting in the time but he just hadn't had the luck. At 9:10 am on Monday, his luck changed and in came his tailor.



Dean Stewart casting, trying, trying and trying for a tailor



Dean's tailor



One of Peter Butland's first tailor caught on a Club field day

Prospective new member Peter Butland was on his first field day with the club, trying out his tray back ute and camping setup.

After a bit of friendly persuasion and discussion, out came a nomination form and he was convinced to nominate for membership of the Club.

He was given plenty of advice on all sorts of things about fishing, camping, choice of gear, how the club operates, its competitions and so on.

Peter is off to a flying start with two species towards his Species badge and one towards his Masters badge.

He has promised to write an article for Reel Talk about his experiences as a newcomer to the Club and fishing together on this Field day.

Terry Fuller

Local field day report September 2014

With all the big boys away in Kalbarri, we peasants fishing the local field day thought we would clean up. Unfortunately, after perusing the beaches Friday night and Saturday afternoon we were doomed. Not one beach was fishable, it was all packed with weed and sandbanks, even Cottesloe groyne, not even 6 inches of water and 40 knot breezes.

We all headed for the North Mole, damn closed, so we, (Glen Wong, Gary Parkinson and I) went behind the ferry terminal. On arrival we met a young guy who had caught a 91cm pink snapper.

This looked encouraging as this guy according to other fisherman had caught 23 snapper in 14 days, so we hung around to midnight to no avail.

On Sunday we managed to get into the North Mole. We fished with 60 other people, not ideal, but at least we were in good company.

On the South Mole Rob Pekaar was having a battle with a large fish on his small top hook. Up and down the Mole he went dodging other rods and lines, except the last one. The guy at the end of the Mole has got his hooks caught around Rob's bottom hooks and pulled his hook straight allowing one large fish a quick getaway.

Once again Peter Pekaar wins the local with a 175 gram snook.

Local Field Day Officer, Ken Howells

A newbie report, September field day Port Gregory

The day was approaching my first trip away with the Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA. I felt quite apprehensive not really knowing anyone and not knowing what to expect. This event was a result of being advised that I have to join some sort of a club or group to avoid turning into a recluse.

You see I have recently retired in the last few years and was still struggling with an identity problem. I'm sure those of you reading this article that have already or have recently retired know what I am talking about. One minute I was a District Officer in the Fire and Rescue Service and then due to injuries and health problems I had to retire. Then I felt I was nobody, hence the identity problem. I guess most people have to reinvent themselves when they retire.

So I thought to myself "what sort of a club could I join?" I have always enjoyed fishing ever since I was a young feller, always fishing with my Dad and brothers, and obviously still to this day. During my working career I tried to go fishing now and again but it was not that easy working shift work and most of the time working two jobs to pay the bills. Anyway now that I am retired I can spend more time doing the things I enjoy. So therefore I surfed the internet looking for a fishing club to join. As I suffer from motion sickness it had to be a land based fishing club. That is how I found you guys.

The first meeting I attended was the Annual General Meeting. Probably not a good meeting to attend with all the elections going on etc., I meet George Holman at the end of the meeting and he told me that some of the group were fishing the following evening at the Floreat Drain and he invited me to come along and join in which I appreciated and said I would love to.

On this particular evening I turned up at the Floreat Drain and didn't recognise anyone, not that I knew anyone to start with anyway, but I was looking for a familiar face in George. Anyway as it turned out I didn't meet anyone there. Later I found out that apparently George told me that they were fishing at track 11. I didn't hear him say that - I still think he was worried about me catching more fish than him and gave me a bum steer. Only joking George.

The second meeting was the meeting prior to the Kalbarri area Field Day. At the meeting there was a lot of talk going on about the trip and the local fishing and I was starting to get some idea of what was going on. Fortunately someone gave me a Reel Talk and after reading this I certainly understood better. I would like to take this opportunity and mention what a very informative and presented newsletter. Hats off to the editor.

I thought to myself this would be a great trip to go on to learn the ropes and cut my teeth, so to speak. So approximately a week prior to the planned trip I rang George Holman and asked if I could possibly come along and shadow his group. George said I was more than welcome and to come along. George spent about 45 minutes on the phone that day discussing the trip arrangements and explaining what the club was all about. He was very friendly and made me feel very welcome. Therefore I was really looking forward to the trip.

All went well on the way up and I arrived at Port Gregory Caravan Park on the day after George and his crew did. On arrival George, Terry and Dave greeted me, once again making me feel very welcome. Immediately I felt that I fitted in and was going to enjoy myself. I didn't fish the first day, just spent the time meeting everyone, even the neighbors (permanents that live there) and setting up my camp site. This was something I had planned for.

Not really knowing anyone I wanted to set myself up to be self sufficient. The vehicle I had (I will explain "**had**" later) was a Great Wall tray back V240 4x4. This vehicle was unproven on the beach. In other words I had never taken it on to the beach and was not sure how it would perform. Don't get me wrong, it's not that I'm unaccustomed to 4x4 driving being in the Fire and Rescue Service I've done a lot of defensive driving and 4x4 training.

I guess when you have a new vehicle you are reluctant to actually get it dirty. Hang on, I guess I'm talking to a bunch of hardened salt dogs so you guys are not worried about

getting your vehicles dirty, anyway I was. And was being the operative word. Joining a club like this you have to change your ways. Later I was to find out that the vehicle performed well, maybe because I had such a light load on it. I had my Waeco on the passenger seat and a battery box with a 105 amp-hour battery in it on the floor powering the fridge. I also had a fold up solar panel on the rear tray positioned on top of a large tool box which I was using to store my fishing gear, food items, cloths, camping gear etc.

After the weigh in a few days later I then filleted the fish that I had caught, put the fillets into freezer bags and turned the fridge up to freeze. The solar panel maintained the battery which in turn maintained the Waeco on medium then freeze for the entire trip and proved to be a great idea. Also I had a swag laid out on the rear tray. The swag was one of the Igloo type. It was brand new purchased for the trip. I love camping, a Boy Scout from way back.

I was really looking forward to climbing into the swag that night and trying out the set up and also a good test for future trips. Once again this proved to be a great set up, and very comfortable, mainly because I had the existing swag mattress about 50mm thick and then I placed a single bed mattress inside the swag as well. It was also a double swag so there was plenty of room. The senior members of **your**, soon to be **our**, fishing club said the set up was great.

On the second day I finally got my act together and joined George, Dave, Terry, Pat, Dean, Martin and Ray down on the beach. We fished a spot known to the locals as Nobby's Hole. Don't ask me who Nobby is and what his association with this hole is, but that's the name they told us. During this first evening fishing session I caught my first fish with the club, (many more to come.) A picture of this proud fisherman (me) is in the last copy of the Reel Talk.

A question for you all, do you know the teeth impression of a 1kg tailor?. I do. You see the first fish I caught was a tailor and when I tried to get it off the gang hooks it somehow jumped, bucked and spun around and bit me on the finger. So therefore I nursed a painful fish bite for the rest of the trip. Normally I would not tell anyone about this through fear of embarrassment, but these days who cares, it's all part of the fun.

The talk on the beach that evening was of the AAAWA fishing competition starting the following day and we were not sure of retaining our spot so therefore and because I had set myself up to be self sufficient living on my tray back, and not having to return to the comfort of a chalet. I took it upon myself to camp at Nobby's Hole in the wind and the elements and be the "Fishing Spot Beach Sentry". I hope they appreciated it, me marching up and down the beach all night with a fishing rod slung over my shoulder, making sure they had a good spot to fish the following day.

It was not an easy job but someone had to do it. And listen to this. The following morning the boys arrived at our spot around possibly sixish. I was fast asleep in my swag (just taking a break from my sentry duties) and I was awoken by George yelling: "Hey Terry I got one." I then unzipped my swag, stuck my head out and yes indeed he had a fish in his bucket. I would have thought the buggers would have woken me as well to join them. Once again I believe this was a carefully planned tactic to avoid me from catching more fish than them. Hmmm! I am slowly getting used to their tactics.

The following day I asked Terry if he could give me a yell and wake me on their arrival, which he did during the following days. (Thanks Terry.) I really enjoyed camping out there on the beach and did so for the next four evenings, returning to the caravan park when the fish went off the bite and returning to the camp spot for the evening fishing session.

The nights after the fish had stopped biting and the boys had left to return to the chalets, and before I retired for the evening - oh I mean before I started my sentry duties. I sat there in my chair and took in the surroundings. The feel of the light breeze, the sound of the wash of the waves on the beach and the colour of the night sky. It was simply amazing. One thing I know about fishing it is great to be out there taking all this in, experiencing the calm (and sometime not so calm) also peacefulness and a bonus is catching a fish.

During the remaining morning and evening fishing sessions the more experienced members walked up and down the beach helping other members and giving fishing tips and discussing the finer points with them. I remember looking up and down the beach

looking at all the rods sitting in their rod holders driven deep into the sand. I also looked at the guys talking and having a joke and remember the jokes and discussions I had and shared with them. I really felt like one of the boys and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your friendship and making me feel welcome. I am really looking forward to meeting the rest of you as well. The next trip is up to Cervantes and this time I am shadowing a different crew. I am sure this will be a great trip as well.

Now to explain the "had" in reference to my vehicle. I have now sold my Great Wall and now have a Nissan Patrol. So now I have to organize another set up, and now I have another vehicle to prove on the beach.

So therefore with all the above in mind, bring on the next fishing trip.

Peter Butland

Sportsperson of the Year section winners for September 2014

Best scale fish	Pat McKeown	Mulloway	2.98 kg
Best bag of scale fish	Martin Wearmouth	Mixed bag	10.46 kg

Field day section winners for September 2014

Best scale fish	Pat McKeown	Mulloway	2.98 kg
Best bag of scale fish	Martin Wearmouth	Mixed bag	10.46 kg

Catch results and points for September 2014 Field Day

Angler	Weight	Species	Fish	Points
Martin Wearmouth	10.46	3	16	154.6
George Holman	10.33	3	16	153.3
Peter Osborne	4.66	7	7	136.6
Pat McKeown	6.47	4	7	124.7
Peet Wessels	3.22	1	8	62.2
Terry Fuller	2.81	1	2	58.1
Sandra Wessels	2.6	1	7	56
Peter Butland	2.56	1	3	55.6
Ray Walker	1.73	1	2	47.3
Dean Stewart	0.88	1	1	38.8
Peter Pekaar	0.18	1	1	31.8
David Maxted				20
Gary Parkinson				20
Glen Wong				20
Ken Howells				10
Robert Pekaar				10

Points include Field day and September General meeting points.

Species weighed at the September field day were: tailor, dart, mulloway, herring, wirrah, sweetlip, wrasse and tarwhine.

Species weighed at the September local field day were: snook.

Field Day sections 2014/15

Up to and including September 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				