



Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

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Field Day report April 2011

Bremer Bay, what a delightful spot. I have heard a lot about the place and as a first time visitor was not disappointed. This is truly a great family holiday spot and it caters for most kinds of families, from fishing, 4x4, surfing, boating, diving, golf, dirt bikes, quads and many more.

We arrived early on the Friday morning and booked into Bremer Caravan Park. This is a beautiful park with all the facilities to make your stay a pleasurable one. This is also a great spot to use as a base camp and to explore the many beautiful spots close by.

With fishing our main goal for the week end we soon got into looking for fishable water. We visited the following beaches, all at the heart of Bremer Bay. Native Dog Beach, good for fishing and surfing. Blossom's Beach, nice family, body surf, 4x4 and fishing. Banky Beach, beautiful views and good fishing if you are in the mood for a very steep down and up climb. Short Beach is good for family, diving and fishing.

Back Beach is another fishing spot with 4x4 access but be warned the sand is very soft and not recommended for the novice 4x4 explorer. The Estuary Mouth and Town beach are also 4x4 access, with good fishing and a lot of family activities on this beautiful stretch of beach.

The Townsite itself have a well equipped General store, estuary and boat ramp. There is also an excellent fish cleaning facility close to the Caravan Park and Estuary Mouth.

Some of our members fished Reef Beach and by the reports also had a very successful field day. The following members signed on at Bremer. Theo and Louise van Niekerk, Frank and Sumarie Gaudin, Sandra and Peet Wessels. We also had two visitors from the UK, Pieta and Elmarie.



Sandra Wessels and salmon

We all fished together and had a whale of a time. We all managed to get hooked into a Salmon or two and it was great fun watching each other getting pulled around by rather big Salmon.

We landed 7 species with some very nice Skippy and a few big Tarwhine.

Pieta is the European Golf champion for the blind and it was fantastic to see him hooking into a monster Salmon, playing it and then landing it successfully.

He was so chuffed and happy and could not thank us enough for introducing him to fishing. He might now swap his clubs for a fishing rod.

Another highlight of the weekend was the great achievement of Frank, landing two big Salmon on fly.

After losing a hard fighting Salmon on the Sunday he persisted with the fly rod and early on Monday morning while we were still sleeping he landed the two beauties.

I believe his wife captured the one catch on video. I can't wait to see this spectacle. Well done Frank.

The heaviest scale fish was caught by Peter Osborne with his big 5 kg Salmon, and he also caught the heaviest bag of 21.46 kg.



The Bremer Bay group with salmon

The Field day prize for heaviest bag goes to Theo van Niekerk with a mixed bag of 18.77 kg. Well done to both of you.

This was a very memorable weekend with so much enjoyment and fun. I can't wait to spend a short holiday in this area to explore it even more.

Our next field day is Rottneest Island and this always proves to be an exciting venue. For the members who are interested in our August Rottneest Field day, now is the time to book your spot for a real exciting field day.

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

Field Day Officer, Peet Wessels

Local Field Day report April 2011

As this field day was the last for the Club year, we were keen to attend, albeit it local, so we sent out an email and made a couple of phone calls to rally interest. John Crompton, Yvonne, Bob and Shane Becu arrived before us and set up to fish at the right-hand side of the Floreat drain. Our newest member, Shane, had a smile ear to ear indicating his enthusiasm for fishing with the group. Allan Jones was on our email distribution list and arrived after us. When we mentioned the email, he said he hadn't seen it, but just presumed we would be here!!!



Marcia Pekaar with a skipper caught at Floreat

As well as Allan, we were joined by George Holman, and later on John and Jenny Curtis made their way down if only to take photos and enjoy the sea breeze, just in time to see Marcia reel in a skipper.

Marcia's next catch was a double-header tarwhine, but sadly undersized and had to go back.

Things were quiet until sunset when herring started coming on followed by a flathead and some decent sized tailor.

On Sunday morning, Peter received a call from Jeff Hewton and they arranged to meet at Fremantle and try for gardies. After an hour or so, their efforts were rewarded and they both took home fish. Gardies are fun to catch on light tackle and not only are they a delicious table fish, but they are also a good bait for pelagic fish.



5 species at the Local Field Day weigh in, from Floreat, Trigg and the South Mole.

Allan tried his luck at Trigg on Sunday night and landed a really nice tailor to bring to the weigh-in the following day.

On Monday morning, Peter, Marcia, Jeff Hewton, and Allan Jones met up again at Floreat. Marcia was the only one to add to the Esky with another Skippy.

Several whiting, small salmon, tarwhine, and a crab were returned to the ocean on what turned out to be a less than productive fishing session.

We recommend attending local field days, even for just a couple of hours.



Allan Jones casting at Floreat.



Peter Pekaar and undersized double header, ready to go back in the water.

Regardless of the catch, it is great to be able to enjoy the fresh air, get in a little bit of exercise, experience the sand between your toes, and generally rid yourself of the daily grind.

All in all this was a top weekend fishing with friends and fellow club members.

Next month, if you are not attending the Rottnest field day and would like to fish locally, please indicate your interest at the May General Meeting.

Photos by John Curtis, story by Marcia and Peter Pekaar

Reef Beach Revisited

Some 20 years ago I had the pleasure of an enjoyable and successful field day with Surfcasters at Reef Beach. Hence when this venue was discussed at our general meeting and our FDO, Peet Wessels, advised he wanted to fish Bremer Bay, even though only a small number had nominated to go into this venue I jumped at the chance be responsible for a separate weigh-in and to fish at Reef beach. i.e. Reef Beach revisited.

Went down Thursday and stopped overnight at a Motel. Our daughter Heather has been posted north and had a special remote assignment over the Easter break, so she sent her kids down to Perth. Hence as Sharon wanted to get involved with the kids, I was doing this trip by myself. For such a trip I use my vehicle not only for transport but to live out of for this period. I take lots of gear but no tent.

I thought that I might have a problem finding my way in to Reef Beach (based on memory of 20 years ago) however as advised on the road to Bremer Bay, Reef Beach Road is well signed. The first part of the road was gravel and wide, however this turned into a narrow track which was initially firm sand. On this premise I stopped and let down my tires. Wrong, didn't go far when the track turned to very narrow and lots of rough limestone where the distance was a lot further than I remembered. I had to drive very slowly to ensure no tire damage.

The vehicle needed low pressure in the tires on the last major dune going down to the camp area and beach. I did not meet anyone coming in the opposite direction going in, but on the drive out had two lots of vehicles coming in. Fortunate that just a few metres behind me there

was room on the side to pull off the track and let the vehicles through. In summary, long trip in, initially firm sand, then patches of very rough limestone, then softer sand on a hill down when you arrive. Allow at least an hour to get in after leaving the Bremer Bay bitumen road.

Friday. On arrival early morning could not find any Surfcasters. Mark and Wendy had told me they were going down Thursday and would be there when I arrived. Similarly Ian said he would be there on Friday when I arrived. I decided to do a bit of a look see. Drove a few km down the Beach (east) and came upon a very good looking gutter, outside flanked by a reef 200 metres out. No question, had to try this spot. Set up gear and had two rods in the water.

Very slow at first, most of mid morning to mid afternoon, think I had one hit in this period, then, mid afternoon some action. Did catch and release on some six salmon, all good size. Yep. Reef Beach revisited. Mark had found me in the afternoon and gave me directions to their camp. He and other friends had set up their Taj Mahal area with sleeping tents around. Joined them for the evening meal, then emptied my vehicle and had a good night's sleep.

Saturday. Saturday morning went to the same spot, joined by a few other anglers that had heard I had caught salmon there. Didn't get a touch, although beside me one fish dropped and one fish caught, for a total of between 6 to 8 anglers working this spot. At 11:00 am, back to camp area for sign-on.

Based on what happened on Friday evening, returned to same gutter to start the formal field day competition. Quiet during afternoon, but later afternoon, early evening had three good salmon in the bag and a reasonable skippy. I tried heavy gear for a couple of hours after dark but no takers. So slept in the vehicle overnight while parked on the beach.

Sunday. Sunday morning, again a beautiful sunny day, warm and blue skies. A front had been forecast to come through late afternoon, which subsequently proved correct. It was a great morning on the beach, but no action. Mark had stopped by and advised that he, Ian, and some of his fellow fishermen were going to fish the east end of the beach adjacent to a rocky headland.

Hence late morning, decided to go and join them. Of course, travelling by myself, misjudging on a tight slope close to water, I managed to slide off the track and bog myself. However as in most cases, a stranger fishing further up the beach noticed my predicament and gave me a pull out. With the tide on the make, that tends to be a worrying moment until back on firm ground.

This east section of the beach is sheltered by the headland and has an outer reef with inner rocks, weeds banks etc, and is relatively shallow. The fellows were correct, there were salmon. A few salmon would come into the lagoon like area, two or three rods would go off, then they would leave. I had a mixture of large salmon, and a try for small fish resulted in a small success. Initial dropping in a paternoster rig with prawn and blue sardine bait resulted in a 36 cm King George Whiting.

Ongoing, between salmon catch and release or keeping of a couple of big ones I caught a couple more small fish - a Western Rock Blackfish and another small skippy, but not prolific. One of the salmon was my largest weighing in at 5.0kg, gutted and gilled, however estimate would have been close to 7.0 kg as when caught besides being full of roe, it had a whole solid fish of nearly 30 cm in its stomach. It must have been very greedy to take my mulie on a full stomach.

It was great to see all the various anglers tying into quality salmon. My estimate was that most of the salmon that came out of this stretch were 6 kg fish. Ian had chalked up some fish; Mark and Wendy had flogged the water to foam with lures, but no luck.

Late afternoon most anglers returned to camp. I stayed on the beach to do some night fishing and sleep overnight to be on the spot first thing in the morning. Just before dark, the storm came through, rain, heavy but short lived with some lightning and thunder. I tried some night fishing, but no luck.

Monday. Monday morning came through with weather good, cloudy but still warm; shades of summer in the Albany area in April - not expected but great for fishing comfort. I managed another large salmon before the crowds of anglers came down; then a repeat of the previous afternoon. Quiet then all of a sudden two or three rods would go off within seconds of each other; again mostly the larger size salmon.

Mark tried again with lures, still no luck; he then switched to light gear for herring, but no show for these. I also tried with prawn bait, but only undersize salmon trout. During this period Cookie was finalizing his bag limit of salmon. Later in our fishing period, Mark switched back to using lures for a salmon and got it right. Within a short period he had two good salmon. Wendy kept plugging away, but no such luck.

Meanwhile I had switched from catch and release of salmon to trying for Western Rock Blackfish. Used a weighted bait casting rig to get out over the reef area, but the water was so shallow that immediately snagged up and after losing a couple of rigs switched to using a float with a metre of leader to mulie on a gang of hooks with a trailing no 2 hook. These fish have small mouths and this set-up generally works. Although eventually snagging up with this set-up, did manage to get a few blackfish.

Mid morning came our weigh-in. Some great salmon put across the scales. All commenting we should come back to this venue; a long way to go but very worthwhile.

Tight lines. Peter Osborne

Catch results and points for the April Field Day

Angler	Weight	Species	Fish	Points
Peter Osborne	21.46 kg	5	12	314.6
Theo Van Niekerk	18.77 kg	5	23	277.7
Peet Wessels	10.04 kg	7	25	220.4
Ian Cook	15.04 kg	2	5	210.4
Sandra Wessels	10.79 kg	5	18	207.9
Mark Hansen	8.59 kg	1	2	145.9
Frank Gaudin	7.23 kg	2	4	132.3
Peter Pekaar	2.54 kg	4	11	85.4
Allan Jones	2.13 kg	2	3	61.3
Sumarie Gaudin	0.35 kg	1	2	53.5
Marcia Pekaar	1.06 kg	1	2	40.6
Wendy Hansen	0	0	0	40
George Holman	0.3 kg	1	2	33

Points include Field Day and April General Meeting points.

Sportsperson of the Year winners for April 2011

Best scale fish	Peter Osborne	Salmon	5.0 kg
Best bag of scale fish	Peter Osborne	Mixed Bag	21.46 kg

Field day section winners for April 2011

Best scale fish	Peter Osborne	Salmon	5.0 kg
Best bag of scale fish	Theo van Niekerk	Mixed Bag	18.77 kg

Species weighed in at the April Field Day were:- Skippy, Herring, Flathead, Tailor, Garfish, Salmon, King George Whiting, Breaksea Cod, Western Rock Blackfish, Banded Sweep, Tarwhine and Wrasse.

Species caught on the Local Field day were Skippy, Herring, Flathead, Tailor and Garfish.

Field Day top scores for 2010/11

Total scores up to and including April Field Day and General meeting.

Name	Points	Rank	Name	Points	Rank	Name	Points	Rank
Peter Osborne	1918.4	1	Ian Taggart	246.3	18	Terry Fuller	91.6	35
Peet Wessels	1664.2	2	Frank Gaudin	239.6	19	Ron Lindsay	81.5	36
Sandra Wessels	1395.1	3	Sabby Pizzolante	188.9	20	Gary Gildersleeves	73.7	37
Mark Hansen	815	4	Sarah Wignell	182.6	21	Des De Villiers	65.5	38
Peter Pekaar	779.7	5	Eric Parker	163.9	22	Trevor Stam	62.6	39
George Holman	724.2	6	Greg Keet	160.5	23	Bob Henderson	50	40
Theo Van Niekerk	643.4	7	Sharon Osborne	148.9	24	Greg Walker	50	41
Ian Cook	633.4	8	Dean Stewart	134.7	25	Holly Walker	50	42
Marcia Pekaar	621.5	9	John Curtis	131	26	Kathy Sedal	50	43
Allan Jones	556	10	Michael Gaudin	130.9	27	Michelle Walker	50	44
John Crompton	470.1	11	Melvin Wee	130.4	28	Wayne Collis	50	45
Justin Rose	410.9	12	Nick Edwards	120	29	Heather Osborne	40	46
Wendy Hansen	364.6	13	Charles Faure	115	30	Jeff Hewton	40	47
Ray Walker	350.7	14	Wayne Shaw	110	31	Louise Van Niekerk	40	48
Danny Fimeri	295.9	15	Liam Wignell	108.8	32	Ray Digivsto	40	49
Pat McKeown	291.3	16	Tino Baiardo	102.7	33	Rhys Jones	10	50
Shane Wignell	260.8	17	Sumarie Gaudin	93.5	34			

Note Competition Rules Section 2.4.5 Field Day Top Ten say:- *“To determine the Top Ten for each competition year, the monthly scores of each angler shall be accumulated by the addition of the member’s top eleven (11) field day totals.”* The above totals will need to be adjusted for members who have attended all 12 field days.

Field Day sections 2010/11

Up to and including April Local Field Day.

1A	Best Scale Fish (1st Six Months)	Allan Jones	Pink Snapper	6.75 kg
1B	Best Scale Fish (2nd Six Months)	Peter Osborne	Salmon	5.0 kg
2	Most Meritorious Fish	To be awarded by Committee		
3	Best Shark (4.5kg min)	Peet Wessels	Shark	6.50 kg
4	Best Mulloway (2.0kg min)			
5	Best Tailor (1.0kg min)	Peter Pekaar } Allan Jones }	Tailor	1.15 kg
6	Best Salmon (3kg min)	Peter Osborne	Salmon	5.0 kg
7	Best Skipjack Trevally (0.5 kg min)	Peter Osborne	Skipjack Trevally	1.24 kg
8	Best Mackerel (2kg Min)			
9	Best Scale Fish (Other than above)	Ian Cook	Yellowtail Kingfish	3.08 kg
10	Best Bag Of Scale Fish	Peter Osborne	Mixed bag	21.46 kg
11	Best Bag Of Mulloway (2 Fish Min)			
12	Best Bag Of Tailor (2 Fish Min)	Tino Baiardo	Tailor	4.27 kg
13	Best Fish On S/H Rod 4kg b/s line (max)			
14	Best Fish Caught on Fly Rod	Frank Gaudin	Herring	0.13 kg

Reel Talk Editor, Terry Fuller