



Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

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Field Day report White Hills January 2013

Synopsis. The January 2013 field day was spread from South wall of the Dawesville Cut to Preston Beach with the majority of persons fishing a stretch of beach 10 to 15 km south of the White Hills road. While Tailor were light on, Herring were more plentiful with some people bagging out on the latter. The Pekaar men folk fished locally, with the 3 of them putting fish in their bags. In summary, the field day location at White Hills resulted in nearly everyone having feed of fish with Herring predominant, hence plenty of smiles at the weigh-in.

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.

The Trip. The sign on at the car park behind the Miami Bakery was at 1:00 pm Saturday 12 January with lines down at 2:30 pm with fishing through until Sunday with the weigh-in at 11:00 am back at the same car park. A total of 15 anglers signed on, George Holman, Melvin Wee, Martin Wearmouth and sons Thomas and Christian with a friend Jason, Peet and Sandra Wessels, Victor and Slavka Schilo, Mark and Wendy Hansen, Ray Walker, Dean Stewart, and Peter Osborne. Our starting point has become a tradition to sign on at the car park at the back of the Bakery. This gives the opportunity on both arrival and departure to treat oneself to a good cup of coffee and donuts or other goodies.

A point we need to consider for the future, is that this date is during school holidays and 4WD vehicles were prolific. Coming out and just started to pump up tires, we just missed a 4WD club going in and would not be good to meet them on a narrow section of track. Even during fishing, vehicles were tearing past just about the whole time, observing how some drove and tires over inflated some drivers were definitely not experienced. I had a close encounter with a 4WD tearing past me at close to 50 km/h. Hence we might consider to shift this date outside of the holiday period, although other venues would also have higher than usual attendance pressures.

Often, but not every time, we have person or party run into a difficulty or bad luck. No, George did not tangle with another ray. Sorry Melvin, just have to tell your story. Melvin had a productive fishing trip getting 7 tailor (best bag of tailor for the trip), a couple of skippy and 8 herring. His good luck ran out on the way out. Somewhere along the beach his coolant system failed and started leaking coolant.

He managed to make it to the top of the hill where we pump up our tires and he accomplished this before he realized his problem. We all left this spot spasmodically to go the weigh-in, as did Melvin.

He did not get far and his engine shut down. His car has protection that did this before overheating occurs. He called RAC and got the bad news of his problem which required he then had to organize a tow back to Perth as below. He tried to telephone me but the battery in my mobile was flat so no connection. He eventually got through to Mark who passed details of his dilemma on to me as we were worried as to why he had not showed up at the weigh-in.

Via his mobile phone with some pictures and weight of his heaviest fish we were able to complete a weigh-in of his bag



Melvin demonstrating how we don't want to use a 4WD

We fished in small groups along the beach with each of us looking for a bit of small reef structure that appears intermittently along this bit of coastline. Initially the wind was a slight southeaster, but turned to a strong southwester for a few hours but well before dark this dropped off and turned back to a slight wind from the south to south east and this stayed through until lines up.



Slavka anticipating a bite. On the horizon a yacht, one of many beating down to Busselton.

A group of George Holman, Martin Wearmouth and his boys, Peet and Sandra Wessels, Victor and Slavka Schilo, to be later joined by Mark Hansen and Wendy, with Melvin fishing slightly further south found a good bit of reef and applied all their skills. Throughout the fishing period, all had issues with very small fish stripping mulies. This results in periods of having lines out but no bait on the hooks.

As above, Tailor were very scarce with only Peet and Sandra both getting a good one each just before and after dark. Herring were a lot more prolific in this area with an odd Pike, undersize Tarwhine, and odd Skippy with Mark repeating last year with a Banded Sweep.

All got at least some herring. Peet had a big hook-up and thought all his Christmases had come at once. However, it was not to be. After stripping line for 15 to 20 seconds it spat the hooks. On retrieval, one of his hooks had a scale that could only have been a Mulloway, and would have been a good one. Bad luck, but that's fishing.

Good to see all got herring even though there was a lack of Tailor. Martin got a bag of herring and his two sons and son's friend also captured herring. Peet had the best bag of 4.57 kg and heaviest fish, a tailor at 0.69kg. Sandra had the most points as she had more species.



Martin getting some tips from George

I, accompanied by Dean and Ray, had stopped a bit further north of the main group on a stretch of reef where I had had success in the past. It was slow going in the afternoon, with only a couple of Herring, a Flathead, and Skippy coming in between us.

An hour before sunset we all anticipated Tailor, but not what I would call a run. I managed three, but found that these fish were only doing a slight suck on the bait and it was easy to miss the bite if there was not a good tight line to terminal gear. With small fish and blowies stripping bait very quickly I missed probably 5 or 6 touches.

The other two did not manage a Tailor hookup. It is noted that Dean landed a good Skippy.

After dark, Ray had a big hook-up. His deep spool Alvey was just about spooled of 15 kg line before he turned it.

After 50 minutes of hook-up he had just about pumped it back to the shore when we think his line caught on some reef and snapped.

Again, bad luck, and again that's fishing. Ray's arms were some 2 inches longer after this battle. Did not fight like a large ray, and while it could have been a Mulloway, with that first huge run towards South Africa my guess it would have been a Shark in the 15 to 30 kg range. We will never know.



Concentration – where's that big fish?

Local Field Day. Peter Pekaar, with his brother Robert and son Andrew also came along as visitors and fished the Swan River early afternoon Saturday for flathead and then moved to Floreat in late afternoon. As happened further down the coast a very strong southerly breeze blowing and at dusk it dropped right away and went easterly. All of the larger tailor were taken with the southerly blowing. When it turned easterly small chopper Tailor went mad and came on the bite with almost a fish per cast. Most were undersized and were returned to the water.

Thanks go to John Curtis for doing the local weigh-in. Peter's bag of 5 Tailor and one Flathead weighed in at 2.09kg, his brother Rob had a bag of 1.18kg of 3 Tailor and one Flathead and son Andrew had a bag of 1.68kg. made up of 4 Tailor.

Hence, albeit on average smaller size, their effort was better than White Hills for Tailor captures. 3 fishers for a total of 12 Tailor whereas White Hills had 15 fishers for 14 Tailor. Hope to see you at Cervantes in February as this venue and time has historically given us good bags of Tailor plus miscellaneous species.

Tight lines

Field Officer, Peter Osborne

Hence back at the weigh-in, incorporating coffee and bakery goodies etc. All the fish went across the scales. Lots of fish but disappointment that Tailor did not make any real appearance, only Melvin made of a fist of it with 7 Tailor.

If someone like George does not get a Tailor that shows it was not what we would call a Tailor run. However most made up this deficiency with a feed of Herring.

As we all had a feed it was still all smiles around. See further below in Reel Talk for the actual capture results.



Martin, Slavka, George and Victor, waiting for the tailor to arrive. They appear to know what they are doing.

Catch results and points for January 2013 Field Day

Angler	Weight	Species	Fish	Points
Sandra Wessels	4.34 kg	4	30	133.4
Peet Wessels	4.57 kg	3	30	125.7
Melvin Wee	4.15 kg	3	17	121.5
Peter Osborne	3.18 kg	3	18	111.8
George Holman	2.98 kg	2	24	99.8
Martin Wearmouth	2.1 kg	1	17	81
Mark Hansen	0.78 kg	2	3	77.8
Slavka Schilo	2.64 kg	1	22	76.4
Victor Schilo	0.97 kg	2	7	69.7
Raymond Walker	0.9 kg	1	7	69
Peter Pekaar	2.09 kg	2	6	60.9
Dean Stewart	0.49 kg	1	1	54.9
Thomas Wearmouth	0.12 kg	1	1	51.2
Christian Wearmouth	0.11 kg	1	1	51.1
Rob Pekaar (visitor)	1.18 kg	2	4	41.8
Wendy Hansen				40

Points include Field day and January General meeting points.

Species weighed at the White Hills Field day were tailor, skipjack trevally, herring, long finned pike and banded sweep.

Species weighed at the Local Field day were flathead and tailor.

Sportsperson of the Year winners for January 2013

Best scale fish	Peet Wessels	Tailor	0.69 kg
Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	Mixed Bag	4.57 kg

Field day section winners for January 2013

Best scale fish	Peet Wessels	Tailor	0.69 kg
Best bag of scale fish	Sandra Wessels	Mixed Bag	4.34 kg

Field Day top scores for 2012/13

Total scores up to and including January 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 2013, and adjusted scores will be published after that.

Name	Points	Rank	Name	Points	Rank	Name	Points	Rank
Peter Osborne	1511.4	1	Justin Rose	264.9	13	Melvin Wee	121.5	25
Peet Wessels	1053.7	2	John Crompton	264.5	14	Francis Gaudin	115.7	26
Sandra Wessels	865.7	3	Francis Ford	251.8	15	Raymond Walker	109	27
George Holman	840.8	4	Ian Taggart	242.3	16	Jeff Hewton	104	28
Martin Wearmouth	547.6	5	Wendy Hansen	206.2	17	Josh Gorringe	99	29
Mark Hansen	517	6	Debbie Korin	198.2	18	Emma Wignell	73.2	30
Slavka Schilo	502.9	7	Theo Van Niekerk	177.6	19	Geoff Raftis	59.7	31
Victor Schilo	467.6	8	Eddie Korin	174.1	20	Dean Stewart	54.9	32
Pat McKeown	386	9	Morgan Keet	160.8	21	Rob Pekaar	41.8	33
Shane Wignell	370.5	10	Christian Wearmouth	136.9	22	Beverley Grigo	40	33
Sarah Wignell	321.3	11	Thomas Wearmouth	135.6	23	Chris Stickells	34.5	34
Greg Keet	295.1	12	Peter Pekaar	125.7	24	Allan Jones	20	35

Field Day sections 2012/13

Up to and including January 2013 Field Day.

1A	Best scale fish (1st six months)	Peet Wessels	Mulloway	7.8 kg	June
1B	Best scale fish (2nd six months)	Peter Osborne	Mackerel	1.67 kg	Nov
2	Most meritorious fish	To be awarded by Committee			
3	Best Shark (4.5kg min)	Justin Rose	Shark	6.1 kg	Nov
4	Best Mulloway (2.0kg min)	Peet Wessels	Mulloway	7.8 kg	June
5	Best Tailor (1.0kg min)	Peter Osborne	Tailor	1.22 kg	Sep
6	Best Salmon (3kg min)	George Holman	Salmon	3.79 kg	Sep
7	Best Skipjack Trevally (0.5 kg min)	Peet Wessels	Skipjack Trevally	1.42 kg	Aug
8	Best Mackerel (2kg Min)				
9	Best scale fish (other than above)	Sandra Wessels	Yellowtail Kingfish	4.72 kg	Aug
10	Best bag of scale fish	Peter Osborne	Mixed Bag	15.04 kg	Aug
11	Best bag of Mulloway (2 fish Min)				
12	Best bag of Tailor (2 fish Min)	Peter Osborne	Tailor	6.1 kg	Nov
13	Best fish on S/H rod 4kg b/s line (max)				
14	Best fish caught on fly rod	Frank Gaudin	Wrasse	0.54 kg	May