



Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

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March field day, Bluff Creek 1-3 March

Synopsis. The March 2014 field day was an away safari incorporating a major drive to Bluff Creek east of Albany. Beautiful weather underpinned an enjoyable weekend. Not many salmon showed up, but catches included fair bags of skippy and good bags of herring.

The Trip. The trip down to Bluff creek is about an 8 hour drive including an allowance for fuel and food stopovers.

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.

A total of 14 Club members came to the away sign-on. George Holman, Pat McKeown, Dean Stewart, Martin Wearmouth, Shane and daughter Sarah Wignell, Gary Parkinson, Peet and Sandra Wessels, Ray Walker, Terry Fuller, Dave Maxted, Theo Van Niekerk and Peter Osborne.

The first group set track on Thursday and had their camp set up by that evening. The majority of this group stopped over at Kojonup, had a bite to eat etc. and went in convoy style down to the camp site. The track in was in the usual conditions, narrow, parts heavily overgrown so some vehicle scratches with some steep dunes to climb over and soft sand.

The run along the beach was good except soft sand was encountered when driving off the beach, over a small dune and into the camping area. Ray was hauling in his camper trailer and on the track in he got caught out on about the last hill/soft sand and spun his wheels into the sand.

Dean went back and managed to extract Ray's car and trailer. Reinforces the need for careful planning and setting up the 4WD vehicle for future trips to ensure a successful negotiation of the track.

The initial group set up camp number 1 of tents, tent trailers etc. with a generator set for freezers etc. and even a communal toilet, the blue house on the hill. An architectural and construction masterpiece by George Holman. Thanks George. All of us availed ourselves of this facility.



Camp number 1



The "blue room" on the hill

The Wignells and Martin Wearmouth arrived the following day and set camp, tying into Ray's mansion trailer tent set-up.

The South African teams of the Wessels and Van Niekerks also arrived on Friday and set up camp number 2 in the adjacent flat camp area.

Photos show the areas involved and demonstrate a site that could accommodate camp venue of size: It is a great venue and with the fishing tales below reinforces why we keep going back there each year.



Camp number 2. The South African team



Blue skies, mid 20deg temperature, wind not severe and some fish.
What more could you ask?

Fishing sessions were generally periods on Saturday and Sunday afternoon and Sunday and Monday mornings where fish captures were spread across these periods.

George, Dave, and Terry generally fished at the reefs a couple of kilometres north east of the camp site and were successful with herring, and skippy.

George tried live baiting with a herring and managed to hook up on a nominal 7 kg salmon, a real beauty.



Now that's a salmon, 6.19 kg gilled and gutted, would be around 7 kg as landed.

Over the past few years, we haven't seen many salmon of the size, a great one George. George managed the heaviest bag and the heaviest fish.

For all sessions, Martin, Gary and Peter fished beside the reef a few kilometres the other side of the camp site. Peter and Gary, very frustrated when on the first session Martin, started hauling in quality skippy. They continued to fish here with Peter and Martin then also being frustrated with Gary fishing 5 metres away when he hauled in a tailor and a flathead. Marin and Peter did not get a sniff of these species.

Pat, Dean, and Ray fished between the above two locations and managed some herring and skippy.

The South African contingent went to some major reefs further around from the George Holman location. In particular Peet managed to capture a good bag with 6 species. Of interest it is noted that getting higher numbers of species captures contributes to maximizing total field day points. While his heaviest salmon and bag weights were not as heavy as George's, with the number of species points. Peet was only a couple of points short of George's points total for this field day.



Peet Wessels' bag of fish pulled the scales down for the heaviest bag



Sandra Wessels pleased with her bag of fish



Martin Wearmouth had a good bag of fish, including the largest skippy of 0.72 kg gilled and gutted



Peter Osborne's skippy of good quality but not the really large ones we have caught in the past

Sandra and Theo continued with mixed bags of herring, skippy, sweep, and western rock blackfish and some small but size salmon. Of interest, at their prime location they did not get all their skippy but on Monday morning they moved up to and fished from the reef adjacent to the Peter/Martin/Gary location and completed their bagging out on skippy.

Fish capture results and the top scorers are listed elsewhere in Reel Talk.



Shane Wignell had a good bag of fish



At left: Dean Stewart pleased with his bag of herring. Like most of us, he had some bull herring mixed in with catch.

Everyone was pleased that they had a feed of fish. Bag sizes were well up on previous venues.

Compared to the previous month at Cervantes, most had bags three times larger in weight and numbers of fish than the previous month.

Some stopped over and left Tuesday to avoid the crowds driving back at the end of the long weekend. For some that stayed on Monday after the weigh-in, George assisted Ray and Dean in upping their herring catching skills. By showing them technique and giving them an

suitable rig, they became more proficient in catching this species and topped up their bags to take home for a feed.

Local field day result. Nil fish weighed in. Allan Jones, Gary Gildersleeves and Ian Taggart registered they would fish local, however all had advised no legal size fish for the local weigh-in. Fish not on the bite and some locations had weed.

Hope to see you at our April field day at Cape to Cape. While expectations for this venue are high, review of above results gave low numbers of Salmon caught at Bluff, hence it will be interesting to see that for a later period (by 1½ months) if salmon will arrive at this section of coastline.

Tight lines

Field Day Officer, Peter Osborne

Bluff Creek 2014

Bluff Creek. Firstly I must thank Dean and Martin for the ride to and from the venue. As circumstances dictate I do not have a 4 wheel drive any more, I am lucky enough to belong to a club that assists members without that sort of vehicle.

Ray for the accommodation in the Taj Mahal. What a masterpiece of camping this is. Ever tried to attach velcro sides in the wind? Great fun (not). Ray has everything you could wish for in this outfit. Shame we could not use the microwave.

George supplies the room with a view, what a relief to see that standing proudly on hill.

The Club's generator purring away supplying power to all that need it.

Bluff Creek was at its best, just perfect weather after the heat in Perth. A good beach, a bit loose in places but nothing the trusty Range Rover could not handle.

Friday was Dean's Birthday and we had to show respect for that occasion into the night with many a tale being told as the night wore on.

The Taj Mahal was a collection point for all to visit. Very sociable and enjoyable a really good group.

Peter Osborne must still be cold as he had the two dogs with him again. Glad to see you there after the last outing at Jurien causing distress to his knee. Peter's a tough guy and loves his fishing.

Garry the flying postie was there with that ever present laugh.

Sandra and Peet camped just over the hill out of the wind with members from Katanning Theo and Louise.

George, Terry and Dave camped next to the Taj Mahal dwarfed by this magnificent structure.

Later on Friday Martin arrived to find a place to sleep, eat and be merry at the Taj Mahal. Shane and Sarah arrived at the same time camping between George and the Taj Mahal which kept them nicely out of the wind.

Sarah: hope we didn't keep you awake while dad was with us in the social scene at Bluff Creek. Sarah really loves her fishing. Will soon be a force to be reckoned with? Dad really works hard keeping Sarah's line in the water. Well done Shane.

It was definitely Martin's weekend with the fishing gods smiling all over him. He could not put a line wrong even with two rods and sitting down between them the fish are queuing up at his bait, calling "please take me." Even Peter had to acknowledge the man at work. Praise indeed.

The flying postie was trying his hardest to compete right next to Martin but to no avail. But to his credit he just kept going and was rewarded for his effort. Well done Garry.

Peet weighed in a very good bag followed by Sandra. That lady sure can catch fish.

George walked up to the table with a big smile, trying to look modest, with a really good sized salmon. Check the weight in the fishing report. Good on yer George, you have still got the knack.

At the end of the weekend everybody had fish. What more could you ask for?

Then it was off home to get ready for the second leg of the journey. Arriving home being lovingly greeted by Aine. Unloaded all my gear from Martin's vehicle laid it all out for cleaning and checking. Repacked and ready to go to Jurien on Thursday 6 March.

Pat McKeown

Catch results and points for March 2014 Field Day

Angler	Weight	Species	Fish	Points
George Holman	13.63kg	3	30	186.3
Peet Wessels	11.37kg	6	30	183.7
Theo Van Niekerk	8.77kg	4	30	137.7
Martin Wearmouth	8.73kg	3	30	137.3
Sandra Wessels	8.29kg	4	30	132.9
Shane Wignell	7.43kg	4	30	124.3
Peter Osborne	6.59kg	3	30	115.9
Sarah Wignell	5.47kg	2	30	84.7
David Maxted	2.74kg	2	14	67.4
Pat McKeown	2.68kg	2	11	66.8
Gary Parkinson	1.6kg	3	6	66
Terry Fuller	2.67kg	1	16	56.7
Ray Walker	1.21kg	2	7	42.1
Dean Stewart	0.93kg	1	5	39.3
Allan Jones				20
Gary Gildersleeves				20
Ian Taggart				10

Points include Field day and March General meeting points.

Species weighed at the March Bluff Creek field day were tailor, herring, flathead, skipjack trevally, whiting, western rock blackfish, salmon and banded sweep.

No fish were weighed in for the Local.

Sportsperson of the Year section winners for March 2014

Best scale fish	George Holman	Salmon Australian	6.19 kg
Best bag of scale fish	George Holman	Mixed Bag	13.63 kg

Field day section winners for March 2014

Best scale fish	George Holman	Salmon Australian	6.19 kg
Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	Mixed Bag	11.37 kg

Field Day top scores for 2013/14

Total scores up to and including February and March Field days and General meetings. 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 2014, and adjusted scores will be published after that. Names with equal scores are sorted alphabetically.

Name	Points	Rank	Name	Points	Rank	Name	Points	Rank
Peet Wessels	792.3	1	Sarah Wignell	192.4	13	Gerald Wearmouth	51	25
Peter Osborne	780.2	2	Slavka Schilo	173.4	14	John Crompton	50	26
Sandra Wessels	636.1	3	Dean Stewart	167.9	15	Ian Taggart	48.6	27
George Holman	631.1	4	Greg Keet	124.2	16	Thomas Wearmouth	46.5	28
Martin Wearmouth	554.7	5	Peter Pekaar	111.7	17	Christian Wearmouth	45.6	29
Pat McKeown	484.1	6	Justin Rose	106.8	18	Wendy Hansen	37.3	30
Theo Van Niekerk	447.9	7	Allan Jones	106.5	19	Gary Gildersleeves	20	31
Ken Howells	392.7	8	Frank Rystenber	100.8	20	Jeff Hewton	10	32
Gary Parkinson	295.9	9	Matt Howells	76.9	21	Morgan Keet	10	33
Mark Hansen	271.8	10	David Maxted	67.4	22	Neil Maxted	10	34
Shane Wignell	262.7	11	Ray Walker	62.1	23	Olivia Keet	10	35
Victor Schilo	205.3	12	Terry Fuller	56.7	24	Tino Baiardo	10	36

Field Day sections 2013/14

Up to and including March 2014 Field Day.

1A	Best scale fish (1st six months)	Ken Howells	Mulloway	6.28 kg	May
1B	Best scale fish (2nd six months)	George Holman	Salmon	6.19 kg	March
2	Most meritorious fish	To be awarded by Committee			
3	Best Shark (4.5kg min)				
4	Best Mulloway (2.0kg min)	Ken Howells	Mulloway	6.28 kg	May
5	Best Tailor (1.0kg min)	Peter Osborne	Tailor	2.74 kg	October
6	Best Salmon (3kg min)	George Holman	Salmon	6.19 kg	March
7	Best Skipjack Trevally (0.5 kg min)	Peet Wessels	Skipjack Trevally	2.0 kg	August
8	Best Mackerel (2kg Min)				
9	Best scale fish (other than above)	Martin Wearmouth	Pink Snapper	3.08 kg	September
10	Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	Mixed bag	17.82 kg	August
11	Best bag of Mulloway (2 fish Min)				
12	Best bag of Tailor (2 fish Min)	Peter Osborne	Tailor	5.58 kg	October
13	Best fish on S/H rod 4kg b/s line (max)	Martin Wearmouth	Flathead	0.34 kg	November
14	Best fish caught on fly rod				

Barron Lure competition 2013/14

The Barron Lure competition is sponsored by Eric Parker, who donates the trophies. Try Eric's poppers, you will not be disappointed.

The rules for this competition are the same as for the Club's Open fishing competition, plus fish must be caught on a popper lure, and a single fish cannot win more than one of the Barron Lure sections.

Heaviest tailor on Lure.	Mal Head	3kg tailor, Kalbarri, November
Heaviest Salmon on Lure.	No entry yet	
Heaviest Scale Fish on Lure.	George Holman	1.1kg trevally, Quobba, January

Update to Species Badge competition

The list of species registered to members has been checked for catches and entries during February and March. **Rules are:**

1. Entries to be submitted to the Recorder on the appropriate form, unless caught on a Field Day.
2. Fish may be caught at any time including on Club Field Days.
3. A member must capture ten (10) of the listed species to qualify for a Species badge.
4. Weighing of fish, photographs and witnesses to weight are optional.
5. Fish must be a minimum of 20 cm or comply with Department of Fisheries minimum lengths if these are greater

Name	Bream	Flathead	Flounder	Garfish	Herring	Yellow Eyed Mullet	Mackerel	Mulloway	Pink Snapper	Salmon	Samson Fish	Snook or Pike	Tailor	Tarwhine	Trevally	Whiting	Wrasse	Number of species caught
Slavka Schilo	1	1			1	1		1		1		1	1	1		1		10
Sarah Wignell		1		1	1							1	1		1	1		7
Gary Parkinson		1			1			1					1		1			5

Recorder John Curtis