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Field Day Report for Rottnest, August 2010

Having a last look at the weather and swell predictions for the weekend ahead we left home a bit early to make sure we got to Rous Head with plenty of time to spare. Arriving at the Ferry terminal Sandra and I were greeted by the happy and smiling faces of Ian Cook, Mark and Wendy Hansen, Ian Taggart, Greg Keet and Peter Osborne.

Spirits were high and all were very helpful and in no time all our gear was securely stowed away in the crates for the journey across to Rottnest Island. While waiting for our departure we had a cuppa and quickly caught up with everybody's news. However, the main discussion was the fairly high swells that were predicted for the weekend. The trip across felt very short and with only a few heavy bumps we arrived safely at Thompson's Bay in a very light rain. Soon we were all settled into our Bungalows.



Surfcasters at the August 2010 weigh in.



Sandra Wessels with 1.18kg Skippy caught at Radar Reef.

Saturday morning our transport to West End was spot on time and after a quick stop at the bakery we left in anticipation to see what was waiting for us at West End.

On the way the bus driver stopped and showed us some of the cliff faces that had collapsed over the last few days. From there the swell also looked quite big and threatening.

After off loading all the gear we all disappeared to Wilsons, Tennis Court and Radar Reef. Although the swell came in high at a few times the relatively light winds made the reef very fishable from early in the afternoon.

The fishing started off slowly and most of us were harassed by Wrasse and Big Buffalo Bream. One person in particular had an ongoing battle with the Buffies and very soon Sandra was labeled the "Buffy Slayer".

As the sun was dipping in the west everybody was battle ready for the anticipated Yellowtail run. It however never happened and not one legal size Kingie was landed. The Skippy however saved the day and it was not long before there were steady streams of these silver fighters coming to rest in a waiting reef bag.

Sunday was basically an exact repeat of Saturday with another perfect day ending in a wonderful sunset. At the weigh-in some

reasonable bags appeared with some Master and Grand Masters fish. Sandra Wessels took the

prize for the biggest scale fish with a Skippy of 1.18 kg which she caught at Radar Reef. The biggest bag of scale fish goes to Peet Wessels with a total weight of 9.96 kg.

Monday morning saw some weary Surfcasters ready for the trip back to the main land. Too soon another fantastic Rotto experience came to an end. This is truly one of our best field day venues, always leaving one with golden memories as so many of our older members can witness.

Now is the time for the younger generation of our members to stand up and join in to preserve and secure what is truly a unique fishing venue for the generations to come.

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

Tight lines

Peet Wessels, Field Day Officer

You have to have your line in the water

Local Field Day report 14 and 15 August 2010

As our club was having its field day at Rottneest, some of us who couldn't attend this venue decided to fish locally. Unfortunately, as I had rolled my ankle the day before, any long walking or rock fishing was out of the question for me.

So, we (Marcia and I) met Allan Jones at one of our local fishing beaches on Saturday at 3pm for an afternoon/evening fish. Not long after we set up, John Curtis also joined us. The conditions looked quite good; a mild south-westerly blowing already. With a couple of rips working out to a gutter and a low tide on dusk, all we needed were some fish.

First cast - WEED. Second cast - MORE weed. By now it was obvious that it was going to be one of those fishing sessions plagued by weed, which in turn promotes general discussion. George rolled up and the optimistic look on his face soon disappeared as he watched us all dragging in the salad. The only glimmer of hope was watching AJ pick out a just size tarwhine from his weed monster.

The back-breaking work meant that after a few casts, there was a good excuse to put the rod in the rod holder and have another chat. It was during one of these chat sessions when most of us were standing around that Allan, as he was the only one in the water, locked onto a solid fish. At first he said to Marcia that he thought he had a ray on his line, but since nearly every ray finds its way onto my line, I was sure that Allan had something better.

Playing the fish proved difficult with the drift in the gutter being right to left and the surface weed drifting from left to right. Allan's skill and patience as a fisherman proved to be the undoing of the 7.68kg pink snapper in prime condition. This sparked renewed enthusiasm, with all of us immediately baiting up and getting into the water, hoping for the same. No more snapper were to be had, but George Holman landed the last fish of the evening with a nice tailor, weighing 1.1kg, gilled and gutted.

Even though the fish were scarce, it was a great night spent with friends. I am sure that we all enjoyed the excitement that comes with watching a fellow angler land the once-in-a-lifetime fish under trying conditions. I hope that the Committee considers this capture in the Most Meritorious Section of our 2010/2011 SCAC Field Day competition.

Peter Pekaar



*Allan Jones with 7.68 kg Pink Snapper
6.75 kg gilled and gutted at weigh in.*

The Snapper

I headed off to the Floreat drain with usual anticipation of catching the usual small fry. I met up with Peter and Marcia Pekaar in the car park.

Walking off to the beach we stopped to check out where we were going to fish and decided that straight down was as good as anywhere. John Curtis arrived after a while. The water was not good with a lot of weed but we fished on regardless. George Holman arrived and after a quick chat set up to fish. I caught a Silver Bream (260 mm) along with a heap of weed. Around 6.30pm my line was jerking with weed sliding down the line, so I started to pull the weed in then without warning the weed came to life and started to peel the line from the reel.

A short time later the fish was in the wash. Peter Pekaar went down to pick it up for me, thinking it was mulloway with weed, then he gasped!!!! Golly gosh, it is a Snapper. It weighed in at 7.68kg at the time of capture. All there were happy for my catch.

Allan Jones

Oversight.

In our field day report last month, we omitted the fact that Peter Osborne won the field day. Peter brought 13 fish to the weigh in, including four species, with a total weight of 6.33kg.

Peter's win deserves recognition and we apologise for not including it in our field day report last month.

Marcia and Peter Pekaar

Sportsperson of the Year winners for August 2010

Best scale fish	Allan Jones	Pink Snapper	6.75 kg
Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	Mixed Bag	9.96 kg

Field day section winners for August 2010

Best scale fish	Allan Jones	Pink Snapper	6.75 kg
Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	Mixed Bag	9.96 kg

Species weighed in at the August Field Day from Rottnest were:- Skippy, Herring, Wrasse, Blackfish, Tarwhine and Breaksea Cod. Species weighed in from the local Field Day were Pink Snapper, Tailor and Tarwhine.

Catch results and points for the August 2010 Field Day

Angler	Weight	Species	Fish	Field Day points	General meeting Points
Peet Wessels	9.96 kg	5	26	200	10
Peter Osborne	9.61 kg	5	28	196	10
Sandra Wessels	9.61 kg	5	29	196	10
Ian Cook	7.33 kg	6	13	183	10
Greg Keet	8.05 kg	4	15	161	
Mark Hansen	7.39 kg	3	30	154	10
Allan Jones	6.95 kg	2	2	110	10
Ian Taggart	1.77 kg	2	6	88	10
Wendy Hansen	0.99 kg	2	8	80	10
George Holman	1.10 kg	1	1	41	10
John Curtis	0 kg	0	0	20	10
Marcia Pekaar	0 kg	0	0	20	10
Peter Pekaar	0 kg	0	0	20	10
Danny Fimeri	0 kg	0	0	20	10
John Crompton	0 kg	0	0	20	10

Field Day top scores for 2010/11

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

Name	Points	Rank	Name	Points	Rank	Name	Points	Rank
Peet Wessels	631.7	1	Peter Pekaar	165.8	11	Greg Walker	50	21
Peter Osborne	582.8	2	Wendy Hansen	164.6	12	Holly Walker	50	22
Sandra Wessels	527.1	3	Greg Keet	160.5	13	Michelle Walker	50	23
Ian Cook	423	4	Marcia Pekaar	150.4	14	John Crompton	40	24
Mark Hansen	317.9	5	Charles Faure	115	15	Rhys Jones	10	25
Theo Van Niekerk	289.7	6	Danny Fimeri	91.4	16			
Ian Taggart	246.3	7	John Curtis	91	17			
George Holman	203.8	8	Ray Walker	61.4	18			
Allan Jones	198.6	9	Michael Gaudin	52.2	19			
Sabby Pizzolante	188.9	10	Frank Gaudin	52.1	20			

Reel Talk Editor, Terry Fuller

Field Day sections 2010/11

1A	Best Scale Fish (1st Six Months)	Allan Jones	Snapper Pink	6.75 kg
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)			
5	Best Tailor (1.0kg min)	George Holman	Tailor	1.1 kg
6	Best Salmon (3kg min)	Ian Taggart	Salmon	3.23 kg
7	Best Skipjack Trevally (0.5 kg min)	Sandra Wessels	Skipjack Trevally	1.18 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	Peet Wessels	Mixed bag	15.55 kg
11	Best Bag Of Mulloway (2 Fish Min)			
12	Best Bag Of Tailor (2 Fish Min)	Charles Faure	Tailor	2.64 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

Peet Wessels, Field Day Officer

Update to Species Badge competition

The list of species registered to members has been updated for catches at the August Field Day. See the previous full list of members' catches in the May and update in the July Reel Talk.

Name	Black 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
Allan Jones		1			1				1			1						4

Recorder, John Curtis

August Field Day length competition

5 entrants handed in forms, all at Rottnest. 222 fish comprising of 8 species made a total of 70.81 metres. 29.91 of those metres were 71 skippy caught by 4 competitors.

Congratulations go to Sandra Wessels who put in an award winning effort wrestling with 15 Buff Bream on Radar reef which helped her with 24.96 metres totalled. As a consequence Sandra is the August length competition winner and gets a prize of a jar of delicious home grown honey.

Mark Hansen