



War Veterans at Elliston 22 - 28 June 2025

On Sunday 22 June we left Adelaide for Elliston with an overnight at the Discovery Park in Port Augusta. We had Nicko, Gadget, Goldy and Don P in 2 vehicles on the trip. We dined at the local hotel before retiring for the night. A breakfast of Eggs Benedict at the Standpipe Hotel is a tradition feed for the group.

We drove through high winds and found some very rough seas waiting for us in Elliston. The jetty was damaged and unusable for our night fishing for Tommies during the time we were there.

Waking up on Tuesday to high winds and rough surf, we decided to go sightseeing to Port Kenny and Venus Bay. All the shops and pub were closed, and the waves were crashing over the causeway and jetty at Venus Bay.



We withdrew back to our accommodation and invited 6 friends staying in the caravan park to share a pizza or two with us. The pizza oven at

the accommodation was fired up and we enjoyed some wood fired pizza with glasses of wine and the occasional "Fosters", yes Fosters from Dan M's!

On Wednesday we ventured out to Sherings Beach and although it was rough seas we shared several lift-offs with Goldy (Maverick) and his Splashdrone. Great flights out 200+ metres but we couldn't find the salmon! By this stage we were feeling a little desperate! We retired to the accommodation and watched another episode in the Trump Series on the news channel.

Thursday morning saw the group much more determined and a little desperate. We headed off to Talia Beach about 50 kms North of the town. We drove into the sandhills and found a beach previously visited. The Pajero nearly made it up the final sandhill which was only a short walk to the beach. (Lower tire pressure! I heard all the experts advise me!)

On the beach about 9.30am and fish started biting. Nick and Gadget landed about 6 fish each with a weight averaging 2.5 - 3kg. The other 8 fisho's including 3 wives all did well over the next 3 hours. A total over about 40 fish were caught. For the fishing competition each ticketed fisho could register 3 fish suitably gutted ready for the scales at the caravan park weigh in. Roger and Julie had the top weight at 3.6kg. The conditions were perfect for fishing with about a 1 metre swell, deep trough in front and pilchards on ganged or snooded hooks seemed to be the best rig. (I caught my first 4 salmon on a popper connected to the top swivel!) The rest of the day was busy at the weigh in and then some filleting back at the accommodation. Gadget and I packed our fillets in my 15 litre Kings fidge/freezer and set at minus 7 degrees C. My dog Harvey will be very happy with a feed of BBQ salmon, cooked rice and vegetables for his tea for about 7 nights.... Lucky dog!



The Nick catches prior to gutting and filleting

Nick and Gadget left for home on Saturday morning with a fuel stop and a Macca's at Port Augusta - about an 8-hour journey home. Goldy and Don stayed on for another day determined to return to Talia Beach and land a bigger fish which they did. The top weight of 15 more salmon was 4.6kg but some guys fishing alongside got one a little heavier. Bad luck however the competition is for the next 2 months so there is a strong chance there will be a new record catch!

Overall a highly enjoyable week away with good company, and a good catch on days 4 and 5.

For your information the costs for me were:

Cabin at Port August	\$50
Pub meal and breakfast	\$60
Shared meals at Elliston	\$50
Bait (Pilchards)	\$20
Accommodation	\$250

Fuel (10.4 litres per 100 km)	\$110
Drinks (individual expense!)	=====
Total cost	\$540

I am giving you these figures to encourage WVFG members to look at opportunities to get away fishing in groups to make fir a reasonable cheap fishing trip away.

By the way, with only 1.5 days fishing, Gadget and I did not lose any rigs or damage any of our fishing equipment. Possibly a first for both of us. Thanks go to Goldy (Maverick) for his work with his Splashdrone. About 30 + flights from the beach out beyond the wave breaks. Well done Goldy.



The fishing team at Sherings!

Please talk to any of us about the fishing trip and the opportunity for you to get involved in any future land-based fishing trip.

Nick W 27 June 2025.