



NEWSLETTER

December 2008 – January 2009

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!

Well it has been a great year for the Southeast Qld Flyfishers! We held our third convention which was a huge success, gained quite a few members who have proved to be active and enthusiastic, caught a few fish and had some great fun along the way. The club really has a new spark.

Our Christmas party was our December meeting held at **Mark & Debbie Hosking's** home. We had a spit roast which was very tasty, a few drinks of course and the kids all had a wonderful time playing ball games of all sorts. **Jeff Christoffel** made a great Santa. He was a good choice since he didn't need much by the way of whiskers or padding.

Hervey Bay Trip

Once again the weather gods did not smile on us. Most bailed out but 6 intrepid souls ventured up there to find lots of wind and rough weather. Jon Burgess, EZ, Courty, Voltzy, Mark Miller & Mark H spent 3 days fighting against the Northerly winds. Couple of days spent at Moon Point chasing Golden's. Everyone saw fish but no one got connected. Sunday the weather finally broke (just in time for us to head home) and we all ventured up the inside of Frazer towards Wathumba. The Mark's found some Tuna and Mark H got a Mack Tuna and dropped a nice Longtail. On the way back they also had a couple of shots each at a free swimming Marlin about 1200mm long. No take unfortunately but it sure got the Adrenalin pumping. Everyone wants' to go back again, hopefully when the weather is bit kinder.

Sunshine Coast Bass on Fly – Jeff Christoffel

As the weekend for the drew bass comp drew closer mother nature kept us wondering of what she had up her sleeve The dust had been laid by consistent patterns of evening showers and storms leading up to the weekend. With ample run into the dam and Yabba creek at a fair gallop from the spillway overflow water temperatures had dropped a tad. I had been keeping in touch with Bill from the Sunny Coast club leading up to the comp. As there was a curfew on the dam for all people who were taking part in the event, the value of local knowledge was some what diminished.

The oil before the briefing on Friday night was that the bass would be tough and the Toga would be loving it. Well the oil was spot on, because that's exactly how the cards fell. A last minute change of plan saw Ezzy and I in a cabin, Dennis and Jeremy in a van and Vince in the back of his car. We offered a bed for Vince but I think he was frightened my snoring might keep him awake. Now there's a turn for the books!

The briefing on Friday evening was held at the kiosk at Deer Park. The night was hot, clammy and still. I must be going through change of life as I was sweating like Mark Hosking in Darwin at midday.

Saturday was a 5:30 start and before the sparrows could break wind the lads were in the starter's hands. We headed for a close bay on the left while the rest took off like the Man from Snowy River to the far reaches of the dam. With Vince I hot pursuit. Two rises, with one momentary hook up by

Ezzy on the surface and we thought we were on the money. But that was to see the closure of the surface action for the day. The next bay and Ezzy was on. This time a healthy Yellow Bass made him way to the landing net.



I was convinced it was the Bass of the day. There was nothing in the rules to say you couldn't keep a bass with jaundice. The Sunny Coast lads claimed it was a Yella but we stuck to our guns. You can't pull the wool over your eyes. We later lost our appeal when some joker produced a Grants Guide to Fishers. And what would he know anyway? I bet he hasn't even seen a yellow Borumba Bass.

11.30 and back at the ramp, and many bewildered faces. Even Vince the bass whisperer was fishless. Vince had come up with a novel idea; he turned his whole boat into a live well. Guess he expected to catch some big bass. Denis and Jeremy were busy putting plan Z together as they too were fishless. And just to rub salt into the wound, Chris was on the leader's board with one bass. I was now wondering if I should have remained silent the evening before.

Back out that arvo to tickle up a toga or two. I managed to break my Borumba Toga curse and christened my brand new, second hand, 8# Struddy at the same time. Bonus! That evening has noticeably cooler, and during the night a wind greater than Vince's snoring came through. Enough to blow a dog off its chain and strike fear into the hearts of even a seasoned fly fisherman. Well night turned to day and still the winds came. With everyone on the start line in what looked like the Billabong Pro. We charged into of into the sudsy soup knowing that pierced ears could be the order of the day. Back to our first bay to tempt your early rises from the day before. No action for a while and then wham, I was on with the mother of all bass. Plenty of encouraging words as the 8lb tippet was stretched to the max. Some time latter and he was on board. A bass measuring close to 700 had to be a winner.



Well the sunny coast lads put in a protest claiming it was a Toga. After Grants Guide to Fishes was produced we lost you appeal again. Who the hell is this Grant fella. Chris again managed to weave his magic on his home ground a pick up two scoring fish for the day. Vince had to pull out with a cracked hull. That may have been all that saved Chris's bacon. Boat loading at the ramp with the side wind at gale force required real team work. Many thanks to all ho lent a hand there.

The presentation was an enjoyable affair with Gaven as MC. Chris was the champion angler for the second consecutive year. Congratulations Chris. Some bottles of Merlot as randy draw prizes. Lucky Paul Goody wasn't there or a closer inspection of the cork seals would have been necessary. Gaven, on behalf of the sunny coast club, made a donation to Jeremy for Variety Queensland. All monies raised from the weekend went to the Borumba stocking association for future stocking.

Many thanks to the staff at Deer Park for the cooking and serving of the food on Saturday evening and Sunday lunch. And to the lads from the sunny coast club, well done.

From the crew from the goldy, as Arny says "We will be back"

The Brian McDuffie Memorial Trophy – Paul Goodey

The phone call I received from Tom Boylan towards the end of November was the start of an interesting and pleasing experience for me and to see club members "answer the call"

Tom requested that I tie a fly for the Brian McDuffie Memorial Trophy – as part of the trophy, he would supply an antique English Intrepid Fly Reel which incidentally has a great gearing mechanism on it and looked like it had seen some good use over the years (if only reels could talk!), this was a good idea from Mark Miller.

After much deliberation about woolly buggers and various other patterns we decided it had to be a salmon fly for the reason being that they are probably the pinnacle of fly tying and do look really good. As I knew nothing about salmon flies, Tom lent me a book from which I did a few practice ties.

Well after pulling a good half a cape apart in an attempt to find a pair of suitable feathers that looked good plus getting tinsel and floss in a not so perfect symmetry I began to swear and pull my hair out (luckily at this stage, I've got plenty of it!) What's wrong with a woolly bugger I asked myself (for a short moment only). It's back to Tom's and a good search through his fly tying stash. After raiding his best looking feathers I headed to Banora Point to Kerry Mitchell's "Fly Tying Emporium". That looks good Kerry – oh and so does that – anyway, after raiding Kerry's Emporium of a Golden Pheasant Cape and other good looking materials it was back to the tying bench. At this time I dropped the reel off to Denis who was making the trophy and mounting the reel on a block of wood from Tom's design.

The call went out for a nice piece of timber. Mick Nash answered the call and came up with a nice piece of Burmese Teak which became the base of the trophy. After many acid baths, sanding and then fine varnish work by Denis, he then came up with the idea of the Bass shapes for future engraving on the trophy, the cost of this however was somewhat exorbitant, but we all agreed it didn't matter as it had to be the best. We then considered putting a split cane rod butt on the reel seat but alas with only 2 days to go before the Byangum outing, that idea was put in the too hard basket. Dennis then came up with the good idea that knowing Brian's love of wine. We would place the cork on the reel seat which eventually would be the home of the salmon fly. He then opened a bottle of red while we deliberated over the cork with a posh emblem or a red wine stain, the latter was settled upon. When handing my fly over to Denis, I was glad my part was over.

Bob Knott had the good idea of searching the old archives for a good photo of Brian with a Bass to form part of the trophy. No more curling feathers around tubes and trying to achieve perfect symmetry, back to easy patterns and more fishing time. My theory is that back in Scotland they have long cold winters and a very short fishing window so those "Old Jocks" have plenty of time for fiddling and farting around with feathers until they go goggle eyed – either that or they're playing a sick joke on the fly tiers of the world.

The trophy is now complete and looks fantastic. Well done Denis and all other members who supplied materials. It really is a fine club trophy and truly unique, I was thrilled to be a part of it. The attention to detail has been second to none. I'm sure Brian would have been proud.



Brian McDuffie Memorial Bass Trip – Bob Knott

I was really lucky with this trip in that I had a great guide, **Mark Miller**, who knows this part of the river like the back of his hand. We got together at a gentlemanly hour and pushed off. Mark didn't even fish; he just drove the boat and showed me where to cast. He also gave me a fly after looking at my box.

I caught a small Bass shortly after we started, and missed three others. Mark was also guiding Harrison who fished ably from Mark's kayak. The river was beautiful that morning. After some daunting weather we finally had a break; it was sunny, with very little wind. It actually got quite warm early in the morning and I was happy to get into some shadows as the Bass did. A wind came up later but we were so sheltered it really didn't matter.

This was one of the best club outings of the year, we had a great turnout and nearly everyone caught a fish! The one or two who didn't, at least saw some action, and had a couple of takes.

We started gathering for our barbeque brunch about ten, about the same time as **Don** found his car with a flat battery. Yes, he had left his lights on, but no worries. He was jump started in no time. Our barbeque was a group effort and of course went down very well with a couple of cold drinks.

The scores were tallied and the **Brian McDuffie Trophy** was presented to the winner **Paul Goodey** with a 41 and a 35cm, the largest two Bass. **Rick Slennett** was the runner up with 7 captures, but his best two were not good enough on the day. A bit later on **Magali McDuffie** arrived to present Paul with the trophy. Congratulations Paul, the first winner of the **Brian McDuffie Trophy**.



Next Club Outing

Our next outing is our Annual One Fly Event held on Sunday 11th January. The object of this exercise is to catch whatever you find but to only use one fly! You may have spares in case you lose one but they must be the same pattern, the same colour, and the same size. The one who catches the largest two fish wins. This is held at Lakewood's, a man-made lake at the junction of 19th Avenue and Guineas Creek Road, Elanora. The lake is 50m from where the two roads meet. You may start as early as you like and fish all day or the morning or afternoon. There will be a barbeque about 7PM.

Well, Guys and Gals, the New Year is upon us and we look forward to another year of fishing and great camaraderie.

Quote of the month: life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes. Anon

Tight Lines and bent rods!

Scribe

Coming Events



NEXT MEETING:

**Tuesday 20th January - 7.30 p.m.
Mermaid Beach Bowls Club,
9 Markeri Street, Mermaid Beach**

NEXT FISHING TRIP:

**Sunday January 11th 2009
Lakewood's
One Fly Event**