



NEWSLETTER

May 2006

Hi, Gang!

At our meeting we welcomed new member **Paul Christou**. Welcome aboard Paul!

We heard the news that **Bev Cheffins** and her team came second in the **Reel Woman's Barra Classic** in N.T. They caught the largest Barra at 106cm. Well done Bev! Although Bev is fairly new to fly fishing, she has competed in game fishing tournaments for many years and has won her share of comps and has set many records including an IGFA National Sailfish record which she still holds.

As most of you know, Mark Hosking and Brian Kirkley went to Tasmania earlier in the year to fish the One Fly Event. Here is the tale of their adventures.

Tassie Tales (Brian Kirkley & Mark Hosking)

Mark Hosking and I headed down to Tasmania for 9 days fishing in early February to culminate with the two day "Lark Distillery Tassie One Fly" competition.

Mark picked me up from the airport on the Saturday evening and we headed straight up to Bronte Park. It's normally about a 2 hour drive from Hobart but at that time of night the amount of wildlife wandering on the roads made it a little longer. Never ceases to amaze how many native animals in Tassie have a burning desire to become bonnet ornaments. Arrived about 11.00pm and settled into the men's quarters of the Bronte Park Highland Village which were more than adequate for our needs. Up early the next day and started at Lake King William with a slow and pleasant wade, polaroiding the edges. It was a morning of blue skies and scattered clouds and Mark was soon instructing me on the finer points of spotting fish in changing light conditions. The weather was perfect and set the stage for what we hoped would be a trip to remember. Little did we realize how true this was to be as this was probably the best weather we were to experience over the next 9 days.

The following week leading up to the 'One Fly' was spent fishing various Highland lakes and the Central Plateau. With the weather being far less than good let alone perfect the fishing was tough. Don't get me wrong this was an amazingly good trip however the weather taxed us every day and Mark used every bit of knowledge amassed over ten years fishing at this time of year to select the most likely places each day to find shelter or an onshore wind. However when one is combating winds up to 40 knots which swing 180 degrees, single digit temperatures, low cloud and even snow one day, wherever we fished was in less than perfect conditions. Even so we fished Pine Tier Lagoon, Little Pine, Lake King William, Bronte, Tungatinah, Arthur's Lake and Penstock Lagoon. We even managed a day at Double Lagoon up on the Central Plateau (part of the Nineteen Lagoon area) where we braved 30 knot winds and surf waves where Mark landed some excellent fish—and I managed not to fall over while wading. Pine Tier Lagoon was regularly a saving grace—and presented Mark with several excellent fish on his 3 weight, just on dark on several nights.



Christening the #3 weight

I saw my first dun hatch on Arthur's and another on Little Pine. There were at least six at Arthur's and three at little Pine. Not a great show but still exciting to see the little grey sailboats for the first time. A couple of days at Little Pine promised so much early with overcast conditions and not so cold weather. One day in particular was perfect at 10.00am and absolutely terrible at 10.05am. It can change that quickly. On this particular day we counted 19 boats (including a lot of the Central Highland Guiding Services) on Little Pine at 10.00am all waiting in anticipation for the hatch to start. The swallows were flying, a couple of duns had surfaced already and then over the hill comes the biggest, blackest & ugliest cloud accompanied by 25 – 30 knot winds. Goodbye hatch!



One big, black & ugly cloud!!

On the last afternoon I waded a perfect weed bed in Lake King William and caught 3 nice browns in 20 minutes and Mark roamed further out regularly landing and releasing fish. The clouds scattered and orange gold shafts of sunlight turning the dark waters to crystal clear and made it so easy to see fish finning in narrow clearings in the weeds that every cast could be made with accuracy and trigger a silent and slow rise to snatch the dry and then explode into a white boil of foam. It was classic dry fly fishing! We made it back to the car after a couple of hours of excellent sunshine, just as the wind came up and swirling rain made us hurry to get gear stowed and back to the pot bellied stove.

As we drove back to Hobart to catch our return flight Mark & I added up the hours of sunshine and minimum wind we had enjoyed over the nine days and calculated a maximum of five hours---the ones I have just mentioned, the few hours on the first and last days!

All in all an amazing week of hard fishing.

The Lark Distillery Tassie One Fly Competition

Brian & I went over on the Friday evening to Bronte Lagoon to meet the rest of the crew that were to fish the comp. The 2 guys that organise the comp Paul 'Rabbit' Burrow and Graham Blight have a shack there and this was to be the central meeting point for the competition. We were made very welcome by everybody, had a few drinks and got some info on what the program was for the next 2 days.

Saturday morning we were back at the shack at 7.00am ready for the briefing and then into the first fishing session which ran from around 8 – 11.30am. We fished one of the bays in Bronte Lagoon. I did not have a touch however Brian hooked a large Brown estimated at 4-5lbs, only to lose it in the shallows when he tried to land it. I was fishing about 50 metres from Brian and when I looked over and saw the bend in Brian's rod I initially thought he had a snag only to see then the rod lurch up & down and realized that this was no snag. He brought the fish into a couple of inches of water and when he tried to lift it, it unfortunately got off. It was a very funny sight to see a grown man crawling around on his hands & knees trying to grab a fish. Not funny after though as we both realized it was certainly would have been the fish of the session. I left Brian alone for a while after as he sat quietly on a log at the water's edge. Back to the shack at 11.30 for the fish taken during the morning session to be measured. Lunch was provided and straight after they organized a casting comp with a rod, reel & line as the prize. It was good fun. We then had an early afternoon session which we both missed fish. A quick return to the shack and afternoon tea and then back to the lake for the evening session. I managed a small Brown at Pine Tier so at least we were on the board. A great BBQ meal that night followed by an auction of various items of fishing gear, quite a few drinks including some excellent samples of the major sponsors (Lark Distillery) products and lots of laughs. Back on Sunday for the final morning session which we fished at Brady's Lake. I hooked a very large rainbow trout which went ballistic for a couple of minutes and then spat the fly out. Disappointment followed as this was a very large fish of around 6lbs. Back to the shack for lunch and for the presentations to the winners with everything finished by about 2.00pm.

The competition was fantastic, well organized, relaxed and a lot of fun. We met some great people, made some good contacts for the future and had a lot of laughs. The commentary and sledging that went on at the casting comp was priceless. We will definitely be returning next year (this time we will arrange a boat). It would be great for SEQFFC to have a full 4 member team for next year as Graham & Paul have promised a "State of Origin" section for the comp as there is a team from the Illawarra Flyfishers that attend as well. Put it in your calendar for February next year!!



Hinze Dam Outing – Rick Slennett

T'was an Icy morning at the Eastern car park at six..... Actually it wasn't that bad but I was still glad I wore my furry undies anyway. Paul G and Kerry M were gearing up at the car park and we discussed a few tactics - namely fishing on top or where the grass stops in deeper water around the 20 - 25 ft mark.

It really came down to one thing though - the grass, the d-r-e-a-d-e-d g-r-a-s-s [scary voice] which from a recent rapid rise of the dam meant *lots* of it and as far as 120 ft out from the bank.

Twelve members turned up for the meet and most of the guys fished the Eastern arm up to the water tower although Muz and Mike H fished the upper Western arm and launched at the Numinbah ramp. Mike had a good hook up but dropped it and commented that the water in the upper area of the dam was very muddy, a big contrast from the lower which was gin clear. My guess would be that the grass has had some sort of filtering affect on the suspended sediment as the currents move through the system.

Brian K and I stayed around the main bowl as I had to stay in phone range till 8.30 and I really didn't think one place would be much better than the next as there was so much new cover.

All in all it was a pretty quiet morning on the fishing front. Brian K got a nice Bass no more than 10 ft from the boat on a surface fly and I took five, a couple being small.

As the wind got up it was back to the ramp for a tasty breaky BBQ cooked by Brian and a few beers that wound up an enjoyable morning.

Cheers, Ricky S

Uncle Billy's Trip 2006 – Mark Hosking

Tom arrived at my place about 6.00 on Friday, we loaded up and were on the road to pick Mark Miller up at Murwillumbah at 7.00am. Back on the road again and a leisurely drive through to Casino where we stopped for breakfast. Drove through to Glen Innes where another stop was required to pick up the supplies for the weekend. Arrived at Uncle Billy's about 2.00pm and settled in to the cabin and were fishing by about 3.00pm. Mark Miller and I picked up a couple of fish late and returned to the cabin on dark for a few drinks, light the fire and get dinner organized. Bev arrived about 8.30pm and once she was settled in we all sat around telling stories, having a good laugh and a few more drinks.

Saturday morning up early and Mark M, Tom & Bev headed around to a protected corner of the lake and I spent a little time putting my pontoon boat together. I had used it a couple of times previously at Hinze Dam & the top of the Tweed but this was the first time I would have the opportunity to use it for an extended period. Took about 20 minutes to inflate & assemble. A quiet row to a corner of the lake and into fish straight away. Had a great morning session catching a releasing 9 fish with the largest around 44cm. Mark picked up a few as well from the bank. Back to the cabin for a huge breakfast of Bacon & Eggs and a little relaxation.

The rest of the Saturday & Sunday was spent in similar fashion. Fish, relax, drink and eat whenever you wanted. For those who have not been to Uncle Billy's let me tell you that it has got to be one of the best places to just switch off and relax. Each evening just prior to dark we had a midge hatch with fish rising everywhere. Like a lot of hatches it sometimes proved frustrating but everyone got fish. Most fish caught over the weekend were taken subsurface on either nymph or damsel nymph patterns, rigged either as singles or in tandem, fished of a 10 – 14 foot leader with a floating line. Takes generally were very subtle and you needed to maintain contact with your fly at all times otherwise you would inevitably miss them. The size of fish taken over the weekend varied between around 36cm – 44cm with the average around 38cm. The pontoon boat proved very effective over the weekend giving me the opportunity to move around the lake whenever required.



Mark M with an average size rainbow



My new toy

The weather for most of the weekend was cool during the day with a little rain and cold at night which made the combustion heater in the cabins most welcome. Like every other trip to Uncle Billy's I have done we ate very well (probably too much), enjoyed a few drinks and had lots of laughs. Everyone hopped in to help with the cooking and washing up. Thanks to Tom, Bev & Mark M for their great company. A couple of things that particularly stick in my mind is the amazing speed of evaporation in Bev's large bottle of Bundy and Tom 'Yo Yo' Boylan's night time manoeuvres.

The fish tally for the weekend was Mark Miller 19, Tom Boylan 5, Bev 2 and I finished with 39. I have said it before but for those who have not been to Uncle Billy's you should really do yourself a favour and get there!



Bev, Mark M & Tom



Just relaxing!!

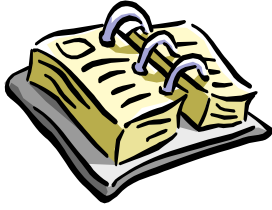
**Quote of the month: For every action there is an equal and opposite criticism.
Anon**

***Tight Lines and bent rods!
Scribe***

Buy, Sell or Trade

If any one has any gear for sale and would like to advertise it in the newsletter let Bob know so it can be included.

Coming Events



NEXT MEETING:

**Tuesday 16th - 7.30 p.m.
Mermaid Beach Bowls Club,
9 Markeri Street, Mermaid Beach**

NEXT FISHING TRIP:

**When: Saturday June 10th
Where: Jumpinpin
Target: Flathead – Tailor
Launch: Jacob's Well
BBQ to follow**

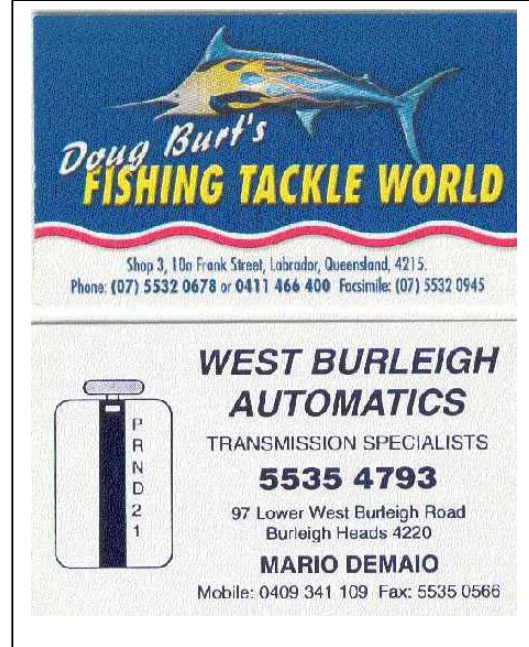
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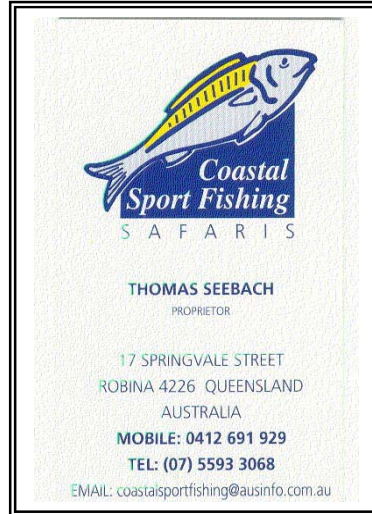
*It's what's between you
 and the fish that counts!*



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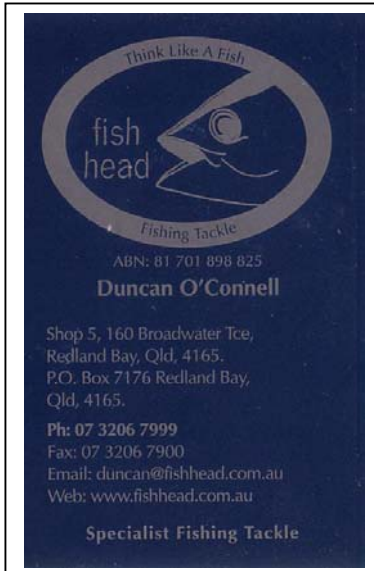
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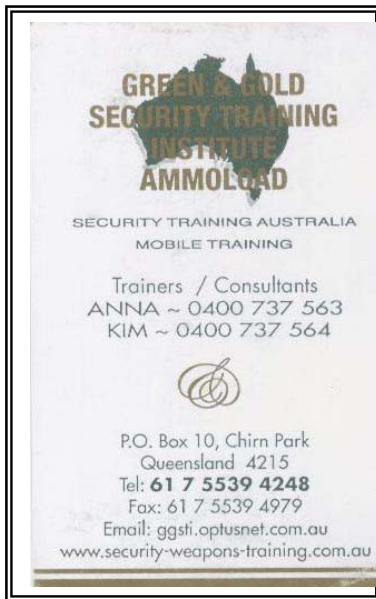


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