



# NEWSLETTER

September/October 2008

## *Greetings, Gang!*

It has been a busy and rewarding time for our club! Our August meeting was also our A.G.M. **Warwick Northcott** chaired the meeting while elections were held for club offices. The only change was that **Paul Goodey** was elected Vice President. The club wishes to thank outgoing Vice President, **Glenn Court** for his time and effort during his term in office.

At our meeting we welcomed guests **Mark** and **Christina Clark** and **Jeremy Wakelin**. We also welcomed new members **Peter Nolan** and **Tim Perrin**

It was also announced that **Rick Slennett** finished third individually and was a member of the runner-up team in the NT Freshwater Flyfishing Open Competition. Congratulation Rick!

We also announced the winner of our **Fly Tier of the Year Award**. **Paul Goodey** took out the honour for the second year running with some masterful creations.



At our September meeting we welcomed visitors **Christina Clark**, **Len Moody**, and **Ezra Bibby**.

We congratulated ourselves for the success of our Convention. It was wonderful to see the members all kicking in to make the event a success which it certainly was. We will definitely do it again in 2010.

We discussed the upcoming Ebor trip at the end of October. At our next meeting we will iron out the details. If you are interested in this trip, visit our website and add your name to the list.

***Class of 2008 Fly Fishing Class – Tom Boylan***

This year's students from Miami High were very well mannered, attentive and eager to learn. Aged 15/16 years they all performed moderately well with the fly rod with a couple of standouts, their flytying and knots were equally well performed and all gained a pass level for their Marine Science course.

We are yet to catch our first fish but someday the tide and planets will align and that will be quite special.

Thank you to Brian Kirkley, Don Nash, Angus Collins, Denis Shaw and Jon Burgess for your time and efforts. It was great fun so I guess that you were well rewarded.



Of course our biggest event of the year was our **2008 Flyfishing Convention**. This press release tells the story.

### ***2008 Gold Coast Flyfishing Convention***

Hosted by the South East Queensland Flyfishers Club and attended by flyfishers from New Zealand, Darwin, Tasmania, Cairns and many other places in between this “live in” event was held on the weekend 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

The venue was Camp Bornhoffen at Numinbah Valley in the Gold Coast hinterland where the lawns sloping down to the Nerang River headwaters offered perfect conditions for flycasting.



Tackle distributors brought their best equipment with many thousands of rod dollars all rigged with reel and line for participants to cast and compare. Some highlights, quite a few Loomis rods were tried and immediately ordered, the new Orvis Helios was well loved, the Great Bay range caused some interest and the new Sage TCX was scheduled a simultaneous world release at the huge Denver tackle show and our own Gold Coast Convention





To better our assessment skills, champion practitioners Nial Logan, Peter Hayes and Gordon Low were there to demonstrate and provide tuition to improve our casting and line management abilities.

The flytying benches were rarely empty as people learned and tied the latest fish attracting creations under the guidance of Shaun Ash and Jon Makim



The Fishhead stand carried every conceivable accessory in fly tying materials, hooks, flylines and all the gadgetry you could dream of.

Nights were equally busy with after dinner entertainment from Jono Shales, Peter Hayes, Darren Jennings and Shaun Ash. However the highlight was always going to be the camaraderie that existed through story telling and the swapping of contact details “for next time I get down that way”.



There were a number of competitions over the weekend with the photographic display showing some truly marvellous pictures. The winner, Graham Grice of Brisbane exhibited a beautiful shot of an angler fishing a misty New England stream and was awarded a voucher from retailer Fishhead.

Nial Logan conducted a fun filled distance and accuracy flycasting competition with Gordon Low and Geoff Volter being narrowly pushed out by the veteran of many world casting championships, Peter Hayes.

Peter was awarded the rod used in the competition, a Canadian produced Great Bay MSR2 provided by Derek McKenzie Outdoors. Peter graciously donated the rod to 14 year old Harrison Perrin who with his younger brother Timothy, eyes like saucers, was everywhere and into everything over the weekend. Steve Hoagland, Managing Director of Derek McKenzie Outdoors then offered Harrison a brand new rod of his weight choice which he will have engraved with his name.



Attendees were invited to bring along their favourite fly to be swum in the pool and judged on performance by Jon Makim and Shaun Ash. The winning fly was “Loudmouth” a popper that could be heard from 50 metres away. This unique and ingenious fly was created by Vince Margossian and earned him an almost lifetime supply of tying materials. Runner up was Laurie O’Sullivan from Cairns with a fluid actioned “Pink Thing.



Closing after lunch on Sunday with the presentation of prizes and the drawing of the raffle. First prize was a beautiful acrylic of a bonefish flat by Tina Goodey which was won by a very pleased Geoff Volter.

All went home laughed out, learned out, worn out and asking for the next one.

Editor’s Note: We have dozens of photos taken by Jeff C from the convention and will try to get as many as we can posted up on our website in the not to distant future. There are simply too many to try to put into the newsletter.

### ***Lake St Clair, Winter 2008*** – Brent Blackwell

Having returned home from Brisbane, it was good to catch up with the boys from SFFC. The club has gained access to a building in the recreation area. It was the middle of July and we all met to build a partition wall to divide the building. SFFC shares this space with the Scouts, and had agreed to put up a wall.

A few of us arrived on Friday evening and settled in. On Saturday morning we set about our construction project. By lunchtime we had finished. After having lunch, we all set up our rods and decided where to fish. As the day had turned out sunny with just enough breeze to put a ruffle on the water, we hoped for a good afternoon.

From the park we drove south and parked at the fence and walked down to a bay. As I was a little behind, the lads had moved to the southern shore, I decided to fish the northern edge. After my first cast I slowly moved along the shore casting to interesting spots. After moving about 20 metres I had a fish follow. The fish turned away at the shore line but did not show any panic. Letting the area calm down I waited a couple of minutes before casting again. A soft take and a short tussle and the bass spat the fly.

The following shoreline is very shallow so I walked on another 200 metres until there was a nice depth to cast into. Having moved along fishing with no success I reached the point at the end of the bay where there are a few stumps and rocks. Still no luck.

Having moved on, there was a shallow weed bed, casting over this rewarded me with a nice little bass. As I moved away, running into the dam was an erosion gutter, this created a large deep gutter, to entice to resist a cast down the middle and let the fly sink deep. A sudden pull, 2 metres of line gone through the fingers before control regained. I put pressure on the fish to keep it away from flooded shrubbery, snap, done and gone. I had been using 4kg tippet but this fish just broke it off.

My fishing companions had abandoned the other shore and walked around to me. We then fished along the shoreline. About 3-30pm the wind changed direction to the south, on St Clair a southerly shuts down the fishing so after catching up on the results I made my way home. For a winter's afternoon, the six of us had landed 6 bass and dropped 4.

SFFC had a club outing in August. The weather was not kind, on Friday it was blowing from the west at about 20 knots, not easy to cast in. We set up camp, lit the fire and settled down. Saturday morning was fine but the wind was still howling. After breakfast fishing possibilities were discussed. The wind made boating difficult so walking the shore was the option. We split up, some going south another checking out the bay at the recreation area and I went north.

I have always liked fishing the north end of the lake but with the low water levels this had not been possible. As the lake is now 60% full I was going to see what water was like. It is now a cow paddock, running cleanly into the water, a nice friendly shore to fish. The wind was blowing into my face, between gusts I was able to cast. Moving along the shore I cast blindly letting the fly sink to different depths to cover the water. In a flooded gully I had a solid hook up and after a short fight a healthy 1.5kg Yellowbelly lay at my feet.

I fished deeper into the gully and had a follow, so cast again. The fish followed until the fly was almost at my feet, where it stopped, looked at the fly, rejected it and slowly returned to the depths. Bass can be difficult.

Even in the depths of winter, St Clair can still provide good fishing, you have to be patient, cover lots of water, but it can be rewarding.

### ***Club Fishing Outings***

We need to start thinking about what fishing trips we are going to have in 2009.

A thread has been established on our website under "Club Outings" please visit this and make your suggestions.

Our "Flyfisherman of the Year" title and trophy has lost importance due mainly to the systems we have employed in the past to decide a winner. As a result we will now try this!! On each club outing a winner will be determined by their best two fish determined in centimeters. At year's end, the winner of most outings will be declared our "Flyfisherman of the Year" This system favours regular attendees and negates the benefit of catching numbers of fish on just one or two outings.

### ***Muz, Mark & Mack's*** – mark Hosking

Last Sunday Muz & I decided to take the boat up to Moreton Bay to chase some Tuna. An email to Duncan at Fishhead on Thursday to see if anything was around was answered with a yes and info that there had been a few Longtail & Macks around Peel and in the Rous channel. We left home about 5.00am and launched from Cleveland around 6.30. Found a couple of very spooky Macks around Peel and then about 8.00am decided to take a run over to Moreton. Hung around for about an hour without seeing a thing and just when we were about to head back sighted a few birds working.

That was the start of some great fun. There were small schools of Mack's all around us. If we missed out on one school we would just motor up to the next one and have another cast. Left them about 2.00pm in the arvo to head home. Muz finished the day with 4 and I got one. We both dropped fish as well. Weather was kind to us although very overcast. We had a great day, lots of laughs and I learnt a lot about how to approach schools of tuna when driving a boat.





### ***The Cook's Corner*** - Wobbygone

Welcome again to the cooks corner. In conversation with Bob we discussed the purpose and type of recipes that fit well to this article. Bob suggested recopies that could be prepared and taken on trips. And that makes sense as that was the birth place of the idea was after the Dunmore weekend. The other side of me seeks to play with all things in season and piscatorial. To make this article an interesting feature and worth a second read I will circulate a feed back sheet at the next meeting to gauge your thoughts on the subject.

The recipe for this month is “**Fish and Pumpkin Curry**”

This recipe is made for people like me who want to stop buying longer belts.

The serving is for 4 people, and each serve measures 4 on the Richter scale or was that the WW scale.” For those wishing to shed some kilos before Darwin this one is up your alley.

#### **Ingredients.**

- 1 Onion, chopped finely.
- 2 tbs Thai- style red curry paste.
- 1 kg of Jap pumpkin cut into 2.5 cm pieces.
- 400 ml of canned light coconut milk.
- ¾ cup of water.
- 250g of green beans rimmed and halved.
- 500 g of white fish fillets cut into 2.5 cm pieces.
- 1 tbs. of fish sauce.

#### **Method.**

1. Coat a wok with cooking spray, heat and cook the onion until soft. Stir in the curry paste and stir for one minute or until aromatic.
2. Stir in the pumpkin and mix to coat with the onion. Add the coconut milk and water. Reduce heat to medium – low and simmer, stirring occasionally, for ten minuets. Add the beans and cook for a further five minuets.

3. Finally add the fish and cook, partially covered for three to five minutes or until the fish is just cooked through.
4. Add the fish sauce and serve.
5. Best served with beer.

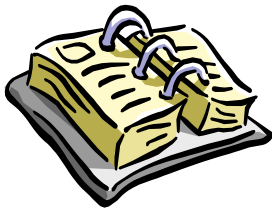
Next month - "Your Call"

**Thought of the month:**

If at first you don't succeed, avoid skydiving.

*Tight Lines and bent rods!*  
*Scribe*

**Coming Events**



**NEXT MEETING:**

**Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> October - 7.30 p.m.**  
**Mermaid Beach Bowls Club,**  
**9 Markeri Street, Mermaid Beach**

**NEXT FISHING TRIP:**

**31<sup>st</sup> Oct. – 1<sup>st</sup> Nov.**  
**Ebor Trip**  
**Target – Trout of course**

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