



# Club Newsletter

*April 2010*

## ***Welcome to all,***

Since the last newsletter the rain gods have continued to shower their blessings on many parts of Queensland and northern NSW. The long awaited flushing of the rivers and estuaries comes with high expectations of tight lines just down the track. Helen Abdy who is a club member and writes for B&B Fishing Magazine wrote an article on the "Moura Muddy Waters" freshwater competition. Helen is a member of the restocking group in the Moura region and lives only a stone's throw from Cania Dam at Monto in Central Queensland. Moura is my old stomping ground and I spent many a day wetting a line in the Dawson River and surrounding water holes. A few of the pictures in the article show the rain bucketing down with boats and fishers barely visible. Reminds me of our recent club bass outing at Maroon Dam. Many of the larger impoundments are now holding unprecedented levels. Maroon at 90%, Wivenhoe at 94%, Monduran at 74%, Cania at 35% and most of our local impoundments at 100%.

The salt water scene has had its share of good days with areas around the creek mouths, the seaway and the wider bay locations coming up with the goods. More on these locations in the fishing report section of the newsletter.

The cooler months will not be a time to hibernate with so many options to chase winter species on fly and with all the new found knowledge from the recent fly fishing convention the list of chores at home will be put on the back burner, well, for a while at least.

## ***Club Meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> March 2010***

Our March meeting was well attended with 26 members keen to catch up on the good oil and plan for the month ahead.

The topics discussed at the meeting included:

- ✚ The planning for the "Fly Fishing Convention" to be held on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of March.
- ✚ Plans to further develop the research into non boating fly fishing opportunities in our local areas.
- ✚ Discussions regarding the club's annual fly tying completion to be judged at the June meeting.
- ✚ Reports on recent fishing outings from club members.
- ✚ Plans for the trout trip to Ebor at the end of the month.

## ***Non Boating Fishing Opportunities***

Tom raised this topic following the high degree of interest shown by club members at our January one fly fishing day. The conditions on the day were far from ideal with rain and wind that would blow a dog off its chain and yet the attendance was good and an enjoyable day was had by all.

Having a portfolio for suitable locations of the nature is of great benefit to the club and all its members. Having a greater understanding of available options for land based fly fishing close to home increases the opportunity for club members to spend more time fly fishing and still getting out there when time is not that abundant.

It also creates a variety of options should we have to rethink our planned monthly outing due to unforeseen circumstances.

Kruger kicked the ball into play with his suggestion of Emerald lakes. The club has used this venue when one of the planned club trips had to be cancelled due to bad conditions. On the day there were some healthy estuary species caught and released.



**Non Boating locations can produce the goods with a little research.**

The criteria for a suitable location may be as follows.

- ✚ No objections from outside parties to fishing the location.
- ✚ Easily accessible.
- ✚ Suitable for fly casting.
- ✚ Possible amenities such as toilets and tables or tap water.
- ✚ Any that holds a population of any species of fish that will take fly.

Any location that comes close to the above criteria will warrant further investigation. Some other more subtle points to note may be:

- ✚ Effects of prevailing winds.
- ✚ Effects of tidal flows.
- ✚ Water structures such as weed beds, timber, drains, and tidal inflow points.
- ✚ Shore and bank makeup such as rock walls, sandy sections and man-made fishing options.
- ✚ Size of the fly fishable area. An idea of how many people could comfortably fish that location with fly at any given time.

With the Gold Coast waterways being so diverse in their make up the range of shore based options must be plentiful. If you have any ideas of potential locations please bring them along to the next club meeting.

### **Annual Fly Tyer of the Year Competition**

The judging of the club fly tying champions will be judged at the June club meeting. There will be two classes up for grabs in the fly tying event this year.

The two sections to be judged will be:

- ✚ The more experienced tyers. Those who have produced winning entries/examples in the past.
- ✚ The new comers to fly tying. Most of us.

It is hoped that many most of the members will submit their flies this year. Get started on your creations now.

Paul Goodey took out last year's trophy and Denis Shaw has kindly donated a trophy for this year's new comers section. Thanks Denis.



Time to start tying for the June club meeting. More on the fly tying completion at the next meeting.

### **Ebor Outing**

The club outing for April is planned for Ebor in the weekend of the 30th April to 2nd May. Jon Burgess is co-ordinating the weekend with final arrangements to be made at the April club meeting.

At last count the numbers for the weekend were around 10 to 12 members on the start line. Several of the club members have fished this location in the past and have enjoyed the experience. This is my first trip to Ebor so I am looking forward to christening my new 3# and capturing lots of photos for the area. More on the Ebor Outing at the next meeting.

### **Gold Coast Fly Fishing Convention 2010 – Jeff Christoffel**

It was an opportunity not to be missed and when the announcement was made that the circumstances had given the green light for the 2010 Gold Coast Fly Fishing Convention to precede it was full steam ahead.

An enormous amount of commitment and planning from Tom Boylan and Mark Hosking was rewarded by a vote of thanks by all who participated in a weekend. For the keen flyfisho this weekend can only be described as the "Flyfishers Pearly Gates". The location for the weekend was Camp Bornhoffen in the Numinbah valley.



**All this and a full on Fly Weekend**



The weather forecast for the week leading up to the convention was garden variety to say the least. There was cyclonic conditions closing in on the Queensland coast line and a point of crossing seemed to be anybody's best guess. Soggy conditions were not to be the order of the day and the weather gods smiled on us for the duration of the weekend.

All of the set up team arrived just after lunch on the Friday and made short work of converting the large upper complex into our dining, fly tying workshop, A.V. presentation area and top shelf fly equipment retail outlet. Huge thanks to Duncan and Janelle from Fish Head who were there with everything flyfishing to be tried and or purchased. With the amount of fly fishing equipment set up for display they had all bases covered.



**Duncan and Janelle from Fish Head have all bases covered for the fly scene**

One of the biggest personnel challenges on the weekend was to decide what was on the fly fishing menu to please your palate. From opening to closing there were two top shelf fly tyers instructing the finer points of the art with Muz Wilson and Jon Makim at the vice weaving their magic.



**Jon weaving his magic**

**Muz talking tying**

One of the fly tying lessons that came across was the value of the final product. Both Muz and Jon create their creations with a target species and all the necessary ingredients to induce that anticipated response in mind. But they both agree that the proof of hitting the jackpot only gets within reach when the fly is introduced to the wet stuff.

Both Jon and Muz spent the hours going through different ways of constructing flies to achieve the desired results. Talking to Muz and Jon about the developments in fly tying, both made mention that they hear all too often that there is nothing new in the fly tying arena. For mine, nothing could be further from the truth watching these two in action.





**Discussing the finer points**



**From the vice to the pool, the final test**

With a four o'clock sign in, catching up with old mates, and desperately searching for a non snoring room to call home for the weekend the scene was set for a cracker time.

From the jump there was one person who set the seal on a weekend to be enjoyed. The ladies name is Ann. Ann was our cook for the weekend and the meals from Friday to Sunday were simply first class. If anyone went hungry it was because they couldn't put the fly rods down to get to the dinner table.



**Tucker time and nose bags on**



**Ann, our master chef for the weekend**

After the Friday evening meal it was time to officially open the convention and bring all the guests up speed with the programme for the weekend. It was great to have Tom Boylan who worked hard to bring it all together, take the floor for the greeting.



**Welcome to all from Tom**

After the greeting in was straight into our first presentation by Juan Del Carmen. Juan would have to best be described as a colourful character who loves his fly fishing. When Juan takes the floor you could hear a pin drop. Juan has travelled to many destinations around the globe in search of many of the Holy Grail of our flyfishing sport fish. From giant silvers to bones and lots in between Juan narrated his slide presentation answering questions and keeping us entertained.

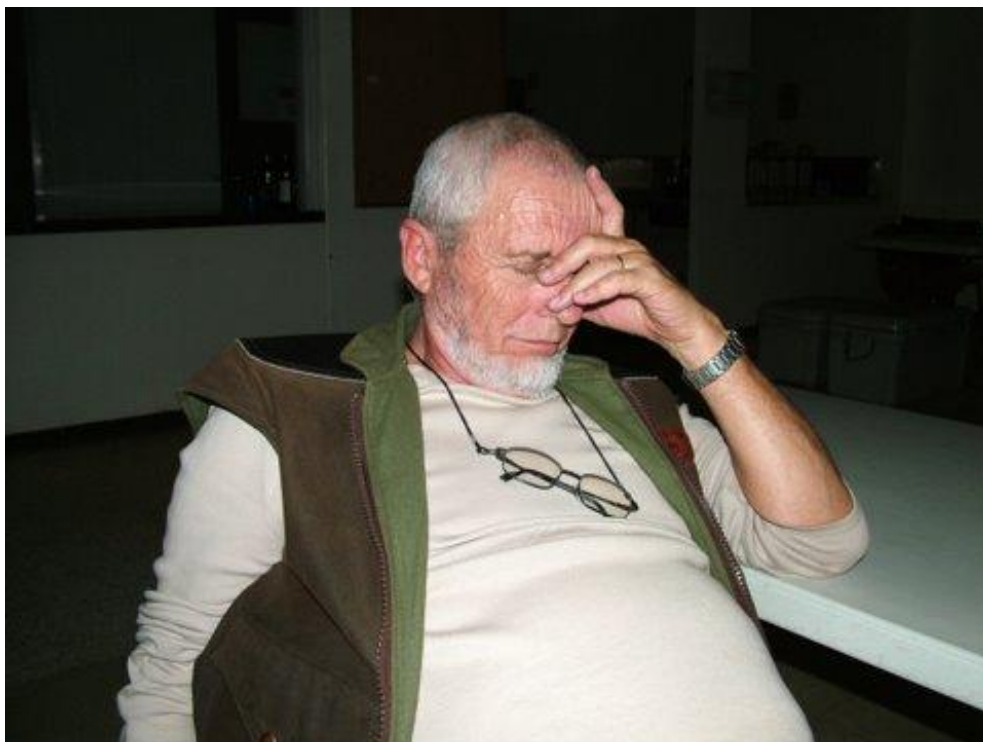
Juan had travelled up from Katoomba in the Blue Mountains of New South Wales to be with us for the weekend. He also did a leader construction workshop on Saturday. It was interesting seeing everyone try and get their 18 foot leader to straighten on delivery in the pool.



**Juan talking tight lines on big fish**



**Juan, keeping his carbo intake up**



**But for some the long journey had taken its toll**

Saturday morning, showered and shaved, the smell of breakfast cooking and the weather gods still playing the game, what more could you ask for? A quick glance outside and there were already several casters taking advantage of the conditions, out on the greens.

Thanks to Duncan, Peter Morse, Muz and others, there was a huge selection of loaded fly rods to wet the most discerning flyfishers appetite.

When you put together a smorgasbord of top shelf fly rods and throw in the assistance of casting instructors like Peter Morse, Nial Logan, Muz Wilson, Jon Burgess and many other respected fly casters, the opportunities to lift your fly casting are endless.





**No shortage of keen casters**



**No shortage of top shelf toys**



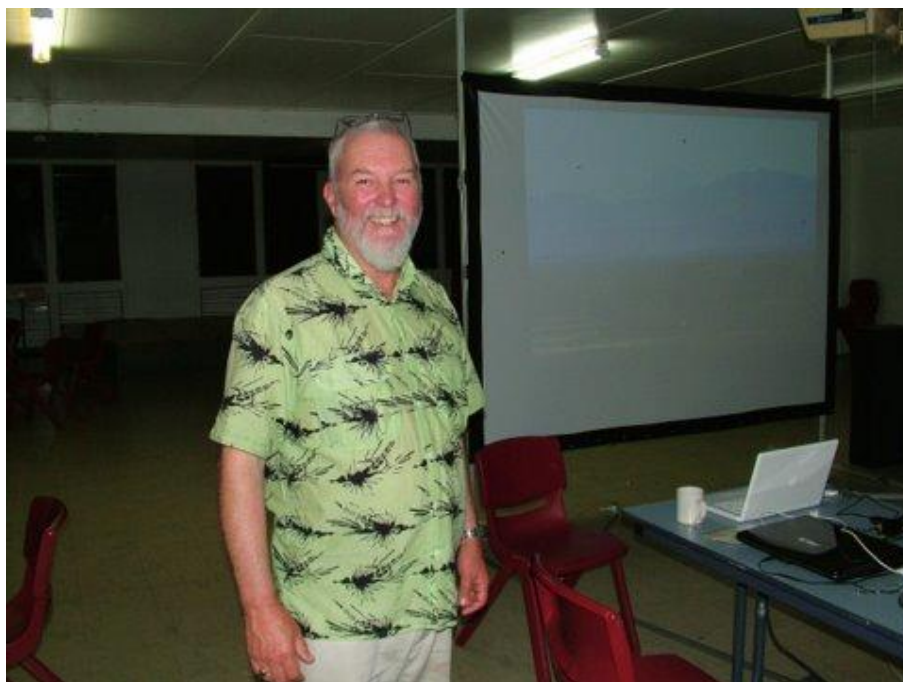
**Muz, Peter and Nial at play**



**Tom has a crack at Duncan's double hander**

When your arms and shoulders were ready to call it quits it was time to take more fly tying, or some retail therapy or perhaps a cuppa.

When the dinner bell rang on Saturday evening it almost ended up in a stampede to the kitchen. Juan was at the head of the line as expected. As we found out, these southerners take some feeding. After dinner, Peter Morse took us through many of his adventures on the South Island of New Zealand.



**Peter leaves no stone unturned during his presentation on South Island trout on fly**



Peter's presentation covered many of the accessible locations and also several somewhat very difficult to accessible destinations. In many cases it was the impenetrable nature of forests that reach to the very edge of the streams and rivers that restrict normal access to these waters. The use of jet boats to gain access to many of these heavily wooded regions presented opportunities for both pristine trout fishing and breathtaking scenes that even the most accomplished photographer struggle to do justice to.

As with Juan's presentation on the Friday night, you can't but not marvel at the sheer beauty of these fly fishing destinations. When you add to this trophy fish that can take you to down the backing in the blink of an eye one would be forgiven for thinking that you had passed on in your sleep and gone to fly fishing heaven.

Another hotly anticipated event on the weekend was the drawing of the raffle. With a choice of a Sage Fly Reel would go to go to the lucky winner. All eyes were fixed on their tickets at the drawing and as you may have already guessed, the winner was not me.



**Winners are defiantly grinners. Congratulations Dean**

A man of many talents is our club Treasurer and the "Minister for all things Financial", Mark Miller or sometimes known as "Mini Mark". Between casting and tying, Mark was the custodian and lord of the watering hole and what a great job he did making sure that dehydration was not an issue on the weekend.



**Mini Mark, keeping everyone relaxed and refreshed**



Sunday morning and the aromas of Ann's cooking had everyone lined up like pups outside a butchers window. With tucker time over it was back to the tying tables and or the casting greens to loosen up the shoulders while and have a crack at the top shelf set ups that were just begging for a run.

After morning tea on Sunday, Peter Morse took us through a workshop on the preparation of saltwater rigs for fly fishing.



**Peter demonstrating the tricks of the trade**

Peter took us through some of the material covered in his DVD, "Arbor to Fly", Knots and Rigging for Saltwater Fly Fishing. A must have for any saltwater flyfishers home DVD library.

Peter's presentation took the group through the finer points of what to focus on when setting up a fly outfit for saltwater environments. Peter spent a few hours demonstration and answering questions on the subject. One think is for certain those who had the opportunity to take in Peter's workshop will feel a lot more confident when the mother of all Longtail's dines on your fly. Sorry Mark.

After lunch it was time to pack up and prepare for the journey home. Some people had a far drive in front of them, while others needed to get to airports, to connect with their flights home.

From the Committee our special thanks:

To the presenters Juan Del Carmen and Peter Morse, the fly tyers, Muz Wilson and Jon Makim, the FFFI casting instructors, Peter Morse, Nial Logan and Jon Burgess, Duncan and Janelle from Fish Head for the great retail therapy opportunity enjoyed by all, our cook for the weekend, Ann, who added a few centimetres to our waist lines turning on the top tucker and to all who gave of themselves to make this weekend a fantastic fly fishing experience.

To our setup and clean up team. With the speed of 40 startled gazelles they made short work of having the premises ready for action and later ready to hand over to the next round of guests. Well done.

I scary thought crossed my mind as I was driving back to Brisbane from the convention. I hope the airline that Juan was flying home on had loaded extra tucker on board, for the long trip to Sydney.

## ***Fly Tyers Corner - The "Eyes" have it - Jeff Christoffel***

This month I thought I would follow on from Paul Goodey's segment in last month's newsletter on making eyes for flies.

The eyes I had in mind for this segment are type often used in shrimp patterns or some small insect patterns. The construction materials are basic and readily accessible. For the most part, 50LB mono and a few small "seed beads" from any craft shop will cover most bases.

Let's look at making some simple mono prawn eyes.

By applying heat with a lighter or butane type soldering torch, the mono will easily melt, and form a molten end to take the shape for your eye.



**Just add a little heat**



**Shrimp eyes ready to go**

You may find at times that the eye could do with a touch of colour. This can be done with a permanent marker, coloured nail polish or even quick drying paints.

Another option is to attach "seed beads" or the like to the end of the mono. This can be done by super gluing the bead to the mono, or heating the mono with a flame and allowing the molten end of the mono to slide into the hole in the bead. If you don't like playing around with super glue, melting the bead on works well.



**All the colours of the rainbow**



**Get the feeling your being watched**

The final product must always perform well in the water. For the reason take a little care and try to match up the size of your bead eyes, if making them up in a dumbbell fashion. Eyes of uneven weights or size may be enough to unbalance your fly and give it a poor action in the water.



## ***The Cooks Corner*** - Jeff Christoffel

Although the cooler months are all but upon us there is still a bit of sting in the sun yet. So I hope you get a chance to have a crack at this great little salad dish before you pull on the winter woollies and start sitting down to evening soup dishes.

### **Coriander Fish with Cashew Salad**

The ingredients given here are for a serving of 6. Prep time is 15 to 20 minutes with cooking time for the fish at around 5 to 6 minutes.

#### **Ingredients**

2 tablespoons coriander seeds  
1 tea spoon sea salt  
6 fish fillets of choice  
1 Table spoon of olive oil  
Lime wedges to serve

#### **Cashew Salad**

½ cup roasted unsalted cashews  
½ cup coriander leaves  
½ cup mint leaves  
100 gr bag of baby rocket  
250 gr punnet of cherry tomatoes halved

#### **Dressing**

2 table spoons of lime juice  
2 table spoons of fish sauce  
1 table spoon of brown sugar  
2 tea spoons of olive oil

#### **Method**

- ✚ Stir coriander and salt in small pan over a low heat for about one minute, or until fragrant. Cool. Place coriander mixture in a snap lock bag and crush with a rolling pin.
- ✚ Toss coriander mixture, fish and oil into a bowl and coat.
- ✚ Cook the fish on a lightly oiled heated grill plate for about 3 minutes on each side or until cooked when flesh flakes easily.
- ✚ While the fish is cooking make the salad by combining the ingredients in a bowl.
- ✚ For the dressing, whisk all the ingredients in a bowl. Add salad and toss well.
- ✚ Serve fish with cashew salad and lime wedges.



**Coriander Fish with Cashew Salad**

**Tuck in and Enjoy.**

## ***Fly Boaties Corner***

This month I thought I might throw in a new segment. The thoughts that fuelled this segment struck me the first time I sighted the finished product of a purpose built boat developed and constructed by one of our club members, Glen Porter.

The penny dropped when I realised that so many of us make both minor or major changes to both old or new craft just to make them fly fishing friendly.

My example is nowhere near as grand as Glen's project. However I thought that there may be a few fly fishers out there who use smaller craft like canoes to access the hallowed fishing locations. Although not the finished product, when it comes to fly fishing my canoe and I get along heaps better these days.

Let's have a gecko at her.



**A touch of stealth**

I picked this old Coleman Ram - x 15, after it had been through several sets of hands. She had hale damage, road damage, stone damage, log damage, rapid damage and any other damage imaginable. By if you have ever had the comfort of owning a plastic tub then you would know that this only adds to the character of the craft.

The first thing I noticed when trying to cast fly was that the aluminium tube running down the centre of the boat as a stiffener separated from the floor just enough to allow the fly line to pinch underneath when standing up to cast.

### **Fix.**

- ✚ Bought a roll of that non slip rubber matting for \$ 12.50 from a 2 bob shop. Cut it out to shape and gave it an edging using small cable ties. Done.

The second point that needed attention was a suitable anchoring system.

### **Fix.**

- ✚ The coil that the anchor rope was attached to had flotation attached to the rope reel.
- ✚ The tie off points on the canoe were quick release to allow for quick removal if needed to follow when fighting a fish and the floating spool to retrieve your anchor when business is done
- ✚ The anchor was made by placing a stainless steel dog feeding bowl on the BBQ and melting enough lead into the bowl to make up a decent anchor. While the lead was molten in the bowl I placed a SSD-shackle into the molten mix. Let it cool and you have a prefect "plonk anchor". The best part is that if your anchor is not up to the job simply put it back in the dog dish and add more lead when it melts.





**Plonk anchoring system.**

The next issue was the motor bracket. The motor bracket that came with the canoe was set so the motor was on the right hand side. As I was soon to find out, being a right hand caster, my fly line picked up the motor every two out of three cast.

**Fix.**

- ✚ Make a new light weight, corrosion resistant motor bracket that positioned the motor on the left hand side.

The next item that needed a few coats of looking over was an outrigger for stability. The development process has gone through two phases at this point in time. In the first attempt I used a longer length of orange electrical conduit to form the main floatation tube. To the business end I added a SS steel nose cone to reduce water resistance. The reason behind using larger underground electrical conduit was both the high impact resistance of the material, and the counter weight balance offered if you are placing an outrigger on one side only.

The attachment beam and the long flotation tube were cumbersome to handle and store when travelling. The long flotation tube looked more like a rocket launcher than a canoe accessory. Carrying the tube down to the canoe for fitting possibly raised some alarm bells with the passing members of the general public.



**Tough and Compact floatation system**

The cross arm was constructed from 25mm x50mm aluminium box section having a 3mm wall thickness. To date there has been no problems with the cross arm so it remained unchanged. Another winner was the method of attaching the cross arm to the canoe. The canoe came with a 30mm tube spreader/stiffener positioned approximately midship. Using three lengths of double sided Velcro, and making each length long enough to go around the cross arm and spreader bar four times, the end result was a fastening strong enough to pull a bull out of a bog. How easy is that? Back to the changes needed to the flotation tube.

#### **Fix.**

- ✚ I went in search of a floatation device that was more compact, had sufficient volume to do the job, and could take any rough treatment that may come along. While looking through a chandlery outlet I came across some old stock quality ship fenders. These ship fenders were 620mm x 210mm. A quick calculation to establish their volume in litres that gave me the capacity displacement in kilograms and at the bargain basement price of \$ 24.50 Bobs your uncle.
- ✚ As wanted to keep the outrigger arm to the left hand side of the canoe and in doing so keep my casting side of the craft unobstructed I had to find a way to add sufficient weight to the extremity of the cross arm to create the desired stability needed to fly cast and throw a cast net when pawning. The answer was simple. In the fabrication of the aluminium support bracket to attach the floatation ships fender I welded two short sections of 25mm x 50mm box section together. The next step was to place some scrap lead in the old SS dogs bowl and bring it up to melting temperature on the BBQ burner. Poor the molten lead into the short sections of the welded box section and hay presto counter balance complete.



**The ships fender fitted the bill perfectly**

- ✚ The floatation tube and its supporting bracket separate from the main cross arm by undoing four SS wing nuts. This reduced the bulk of the awkward shape of the assembled unit when transporting in the back of the car.

One of the performance issues that cheesed me off with my 40 lb. Riptide MinnKota was its next to nonexistent reverse capacity with the manufactures prop fitted. I found that a reasonably responsive reverse function is desirable when manoeuvring the canoe with a single outrigger in a wind affected tidal flow.

#### **Fix**

- ✚ Fitted a " Kipawa " three blade prop to suit my motor. Problem solved.

The other little additions came in the form small hand held sounder that I mounted on the left hand side near the rear seat. The unit was a "Hawk Eye" brand and I purchase it from BCF for \$27.00 on sale. The transducer I have fixed to the inside floor using marine grade Sikaflex cement. Although the unit has only basic functions it works well with the transducer shooting through the floor of the thick plastic hull.



For ease of launching and increased access opportunities my canoe is often my "go to" craft for many fly fishing, prawning and creek crabbing trips of late.

## ***Trip & Fishing Reports***

### **Back to Maroon-** Jeff Christoffel

After the recent trip for the Variety Children's Bass on fly weekend, I could not resist another trip back to this great little fishery.

The day was overcast with a better than average chance of rain. A mate's son, Nathan Clark had decided to join me for the 03.30 departure time under cloudy skies. With similar conditions as the competition weekend we made our way to the western end of the dam to check out the weed beds. The surface fly was to prove very quite on day break. As the sun poked its head a tad higher the bass took a liking to dark Clouser's stripped in short sharp bursts.



**Magic day on Maroon**

The bass were playing the game well. Searching the weed edges in the southern bays and points kept the results coming. Around midday the skies took on some serious shades of grey, and the heavy rain and the winds came through in a storm like fashion. It was back to the car to cook up some noodles for lunch make up a brew and grab a short siesta. Back on the water and fish on till dark. The afternoon session was just as productive as the morning with several bass still falling for the dark clouser pattern.

It was a day for firsts for Nathan. His first bass, first bass to the boat for the day, first bass on fly and first bass on surface fly just before dark. One last, Nathan caught the last bass of the day.



**Nathan's smile tells it all**



**Back to play another day**

We noticed that the roads had seen more than their fair share of moisture as we drove home. Apart from that one heavy cloud burst at the dam, the conditions were excellent for keeping the bass on the chew. Good day at Maroon had by all.

### **Hinze Ramp**

For those wondering what the new ramp and parking area opposite Ian's Island at Hinze Dam looks like here are some pics taken on my way home from the convention.



**Car park complete**



**Boat ramp complete**

Maybe they are waiting for some sign from the heavens before they will officially declare the ramp open. Time will tell.





For the last 12 years or so I have been travelling to Tassie each year around February with a good mate of mine, David to chase trout. This year was a little different in that 7 of us ended up going.

It all started back in May last year when an email appeared in my inbox from Jetstar advising they were offering "two for one" airfares to and from various locations around Australia. One of these was from Darwin so I flicked the email onto Roger Bassett (my partner for the NT Freshwater Fly Comp) in Darwin to see if he and any others would be interested. Got a reply almost instantly from Rog saying he was in and also Jim Churchley (Rick Slennett's Fresh partner). He also said that Daryl Harper who use to live in the Territory but now lived in country Victoria was keen as well. So now we were five. A call to Rick and Muz to let them know what was happening and they were in straight away so then there was seven. "The Magnificent Seven" tag came from a mate in Tassie who when he heard that there was that number of us heading to Tassie emailed me back "The Magnificent Seven to attack Tassie" and it kind of stuck from then on.

A heap of emails back and forth over the next 6 months or so had all of us sorted out with gear, (especially warm gear for the Territorians!!), vehicles etc. In our previous visits Dave & I have stayed at Bronte Park Highland Village which is about 4 kms from the nearest lake. With seven of us now going I started to think that accommodation closer to a lake would better suit everyone in case some did not want to travel and they could just fish the lake. Dave & I have made a few contacts over the years so more emails and phone calls back and forth with a few people had us in touch with Wayne Seabrook, secretary of Kingborough Anglers Association. They have a club shack right on Bronte lagoon. A few more emails with Wayne and on the basis of us joining the Club we would be allowed to use the "Lodge". Can't thank Wayne and the rest of the guys from Kingborough Anglers for allowing us to use the Lodge. It is about 30 metres from the edge of Bronte Lagoon, has 13 bunks, two kitchens, four fridges, open fire, combustion heater and all the other comforts you could want. Standing on the back deck sipping coffee in the morning you can watch the fish rise in the lake. Absolutely fantastic!!



Rods in the racks ready to go



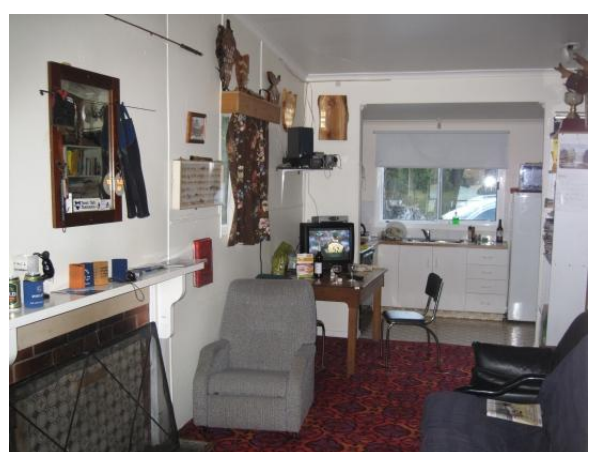
The view of the lake from the back deck



One of the Bunk Rooms



The Back Deck



Main Living Area





Fish Keeper Hanging Box

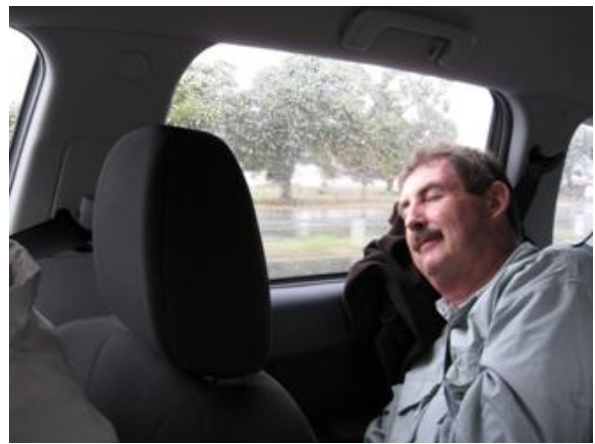


Mealtime

We all arrived into Hobart airport within an hour of each other on the Monday to be greeted by overcast cool conditions and a bit of rain around as well. It was about 1.00pm when collected the 2 cars that Rog had arranged and headed into Hobart for the compulsory tackle shop visit and to buy our food and booze supplies for the week. It was about 3.30 by the time we had done this and we were then on the road heading to Bronte, arriving about 5.30, just in time to throw everything into the shack, have a beer and go for an evening fish.



Loading up after shopping, time for a beer



For some the plane trip was pretty long!

It does not get dark until about 9.00 so everyone got their fix and then back to the lodge for a meal and a few drinks. Wayne Seabrook from KAA had also come up to join us for a few days to settle us into the shack and give us a bit of local knowledge so it was great to meet him personally and catch up. Wayne stayed with us until Wednesday and as he had his boat with him a few of the guys had the pleasure of joining for a fish on the lake as well.

Some of us got up early for a fish on Tuesday morning whilst others stayed in bed for a while longer. It was pretty cold. After a huge breakfast (a trend that would continue for the rest of the week) at around 9.00 Wayne suggested we head to Little Pine to try our luck as it was still a little overcast but warming up. Daryl got a nice fish of about 4lbs almost straight away but the rest of us had to be content with a bit of casting practice. We returned to Bronte later that arvo and relaxed for a while before having a fish later on and into the evening.



Little Pine Lagoon



Daryl with a nice Little Pine Brown

The weather was improving rapidly and after a check of the forecast for Wednesday we made the decision to head to the Central Plateau and walk in to a couple of lakes that Dave & I have fished in the past.

Worth pointing out here that I had suggested to everyone that we would be doing a fair bit of walking and that it would be a good idea if they get a bit of "training" in before they got to Tassie. The walk that we did on Wednesday was into O'Dells Lake and Lake Flora and with a few circuits of the lake and polaroiding back and forth across the lake we probably covered about 20kms or so.



Happy, Sleepy, Grumpy, Dopey, Doc, Bashful & Sneezzy (woops wrong seven!!) at the start of the long walk





Rog asking if anyone would carry him back out!



Muz searching for fish at Lake Flora



Muz praying we don't walk anymore



Brown trout polaroided at Carters Lake

The fishing was tough as it can often be in Tassie and although we all saw fish (and a number of big ones as well) we did not land any. Daryl hooked a great fish only to lose it at the net. It was about 2.30 pm by the time we got back to the cars and Rog, Jim and Daryl decided that a beer was what was needed as recovery therapy so they headed to the Great lake Hotel. Dave, Rick, Muz and I decided we would fish another smaller lake (Carters) as the sun was still high and not a cloud in the sky. A bit more walking and wading for the four of us and I picked up a nice brown of a couple of pounds. Back to the car and we caught up with the others for a beer at the pub before heading over to a corner in Great Lake for a fish. Daryl picked up back another Brown and a few others got a touch or two.

On the way back from Great Lake, Dave, Rick, Muz and I stopped at Pine Tier Lagoon on the way for a fish up until dark. A caddis hatch started just as the sun was setting and within minutes there were fish everywhere, but as is often the case very difficult to catch with so many naturals on the surface. Both Dave and I finished with a fish each and then it was time to run the night time "animal gauntlet" back to Bronte. It is only about 15km's from Pine Tier to Bronte but we stopped counting at over 50 wallabies, 50 possums, a heap of Quolls and 1 Tassie Devil on the way back, most of which have a desire to be bonnet ornaments for the car.



Evening at Pine Tier Lagoon

Thursday morning dawned clear and cold. An early fish for some and then Dave and I decided to head over to St Clair Lagoon as it was a perfect day for polaroiding. When I asked the others if they wanted to come the immediate response from all was "Do we have to walk anywhere". When I responded with "yes, but not nearly as far as the distance we had covered yesterday" they all decided to have a day fishing Bronte. Jim ended up catching a beautiful brown of around 3 -4 pounds that arvo from Bronte. As we were heading back into Hobart to attend the Kingsborough Anglers monthly meeting that arvo Dave and I only fished for a few hours and both got a couple. Back to the Lodge and a quick shower and change and we all jumped into the cars and headed to Hobart, arriving about 6.00pm, just in time for a meal at the Hotel where the KAA meets.



Jim with a very nice Bronte Brown



The welcome we received from the KAA members was fantastic and we spent about 3 hours attending their meeting, were officially accepted as new members and spent time meeting and talking with a lot of their members. Rog gave a little talk on the Darwin Flyrodders and I did similar about SEQFFC. We ended up leaving Hobart around 9.30pm and arrived back at Bronte around 11.30, all a little tired.

Friday was another great day. In view of our success the day before at St Clair Lagoon, Dave and I decided to head there again and Rick joined us. Spent 3 or so hours polaroiding back and forth across the lagoon with fish being sighted everywhere. Rick got his first polaroided trout, Dave picked up a couple and I was having a blinder and finished with 9. As a bit of cloud came over we decided to have a look at Lake King William before returning to the Lodge. As is often the case the water level was right down so we trudged across a kilometre or so of dry lake bed to get to the water's edge only to find that the edges were like a bog. Trying to extricate ourselves from the clinging black mud was a massive physical effort. Note to self in the future... when the water level is that low forget King William!!!



Rick's first polaroided Brown Trout



Trekking back from a very muddy lake edge at King William

Saturday..... Our last full day and the weather had turned overcast again with a little rain. An early fish at Bronte and then we all went over to Lake Echo and spent a couple of fruitless hours. Back to Bronte for a rest in the arvo and a fish later in the arvo. As the wind dropped the caddis started and again fish were everywhere but proved to be difficult to entice. A great last meal on Saturday night with all of us trying to make sure we had no alcohol left.



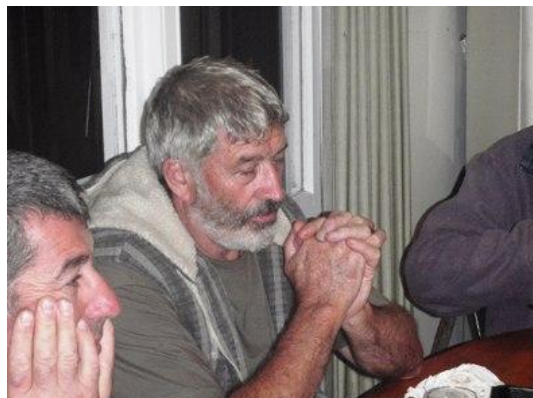
Daryl on Bronte Lagoon



The possum's enjoyed the leftover smoked trout



It was pretty cold in the mornings



Rog praying to the fish gods

Sunday morning was spent having a quick fish at Bronte and then time to pack up and give the shack a clean. We finished with about 30 fish between us for the 5 days. A fantastic trip with great company, great food and a heap of sledging and laughs. A huge thank you to the Kingborough Anglers for allowing us to use their "Lodge" and special thanks to Wayne Seabrook for making the arrangements and then spending a few days with us.

We are all looking forward to next year when "The Magnificent Seven" will return to Tassie.



## ***Photo of the Month***



**Ann our cook weaving her magic**

Photo taken by Jorgen Skov. The photo was taken using a high shutter speed to capture the pace Ann our cook at the Convention had to work at just the keep the tucker up to Juan.



**Juan, a man on a mission**

## ***Special Thanks***

To all the people who submitted material for this month's newsletter. Much appreciated.

Jeff Christoffel.

## **Quotation for March**

Progress,

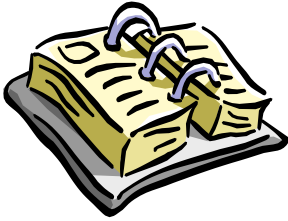
All progress is based upon a universal innate desire on the part of every organism to live beyond its income.

(Samuel Butler)

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

***Jeff***

## **Coming Events**



### **NEXT MEETING:**

**Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> April at 7PM.  
Mermaid Beach Bowls Club,  
9 Markeri Street, Mermaid Beach**

### **NEXT FISHING TRIP:**

**Ebor April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010**

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