



Club Newsletter

April 2011

Welcome to all,

Getting a handle on a hot bite has proved to be a tough call of late. Mother Nature has added a variation to the weather patterns of past few years and that have reduced the effectiveness of our trusty treasured fishing log records. To add to the frustrations a margin of success today is often followed by a garden variety result the following day. Guess that's fishing.

The mornings have cooled and kicking off the sheets in the morning requires a second thought. I was chatting to Duncan down at "Fish Head" a few days ago and the grapevine indicates perhaps more predictable times ahead as the winter species take up their positions. I was explaining my frustrations with educating some interest in my fly patterns with the local estuary bream. Duncan's thoughts on the issue hit the spot. The more tucker around and the less competition for a feed, the less interest in the fly. Compare this situation to the movement of the bream over the shallow reefs of the bay islands in the cooler months when there is more competition for a feed and it becomes feed now or miss out.

Another interesting tactic that Duncan had successfully employed on a recent Jack excursion shows that size does matter. Duncan visited a stretch of known Jack water to have a crack with both lures and fly. Making his way up the creek working the lures did not draw any interest. On the trip back Duncan worked the fly with a pattern large enough to imitate a juvenile Jack. The use of the larger pattern tied in this way stirred up the territorial instincts of the more mature sized fish and the strikes followed.

Looking at the big picture we have little to complain about. If you take a line through the tropic of Capricorn and look at the weather conditions north of there the chances of having a fair day out on the water would be few and far between.

Premium events like the Darwin Fly Fishing Clubs Freshwater Open weekend at Corroboree Billabong have the organisers with fingers and toes crossed hoping the rains will allow the flood plains to drain in time for the event. As always a handful of our members have packed their bags and are looking forward to the great fishing and the hospitality of the Darwin club members.

On the club front we have had a couple of our club members on the wrong side of the ledger with regard to some health issues. We certainly miss their company and all of the crew wish both Bob and Jorgen a full and speedy recovery.

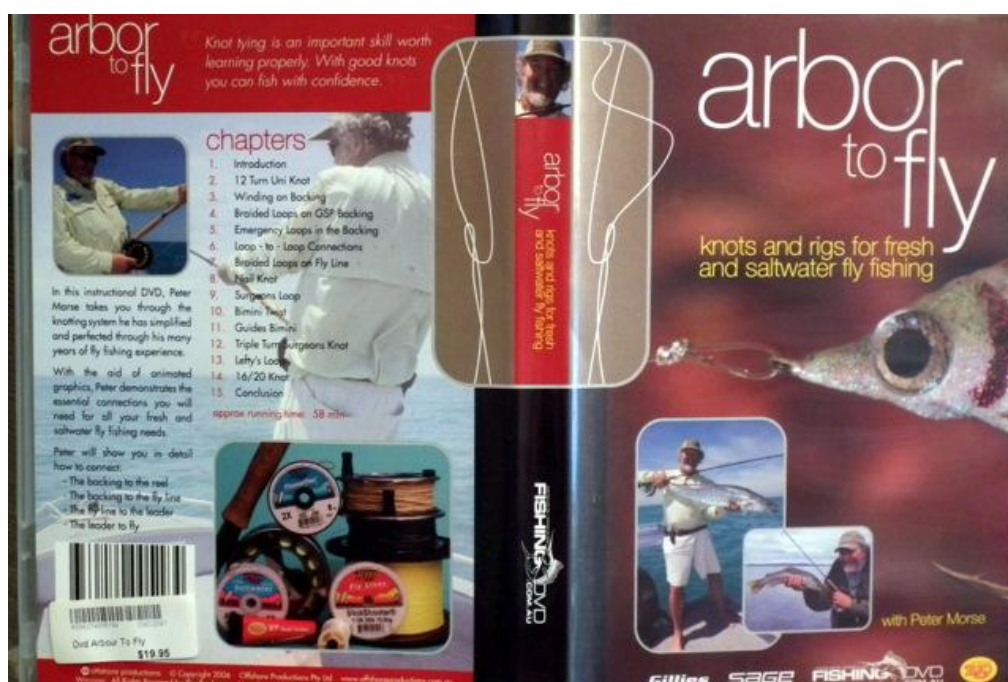
Club Meeting - 8/03/2011



March Meeting

The March meeting saw plans for the coming outing at the Tweed sorted, and reports from the Maroon Dam Variety Children's Bass on Fly weekend which was held only a few days previous. There were also reports from Mark Hosking on the Tasmania trip that has become an annual adventure. Mark and Muz have also had some fun playing with the local Tuna community of late.

After a short break the group settled in for a back to basics session on knot tying. Mark Hosking took the group through the session. The value of getting it correct and having confidence in your knots is at the top of the list when all hell breaks loose and you come up tight on that yet to be sighted scaly friend.



Peter's coverage on the subject of knot tying is absolutely first class

Given the response from those at the meeting the coverage of back to basics concepts at meetings was well received. The subject material for such sessions is endless given the ever changing diversity of products and materials on the market.



As it has been often stated, and rightly so, well we cease to learn we are well and truly in the departure lounge. The value of the fly fishing community of promoting the flow of quality information can sometimes slip from the spot light. As I mentioned earlier in this piece a forum utilising group contribution is often an excellent tool for achieving the desired outcomes.

I am as keen as mustard to take on any material that comes my way for the club newsletter.

I will kick off next month with a new four stroke outboard that I have purchased for my Ram X 15 foot canoe. The motor is on the Chinese made "Parsun 2.6 HP 4 stroke" models. One of our club members, Ricky Slennett has had a slightly larger model for 12 months or so and to date has only good things to say for the donk. I will keep you updated as we put more hours on the clock.

The Variety Children's Bass on Fly Weekend - Jeff Christoffel

A good roll up of participants set the scene for another enjoyable Variety Children's fly fishing outings. The weather forecasts for the weekend indicated that the odds were stacked for the bass and not the fly fishers and it was not going to be a level playing field. All indicators were for strong wind and rain. But, that's fishing.

One thing is for certain, nothing could dampen the enthusiasm of the organisers, Jeremy and Judy Wakelin and the rest of the Variety Children's crew. Having the facilities at "Camp Lakefire" under new management with Steve Wilkes and his crew keeping the facilities in first class condition adds to the enjoyment of weekends such as this. Camp Lake fire is situated towards the western end of Lake Maroon and is an excellent location to put your feet up and relax or hook into the local bass population amongst the timber and weed beds down the quieter end of the dam.

Ezvin and I made our way out to Maroon via Ipswich and Boonah. The trip took a tad longer than planned when I missed a turn near Ipswich and had to somehow turn back to make the correction. With the entry to Camp Lakefire off limits till 2.00 PM due to school camps at the facility Ezvin and I slipped the boat in around 11.00 to check the lay off the land. As luck would have it the bass were out to play and several healthy specimens were boated and released. There was very little breeze and only slight rain in the early afternoon. As we made our way back to the ramp we were feeling quietly confident that we had a plan and were in for a weekend of top bass fishing.



Maroon, Friday afternoon. Low cloud and light breezes

Friday evening and most of the participants were ears glued at the briefing and enjoying catching up from last year.



Friday night briefing

Friday evening Judy, Kelly and Andrew cooked up a storm to feed the hungry mob who were very appreciative of their efforts.

Some rain fell during the evening but conditions were under control in the first session of the day. Most of the crews we spoke to had some success early in the morning and were moving around to find greener pastures as the bass went off the chew in each location.



Jorgen picked up his first bass in the timber across from the camp ramp



Kate and Kruger working the weeds on the points

Our first port of call was the area we had fished the previous afternoon. The fan was up a few notches and there was also more activity from some of the ski boats in the area. The results were not as we would have expected and we searched the area looking for schooling fish, or any fish for that matter. When we did locate fish in the sounder we couldn't raise any interest in our flies.



Jeremy and Bev enjoying a social visit with the crews

By lines out of the first session we new we were well behind the eight ball and had to change the plan.

It was back to the camp for lunch and to compare notes on the morning's outcomes. The crew had been hard at work in the engine room again and there was plenty of tucker to keep the worms quite.



All hands on deck in the engine room

The score board reflected the effects of a low barometer reading on to the bass. The prime catch rate came early and after that it was a case of catch me if you can. One of the great things about this event is the friendly and helpful approach of the participants which makes the sharing of information the norm.

By the start of the Saturday afternoon session the fan speed had picked up and it was not hard to make a decision to try areas away from the open waters.



Ezvin finds nice bass in the back blocks

The afternoon session started well with Ezvin boating several good bass off the edges of the weed beds in the more sheltered areas at the far western end of the dam. The number of spangle perch mixed amongst the bass must have been a thousand to one. At one stage there were schools of spanglies busting up in mass around the boat. The fish gods were not with me on this occasion despite mirroring Ezvin's every move and fly pattern. I could see the frustration on Ezvin's face as well. The only saving grace was that it was my boat, or I may have been asked to swim home. Back at camp it was tea time and a chance to compare notes and chill out.



Save some space, this is just the first course



This is what it's all about

I was asked to eat my tea with a plastic knife and fork that evening. They said it was in my best interests. I am not sure if it was the look on my face, the constant viewing of the score board or that length of rope that I kept fiddling with by I kept telling myself, they know what's best for me.

As dinner settled and many things fly fishing crossed the table I started to settle. It is great to see the camaraderie and flow of ideas.



Dean and Kruger applying the finishing touches

By the time we called it stumps the wind speed above the tent was something else. There is a saying amongst bush walkers, "May all of your trees fall away from you" and for some reason I kept reciting this in my mind all night.

Come morning and the wind would blow a husky off its chain. Denis and Vince had some trouble holding anchor as the wind picked up the previous day. Denis showed his fighting spirit while Vince kept him fuelled with his magic coffee and together they created the "Flintstone Anchor".



Before you decide you want one, Denis has a patent



The "Flintstone Anchor" in detail

With the conditions very garden variety it was as plain as the nose on your face that the only option was the sheltered locations. Dean and Lando had already done their homework over this back country as had many of the other crews. It now came down to prospecting.



Lando working the edges of the lily's



It doesn't get much more bassy than this

As the bass developed lock jaw in the back blocks the decision was made to make our way back to the main basin and re-employ plan "A". With the lead anchor down and a drift that you could ski behind the fish gods finally smiled on me. Three bass came on board in the last hour and a half.

With lines out time we returned to camp to have a bite and enjoy the closure of a great weekend. The final results were posted and everyone soaked up the atmosphere of a cracked weekend.

The points were tallied and the aggregate total of the longest 5 fish for the weekend determined the final outcomes.

Angler Name	John Moore	Total Fish	12	Best Five	370	362	360	350	340	Biggest Fish	370	Total Length	1782
Angler Name	Erin Scovell	Total Fish	6	Best Five	348	352	369	328	329	Biggest Fish	369	Total Length	1726
Angler Name	Conn Moore	Total Fish	7	Best Five	380	355	333	325	323	Biggest Fish	380	Total Length	1716

The final three

Well done to the Morris lads who are consistent performers in so many fly fishing arenas. And well done to Ezvin for a great performance in taking second place overall.



John took out the overall first place for 2011



Ez took out second place overall



With Camm Morris in third place, the team's outcome was in the bag

Never let it be said that the hard workers behind the scenes don't let their hair down on occasions.



Jeremy with an important message for all



Jeremy, Judy, Andrew & Kelly. The Variety Team, 2011

From all the participants, our special thanks to the organisers and sponsors who made this weekend a classic fly fishing experience.

The Tweed Outing - Jeff Christoffel

With the day fast approaching, the forecast looking garden variety, the members attending dropping like flies it would be anyone's guess how the outing would pan out. My hopes of catching up with a few of the crew suffered a minor set back when we arrived at the launch location at Fingal on the Tweed River and not a sole to be seen.

Ezvin and I decided to put the Tupperware Tub in and make our way slowly towards the Tweed mouth. A few casts around the entrance to kerosene inlet were unproductive so we made our way up to the boat moorings and the bridge area. The tide was on the make with only about one and a half hours to the top of the water. The water conditions were good with fair run, clean water and only moderate wind.

We were working the flats when Mark H and Brian came over to compare notes. They had made an early effort to check out the entrance gates to the enclosure close to the Tweed bar. This had proved to be a good choice as when they approached the entrance a school of trevally decided to work some bait fish within casting distance.

Brian was first in with his fly and was rewarded with a healthy trev for his efforts. Mark followed with a quick presentation and came up tight on another trev from the school. Great start to the day. With all quite they were discussing their next move when the waters erupted again and Brian put out an offering that was inhaled by a passing trev. An even better start to the morning.

As things turned out Rick was able to make the day and he teamed up with Jon for the morning. Denis had put up a post prior to the outing that a friend of his who fishes the area frequently had not had much of a response from the local flathead community of late. This report was confirmed as we drifted the flats near the top of the water and saw only one small flattie scooting off for cover.

There were small schools of bait fish at various times but nothing to write home about. Mark and Brian cast around the boardwalk near the boat anchorages without any luck. Earlier in the morning I had been casting a crease fly around this area hoping for some tailor interest. No tailor, but the local bream were coming out to play.

We worked the area closer to the bridge and came up with a few bream on bait fish patterns. As time was running out we moved back to the boardwalk and the first point. I had just suggested to Ez that we might try a small canal entrance on the way back when my rod registered a better fish. A bit of to and fro and a 46cm flattie came to the net.



No monster, but it's a start



I know, the fish wins on looks

Back for the launch area and the news that both Brian and Rick had both picked up a flattie on the closing moments of the day was good news. A quick executive decision was made to see if there was a spare BBQ space at the park back along the road. This worked out well and we set up for a feed with Mark H doing the honours with the cooking. Kerry was out on the water for the morning but had to make tracks early and couldn't stay for a feed.



Tucker Time at the Tweed

Although the morning saw several showers pass over, the wind kept down below forecast levels and made for an enjoyable outing.

A special thanks to Jon for sorting out the BBQ, food and drinks for the occasion.

What's up Next?

The Inskip Interclub Challenge

The next club outing is an away event at Inskip Point on the 14th and 15th of May. This weekend is set as a friendly interclub challenge. Fingers crossed that the weather gods will smile on this outing as this area has the potential to produce some top shelf fishing given the right conditions.



The Inskip Interclub Trophy



Mark and Rick prospecting



Muz setting the pick on the mother of all tinnies



Some of the crew from the 2010 Inskip Challenge



SEQFFC members with shield from 2010

Just jump on the web site to find out more on this weekend.

Sunny Coast Sashimi – Mark Hosking

The weather forecast looked crap but at least the wind wasn't going to be blowing its arse off so after a call to Tie'n'Fly and a positive report on the fishing Muz and I decided to head to Mooloolaba on Saturday 19 March. Left home about 3.00am and after coffee stop on the way we were motoring out of the river by about 6.00am.

Saw the first bust up about 5 minutes later and proceeded to chase some very fussy Mack Tuna for a few hours between the river and to the north of Old Woman island. Very frustrating and we tried everything with them but it seemed we were to die a death by a thousand casts.

Gave up on them around 10.00 and decided to head south and came across a heap of Longtail's off Caloundra. Stacks of bait in the water and schools popping up everywhere including one particular bait ball that was being absolutely smashed by tuna and sharks. We watched the carnage for a minute or 2 before dropping a fly in for an instant hook-up. Ended up getting busted off on that one but when the carnage had quietened down the water looked like someone had dropped a 44 gallon drum of silver flakes onto the surface of the water, amazing sight.

With Longy's busting up everywhere we had a ball for a couple of hours with both of us landing good fish and dropping a few as well. It was absolutely pissing down with rain so we ended up pulling the pin about 1.30 and by that time we were absolutely drowned. Hopefully the fish will stay around for a while now if the weather settles. If you look closely in the photo of Muz's fish you can see a heap of birds in the background. At anytime there would have been 3 or 4 schools like this busting up. It was a great day!!



Saturated but happy



The smile says it all



Flycasting Clinic

Aside from flyfishing, flycasting has become a sport in its own right it is challenging; great fun and is an activity shared by both men and women.

John Water Australian National Grand Casting Champion will be visiting the Gold Coast in June 2011 to conduct teaching sessions for both beginners and experienced casters.

Saturday June 4th John will offer private tuition for \$75 per person giving personal attention that will advance your skills enormously. Bookings are essential.

Sunday June 5th an open day where John will be joined by other internationally certified casting instructors to assist beginners to advanced level casters. This will cost is \$15 for participants for the full day with lots of novelty events both challenging and fun being planned. All gear will be provided or you may bring your own.

This is to be held at the Gold Coast Rugby Club Fremar Street (off Bermuda Street), Broadbeach commencing at 10 A.M. until 4 P.M. Full use of the clubhouse is available together with access to the staffed bar and a sausage sizzle.

Bring the family they will be well catered for and for the kids there will be touch football and an art competition with prizes.

For enquiries and essential bookings please phone 5564 6660

Russell Coight Awards - 2011

These shots would normally not feature in the Russell Coight Awards. However they did draw more than their fair share of humorous comments at the time. Given the naming of this marvel of engineering and the sheer tenacity of the inventor, I felt it would be remiss of me to not include these photos for the 2011 entries.

I give you the "Fred Flintstone Anchor"



Fred at work, the construction phase



The finished product. Rock solid

The Cooks Corner - Jeff Christoffel

With the cooler months on the door step my thinking had turned to an easy dish that can easily be frozen and kept in the esky and heated up to provide a tasty dinner at the camp site. This dish is an oldie but a goodie. Easy to make and can be served as is, on toast, or with mashed spuds.

Easy Savoury Mince

To serve (4)

Ingredients

800 gms.	Lean beef mince.
3	Carrots grated.
4	Sticks of Celery, chopped fine.
2	Onions, chopped fine.
3	Cloves of Garlic, crushed, or use minced garlic.
1 teaspoon	Sea salt.
1 teaspoon	Pepper.
1 Pkt.	Chicken noodle soup.
1.5 table spoons	BBQ sauce or Tomato sauce for less bite in flavour.
1.5 table spoons	Worcestershire sauce.
½ cup	Red wine.
1 teaspoon	Moroccan seasoning. (mild)
A sprinkle of Piri Piri seasoning (hot) <u>Optional</u>	
Rice Bran Oil or Olive Oil for the pan.	



Easy off the shelf ingredients

Preparation

- ✚ Heat oil in pan. (I like to use a thicker based pan to control the heat better and avoid over heating the oil and burning the ingredients).
- ✚ Finely slice the onion and garlic and add to pan. Sprinkle with salt.
- ✚ Cook the onion until translucent. Ensure you keep stirring the onion during the cooking.
- ✚ When cooked, remove the onion from the pan and place to one side in a bowl.
- ✚ Place the mince steak in the pan and ensure the mince is broken up and spread evenly across the pan.
- ✚ Add salt, pepper and Moroccan seasoning and cook till brown. Continue to work the mince during cooking to ensure the mince is cooked evenly and the ingredients are mixed well.
- ✚ Now add the cooked onion & garlic, grated carrot, celery, and chicken noodle soup. Add water as per the instructions on the chicken noodle soup packet.
- ✚ Add the red wine, BBQ or tomato sauce and the Worcestershire sauce. Stir the ingredients evenly through the mix and continue to simmer till the ingredients had reduced down to a consistency you desire.
- ✚ If you like your meal a tad spicy hot you can add a few flakes of Piri Piri seasoning to the mix. A word of warning: a little of this seasoning goes a long way. Another option to adding spicy seasonings is to place them on the table for people to add their own to taste. Much safer.
- ✚ If the mix is still too moist for your liking you can thicken using a sprinkle of corn four or a sprinkle of "Gravox".
- ✚ If thickening as above go lightly, add the corn flour or gravox slowly and work into the mix well.

Once this dish has been prepared, you can divide it up into storage packs of a size to suit your needs. The packs can then be frozen or simply refrigerated to suit your serving time frame.

This dish can be heated and served as is, added to a bed of mashed potato on toast, served on a fresh bread roll, added to pastry in a pastry dish and presented as a pie or added to some slices of bread and cooked over the coals in the jaffle iron. I am sure your creative minds can think of other delicious ways of presenting this tasty dish around the camp.

By preparing this dish at home it also reduces the amount of cleaning up around the camp site. Not to forget the increased time to settle back, have a quite frothy and chat about the days fishing.

Tuck in!!

Photo of the Month



The Arnhem Highway at the moment. Yes that's a car towing boat. To bad if nature calls.

Photo from Cathie and Roger Bassett (The Darwin Flyrodders)

Special Thanks

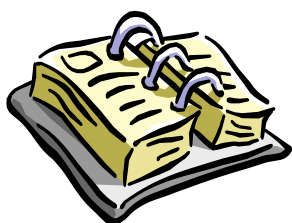
To all the people who have contributed to our club newsletter this month

Quotation for December

"There is as much greatness of mind in acknowledging a good turn, as in doing it".

Tight Lines and bent rods!

Jeff



NEXT MEETING:

**Tuesday, 12th April, at 7PM.
Mermaid Beach Bowls Club,
9 Markeri Street, Mermaid Beach**

NEXT CLUB FISHING TRIP:

The Interclub Challenge

Where: Inskip Point.

When: 14th & 15th May

(See web site for details)

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