



Club Newsletter

January 2011

Welcome to all,

2011 it up and running, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a healthy and prosperous New Year.

I have had several requests from members to keep this month's newsletter short. The reasons for this request became apparent when I was surfing our club web site and came upon a recent thread that referenced our club newsletter. Thank you to all for your kind comments regarding our club newsletter. One comment has obviously registered alarm bells and I quote "I don't like reading much but I like the way you write, Jeff. I take my hat off to you. If you do it any better I take off everything" Vince. A statement like this would drive even our most lustful sportsmen to celibacy. I promise you all I will keep it short for January.

For many the Christmas period and start to the New Year has presented challenges, the magnitude of which will require enormous inner strength to reconcile. The effects on personnel, communal and all the resources sectors is impossible to objectively evaluate or even comprehend unless you are or know someone who is up to their arm pits in it. The rebuilding process both physically and emotionally will be a true test of our great Australian spirit and as is always the case the only thing that lets bad things continue to evolve is that good people do nothing.

On the fishing front the conditions have had me digging deep to come up with results. With what was dry is now wet, what was still is now running, what was clear is now muddy and what was salty is now half and half if you are lucky, the thinking cap had to come out of moth balls to get that jerk on the line. As I can't launch my boat or canoe at this point due to a surgical procedure a few weeks ago my focus turned to chasing Tarpon and Giant Herring in a nearby lake housing estate. The not so little devils have had me backing down the drive way at 3.30 every morning to test the waters. Apart from keeping the fly fishing powder dry and maintaining a constant visual on the gutters, down pipes and storm water grates at home the coming days are forecast to bring more of the same. On a much brighter note, the Christmas period kicked off brilliantly with the club Christmas gathering and the wet weather could not dampen the enjoyment of spending quality time with family and friends.

I received an email from our good friend Peter Morse. Peter has plans to possibly travel up this way in the early part of the year. The purpose driving Peter's plans is to promote his new book, "A few great flies and how to fish them". Here are some comments on Peter's new book off our web site.

[A Few Great Flies!!](#)

By [taz](#) » Thu Nov 18, 2010 7:28 pm

Hey folks got a copy of Morsie's new book and it's a great read!!! Very entertaining and educational. Goes a bit beyond just the basics for those of us that are interested in the finer details of the sport. Fishing, travelling and fly tying, its all in there. The title is, "**A Few Great Flies... and how to fish them**". 😊

[Taz](#)

[Re: A Few Great Flies!!](#)

By [Spectre](#) » Thu Dec 02, 2010 5:47 pm

I can endorse that, my son Simon bought me a copy for Xmas and Peter mailed it up this week with a lovely inscription. So nice that one would think that he didn't know me. But from my quick perusal, a great addition to any SWFF's library.

Peter is also on the hunt for material for a new book that he has on the drawing board. It goes without saying that Peter will also be promoting the activities that he is so passionate about during his travels. Who knows, if the planets line up we may get a chance to touch base with Peter again soon.

It is not my place to let the cat out of the bag or pre-empt the title of Peter's next publication but my best guess would be, "How to build an Ark for Fly Fishing" or "Mud Crabs on Fly in Flooded Creeks" or maybe, "Fly Fishing Swollen Rivers in Queensland".

Club Meeting – 14th December 2010

Discussions at the December club meeting focused on preparations for the 2011 club year. An item that was high on the agenda was the rescheduling of the Brian McDuffie Memorial, Byangum Bass fish that had to be cancelled due to unfavourable weather conditions last December. The date February the 6th has been set for this premium club outing. As Mark Hosking wrote on the web site, crews and guidelines will remain the same as previously planned. If members who were partnered up for this event cannot make this outing could you please put a post on the club outing site to allow adjustments to be made. There are also some additional club members who are looking for boats for this outing, Harrison and possibly Tim are two new contenders, so the planning phase will be ongoing till lines in on the day.

If there are any concerns amongst the members that this club outing which had to be rescheduled from December last year may be cancelled because of ongoing unfavourable conditions let me put your fears to rest. Cancelling this club outing is not an option, should we have to reschedule this outing again we will. This outing will remain on the club calendar for 2011 until completed.

When checking through some of the dates allocated for club outings on the club calendar I noticed that I had but once again stuffed up. The intent was not that I had scheduled the outing for a mid week time slot to reduce the number of members able to attend and there by improve the statics on my coming up trumps on the day. My apologies and note that I have made the necessary corrections.

Club Outings and Events Calendar 2011

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Club C/ship Event</u>	<u>Species</u>
January 16th	(One Fly) Emerald Lakes	No	All
February 6th	Byangum (Brian McDuffie Memorial)	Yes	Bass
February 20th	Clarrie Hall Dam	No	Bass
March 5th/6th	Maroon Dam (Variety Children's) <i>Interclub Challenge</i>	No	Bass
April 3rd	Tweed River	Yes	Flathead
May 14th/15th	Inskip Point <i>Interclub Challenge</i>	No	All
June 12th	Nerang River	Yes	Bream

July 23rd/24th	Uncle Billy's	No	Trout
August 7th	Jumpinpin (Jacobs Well)	Yes	All
September 4th	Moreton Bay (Canals or open water)	No	All
October 15th / 16th	Borumba Dam. (Variety Children's) <i>Interclub Challenge</i>	No	Toga
November 12th / 13th	Ebor	No	Trout
December 4th	Byangum (Brian McDuffie Memorial)	Yes	Bass

SEQFFC's AGM and Club Champions Awards -
August 9th, 7.00 pm. Mermaid Beach Bowls Club

Club Christmas Gathering -
November 27th Location to be advised

The Cooks Corner – Jeff Christoffel

Sweet Chilli Sauce for Baked Fish

When looking for a colourful dish that combines bay leaves and olives, with fresh green chillies in a rich tomato sauce, that will taste terrific on any baked fish, look no further than this sweet chilli sauce recipe

Ingredients.

- ✚ ½ a cup of olive oil.
- ✚ 2 bay leaves.
- ✚ 2 garlic cloves sliced.
- ✚ 4 fresh chillies seeded and cut into strips.
- ✚ 1 onion, thinly sliced
- ✚ ½ a kilo of fresh tomatos.
- ✚ ½ a cup of pickled jalapeno chilli slices.
- ✚ 1 tbsp of brown sugar.
- ✚ ½ tsp ground cloves.
- ✚ ½ tsp ground cinnamon.
- ✚ 1 ½ cups green olives stuffed with pimienta.

Preparation

- ✚ Heat the oil in the pan; add the bay leaves, garlic and chilli strips. Cook, stirring frequently for 3 to 4 minutes until the chilli has softened slightly.
- ✚ Add the onion to the pan and cook for a further 3 to 4 minutes stirring often until the onion is softened and translucent. Keep the heat low and stir the onions often so that they don't brown
- ✚ Cut a cross on the base of each tomato, place in a heat proof bowl and cover with boiling water. After 30 seconds, lift the tomatoes out of the hot water with a slotted spoon and plunge them into a bowl of cold water. Drain the water off and the skins will start to peel back.
- ✚ Peel the tomatoes, then cut them in half and squeeze out the seeds. Chop the flesh finely and add to the onions. Cook for 3 to 4 minutes till the tomato begins to soften.
- ✚ Add the pickled jalapenos, brown sugar, ground cloves and cinnamon to the sauce. Cook for 10 minutes stirring frequently.
- ✚ Finally, stir in the olives

Pour a little sauce over each fish. Garnish with capers and lime rind. Serve with lime wedges to squeeze over the fish if you wish. Rice will go well with this sauce and fish dish.

Serve with you favourite white wine.

Tuck in and enjoy

Club Member Profile

Some time ago Tom Boylan sowed the seed to create a club member profile to add to the newsletter. We did do this a number of years back. The main focus of the segment was to give our club members a better understanding of our fly fishing background and expectations. The Northwest Fly Fishers of Tasmania have included this segment in their newsletter, "The Jassid" and it fits the bill well.

Well with me as a guinea pig, here we go.



Name: **Jeff Christoffel.**

Year Membership Commenced: **2006.**

Have you held a committee position: **Yes**

What positions: **(Current) Vice President and Publicity Officer/Newsletter Editor**

How many years have you fly fished: **5 years**

Favourite form of Fly Fishing: **Salt creeks/ rivers, and Impoundments**

Favourite Flies: **Fuzzles, Clouser's, Charlies and Poppers/Crease Flies**

Do you tie your own flies: **Yes**

Favourite Fly Rod: **Strudwick DBT. 8# and TFO Lefty Kreh Professional 5#**

Largest fish caught on Fly: **76cm Toga**

Other fish caught on fly: **Bream, Trevally, Tailor, Tarpon, Wolf Herring, Mackerel, Pike, Snapper, Whiting, Flathead, Giant Herring, Bass, Toga, Barra, Yellow Belly, Silver Perch, Tilapia and eels**

Favourite Lakes/Waters: **Borumba Dam, Hinze Dam, Tweed River, Nerang River and Tingalpa Creek.**

Have you set yourself any fly orientated goals: **To one day, complete my CCI test.**

Have you ever fly fished overseas: **No**

If so where: **N/A.**

What do you feel have been the most beneficial initiatives for fly fishers in Queensland: **The Stocked Impoundment Programme, (SIP), and the great work done by local stocking groups is number one on my list. Clearly education programmes that enhance our understanding of preservation and protection of our fish species into the future, is right up there as well.**

What issues do you feel have diminished opportunities for Fly Fishers in Queensland:

I am an advocate for recreational fishing licences in Queensland. Monies generated from the licences to be channelled back into the creation of recreational only fishing areas that enhance tourist/rec fishing opportunities. Currently the major fishing bodies/groups oppose, or are sitting on their hands on this one.

Funniest fishing moment:

Standing on the casting platform of my boat while navigating my way into a crowded boat ramp, using the electric motor. Falling forward and running over myself with the electric in front of what seemed to be at the time, a cast of thousands. (Bugger!)

Flashback - Some Photo's from 2010



Are you sure they stocked this pool?



The club fancy dress outing



Great Grins on both of them



Inskip Challenge Team



Vince at the office



3# on an Ebor stream



Jon up close and looking dangerous



Miami fly class of 2010



Trout gear in the salt outing



Bob on the axe



That could be a stone, yes it's a stone



Now that looks like a Bass over yonder.



Taz on target



Paul on Seaway Yella Tail



Winners are grinners



Built for speed. The fish not Taz



Kate and Kruger in camo



Where is it itchy?

Fishing Reports



Congratulations Alex.

Well done Alex. The first giant herring and now that you have the bug, many more to follow. Alex nailed this speedster on a #4 Clouser in brown and white.



Muz with a Moreton Bay Mack Tuna



Mark also on the money



Dean's lake bream



Marks Lakewoods Bass on popper?

Christmas in July

I recently received a phone call from a friend who enjoys his fly fishing. It was great to catch touch base again as our life plans had us hovering apart for the last 18 months. Craig had not long returned from another trip to Kiribati, Christmas Island. The trip was not too long after the air strip reopened. Craig kindly offered to pass on a summary of his trip for our reading.

On the 6th July 2010, two weeks after the long awaited opening of the runway at Christmas Island (Kiritimati) in the republic of Kiribati, I was on my way with 7 other like minded fisherman to enjoy so I the most consistent bonefish flats available anywhere.

It was my second visit to the island paradise. The first visit was 3 weeks before the runway closed in August 2008 due to the poor state of the tarmac. My first trip to the island was also my first attempt at the "Ghosts of the Flats", bonefish. I enjoyed it so much that I couldn't wait to have another visit when access was possible.

When Air Pacific announced that they would resume services again I contacted Garry at "Angling Adventures" to do the leg work. As I had purchased plenty of gear for my first trip to the island it was only a matter of fine tuning what I had learnt and tying a heap of flies.

The connecting flight from Fiji landed at 0635, 5 minutes behind schedule. After a quick dropping off of our bags and having a quick breakfast at the Captain Cook Hotel, we were on the flats by 0930. We were divided into two groups of four for each days fishing by the Narieu (Nar-e-o) the head guide. Each day one group of four would travel via skiffs and the other group via trucks to the flats. This rotated daily to ensure both groups had a good variety of fishing options.

Day one was re-education process for me with the bonefish on the back lagoons. I had seen my first bonefish for the trip while still travelling to the flats in the truck. With Jimmy, my guide who I would share for the week at my left side I was hooked up within 20 minutes of starting our fishing. Unfortunately I was quickly retying another fly within seconds, for the first three bonefish. I kept trying to muscle the fish after they hooked up. I suppose when you're normal fishing is trying to stop a Mangrove Jack making its way back to his mangrove refuge at any cost, it does go against the grain. After that I remembered to let them do their own

thing on their first run, I was back in the swing. The fish and the wind were very considerate that day with catches of 20 to 25 fish each recorded in the truck. Had beaten my previous best of 20 from the last trip by 5.



Christmas Island Taxi Service

Day two was on the trucks for us with a drive down to the bottom lagoons. With the sun and the wind at our back we found a nice bank with fish appearing from the deep water regularly with the last of the run in tide early in the morning. Once the tide turned it was more difficult to get the bones interested in feeding. The second day was the only day we encountered any rain. A passing shower cooled us down for a few minutes but the relentless 20 knot sea breeze dried out what the rain had dropped. With jimmy and I swapping stories about our respective countries we slowly made our way along the flats picking up cruising fish. I found the accuracy of my casting a problem on day two. I was "fish watching" while I was casting and ended up hitting them on the head with the fly. Not exactly the preferred technique for bones in cruising mode. Even with my over accurate casting technique I managed 20 fish for the day.

Day three had us on a relaxing drive from the hotel to the skiff based in London. Fishing was tough for the morning session with not as many fish showing up and those that did show were spooky. They appeared to be travelling fish rather than actively feeding. All manner of methods were trialled to coax these fish into feeding. I tried longer leaders, sparser flies, landing the fly 10 feet in front of the fish, but when they see you lift the rod from 80 feet away there isn't much you can do. When the tide finally turned to come in with an hour to go in the days fishing we capitalised on the fish that decided it was time to feed. Within an hour we had taken our scores from the low teens to more than 20 plus fish. One of our crew David had his personnel best score of 37 fish for the day. Considering we had 20 fish an hour before stumps he was in the middle of a magic bite.

Day four is one of those days I will remember for a long time. We were back on the trucks and heading for Cat Paw Island in the back lagoons. On my last trip I scored my best bone of 27 inches or 67.5 cm at Cats Paw Island so I was hoping for a repeat today. With the run in tide most of the morning and only a passing cloud I elected to fish without a guide for the day and let David enjoy Jimmy's guiding skills. We were heading for a 400 metre long narrow slit on the western side of Cats Paw Island which was a mixture of shells and fine talc white sand. I had a healthy bone of around 50 cm on my first cast before I even got my ankles wet. I found a great spot about half way out along the spit with the wind and sun at my back and settled in for the ride. I named the spot Queen Street for the volume of fish passing by. I could see Giant trevally up to 20 kg class from 100 meters away heading my way and bones from around 40 metres away. It was a matter of being patient and letting the fish come to me. By smoko my bone fish scorecard was around 20 fish plus a few small GT's, a giant herring and a

few goat fish. I moved around the spit looking for fish highways before settling on a spot near the tip of the spit. By the time I left the spit at around PM for lunch I had 48 bonefish on the scorecard with a hand full of the around 60 cm.



The Ghosts of the Flats

After a sandwich and a drink for lunch I headed off in search of more fish. With the 25 knot wind churning up the shallows it was difficult to find clear water to fish. I found a skinny channel between lagoons that would have made any trout fisher stop and watch. I picked up a further 6 fish tailing with their nose into the current. By stumps that day I had 54 on the score card. That broke the heart of Shane Mensforth of SA angling fame who had 52 fish with a guide at his side all day. The four of us had a combined score card of 171 fish for the day. The other crew had struggled hard on the skiff with low teen scores due to the wind and very spooky fish.

Day five was back to the skiffs for our crew and it would be hard to beat the previous day's frantic fishing. The fish taught us a lesson in hard work that day. They were very few and far between and would spook before you could get a shot in. The tide time difference between the heads and the back lagoon can be a couple of hour so it was a matter of finding the run in as early as possible by staying close to the heads and finding the feeding fish. I managed 14 fish for the day and it was a reminder that even in one of the most consistent fisheries in the world Fishing can be hard work. To prove that the fish move quickly the other crew convinced their guides to go to Cats Paw Island. They said they mustn't have gone to the same spot because they caught very little.

Day six was our turn back in the trucks and working hard for fish. As per the day before we had to work hard for fish but the rewards were there for persistence. After covering a lot of Miles walking between lagoons and searching for the fish the scorecard was a respectable 21 fish at stumps.



Craig sporting a bony and a flats tan

Day seven was back in the skiffs and enjoying an early morning trip across the lagoon. I had Jimmy back guiding me as I was struggling for focus after the long hours on the water. We got onto a flat after lunch with only a hand full of fish caught between all the fishermen in our group for the morning. After lunch I experimented with some different techniques which drew hot and cold results. We were fishing a flat with the wind coming over my right shoulder and the sun on my left shoulder. To avoid being hit in the head by my fly when fishing in the cross wind I trialled casting left handed. It wasn't something I could do for a sustained period but I was rewarded with a couple of sound fish. The next trick using the guide's eyes was to face away from the fish and use my stronger back cast to deliver the fly. It was far from graceful but it delivered well enough to have 17 fish by stumps for me. The others were dejected with single digit scores.



Knee deep in tales and scales

The scorecard at the end of my seven days had me very pleased with 168 bone fish. There were also about 20 GT's to about 2.5 kg and other varieties of fish to keep me busy. I learnt many new tricks from this trip by listening to the guides and swapping stories with other gents over cold ale at night. Some simple things like not moving your feet when you see a fish.

The slightest sound was spooking them. The trick was to be in position early. Lessons that I picked up from the first trip was to have better quality wet suit boots. I ruined my first pair in seven days. The new ones had a much tougher sole which has shown minimal wear. The larger the Arbor of the reel the less winding you need to do which really adds up over the week. I used a SA 890 LA. Unless you are a fantastic caster, over lining your fast action rod is a must to punch the line into the wind. The SA Redfish was a better performer in the short cast game as well. My trusty Redington Redfish II was faultless again. A mighty rod, for little money. I still prefer it over my IMX Loomis in the wind, goes further.

Hope to see you there soon,



Craig Gilvarry

One Fly Outing at Emerald Lakes



Emerald Lakes Mud Map

The club "One Fly Outing" is set on the club calendar for the 16th January at Emerald Lakes on the Gold Coast. Emerald lakes is frequented by a hand full of our club members who have been rewarded for their time spent on the water there.

The lake is fed from the Nerang River at its eastern end. On a making tide the water pushing in can have a strong turbulent impact on the surrounding area. There are pathways surrounding much of the lake so access is flat and easy. Like most locations, it can be that the early bird will catch the worms. There is not a lot of shade around many of the surrounds of the lake so carry ample drinking water and cover up. As you turn into the Emerald Waters estate off the Nerang- Broadbeach road drive in a short distance and turn left into the estate. By continuing along the northern shore line you will come to a car park area. There is a launching area there that will accommodate boats and smaller craft. There are restrictions that apply to the size of the motor permitted on the lake. From memory I think it is 4HP, but do some further checking with Kruger or Dean on that one.

To the right of the launching area there is a sandy stretch of water. There is also structure such as bridges to fish around. Emerald Lakes is the home to several species of fish. Trevally, tailor, giant herring, bream, and flathead, just to name a few. Many of these specimens are large and have been working the lakes healthy bait population over for many years. To my knowledge there are no toilet facilities in the immediate area, so it might pay to wear your waders. The turn off on the Nerang- Broadbeach Road on my UBD street directory is Map38, F11.

See you there.
Jeff Christoffel.

For Sale

R.L. Winston IM6 rod 8.6 5wt 3 piece \$400
R.L. Winston LT 8.9 5wt 5 piece \$400
R.L. Winston LT 9.0 6wt 5 piece \$300 (small scratch)
Hardy Sovereign Reel 567 5 100 yds backing w/spare spool \$300
Hardy Ultralight Disc 6 reel 6 120 yds backing \$100
Abel No 1 Reel 150 yds backing \$200 small scratch.

Contact – Warwick Northcott on 5534 4960

For Sale

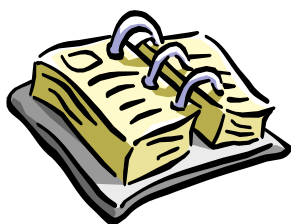
Horne thigh waders size 6 men's (or 8 ladies) nearly new. \$80.00
Horne thigh waders size 9 men's with cheated sole, worn 3 times. \$90.00
G. Loomis bait caster – 5' 6" great for Jacks /Barra – very good condition \$140.00

Contact – Brendan Johnson 3224 2291

Quotation for December

"Life is like a jar of jalapeños, what you do today may burn your butt tomorrow".

Tight Lines and bent rods!
Jeff



NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, 11th January, at 7PM.
Mermaid Beach Bowls Club,
9 Markeri Street, Mermaid Beach

NEXT CLUB FISHING TRIP:
Sunday the 16th January 2011
"One Fly"
Location: Emerald Lakes
(See web site for details)

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