



NEWSLETTER

January 2008

Happy New Year to you all!

Since our December meeting we have had four new Associate members join our ranks: **Russ, Drummond, Steff Gray, Nick Kneipp, and Sonja Woods.** Welcome to you all.

The past year has seen an influx of new members and a few old ones drop by the wayside. We have had some good gatherings and some good fishing. This year should be exciting. We are again holding our Flyfishing Convention at Camp Bornhoffen. The previous two were so successful that we had to disappoint people for not holding one last year. There is a lot of new gear and a lot of new rods to try and we know this Convention will be even better than the first two (practice makes perfect).

We finished off 2007 by holding a great Christmas party once again at the kind invitation of **Mark Hosking** and his lovely wife **Deb** who have just moved to a stunning property in the Tallebudgera hinterland. We also had a surprisingly good turnout for our December meeting since it was so close to Christmas. It became quite entertaining as another party was in full swing at the other end of the club. One young party goer must have had a bit of Christmas spirit because she was putting the hard word on **Evan.** He didn't take her up on it though.



Santa??

We had a lot of interest on our web site for our Coomera River trip, but the weather jumped in the way again. We really need the rain, but it would be nice if it didn't interfere with fishing.

Some members did get some fishing in before the weather hit.

Trout Fishing & Touring Trip to Tasmania returning via Victorian High Country & The Snowy – Bob Stembridge

I left Burleigh on November 30, with the intention of fishing the Mitta Mitta River in Victoria on the way to Melbourne. I had spoken to Trevor from Pro-Angler Geelong about the Otway Ranges trout fishing and he mentioned that he and others were going to be at the Mitta over the weekend for a comp. Over many years I had spent many enjoyable weeks with friends annually in a Canadian log cabin they built on Shanonvale, the Fitzgerald's property on Middle Creek. But like many other properties the cabin was destroyed in the 2003 fires that swept through the high country and threatened Omeo.

After driving through torrential rain for an hour around Yass and driving on to Tumut, the sky over the Mitta Valley was looking like the inside of a cows stomach. It is a long and winding road to Anglers Rest from Tumut via Khancoban; the Alpine Hwy is not the place to be stuck on a mountain ridge with a tree across the track in adverse conditions. Knowing how the weather changes in the High Country I decided to continue on to Melbourne and spend a couple of extra days with friends prior to boarding the Spirit of Tasmania. I picked up a selection of Tassie fly's from Gavin of Pro-Angler in Bentleigh and he provided me with a pair of waders if I needed them. Unfortunately the Tassie weather eliminated any need for lake wading.

Arrived in Devonport to fine but very windy conditions. I drove down to the Great Lake and Arthur Lake and also inspected Little Pine Lake. The Ouse River was little more than a trickle. There was only light rain, the temp was 9* but the winds were 40 gusting to 60 K's. I decided to drive to Brumbys Creek at Cressy. The weather did not improve but there were some sheltered locations and trout tailing around the lake perimeter. Unfortunately the reeds were far too thick and high. Platypus were also active around the location so it was an interesting experience. A number of other fishers were having trouble because the Creek water levels were changing over days. One fisher I met on his way out, his waders covered in mud had been fishing for four hours unsuccessfully. I mentioned it was not a good sign seeing him leaving. His response was "it's all yours".

Next day the wind was still blowing a gale so I headed for the upper North Esk River and the Macquarie River. Stayed over night at Tamar Launceston. In the morning the weather was trying to improve so I went northeast to Four Springs and Brushy Lagoon. Both offer some wind protection and there were no other fishermen at either venue. Four Springs has a very easy west shoreline for flyfishing but nothing appeared to attract a take. Later boat fishermen arrived, and as the fog lifted the water was like, in sailing terms "an oily sea", not a ripple. But still no surface or visible water disturbance from subsurface fish action.

I arrived at Brushy Lagoon about 11am. The fog was still hanging close to the water and visibility was less than 300 meters. Sight fishing was out of the question again but it could not have looked better. If you were a real estate agent selling water front lots, you would have sold them all that morning. There are groins and the earth barrage wall to fish from and a number of shore locations around the lake. Caught three small redfin and one 20 cm brown. Similar to the Springs there was no surface or fish activity. At around 3.00 pm the weather closed in and rain started to be a problem so I headed back to Launceston to move east to St Helens in the morning.

The weather did not improve so I did some 4x4 treks through the timbered country down to and around the east coast at the rear of Tooms Dam. You need a boat at Tooms. Checked out Currawong Trout Lodge and Lake Leak Chalet. The former looked very good but the Chalet didn't impress. During this trek on the way back to Ross I observed some of the worst affected drought conditions in Tasmania. It's very bad from Campbelltown southeast of Ross and the highway down to Oatlands across to Swansea.

Working my way back up north to Brumbys Creek I fished the South Esk near Avoca till midday. I met some Fox Rangers. These guys are laying 1080 all over the country because there is a belief that mainland idiots have released foxes into Tasmania. They were fly fishermen and gave me some tips on the better fishing locations the best fly to use, a tea tree beetle, and private owner's names to approach.

I did get approval to fish private property but being 26,000 acres the river distances are long and remote. I had to do a lot of walking as I was required to leave my 4x4 in side the access gate at the road frontage so that staff working on the property & passing at early evening would know if I had not left the property by dusk and they would investigate. A sensible safety initiative by the owners. They had problems with fishermen in the past getting lost or in trouble. Tiger snakes are big on this place I was told. I only had three hours before the cool temperature turned to cold winds and with no trout spotted or caught on the property it was time to leave. Stayed overnight in Ross and fished the Macquarie River at Ross township that night and next morning. Caught two small 14 cm browns on a Tadpole fly.

Next day returned to Brumbys Creek and fished most of the day in Weir 1, 2 & 3 areas and later the Macquarie River from the pump house up to almost the Brumbys Creek junction. Nobody was doing any good on fly or metal. I was amazed at the garbage left along the Macquarie River bank by fishermen. This is private property and the owner allows access to fish the river. His reward is a polluted landscape. Some will never learn. Spoke to three local fly guys who could not get a take either.

The winds and rain had returned so I decided to tour and visit Cradle Mountain. One benefit of Tasmania is that you are never too distant from major attractions. Walked the walk at Cradle Mountain and the Dove Lake. Light snow & sleet but not windy. Only 4 degrees.

Fished the Meander, Leven and the Mersey River over the next few days but no luck. I had been told Tasmanian rivers are nowhere near as productive as Victorian or NSW rivers. I also did another 4x4 trek to one of the remote HEC power station Lemonthyme on the River Forth checking out fishing spots along the way. All of the rivers that head in the Mole Creek Karst Nat Park, including the above, are dark tannin coloured.

On the way back to the 19 lakes and the Great Western Tiers I stopped at Sheffield and talked to a servo owner who directed me to a property that offered accommodation on farmland with fishing in a creek and two large dams. They also owned a series of properties with river frontage. I fished that afternoon and caught two nice rainbows. The first 54cm and the second after dinner at 9.00pm of 60cm. The Tadpole fly did the trick.

The next morning four more all around 55-60cm with a larger hen of 65cm in length. Fly was a Woolly Buzzer brown. I stayed the night and in the morning and afternoon caught three more rainbows all between 60 and 62cm. In all nine rainbow trout were landed on dams and the creek on the property. All above 54cm. Most on the woolly bugger brown and two on a purple WB pattern.



65cm Rainbow Trout

I left for Augusta the nineteen lakes area and Arthur's Lake. The wind would have blown a dog off a chain and the chill factor at 8* was about minus 15*. The cold was a bit much. After a look and fish at Penstock Lagoon without success I stayed at Miena Hotel at the Great Lake. Great cook, appreciable management and comfortable twin motel units. There were only three other guests. Bob McKinley of Wild Fish Tasmania with two German clients. I had spoken via email to Bob before I left for Tasmania concerning water levels and the best trout locations. He gave me some very good advice. It was opportune to meet at Miena. Unfortunately after two days fishing his clients had only caught one fish each because of the poor weather and he was concerned about the success of their trip. He felt he really had to find some protected water and fish.

Bob had indicated that the winds would continue for some days. He had fished the lake by boat earlier with his clients. He advised me to try Derwent Bridge and fish the stream around the bridge; on foot the river offered the best protection from the winds. If you go to far upstream your in St Clair National Park and need a pass. I did inspect the upstream section but it was shallow & braiding. I did fish downstream for about 4 K it looked promising but only saw small pilchard size trout and three platypus feeding. There must be good fish somewhere in the stream. Downstream the water is deeper and large deep pools make it impossible to continually work up the stream.

The next day an inspection of the rest of the lakes was again a blow out. Fishing was now out of the question, 60 K winds and 9 degree temperatures saw to that. The lakes on the Central Plateau, Augusta, Ada, Little Pine & Double Lagoon and in the Bronte Lagoon area have little NE or SE wind protection and there is little lee shore protection as they are generally open and shallow. I visited what remains of Lake Pedder at the weir and then moved on down the Derwent seeking a protected location. Ended up at New Norfolk in anticipation of heading north via Sheffield to Devonport. Bob and his clients finished up at Dee Lagoon and caught more trout from their boat.

Arrived in Melbourne on December 20 to find the city suburbs to be under water. I stopped at Pro-Angler Bentleigh and Gavin spoke of some good fishing just off the Yarra River near Warburton. But during the next three days of weather would get worse. It was tropical storm stuff 40mm overnight with some areas 70mm.

My intension was to fish the Yarra and the Otway Ranges for a couple of days. I stayed over Christmas and hoped the weather would improve and the streams clear. I never got to the Otway's. The trout in the rivers and streams are wild trout, wild bred from the original Tasmanian seeding around the 1860's. They are believed to be the purest strain of trout in Australian streams. The Department of Conservation wants to kill them all because they are not indigenous. I have heard fishing clubs are trying to negotiate the removal of the trout and relocation to acceptable areas.

Victorian High Country and the Snowy Area.

I left Melbourne on Boxing Day and travelled via Bruthen to Snuggan Buggan onto Jindabyne. This is a great drive and there is the Snuggan Buggan School built in 1860's by the O'Rourke's that survived the bushfire of 2003. At and beyond the border there is about 30K's of Snowy River access along the side of the road. Camping is allowed at four or five locations with facilities on the west bank offering some protection from the cold westerly winds off the high country and in the right summer conditions it would be a great spot to spend a week trout prospecting. The access road is very narrow and winding, some locations offer only single vehicle width. No full size caravans or large trailers. Main road & access tracks are two wheel drive access in summer.



Snuggan Buggan School



The Snowy looking downstream

Unfortunately the rain over the week had adversely affected stream water conditions and the clarity of the Pinch and Jacob Rivers and also their junction with the Snowy River down stream, so I continued straight through to Jindabyne hoping the Thredbo would offer a better opportunity.

At Jindabyne the weather was fine but I was surprised by the lack of people in the area, most of the eating spots were closed. I fished the clear Thredbo River in five locations. It was the recommended best chance location for the week so it was being overfished. There were about 20 fishers, fly and spinners along the way and nobody had seen a fish. I decided to fish the more remote backwaters to try to locate fish spooked by the brightly clothed masses. I only saw about four 15 cm brown trout in the river and no takes.

Returned to the Coast for New Years Eve.

Website News

Our website is finally seeing some action as more members check in on it. It is worth looking at now and again. Have a read of Andrew Ledger's harrowing adventure on Moreton Bay.

A New Competition - Tom

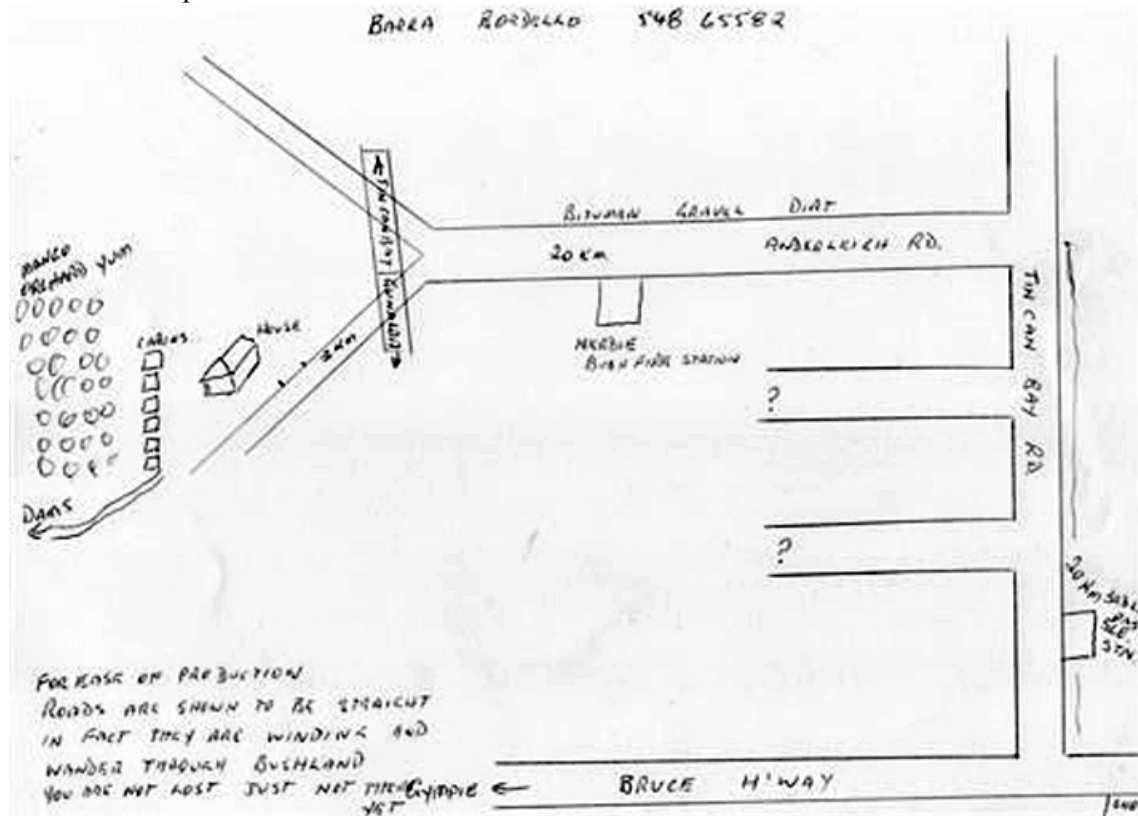
Moved by Andrew Ledger's epic tale of his Moreton Bay crossing I thought that it would be interesting to encourage others to tell their tales of "fishing stories" on our website. So a new competition, the winner of which will receive a wonderful framed certificate. Based on literary merit, Bob Knott and Evan Evans will be the judges with the winner decided at year's end. For want of a better title we will call it 'TheWankley Award'.

Extra points may be gained with pictorial content and points deducted for grammatical or spelling errors as stories may be reproduced elsewhere. So budding Steinbeck's get cracking, do something interesting then tell us about it.

Next outing

Our next trip will be to **Rainbow Villas Barramundi ponds** on the 16th & 17th of February. Glenn Court is the Trip coordinator. This is a great chance to catch some really good barras! It is important that we know how many are coming so sign up on our website.

Here is a mud map from Tom.



Quote of the month: “The only good thing about getting old and senile is that you can hide your own Easter eggs.”

Anon

Tight Lines and bent rods!

Scribe

Coming Events



NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, 15th - 7.30 p.m.
Mermaid Beach Bowls Club,
9 Markeri Street, Mermaid Beach

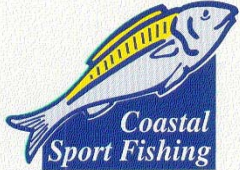
NEXT FISHING TRIP:

16th and 17th February
Rainbow Villas
Target – Barramundi

South East Queensland Flyfishing Club Inc. – Contacts:

President	- Tom Boylan	5564 6660
Vice President	- Glen Court	5573 0873
Secretary	- Mark Hosking	5522 4802
Treasurer	- Mark Miller	(02) 6672 4364
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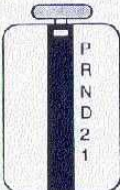

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