



# NEWSLETTER

January, 2005

## *Hello Everyone!*

We started January and the New Year off with our One Fly Event. About 15 of us gathered at Lakewoods early in the morning. Brian Kirkley kicked off the day by hooking a nice Giant Herring, but after a brief spectacular battle, the score was Fish – 1, Brian – 0.

For most of us the fishing was a bit on the disappointing side, but our Angler of The Year, **Rick Slennett** came through in great style with two Giant Herring (40 and 55cm) and a 32cm Trevally. Well Done, Rick! What the day lacked in fishing results was more than compensated for by the wonderful camaraderie, which typifies all our outings. As it got later in the day, the esky magically appeared, the fishing slowed down, and the story swapping got under way. Just as it was nearly dark, Brian broke out the barbeque and served up another great sausage sizzle. Those of you who don't get along to our monthly outings don't know what you are missing!

Our January meeting was well attended as usual. One of the first items on the agenda was the awarding of the Tom Boylan Member of the Year Trophy, which is a magnificent carved fish with a fork in his gob and a knife up his bum. Tom donated this trophy last year under the proviso that the recipient each year must choose the recipient for the following year. This year our provender and chef, **Brian Kirkley**, was chosen for his untiring efforts at our outings throughout the year. All the members present agreed that the award was well deserved.

Our first meeting of the year was an important one in that we needed to come up with our Fishing Calendar for 2005. Gary Sheppard chaired the discussion, and we nipped out the calendar, which is attached with this newsletter.

Tom brought up the subject of our club hosting another Expo. After the success we had with our first one, the membership was in total agreement that we should give another Expo a go. We learned a lot with the last one and should be able to put this one on with less work and, hopefully, a better show. It was decided that this year we will include lures and soft plastics to give the Expo a broader appeal.

To kick things off a steering committee was appointed, consisting of: Tom Boylan, Bob Knott, Gary Sheppard, Mark Miller, Mark Hosking, and Glenn Court.

## **February Outing**

Our February trip is to Borumba Dam in conjunction with the South Brisbane Gamefishing Club. This will be on the weekend of the 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Our target will be Saratoga, and the Borumba Shield will go to the member who catches the largest Toga. Borumba is always a good trip. There are caravans available and good camping facilities at Deer Park. There should be plenty of water in the dam and we understand it is fishing well at the moment. If you have any questions, give Tom Boylan a ring.

## Wathumba Creek, Fraser Island By Glenn Court

I had been to Wathumba Creek once before and was amazed at the beauty and potential of the area, so when my friend Steve Dahl rang and asked if I'd like to join him and some of the guys from the Sunshine Coast Saltwater Flyfishers annual weekend there I jumped at the chance. Wathumba Creek is located at the northern end of the west coast of Fraser Island, about a 75km each way trip by water from Urangan harbour. There are no amenities on the Northern shore of Wathumba so you have to take everything you need with you, which tends to keep the place pretty uncrowded. Steve's plan was to leave Urangan at about 9.30pm Friday night for the 2 hr run up. The weather for the couple of days before the weekend was perfect, light E/NE winds but at about 4pm Friday Steve rang to tell me the winds had turned N/NW just what we didn't want, we decided to make the call when we got to Urangan that night. We got to the ramp at about 9.30pm with the wind still coming in from the north, at 11pm we decided to launch Steve's Hornet and check out the conditions on the water, deciding it was not going to be dangerous just a slow wet trip we headed for the top of the island arriving at about 1.30 am and anchored up at the creek mouth deciding to sleep in the boat and Head in to the camp in the daylight. The local sandfly population woke us at about 4.30am and we made our way through the creek mouth where we found some of the other boys who had come up the day before. We unloaded the boat and got our gear ready to for the big fish we hoped lay ahead.

The fishing at Wathumba is very diverse, ranging from Estuary species in the creek, flats fishing for Golden Trevally to pelagics and even billfish only a hundred meters from the creek mouth. Our plan was to break my long standing Longtail Tuna Duck as well as chase some Goldies on the flats. Only a hundred meters from the creek we spotted some Longtails chasing bait. Now I've been frustrated chasing these fish before, but this time the Tuna were as frustrated as us because they were feeding on small Flyingfish and would only get a couple of swipes at the bait before they would up and fly away so after a couple of shots at them we decided to move on to the flats and look for some Goldies. Now with miles of flats to cover we decided our best method would be to mooch along on the electric motor while searching for fish. We had a large esky on the casting deck for the angler to stand on for better vision while the second person controls the motor.



After searching for a few hours with only a couple of shots at cruising fish for no takers we decided to head back to camp and have a nanna nap as we had both been on the go for over 29 hours with about an hours sleep. On arriving back at camp we were greeted by the resident psycho dingo that proceeded to do about 4 laps through our campsite flat out before collapsing in the water for what looked like a heart attack. Steve and I both laughed at its antics and couldn't figure out its behaviour until Matt and Paul arrived back and figured out that the dingo managed to get into Matts tent and eaten the only thing he hadn't put up out of reach, a full block of dark chocolate. The mutt was on a sugar high.



All rested after a snooze we headed out to fish the flats again as the Tuna were very quite out off the flats. Conditions in the afternoon were perfect for sight fishing, a light breeze and bright sunshine made for excellent vision into the water. Steve was on the casting platform with his 10 weight rigged with a modified clouser he calls a Roed up yabbie when we spotted a large fish about 80mtrs away coming towards us, Steve made a great cast when the fish was 60mtrs out only for it to ignore the fly, as the fish came past the boat we realised it wasn't a Goldie but a thumping big Longtail cruising along in a couple of feet of water, thinking he would be a loner we continued up the flat for about 150mtrs only to have another Longtail come along, Steve decided to get rid of the yabbie pattern and tie on one of his proven Longtail flies, a polarfibre surf candy and as murphies law dictates a few minutes later the next fish to come along was bloody Goldie who wouldn't even look at the surf candy. We had a good laugh about old Murphy and continued down the flat. Well for about the next hour we had pod after pod of big Longtails coming at us in the shallow water. Unfortunately we could not get a fish to the boat. We finished the day with a couple fished that the hooks pulled on and numerous near misses. On the way back to camp we went over the events of the afternoon and figured out that we needed to put our casts further in front of the fish to give the fly time to sink to same level as the fish for a better chance of a solid take instead of the slashing takes we had been getting.

After an amusing nights sleep with our resident dingo friend inspecting everyone's swag or tent at close range through the night. Steve and I packed our gear up eager to get back out on the water and put our new game plan into action. I was first up on the casting platform. The conditions were not as good as the day before with a stronger breeze and over cast conditions I didn't pick up the first couple of pods of fish until they were right on us. To help with casting in these conditions I was using a 10/11 mega loaded with a 13# tarpon taper intermediate line to load the rod for quick casting. Only a couple of minutes and we had the next lot of fish coming at us; one backcast and the fly landed about 5mtrs off the nose of the lead fish. As the fly sank into his view he swam straight up and took it then turn away from the boat by which time he realised something wasn't quite right and took off for the deep water. Boy can these things MOTOR in the shallows; in no time he was 200 odd meters off the beach in deep water. With Steve guiding me through the fight we soon had the flyline back on the reel with him slugging it out below the boat, keeping the rod low and changing direction on the fish soon had him boatside for Steve to land. To say I was a happy man at that point would be an understatement. A couple of quick pics and I speared him back into the water to swim away hopefully none the worse for wear. A quick trip back to the flats and a couple of minutes and Steve was hooked up solid to a fish of about 13kgs, a carbon copy of my fight and I was hoisting his fish aboard. Even though it was still early we stopped and had a celebratory ale before deciding that with 80kms to get home it was time to make a move.

These couple of hours of fishing would have to be the best fishing I have ever experienced and will stay with me for many years to come. I still break in to a grin just thinking about those fish coming down the flats at us.

My fish



The hard yards



Stevo's bruiser.

### **Guest Speaker**

At our February meeting we will have Glenn Court's fishing partner, **Steve Dahl**, as guest speaker to tell us all about catching tuna at Bribie Island. Steve fishes there about three times a week and has that oh so valuable, local knowledge. This will be timely since our March trip is to Bribie for Tuna.

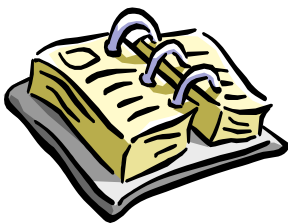
**Quote of the month: When I die I want to die like my grandfather who went peacefully in his sleep, not screaming like all the passengers in his car.**

**Anon**

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

***Your Scribe***

### **Coming Events**



#### **CASTING ARVO**

**1st Sunday – Pizzey Park – Miami  
1:30**

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

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

#### **NEXT CLUB FISHING TRIP:**

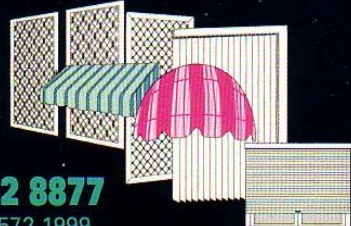
**Fri, Sat, Sun. Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>  
Target – Saratoga**

South East Queensland Flyfishing Club Inc. – Contacts:

President	-	Tom Boylan 55646660
Vice President	-	Gary Sheppard 55637470
Secretary	-	Angus Collins 55226844
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and the fish that counts!*




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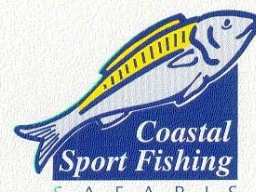


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