



NEWSLETTER

July, 2004

Hi Gang!

As the day of our July Tailor outing drew near we began hearing some unfavourable weather predictions. We consulted a couple of gurus who confirmed that our outing day was going to be a great day to stay at home. Bearing all this in mind, we decided to postpone the trip for a week. Good thing we did! It blew like crazy on the day we had first picked, but we could not have asked for better weather for the day we went out.

Seventeen of us headed out, some before dawn and some right on daybreak. Dawn found **Vince** already hooked up on a nice Trevally at Wavebreak Island. We are sure he has a permanent booking for that spot. Our boats were spread from there to the artificial reef at Narrowneck, which looked like Pitt Street on a busy day. The tailor were there alright but most of us seemed to catch Yakkas and Pike. **Don Nash** caught a couple of good Tailor and **Brian Kirkley** landed his first Tailor on fly just outside the Seaway. Well done, Brian!

While most of us worked the outside, **Vince** and **Mike Halls** fished from Wavebreak to the Seaway. Vince scored a good Trevally early on and later picked up the biggest Tarpon I think any of us had seen in Australia! It was about 3.5kg!

We all had a great time and nearly everyone caught something. **Angus Collins** had warned us earlier that the Seaworld boat ramp would be full of racing boats and would be closed for most of the day to other boats. We had decided on that news to change our launch and barbeque site to the boat ramp by the Sundale Bridge. About 11 found our Chef, Brian whipping up another great brunch for us. We had a wonderful time, eating, drinking and swapping lies.

The Seaway has been firing!

Mike Halls reports that the fishing has been great in the area. One day he and Vince landed about 12 good fish between them. Mike has picked up some good Trevally and a 3.6kg Tailor, which he says is the largest he has caught on fly. **The Invincible Vince**, of course, has been knocking off Kingfish nearly every day.

Guest Speaker

Mike Halls informs us that **Graham Bourke** will be with us for our August meeting to talk about fishing in small streams, lakes and rivers in Tasmania's high country. He has written several books on trout fishing and has lived all his life in Tasmania. He is the President of The Devonport Fly Fishing Club and knows everything there is to know about chasing trout in Tasmania.

He and the club have built a cabin on The Great Lakes. Mike was fortunate to stay there and fish with some of the guys on his holiday in Tassie.

Anyone interested in trout fishing (aren't we all) should attend this meeting. Mike says Graham is a wonderful person to learn from and is willing to talk to everyone and share his considerable knowledge.



August Outing

Our August outing will be for bream in the Tweed River on the 15th. As usual we will launch about dawn. We will start from the Fingal Head boat ramp and have our barbeque brunch there about 11. The Tweed offers us a big stretch of river to fish and we should have a great time.

Important Notice!

Our August meeting will be our **Annual General Meeting**. At this meeting we will elect our officers for the coming year and hold our **Monster Raffle**, in which the main prize will be a **Strudwick 7wt. DBT rod**, second prize a **Felty reel** with backing and line, followed by a series of fly boxes containing members' flies. We will be awarding the trophy for the **Champion Fly Tier** and runner up. We will also be allocating boats and crew for our Jumpinpin Flathead outing on Sat. Sept. 11. **Remember membership fees are now due; they may be paid by cheque, cash or credit card.**

President's Report

Our club has moved strongly throughout the year with our membership now at 70. This growth has largely come from referrals by our sponsors, Doug Burt's Tackle World and The Fisherman Pty. Ltd. whose support is vital and much appreciated.

Member attendances at meetings average around 35% to 40% and participation in our monthly fishing outings around 15-18%. These figures are vastly better than those of most fishing clubs and largely due, I feel, to the friendly atmosphere that exists in our club. Our free barbeque at fishing outings provide a great opportunity for people to get to know and feel more comfortable with other members. If you cannot make an outing, try to take an hour to attend the brunch, eat a sausage, drink a beer and listen to lies. I promise you will enjoy it.

This coming year offers a number of challenges. We hope to establish a Junior Coaching Programme with maybe a couple of junior outings at 19th Ave. or similar. This should be up and running for the coming summer season.

It will be a big undertaking but I do not anticipate any difficulty in gaining member participation as it presents the best opportunity to put something back into your sport and provides a platform for beginners that most of us didn't have.

The other large event would be in mounting another Expo similar to the one we held 12 months ago. We would do it a lot easier and smarter next time but it will still require 12 months of planning to hold it next July with the workload increasing over the period. First though we need to decide whether or not we want to do it.

I had intended to retire from the position of President, simply because I felt that some new blood with new ideas would keep the interest and impetus going. Gary Sheppard was to stand with a view to undertaking the Presidency for the coming year. Unfortunately work commitments will preclude him from accepting the post. Even more unfortunately, I have cast about for another replacement without having much luck, so we will have to see who pops up at the AGM.

Bob Knott is looking for retirement from his post as Publicity Officer, but it appears he is even more difficult to replace. Bob's work for the club, over many years has been of heroic proportions; his ability to foresee difficulties and pour oil on troubled waters displays genuine genius at times.

Angus Collins, at Secretary, quietly does an outstanding job with dotted i's and crossed t's, any information at his fingertips. Thanks Angus!

Treasurer Mark Miller, a genuine cool cat, is never ruffled and always smiling in spite of the extra workload brought on by reporting requirements. Whenever I ask him "Can we afford this?" He always enthusiastically says "Yes!" I thank Christ! I hope he is right but he always is. Thanks Mark!

Our Vice President, Gary Sheppard has also done a great job. I threw a fair bit at him this past year, running our fly tying sessions, the fly tying comp. and setting our Junior Coaching Programme up if not yet running it. He displays a great ability to hurdle problems and just get stuff done! Thanks, Shep!

My thanks also goes to the many members who jump in to help whenever needed, too many to mention. There is one standout: Brian Kirkley, our Provider and Chef, who harbours a yearning to serve salmon quiche or eggs Benedict and I need to explain to him that whilst we may be a fly fishing club, we are a bunch of yobbos...sausages are fine.

The help we get from members makes the committee's job, not only easier, but more rewarding. Thanks!

Tom Boylan

MONEY MATTERS 2004.

I am pleased to say that we still in the black. We have close to \$2000 in the bank as of 30th of June. The two major revenue earners for us are our monthly raffles and fees.

A huge thanks must go Damien, Garry and Angus for selling the tickets and Tom for securing the prizes. The money we raise here goes towards paying for monthly B.B.Q.s and drinks that are enjoyed so much after monthly trips.

The necessary increase in our fees will help us keep floating above the water line for the next financial year. Keep supporting your club, enjoy the friendship and learning it presents to us all. If you want more detail see me at our next meeting.

Mark Miller.

Answer to last month's problem: As you probably have worked out, there is no money missing. The assistant gave \$3 back to the fishermen, kept \$2 for himself, which means the owner got the \$25 he wanted.

Tight Lines and bent rods!

Your Scribe

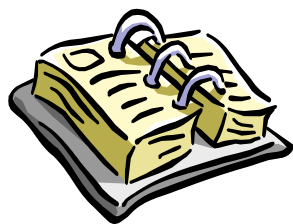
Coming Events

CASTING ARVO

**Sun. 5th Sept. Pizzey Park, Miami
1:30pm**

NEXT MEETING:

**Tuesday, August 17th - 7.30 p.m.
Mermaid Beach Bowls Club,
9 Markeri Street, Mermaid Beach**



NEXT CLUB FISHING TRIP:


**Sun. 15thth August
Location – Tweed River
Target – Bream
Time: Daybreak, Fingal Heads ramp
BBQ at 11, Fingal Heads boat ramp**

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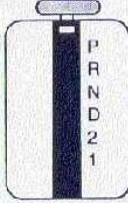
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