



# NEWSLETTER

July 2006

***Hi, Gang!***

Our June meeting had probably the best member turnout of the year which was great to see. We welcomed visitors **Chris Brown, John Tracey** and old friends **Shaun Ash** and **Geoff Volter (Voltzy)**. Voltzy has been with us on a number of occasions and is our new forum mentor for Saltwater Flyfishing. It was good to see Shaun back with us after his Snowy Mountains sojourn. Shaun has been a great help to us over the years and he has always been willing to share his knowledge with us. We also welcomed a new member, **Clive Mathias**. Welcome aboard, Clive.

Our forum has taken on a new dimension and for those of you who haven't visited our website ([www.seqflyfishers.asn.au](http://www.seqflyfishers.asn.au)) it will be worth your while to have a look. We now have a number of pertinent topics with a "mentor" for each one. These mentors have been asked to help us because each has expertise in a particular field. They have each volunteered to donate their time and wisdom to our forum. We hope to get a lot of lively discussions as members get used to using the forum.

We held a brief business meeting during which we discussed the roster for our teaching sessions at Miami High and the coming trip to Somerset Dam. We took a break, held our raffle and settled down for the main event of the evening which was a talk on Bass fishing by **John Schofield** and **Steve Kanowski**. They held us spellbound as they took us through dimensions of Bass fishing some of us didn't even know existed. These guys know all the tricks about techniques, rigs, sounders... you name it. It is really great when some of these experts are willing to give their time to pass on their knowledge like this. Thanks a lot John and Steve.

## **Newbies nights**

Our newbies nights are turning out to be better and better attended as we go along. For those of you who are new we hold these nights at the Bowls Club on the first Tuesday of every month and try to cover all the topics you would like to know about but haven't known where to learn them. It is proving popular for new members and old.

## **Miami High Teaching**

We will be holding classes at Miami High for year 11 students on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July and the 2<sup>nd</sup> August. The sessions will be from 11:45am – 1:30pm. The first two classes will be on basic tying and casting and the final will be a fishing outing when the students will try their own flies on the water. We have a few volunteers but we really need several more to make it work smoothly. If you have any of these times free and can help out please let Tom Boylan know.

## **Barra Trip to the Top End - April 2006 - Bev Cheffins**

I'd never been to the Top End before and never been Barra fishing, so this was a first for me. The Territory is an entirely different place, such vast distances and diverse terrain and the Territorians are the friendliest people you could meet. I hired a Maui van for the ten days and planned to have a look around the place, but the recent cyclones and widespread flooding made it impossible to see much of the Territory, not that it mattered as there is so much to see it would take months to see it all.

The Barra competition kicked off with the briefing at the Bark Hut on Thursday evening. My plane landed in Darwin in the afternoon giving me plenty of time to get there and set up camp, but things didn't go according to plan. The flooding had made the crossing over the Adelaide and Mary Rivers too deep, so to get there I had to hire a tilt truck to get the Maui van across. (hang the expense!!) This same truck was used to get the rest of the stranded cars and boats across the raging river. By the time everyone arrived it was after midnight, then up at four the next morning over miles of dirt road to Shady Camp where we launched the boats.

The flooding had covered the ramp and 4 wheel drives were needed to drive the trailers well out and the boats driven on and off. There was also a big croc hanging around and nobody volunteered to stand in the water which was waist high and a strong current to make it more interesting.



Launching the boats

We fished the mouth of the Mary River and getting there was an adventure in itself. There were three of us on our boat; Amelia was the driver who only knew two speeds, full stick and stop, Michelle who was the expert on Barra fishing and me the trainee. We took turns as skipper but I was sacked for running aground (simple mistake!!) The tides up there are really big and the water really rushes out of all the creeks draining into the river.

It was great fun going along all these narrow winding overhanging passages that led to the mouth of the river. I really don't know how the girls remembered the way, I would have got lost. On one of the forks in the river there was a red plastic bucket hanging off a mangrove tree which was one of the marks.

I was keen to see my first croc in the wild and the first one I spotted was when I was on the tilt truck crossing the Adelaide River on the Thursday night, he was swimming along the white line on the highway in the lights of the truck, but they were on every bank along the river and had no fear of anyone and some of them were huge. We tied up to a mangrove on the bank and saw the slide marks of a croc and within minutes he was only yards from the boat, another time we passed a huge croc with a wild pig he'd just killed on the bank of a very narrow creek, so close you could have touched him. In one of these little creeks we tied off to a mangrove and spent a few hours casting for Barra and decided to move a little further down and tie off to another branch and when we looked back there had been a croc under us all that time and he just stayed there.

The Barra we caught casting lures in the narrow creeks were between 55-65cm. There was a charter boat just near us using small live mullet and they were catching monsters in the same water we were fishing. We found the most productive fishing was at the mouth of the river. The first day was spent trying all the little creeks and the next day we headed straight to the mouth. We were the first ones there and that seemed to be the best time as we caught most of the fish in the morning, it may have had something to do with the tides as well. As soon as we got there I dropped a gold bomber over and was adjusting my drag when it got smashed by a metre plus Barra right beside the boat, I must have dropped it in his mouth. It was all over in minutes but it was the start of a brilliant day.

Michelle put her lure out and ten minutes later landed 112cm Threadfin Salmon in the same spot as the first Barra. We got lots of Bluefin Salmon but they weren't point scoring fish, but it kept the action going all day. A couple of hours after the Threadfin, Michelle landed 106cm Barra. These fish were all caught on the troll using Bombers with strong trebles.



Shelley's Threadfin



Michelle's Barra

We trolled and cast along the edge of the channel and good size fish were caught all along the edge of the drop-off. Between first light and lunchtime there were several Barra and Threadfin caught over one metre. You knew when someone was on when the girls would yell out and all boats would converge over and watch, congratulate them and then carry on again, it was the funniest thing to watch. Wilson's were the sponsors of the competition and they had a boat with a film crew aboard and were chasing the boats around filming the captures and they were kept busy for a few hours.



Bev's Barra

There were 44 teams with 121 local ladies and 60 interstate ladies. Over the weekend 59 Barra were landed with 7 over the metre and several 80-99cm, 47 Threadfin Salmon with 6 over the metre and Catfish, Tarpon and Bluefin Salmon. The ladies are great sports, on the way back we raced each other and going through those narrow cuttings was the best, you had to lie on the floor or get trashed in the mangroves.



Winners

The presentation night was tremendous with lots of entertainment and Wilson's showed the shots of the girls fish captures on the large screen, it was great. Most of the girls partied till dawn and when breakfast was on in the morning only a few surfaced. It was a quiet day around the camp and as the road over the Mary River was still flooded no one could get out anyway.

I had made arrangements to go fishing with some people from Darwin, so I headed to Darwin via Jabiru which was a five hour round trip. I spent a night at Jabiru and took an early morning scenic flight over the escarpment, it was great to see where the runoff started from and the waterfalls at their best and then running out to sea through the floodplains, it really is a beautiful place.

In Darwin I met up with Cheryl and we fished outside the harbour and caught some nice Trevally, Coral Trout and Jewfish. In the evenings we went down to Darwin harbour for dinner, there are very nice restaurants all along the harbour and the view at night is tremendous. I can't wait to go back there are so many places to fish. I'll stay longer next time; it's such a fantastic place.

### **August Fishing Trip**

On Sunday August 6<sup>th</sup> we will be fishing the Tweed River for Bream and Flathead. We will launch early at Fingal Head boat ramp and gather back there for a barbeque at about 11.00am. This is always a great outing! We will assign boats and crews at our July meeting.

### **Another reminder**

Club dues must be paid by our AGM in August so get in now and avoid the rush! July is your last chance to submit point scores for our **Angler of the Year Award** and your last chance to enter you flies for the **Annual Fly Tying Competition**.

### **2006 Flyfishing Convention**

Our Convention is fast getting booked out. So far over half the spots are taken and another 100 people have downloaded our application form. Application deadline is August 25<sup>th</sup> but the way we are going, all the spots will be filled before then. **So if you want to attend get in now.**

### **On a Very Sad Note**

Sadly, John Foy lost his partner Evonne on July 5<sup>th</sup>. A long time sufferer of Lupus, she recently contracted Emphysema. All who knew Evonne recognized a charming lady who was great company with an acute sense of humor. We extend our deepest sympathies to John.

John will be at our next meeting before returning to his family in Victoria but assures us that we will see more of him as he travels the "long paddock"

**Quote of the month: Life is what happens while you're busy making other plans.**

**Anon**

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

***Scribe***

## Coming Events



### NEXT MEETING:

**Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> July - 7.30 p.m.**  
**Mermaid Beach Bowls Club,**  
**9 Markeri Street, Mermaid Beach**

### NEXT FISHING TRIP:

**Sunday August 6<sup>th</sup> – Tweed River**  
**Target – Bream, Flathead**  
**Launch – Fingal Head**  
**Barbeque – 11.00 am**

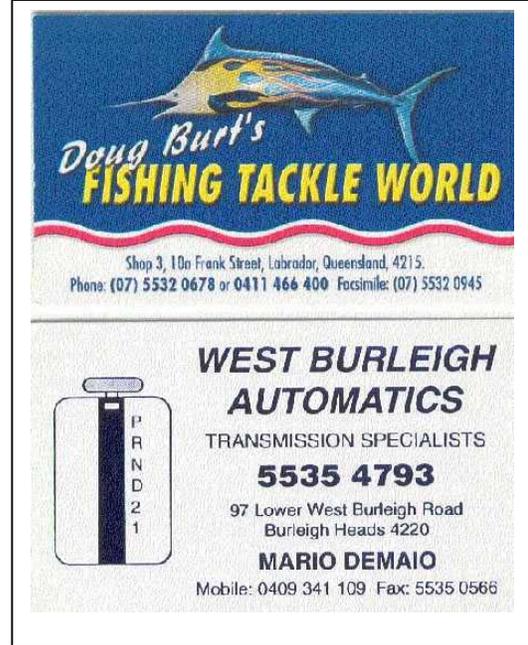
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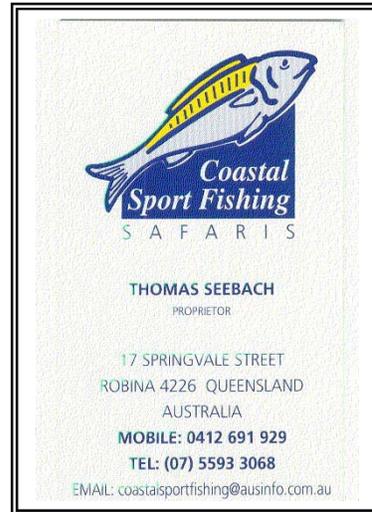
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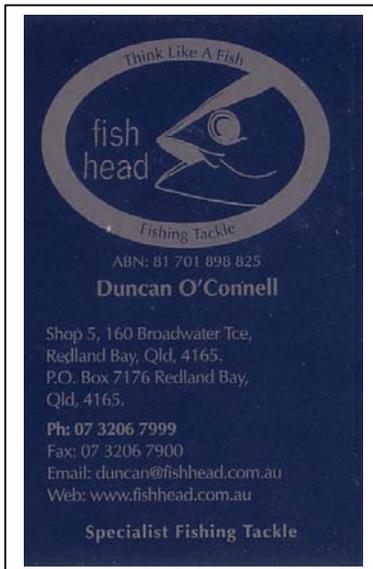
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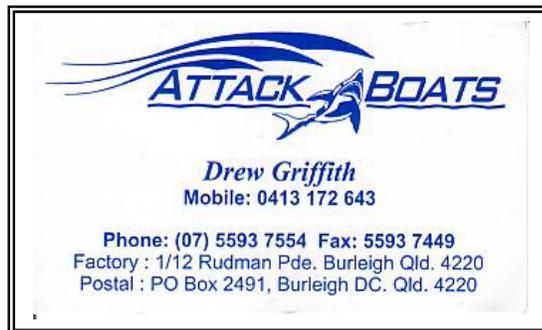
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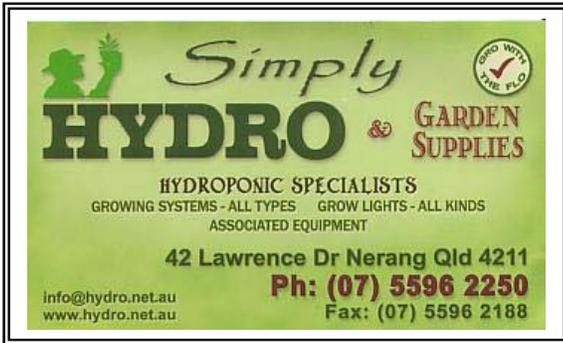


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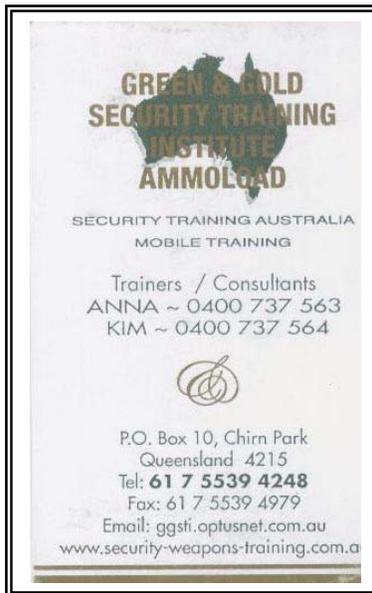


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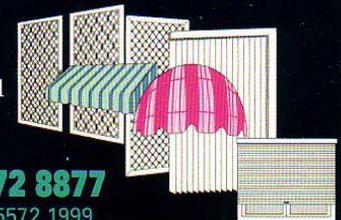


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