



# NEWSLETTER

June 2008

## Vale - Brian McDuffie

It is with deep sadness that we report the passing of one of our founding members, Brian McDuffie. Brian died suddenly at home in the early hours of Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June.

Brian loved his fishing and said he was fishing by the time he could walk. His family moved to Tampa Florida when Brian was seven and he continued to fish through his early teens when they returned to the U.K. Brian graduated from Art College and gained employment as a set designer with the B.B.C. and A.T.V. Network and quickly rose through the ranks, directing news and current affairs programs. When he moved permanently to Australia he directed shows such as The Breakers, Pacific Drive, Blue Heelers, A Country Practice and G.P. At the time of his death he held a position at Bond University in the Film and Television Division of the Humanities Department where he had worked for a number of years.

His involvement in flyfishing began when he received his first fly rod as a birthday present in 1990 and began exploring the Monaro, Snowy and Victorian trout waters. He became a very competent caster and fly tier.

A few years ago he purchased a property of twenty acres at Stoker's Siding where he lived with his delightful wife, Magali who gave birth to their daughter Manon shortly after. A short time ago his son, Dominic arrived to live in the area and to join Brian in his passionate pursuit of Wild Bass in the local creeks around the area.

Brian has always been an active member of our club and his cheery grin and ready wit will be greatly missed. We join Magali, Manon and Dominic in their grief and extend to them our deepest sympathy.





## ***Other News***

Our May meeting was an experiment. Instead of a sit-down meeting we went out on the greens to work on our casting skills. We have some very competent casters in the club, not to mention **Gordon Low** who is a FFF certified instructor and we all learn a few new tricks every time we have a session like this. The response was so good that we will be having more meetings in future, not only working on casting skills but rigging, fly tying, fish fighting and whatever other subject our members suggest. We won't have another casting night at the club for a while, as we are not allowed on the greens until spring because of the dew. There will be a casting session at Pizzey Park on Sunday July 6<sup>th</sup> however. Our next meeting will concentrate on tying so bring your vices, bobbins and scissors. Materials will be provided. If you don't have equipment notify **Tom Boylan** and he will supply everything you need.

## **Deadline for the Fly Tying Comp**

If you plan to enter this year's tying competition you must have your flies in at our June meeting. Bring them in a plain envelope. Do not put your name on it. Hand them in to **Don Nash** who will number them and enter the number with your name. There is always keen competition for this event and some of our members tie very well, but even if you do not feel your efforts are that good have a go because all the flies will then put in boxes for our year end raffle.

## **Convention**

This meeting is also the deadline for registering for the convention in September. That is it is the deadline for registering for \$160. Registration fee will be \$170 until June 30<sup>th</sup> and \$190 after that. For those of you who have not been to one of our previous conventions this is a weekend not to be missed, a great chance to meet some gurus of the sport and to exchange ideas and experiences with guys from other fly clubs. Log on to our website and download the registration form. Bring the form with your cheque or cash stapled to it and hand it in to Mark Miller or Mark Hosking. We look forward to seeing you all there

## The Newsletter

There have been a couple of suggestions as to make the newsletter more interesting and we feel they should be explored. One suggestion is that we should include member profiles as we have done in the past. The profile done on **Vince** was a great example. The problem with that idea is we need someone to come forward to do the interviews and write them up. Volunteers? Another good idea, this from **Jeff Christoffel**, that since many of our weekend trips are enhanced with some wonderful cooking by some members, we should have a regular Recipe Column. This sounds like a great idea, so get your best dishes down on paper.

## Territory Freshwater Flyfishing Open – Mark Hosking

A very enthusiastic Rick, Denis & I headed off to Darwin late in May for the Northern Territory Freshwater Flyfishing Open which is hosted by the Darwin Flyrodders and held each year on Corroboree Billabong which is a couple of hours drive from Darwin. Each of us had been before so we knew we were in for a great time. As usual Roger Basset went out of his way and collected us from the airport at about 1.00 am and took us back to his place for sleep before we headed out to Corroboree early on Thursday morning. We arrived at Corroboree about mid morning and once we had set up at the Couzens Lookout camp ground we were quickly out on the water for a look around. We were all fishing with a partner from the Darwin Flyrodders; Denis with Gary Walsh, Rick with Jim Churchley & I was fishing with Roger. With the comp starting on Saturday morning we all departed to different locations on Corroboree to find the “secret spots”.



Our camp at Corroboree

Back to camp late in the arvo and all of us had caught a fish or 2 and located a few spots for the comp. For me it was an especially good day as despite this being my 5<sup>th</sup> trip to Darwin I had still not caught a Barra on fly. That Thursday arvo I finally got the monkey off my back and in fact ending up getting a couple during the day. Sitting around the camp that night telling stories and enjoying a drink or two was great. We all decided that as the wind had got up around mid morning an early start on Friday was the go to get a few hours of fishing in before the wind appeared. Having had only a couple of hours sleep on the Wednesday night it did not take much to convince Rick, Denis & I that a reasonably early night was a good idea.



Finally a Barra!!

Friday dawned without any wind and we were all on the water just on light. If you have not been to Corroboree it is very hard to try and describe in words how magical the place is first thing in the morning. Mist rising of the water, water buffalo, pigs, heaps of crocs and thousands of birds just bring the place to life. Friday was spent checking out other locations in the search for fish, catching a few here and there and generally putting together a game plan for the comp. With the comp starting on Saturday most of the competitors arrived late in the arvo and the campground was a hive of activity with tents etc being put up and boats being launched. The briefing was on Friday night and by that time all of the 28 teams had arrived.



One of the locals

Saturday was day 1 of the comp and the campground was alive around 5 in the morning. It wasn't going to be light until just before "lines in" at 6.30am so almost everyone headed off into the darkness to all corners of the Billabong to their secret spot. Score cards had to be in by 6.00pm so it was a very long day fishing. Rog and I had a pretty good day and had scored a number of barra & toga as well as a number of other species. Rick & Jim had also had a good day as well. The way the comp scoring works is that it is on the length of the fish 1 cm = 1 point. Barra & Toga as the "glamour" species are worth double points. Tarpon which were there in their thousands last year were proving to be very elusive this year and in fact by the end of the comp the number of Tarpon caught was down by over a thousand. At the Saturday night summary they posted the scores of the top 10 anglers. Rick was 4<sup>th</sup> and I was 8<sup>th</sup>. Team wise Rog and I were 2<sup>nd</sup> and Rick & Jim were 3<sup>rd</sup>. Dave Bowring and Scotty Mitchell were the clear leaders having had a great day on the Toga. DFR had arranged caterers for dinner on Saturday night and it was fantastic. Imagine if you can sitting under the stars in a campground on the Territory floodplains, the sound of Barra boofing in the water not more than 40 metres away, the temperature about 22 degrees eating fresh prawns, tender steaks, lamb chops, sausages, chicken, kebabs, roast spuds, sweet corn, salads etc. and washing it all down with a glass or two of wine. DFR had also arranged for Col Roberts of Fishing Wild fame as their guest speaker and he gave us a great talk on some of the places he has fished & travelled. His ability with a camera is pretty amazing as well.



Rick's 70cm Barra

For most it had been a long day fishing and with another half day of the comp left on Sunday most of the competitors were not too late into bed.

Rick's alarm woke me at 4.15 am on Sunday and he and Jim were on the water and away within about 15 minutes. I reckon most Territorians are part cat because they seem to have no trouble racing down a billabong at 25 knots in the pitch black. Rog and I were away by about 5.15 and headed to a spot where we hoped to pick up a toga or 2 and then later in the morning try to pick up a barra or 2 at a few locations on the way back. Score cards had to be in by 1.00pm. We had a reasonable day picking up a few fish but also dropping a few as well.



The presentation was scheduled for 2.00pm and everyone spent the time between getting their score cards back and 2.00pm packing up, loading boats back onto trailers etc so they could make a quick getaway back to Darwin straight after the presentation had finished. After working through a heap of prizes for best of species etc it came down to the final 5 placings for the teams and final 10 placings for individuals. Dave Bowring won the individual trophy and his partner Scotty Mitchell came in second. Naturally as a result they won the team's trophy as well. Rick who had had a pretty good day on the Sunday came in third in the individual scores just pipping Roger by about 24 points. Together with Jim they finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the teams. Roger finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the individual comp and I finished 8th. As a team we finished 3<sup>rd</sup>. We were all pretty happy with the results. Last year I think I came somewhere around 40<sup>th</sup> so to say I was happy would be somewhat of an understatement. We were not heading back to Darwin until the Monday morning and as Dave & Scotty were camping with us it was a great Sunday night spent having a few drinks and lots of laughs.

Monday morning Rog kindly offered the use of his boat so Denis & I in Rog's boat and Rick and Jim (in Jim's boat) went out for an early fish for a couple of hours and picked up a few more barra & toga. Back to the camp by about 11.00 and we packed up and were back at Rog & Cathie's place around 3.00pm. After a very welcome long shower, a few beers and a lovely dinner that evening at a local restaurant with Rog, Cathie, Gary and Linda we were then off to the airport for the late flight back to Brisbane.



Denis with nice Barra

It was a fantastic five days. Congratulations to DFR and the organizing committee on a great comp. It ran like clockwork. A huge thanks to Rog and Cathie for their outstanding hospitality (again!!) and arranging food, beer, tents and camping gear and to Rog for allowing me to fish with him. A big thanks also to Jim & Gary for arranging camping gear, deckie spots, food and beer for Rick and Denis. These are great people who just go out of their way to make us Queenslanders feel very welcome whenever we go to the Territory.

Plans are already afoot for our return to Corroboree in 2009!!!

## **June Outing**

Our next outing is our annual winter trip to Jumpinpin on June 21<sup>st</sup>. We have a full moon and a high tide around 9.30am. Early morning around the entrance should see plenty of tailor chasing bait in that fresh water coming over the bar and later, as the tide turns, flathead would be an obvious target along Kalinga Bank. Launching early at Jacobs Well. If numbers are sufficient we will hold a brunch BBQ so please register your intention to attend on our website.

Starters at this stage: Bob Knott & Harrison Perrin  
Mick Nash & Don Nash  
Glen Porter & ?  
Mark Hosking & Mario Demaio

**Quote of the month:**

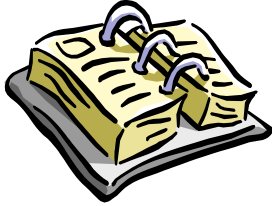
**“To err is human; to blame someone else for your problem is strategic.”**

**Anon**

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

***Scribe***

**Coming Events**



**NEXT MEETING:**

**Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> June - 7.30 p.m.  
Mermaid Beach Bowls Club,  
9 Markeri Street, Mermaid Beach**

**NEXT FISHING  
TRIP:**

**Jumpinpin 21<sup>st</sup> June  
Early launch at Jacobs Well  
Target – Tailor & Flathead**

South East Queensland Flyfishing Club Inc. – Contacts:

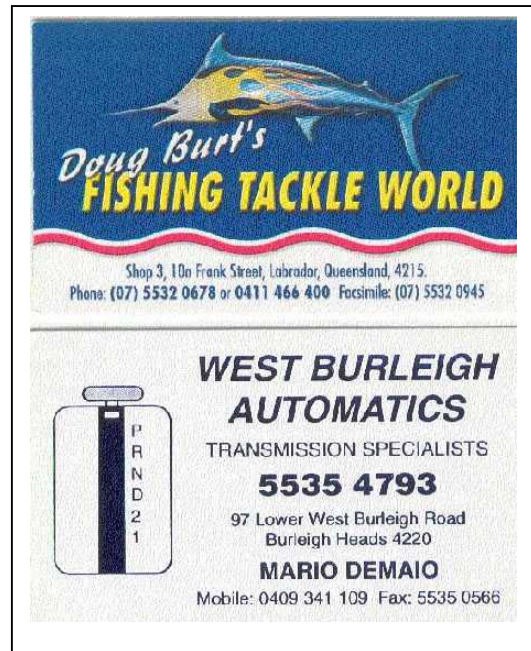
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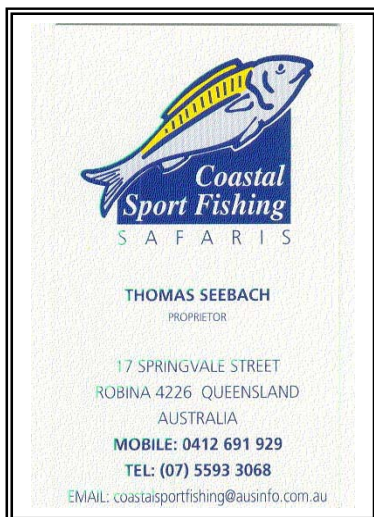
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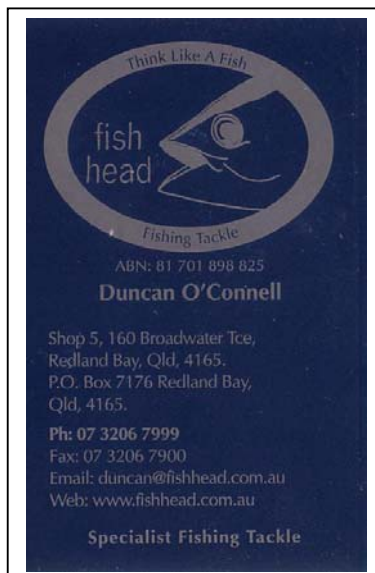


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 and the fish that counts!*



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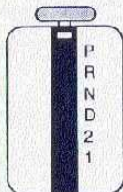


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