



NEWSLETTER

June, 2004

Hi Gang!

Our June meeting was very interesting and well attended. It is good to see, that with a club the size of ours, we usually have at least half the members at each meeting.

Russell Coit Award

It was suggested that this award go to **Vince Margossian** for trying to land two Kingfish at once, but this motion was almost unanimously vetoed by the membership, who felt he showed great courage and ambition. Instead, **John Foy** volunteered himself for the award for having turned up for Tom's Birthday Lunch a month early. This was accepted and John was duly fined a dollar!

Junior Coaching

Our application for the Council grant will be presented shortly. In the meantime, we need to organise a curriculum and get a rota of volunteers together. We will discuss this in more depth at our July Meeting.

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM is scheduled for Tues. August 17th. At that time elections will be held for club officers and all Committee positions will be open. Nominations will be accepted for anyone who wishes to propose a member or wishes to run for a position on the Committee.

Remember...Membership fees are now due! The fee is now \$40 per year, but members who have joined since April need only pay the \$10 increase.

We were fortunate once again, to have **Shaun Ash** there to share his wisdom and experience with us. He taught us a great deal about fighting fish that don't want to be landed, leaders, line types and weights and a lot more. Shaun is probably the best speaker we have had and is always willing to share what he knows with us. The only problem most of us have is that he gives us so much information, our brains get full well before he is finished! Thanks a lot, Shaun, and we hope to pick your brains more in the future.

June Outing – Trip to Jumpinpin

By Bob Knott

Dawn saw 15 intrepid but freezing-cold members heading out from Jacob's Well. The breeze was just picking up enough to make it uncomfortably choppy in open water...and to make it feel even colder! We got to Jumpinpin to find birds working everywhere, and fish boiling up all over the place. By this time the wind had picked up a bit more and the sun did nothing to warm things up. At one point I spilled hot coffee all over myself, and did that feel good! We chased around after the feeding fish for a while, only to find a lot of small Chopper Tailor which were caught by several of the guys. **Mark Hosking** landed a good sized Flathead and **Denis Shaw** landed some nice bream but that was about all we had to brag about. **Shaun Ash** had joined us for the outing in the hopes of getting some good material for an article; I wish we could have performed better for him, but he knows as well as anyone about the vagaries of fishing. We made our way back to Jacob's Well where **Brian Kirkley** cooked up one of his superb barbeque brunches. We warmed up in the sun,

told lies to each other over a couple of cleansing ales, and generally had a great time. You guys who don't come on our outings don't know what you are missing. We have fun even when the fishing isn't crash hot!

Angler of the Year Award – midyear results

Here are you mid-term grades. If you feel you have not received credit for fish you caught, you probably didn't let Glenn know about them. You can let him know now.

Rick Slennett	1490
Glenn Court	890
Mark Hosking	820
Richard Foley	810
Damian Crawley	810
Mario Demaio	620
Mark Miller	520
Brian Kirkley	480
Thomas Seebach	310
Steve Routleff	135
Bev Chiffens	100
Angus Collins	95
Gary Sheppard	60
Tom Boylan	50
Don Nash	40
Bob Knott	40
Denis Shaw	40
John Prince	30
David Kirk	20
Trevor Nels	10

So far, Rick is way out in front!

July Outing – The Seaway for Tailor. Sun, July 18th

This is always a great trip and a lot of fun. We will meet at dawn (or before) at the Seaworld boat ramp and fish the Seaway, the Sandbags, or wherever you find fish. We will meet about 11 for a barbeque at the boat ramp. We paired boats and passengers at our June meeting, but if anyone wasn't there, and has a boat, ring Tom and we will find a rider for you.

Thanks to those of you who have contributed articles for this newsletter. Club input is what makes this rag worth reading. You don't have to be a Hemmingway or to have photos of the quality of Ansell Adams, just something to tell us about. If you have been fishing or have heard a funny story about someone who has, let us know. If you are on the net (which makes it easier for me) just e-mail bobandkirsten@bigpond.com, if you are not you can bring your article to the meeting, or post it to Bob Knott.

Not getting political here!

Your politics are your own business, but we are going through a period of drastic changes to our fishing laws in Queensland. I am sure some of you have heard references to **The Fishing Party (Qld)**. Glenn Court has supplied the following information for you to look at; what you do with it is up to you.

The Fishing Party (Qld)

Background

It is clearly no secret to fishos throughout the state that our sport and lifestyle are under threat. Years of pandering to the ultra greens at both a state and federal level have seen increasingly restrictive laws being passed and an increasingly anti recreational fishing mindset by political parties of all persuasions. The Grey Nurse Shark closures in SE Qld and the Representative Areas Program (RAP) which covers some 70% of the state (the Great Barrier Reef marine park) are the 2 glaring examples of bureaucracy targeting recreational fishers in the great “seen to be green” stampede by the major parties. Fishing commentators, have, for some time, been crying out for a better way. While organisations vested with the role of lobbying for a fair go for fishers have tried hard, they have been largely ineffectual in this role because neither of the major parties have any fear of what should be termed the “voting block” of recreational fishers. By and large we are a pretty uninterested lot. **The reason many of us go fishing in the first place is to get away from the pressures of modern life, politics included.** Collectively we have not often flexed our political muscle, although a long remembered state minister for the environment called Molly Robson might beg to differ.

The Fishing Party (Qld Branch) was formed on 10th March 2004 after North Queensland anglers got a very poor hearing during the last round of RAP negotiations. Political interference in the RAP zoning (later denied but proof on hand) ultimately turned the one bright hope of the RAP process in the central section of the park into a professional fishing inspired debacle and finally became the line in the sand. All the talk about getting active, all the years of trying through various MAC's, committees and talkfests, all the sham of public consultation finally came to a head. **RAP became the catalyst for what will ultimately determine the future of recreational fishing in this state.** We either care about our sport and lifestyle or we don't. This is not something we can leave to the other bloke, **YOU** are the other bloke, it is not something we can ignore in the hope “she'll be right”. It won't; and it is not something we can take our time considering. There is no time. The next election is less than 6 months away and an awful lot of work is still to be done, by the few people who have put up their hands and said, I'm in. They deserve your support; they deserve some help and ultimately may just deserve your gratitude if we get the current crop of polities to understand that enough is enough. I Fish & I Vote actually means something!

Who is behind it?

So who is behind it? The Fishing party federally has a head office in NSW and was formed in 2000 with the required 500 members and is a duly registered political party with the Australian Electoral Commission. The Qld branch was formed at an AGM on 10th March, at which time a state executive was voted in to lead the party up until the next AGM. These people include a mix of industry professional and just rank and file mad keen fishos prepared to put in some work for the sport they love and the rights we so passionately believe in. The list of our state executive includes. Kevin Collins as Chairman, Neale William as Secretary, Paul Tabell as Treasurer and a committee including Dave Donald, Alex Witton, Geoff Walsh, Ken Crittenden and Brian Pickup. Full details of the state executive, along with a brief bio on each member is available on the party web site on www.thefishingparty.info or by emailing kc@whitsunday.net.au This is not a mob of politicians, it is not a collative of political hanger-on's from other organisations and it has no agenda other than the protection of our sport and our fundamental freedoms to enjoy the waterways. Party members already include such notables as John Mondora

Why do we need it?

The political process requires that in a democracy, the politicians we vote for are supposed to represent us. Clearly, in the case of recreational fishers, this is not the case. We are ignored, disenfranchised and generally treated with contempt by both sides of politics.

The parliamentary system in Qld makes it almost impossible to do anything about it but in the federal senate this is a very different matter. The senate has a system called proportional representation, which allows particular issue groups or points of view to gain a foothold and have their voice heard. While recognizing that most fisheries issues are state based it is also clearly the case that a federal senator has a whole lot more chance of being heard at a state level than a lone voice or even a number of voices trying to represent the rights of an interest group. An awful lot of marginal state seats are won with less than 5% swings and if we can effectively demonstrate our numbers at a senate election they will listen very carefully at a state level. Why do you think the greens stand so many candidates in state elections when they know full well they can't possibly win.

The structure of the federal system requires that a party achieve approx 7% of the available vote to win a seat. Additional to this a party achieving some 4% of the available vote become eligible for AEC funding as a recognized political party and this becomes our first benchmark. If we win sufficient votes to get funding from the AEC we will finally be in a position to counter the vast propaganda machine of both the commercial fishing lobby and the pointy end of the green movement, which has dominated so much of the fishing related policy of late.

We will never be a force until the government takes seriously our ability to organise both our voting block and ourselves. Without wanting to draw any comparisons between the 2 organisations one only needs to look at the influence of the NRA in America to see just how effective a sporting organisation can be if they become politically active.

No matter how much Sunfish and other lobby groups try, they need to remain non political by nature (as they should) and really cannot work against a government. On the other hand The Fishing Party intends to scream bloody murder and really doesn't care who we upset along the way.

How is it funded?

Ultimately, like all things in life, it all comes down to money. No matter how hard we are prepared to work, no matter what we are prepared to do, if we don't have the funds this whole exercise is just pissing into the wind. The one bright light is that at least, as a voting block, fishos are a pretty easy lot to find. We read the same mags, listen to the same radio fishing shows and visit the same tackle shops. Our ability to reach our voting block is far easier, and thankfully less expensive than the major parties but we still need some real money. We are funded only by membership. All work is carried out by volunteers. We will be investigating the opportunities for corporate sponsorship over the next month or so but even within this option, if we don't have members, we don't have credibility with the fishing corporations. If we represent only a few hundred fishos we don't even register, no matter what the will of the people might decide come Election Day. We need thousands of members. We need you to join or donate, not the other bloke.

If we get the numbers and in turn the dollars we will have full page ads in every fishing magazine in the country, in every tackle shop and boatyard window and on every TV and radio fishing program we can find. If fishos want a fair go, this is it. Our one shot. 3 more years of current government mindset and golf is going to be a whole lot better option.

How will we spend the money?

Funds raised are used only for stationary costs and advertising. All travel costs to date have been met by the individuals. All phone and e-mail time has been someone's personal expense, all work is totally unpaid. Subject to membership we may undertake a road trip prior to the election and funds for this will probably be paid by the party

Are we democratic?

The party's constitution is posted on our web site and a bit too long winded to put in this article. We believe the branch constitution put the power in the hands of the members and they will determine who takes it forward and what are its policies. The constitution is designed to stop and branch stacking and stop single issues dominating debate or single entities dominating policy. This document is also available in full on our web site.

Our policies

At the end of the day we don't have firm policies. A number of drafts/ideas for policies which cover a range of fishing and environmental issues are outlined on our web site but at the end of the day our members will set our policy. Unlike most political parties we are actually happy to listen. Happy to be told by you what matter to you. If something is giving you the %\$#@ tell us. If you have an idea for a policy, let us know. It can be at a purely local, state or national level, we really don't mind. The more members we have, the more ideas we have, the more input we have, the better we can stand up and say. We represent the recreational fishing community of Qld and **THIS** is what **THEY** want.

Sunfish

We see the role of Sunfish as vital to both our party and more importantly the future of recreational fishing in Qld. They should not have to go like beggars each year for a pittance in government funding and we would seek to address this issue within our draft policy for a federally funded **Recreational Enhancement Fund**. While we understand and appreciate the level of support Sunfish has been able to give us, in our infancy, we realize their need to remain apolitical and longer term we see their role as educational and working on enhancing the sport rather than constantly fighting bushfires at a government level.

The Fishing Party will, if successful, fight the fights so organisations like Sunfish can work on the far more rewarding aspects of the sport of recreational fishing.

Plea for support

In a nutshell that is us. A snapshot of who we are, what we stand for and what we hope to achieve. We are not the Looney right or ratbag left in disguise. We have, within our draft policy framework, a policy, which says, in essence, that in areas outside our areas of expertise (health, education, defense etc) we will support, in principle, the duly elected government of the day. In other words, unlike some of the current fringe parties, we will not be spoilers. If the government, elected by the majority of Australian to govern, wants to do something out side of environmental and fisheries areas we won't be spoilers, we will be sensible. That doesn't mean however that if, say, they want to sell the rest of Teslstra, we won't be saying first...if you want our vote in the senate, what's in it for us?

If **YOU** are ever going to do something about what is and will continue to happen to your sport, this is it. **No other chances, no other lights on the horizon and no more time.** You are either going to accept what is and will be dished out or you do something about it now! **The major parties are well aware of what we are up to and will be relying on the continuing apathy of anglers, just as they have always done.** Just ignore us and just as in the past, this will all

blow over and the cozy status quo of the current political system will be maintained while they continue to court the ultra greens. No doubt many a good chuckle is already being had at our expense while they swirl their glass of chardonnay in the parliamentary dining room and dream up some more ways to continue the anti fishing agenda. If you don't want to become a member of a political party for "big brother" purposes just stick a few bucks in an envelope and remember where to cast your vote come Election Day. If you own a tackle shop or boat yard, cut out this article and stick it in your front window. If you are in a fishing club, make sure everyone reads this as a matter of priority. The few of us trying to drive this thing are doing everything possible to save recreational fishing as we know and love it. It is totally up to you as to whether we succeed or are wasting our bloody time. The membership application is printed here abouts. Donations and application forms can be sent to The Secretary. The Fishing Party (Qld) PO Box 1311 Airlie Beach 4802

I Fish & I Vote....make sure it finally actually means something!!

Quote of the month...Instead of a quote, here is a maths problem for you:

Three fishermen hire a boat for the day; the cost is \$30. The owner knows the blokes and tells his assistant to give them a discount, and only charge them \$25. The assistant figures \$5 is hard to split three ways, so he gives them each a dollar back and pockets the other \$2.

The problem is that now it has cost each of the guys \$9 for the boat (\$27 in total) and the assistant has taken \$2. We add these and they come to \$29. Where did the other dollar go?

Answer next month.

Tight Lines and bent rods!

Your Scribe

Coming Events



CASTING ARVO

**Sun. 1st August Pizzey Park, Miami
1:30pm**

NEXT MEETING:

**Tuesday, July 20th - 7.30 p.m.
Mermaid Beach Bowls Club,
9 Markeri Street, Mermaid Beach**

**NEXT CLUB
FISHING TRIP:**

**Sun. 18thth July
Location – The Seaway
Target – Tailor
Time: Daybreak, Seaworld ramp
BBQ at 11, Seaworld boat ramp**

South East Queensland Flyfishing Club Inc. – Contacts:

President - Tom Boylan 55646660
Vice President - Gary Sheppard 55637470
Secretary - Angus Collins 55355499
Treasurer - Mark Miller (02)66724364
Publicity Officer - Bob Knott 55983254

MEMBERS BUSINESS CARD GALLERY
Support those who support your club

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