



NEWSLETTER

March, 2004

Hi, Everyone!

It was good to see a big turnout for our March meeting. We welcomed three new members: **Rob Faulkner**, **Shaun Connolly**, and our first Junior Member, **Jordan Davis**. Welcome to our gang of long-wand miscreants, guys! We are happy to have you onboard.

We have decided that Junior Members should not be subject to the joining fee, and should only pay \$15 per year. A Junior Member is someone under the age of 18.

Fishing Success!

Rick Slennett won the Fly Fishing Section of the **Blue Fin Bass Classic**, at Hinze Dam. He went on to win the fly fishing competition, for which he won a fly rod which he kindly donated to the club. After some discussion the club decided to give it to Jordan, whose fly rod had recently been broken in "car-door incident". In return, Jordan's father has donated a slab of beer for our next outing. So, good news all around!

Our guest speaker for the meeting was **Robert Coddington**, who is the new co-owner of **The Fisherman** at **Sporties**. Robert is an experienced fly fisherman and is putting in a whole, new range of gear and will have a section devoted to fly fishing. He brought some rods along for us to try and a couple of reels. Most members yanked off their shoes and had a go. The consensus was that the rods, although in the budget range, cast well and were good value. Robert is also stocking gear in the higher price brackets and is offering our members a **20% discount!** So drop in, have a look, say hello and buy something!

The Borumba Shield

The Borumba shield this year was awarded to **Brian Kirkley** for catching not only the largest Saratoga on the Borumba trip, but the only one! This is the guy who said a couple of months ago "I haven't ever caught a fish on a club outing".

We had a bit of a discussion about the rules for our **Angler of the Year** points system; some members feel that those who cannot attend our "away outings" but choose to fish our alternative "at home outings" should not be awarded the same points for attendance and fish caught. There will be further discussion before the issue is resolved. We are sure getting complicated about awarding a tin cup at the end of each year!

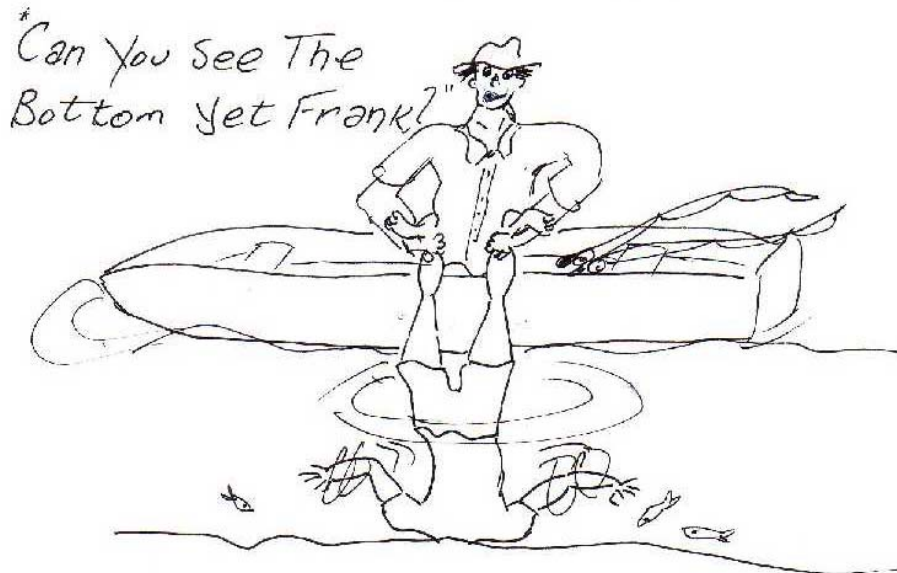
A problem solved

We have received some complaints from new members and visitors who have picked up our flyers at the various fishing outlets, that they turn up at Pizzie Park on the 1st Sunday of the month and there is no one there to get them started! John Foy is always there when he is in town, but he does have to go away sometimes! It has been decided that we should have a roster to ensure someone is on hand, since we do advertise this casting day.

The volunteer members are: Mario Demaio, Gary Sheppard, Damian Crawley, Tom Boylan

April Outing

Our April outing will be a Bream fish on the Nerang River. Start as early as you like; we will have a barbeque about 11AM at Gladys Moncrief Park, which is right behind Sorrento Shopping Centre. There is plenty of parking for cars and boats



Fly Tying Competition **A note from Jon Makim**

G'day everyone, just a quick note to fill you in on our tying comp, so you all know what to come up with in order to walk away with the prizes***. We're looking for a crazy charlie, a deceiver and a baitfish pattern. For the crazy charlie, it doesn't have to be anything too textbook, so long as it's well tied, neat and has some style. Same with the deceiver, but looking for some creativity, a different colour pattern etc. must have an epoxy head though. For the baitfish pattern, definitely looking for some creativity in this one, basically anything goes and the more realistic the better, but if I see a set of lead eyes I will chop your fingers off so you can't do it again!

Happy tying!
Jon

South East Queensland Flyfishers
Fly Tying Evening
With Shaun Ash (Fly tier extraordinaire)

When Friday 26th March –7.00 to 10.30 pm

Where Gold Coast Yacht and Game Fish Club (Runaway Bay)

Why Because you may need up-skilling for the big competition or you might just want to give it a try.

On the night Shaun will be tying the following flies.

- ✓ Deceiver
- ✓ Streamer /Tuna
- ✓ Crazy Charlie

This will be a hands on evening so you will need to bring the following stuff: -

Essentials

- Your Vice
- A desk lamp and short extension lead
- Thread (fine mono and flat wax nylon) and bobbin
- Hooks (#1,#4,#6)
- A clean handkerchief and undies

Materials

- Bucktail and Calftail
- Flash (pearl if possible)
- Eyes – stick on and lead or beadchain
- Small length of mono. (20lb or thereabouts)
- Suitable hackle feathers for deceiver (may have some in club materials)

If you aren't able to obtain any of the above material please contact another club member who might be able to help or try to obtain a reasonable alternative. I will bring the club materials along on the night but can't guarantee I'll have everything covered.

Shaun's last evening was a great success and he is easily able to cater for different levels of expertise. Please don't be concerned if you're a mug tier like me or someone a bit more advanced. I guarantee you will all get something out of the night and have a good time.

We will be starting at **7.00 pm sharp** so in fairness to Shaun who is giving up his time, (gratis) please be on time.

The Gold Coast Yacht and Game Fish Club is a great venue tucked in behind the Runaway Bay Marina. I have attached a map of the area and I hope this helps in locating it. The address is Marina Cr, Runaway Bay. Just turn off Bayview Street into Poinsettia Av. (heading toward the broadwater) and then left into Marina Cr. You can't miss the club a little way along on the left.

Refreshments

The club will be staffing the bar for us on the night and beer, spirits in cans and soft drinks (for whimps) will be available at standard bar prices.

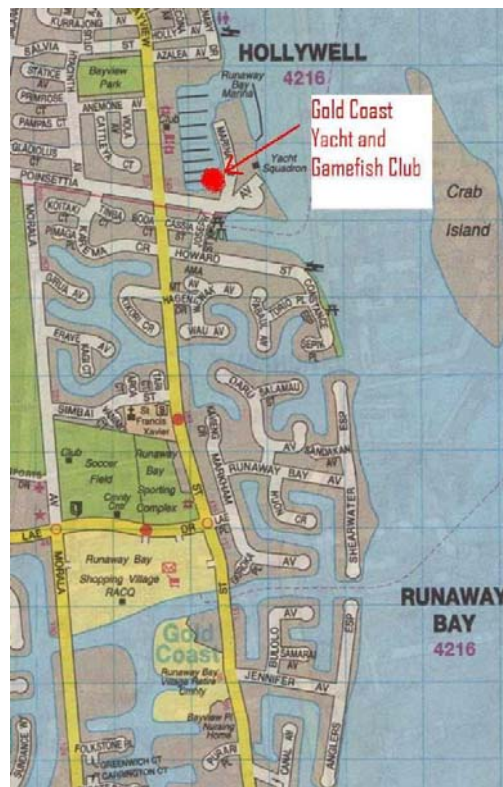
Please support your club and attend this event, which promises to be a great night.

If you have any questions please feel free to give me a call on my mobile 0422 788797.

Gary Sheppard

President in Charge of Vice

If you are going attend please call me 0422 788797 so we can cater for numbers.



A Trip to Tassie By Mike Halls

It was a great trip and I made lots of friends. I joined the Devonport Fishing Club who are building a big fishing lodge at the Great Lakes. It will sleep 16 people when finished. The membership is open to all people at the cost of \$10 per member or \$15 per family. By being a member you can stay at the lodge for \$5 per night. On the weekend I was there I was up working with Graham Buoure, who is the club president. I got involved in a working bee, putting up the roof on the second part of the building and building a wood shed. All in all, I got to meet all the guys and came away with heaps of information on how, where, and what to do when fishing in the area. They are a great bunch of guys!

I caught a Brown Trout on Sunday night off the bank, on a sinking line, with a black Woolly Worm; Tues night I lost two good fish, but after 6hrs on the water I was freezing and couldn't feel my fingers or my feet and I couldn't feel the fish hit my fly. All I saw was a lovely fish jump out of the water flashing his beautiful spots at me! I stayed at the Lakes with my wife for over a week and the weather was beautiful, with snow one day!

I also fished at a place called "Redbanks", which is a private fishery run by Lindsay White; I highly recommend it! I caught a nice Rainbow on a dry fly, which was a beetle pattern, and when I got him on the bank he was coughing up beetles...he was that full! This fish took me over 30min to land; I released him hoping to catch more fish later, but guess what? I didn't catch another fish. I did catch a 3.5kg Salmon at the Hauville River on a Mataka fly.

There are some good fish in there; Rainbows and Browns over 14lbs a Salmon over 20 lbs. This place also breeds pheasants by the thousands, and Lindsay has kindly donated some cock pheasant capes and tail feathers to the club, which I will bring to the next meeting.

To contact Lindsay:

Lindsay@redbanks.biz or visit www.redbanks.biz

267 Masons Rd.

Nugent

Tel: 0428140177



New Zealand Travels

By Brian Kirkley

I was fortunate to spend a fortnight in New Zealand during January 2004 and spent a major part of the time fishing for Trout.

There were a lot of steep learning curves for me. in the two weeks, and while all of the fly fishing guys I met gave me warm and helpful advice and often one of their favourite flies to try, there was also a lot of well meaning information about where to fish from other sources that had me stumbling for miles over cannonball sized gravel on wild “trout” chases. At times I wondered if it was because I had joked in the past about the animal husbandry practice of our neighbours and they and somehow found out and were punishing me.

So what I’m going to do is to list as much information as I can in the hope it can help any one planning on a trip over to New Zealand in January.

I learnt that climate (especially temperature) affects the behaviour of the trout, and so the info I’m listing may only apply to summer.

NORTH ISLAND:

I spent a week in the Rotorua to Bay of Plenty area and fished several streams and lakes.

TE PUKE: The Wyrrie River crosses the road about a kilometre south of town, travelling to Maketu. Its reputed to be the coldest stream in the North Island. The stream is about 10 meters wide and 2-3 meters deep and very clear, with weeds streaming along the edges. The first trout I saw was about 400 meters downstream where a railway bridge crosses the stream. The central bridge pile had a huge raft of debris around it and this monster of ‘at least 15 pounds’ finned in the dead water while strong current swept by on either side. If disturbed, this monster just eased back under the debris,

I spent several visits and many unsuccessful hours with every fly and strategy I could imagine without success!! Good luck!—I’m sure he’s still there.

LAKE ROTORUA:

The water in the lake was warming from constant days of 25-28 degrees and the trout were congregating at the mouths of the little cold streams entering the lake from the north and eastern shores. The streams poured into the lake with a strong current and the fish looked for spots where they could rest close to the edges of the cold water, without having to fight the current. They searched for even the smallest drop off to rest behind, while seeking the coolness of the icy stream water.

I saw a solitary old guy wading out at the mouth of the Hamurana Stream and decided to follow him out. I donned dive boots and new thermal underwear and shorts, and waded into the stream mouth, rod in hand. The clear stream water was freezing, but as soon as I could angle into the cloudy water of the lake, there was an instant increase in temperature to a comfortable level.

I flogged the water quietly and kept my eye on the old guy. After a while he angled my way and we slowly drifted closer until we could smile and say G’Day.

It wasn’t long before he was telling me he’d started fishing for trout in England as a youth, and still couldn’t get enough. He was quick to explain the info I’ve listed above, and demonstrate how to

cast across the current and to be alert as his line straightened into the line of the *dirty* water. He was using an intermediate line and wet flies, although he said a lot of fishermen used floating lines and long fluorocarbon traces. Most fish were taken close to the bottom. Favoured wet flies were Mrs Simpsons and Hammil's Killers. (Although he referred to wet flies as lures) He was using his own tie from a swamp hen (deep blue) with a thin deep yellow stripe along the lateral line on about a 8 hook. Olive or black was the favoured colours.

By this time a few more guys had waded slowly in and spread along the "dirty water" line and within 15 mins I saw two excellent trout played and landed. Sterling sport with the fish leaping energetically and men already to their waists being almost dragged under. One guy had forgotten his net—and I soon saw the value of having one, as his only option was to slowly walk backwards for 100 meters until he could beach the 6 pound Rainbow. The other fish landed was a hell bent Brown of about 8 pounds and by the time it was lifted out of the water it was so dark all that could be seen was the guys white smile of triumph.

I fished an afternoon at the mouth of the Awahou Stream, and hooked a leviathan that arched out of the water like a porpoise and shook my bead-head shad pattern out like a toothpick, after a thrilling 10 seconds.

Another afternoon at the Waiteti mouth standing in the 'picket fence' catching nothing, while watching the trollers hook fish after fish not 10 meters further than any one could cast. YES!!—that's where the drop off was that particular day.

I had a wonderfully unsuccessful day nymph fishing some hydro canals with a local guy. I have no idea where we got to, mostly forestry tracks. Most of the technique was "traditional" new zealand nymph fishing with or without a large royal wolfe as a strike indicator. He favoured the Prince nymph as well as anything small and olive. Size 14-18.

Floating line is usually a dark colour with a 6 pound leader. (or heavier in fluorocarbon). There were plenty of fish to cast to---about 3 between every two power poles along the canal, and that kept us working all day. We took a break beside a little lake in the forest and cast everything we could find to the constant stream of huge rainbows mooching along the gravelly bottom munching small snails. We hacked anything black into 'snailey' shapes without any success. Letting leaders sink to the bottom, twitching slowly or fast, whatever we tried the most the fish would do was turn offhandedly away. They were not spooked by our standing at the waters edge even when they swam within a rod length in about 2 meter clear water. They were just too interested in the crunchy snails to consider anything else as worth inspecting. He assured me that the weekend before he had landed several double figure fish and that there were wonderful hatches of caddis that turned the lake into a maelstrom, but none of that was for me that day.

SOUTH ISLAND:

We landed in Christchurch and picked up a motor home for the next 8 days.

Our first stop the tackle shop in the main street where was soon chatting to the 'expert' in trout fishing. He said the MacKenzie District was the primary choice to explore, and after buying some supplies and a few hours driving we were pulling in beside Lake Tekapo, with enough light to check the place out and ask about fishing spots before nightfall.

Heavy rains in the mountains had raised the stream heights and made the water milky and fast flowing.

Lake Tekapo reminded me a lot of Thredbo as a township—a skiing village between seasons. I fished unsuccessfully for a few days.

If you're in the area here's some places to consider.

Travel up the road on the eastern side of the lake for at least 30-40 mins past the turnoff to the snow fields on the right. Start watching for where the river curves in close to the road and pick any spots you can stop and walk down. I spoke to a local guide and he grudgingly told me that stretch of the river held some prize fish.

Salmon Farms:

There are salmon farms built in the hydro canals between Tekapo and Twizel.

There's some huge fish live under the nets, and some giant trout and salmon have been caught spinning with lures like traffic light tassie devils. I fished downstream of a couple of farms and saw a nice salmon about 8 pound caught by a 10 year old boy on his first cast (spinning) in the Ohau canal. I didn't catch anything but there were some amazing rises and I saw my first caddis moths.

Omarama:

The highway crosses the Ahuriri River a kilometre north of Omarama and there's a good rest area beside the river. The river was high and discoloured and I only caught a fingerling. Walking downstream on the north banks, there are numerous rills and runs that look good, and I was assured by the local tackle shop this is his favourite stretch of river for fly fishing. If you have the time, the most favoured place is to take the right turn a little south of town and drive until the river is running beside the road, Drive upstream as far as you can go, while looking for spots to stop and fish, the higher you get the better the fish (that's local advice anyway).

Twizel Lakes:

With the rivers too fast and milky, I went looking for anywhere else there could be fish, and although the local opinion was that the two lakes a few kilometres south of Twizel held some small trout, the impression I was given was that they were small. The lakes have easy access and you can drive all round them, in some places right to the water edge. I fished the one on the left hand side of the highway, driving south, first. There were plenty of small browns about 30cms slowly circling the shoreline in as little as 15cms of water. I tried unsuccessfully for a morning and afternoon to find a fly to tempt a strike then at my wits end moved across to the other lake.

The lake on the right hand side of the highway, driving south, was like a different world, and even as I drove in along a ridge I saw a HUGE trout 3-4 meters out from the bank.

It soon became apparent that there were big fish here, and they were slowly cruising the edges so I excitedly started stalking the shoreline, moving from one gap to the next in the willows so I could cast out a few meters and settle a nymph on the gravel and wait as they finned frustratingly closer. Sometimes I twitched the nymph and sometimes I let it sit, but either way the fish just cruised by. It was a very pleasant way to spend a few hours, however I spent the last fortnight watching trout ignore my offerings and I was now at my wits end.

I saw another figure appear across the lake, which was unusual, since I had the place to myself till then, and when I saw he was fly fishing, I drove around and parked where I could quietly walk to within 50 meters of him and waited until he saw me before asking if it was ok to have a word. He had a dun pattern floating about 3 meters from the shore and while he waited for any interest, he was happy to chat, as was his mate who appeared a few mins later. They said they travelled about 2 hours to fish the lakes and while there were fish near their Waikaura, they liked the ease of fishing here and had often caught some big fish.

They always fished dry fly and mostly, found a *good* spot, and stood quietly and waited for fish to pass. As we spoke one huge brown swam into sight and circled the fly before easing away. That was the most interest I'd seen from a fish so far, and after a pleasant chat, I rushed off to change lines and flies.

After a few hours of watching flies slowly drown, and sink, I was exasperated, and stopped for lunch. A car pulled up and I saw a guy unwrapping a Mc Donalds, with fly rods taking up the rest of the sedan. I ambled across and we were soon chatting. He showed me his favourite fly, a little greeny beetle that a local guy made, and told me the **key** to catching a trout here. "We fish with drys on the lake because it's a real challenge, but if you want to catch a fish, just use any olive wet fly and when a fish passes just tweak it a little, and you can hardly miss." Well I have to admit I was skeptical but off I went to re rig and go stalking again. Amazingly it worked and a huge brown that looked like double figures, rushed over and grabbed the olive fur fly, and I saw him crunch it like an apple before turning and heading out deep. I never said I was an expert and within a few mins I was dragging a lump of weed out tangled around my leader and no fly.

That as the only fur fly I had in olive and so a few more hours were spent proving that no other colour appealed, to any fish no matter how I waited.

The next morning was my last before having to travel back to Christchurch, and while the lakes had been a wonderfully comfortable place to fish, I had almost given up hope of a New Zealand Brown.

I hunted through my fly boxes and discovered one of those “specials” we all tie at some time or another and never use. A modified Tom Jones pattern with one “wing” in olive rabbit fur. I found a place I hadn’t tried. A place where the banks were close and deep water made a natural channel between two arms of water.

All the active spots had been open shallow gravelly bottoms so far, but this looked worth a try. I decided to have a few blind casts and see if I could get a good presentation before any fish appeared.

I cast almost to the opposite bank and was stripping back when I saw a fish appear near my bank and enter the deep channel. I tried to strip the fly back faster to be in position but the fish was too fast and crossed my clear intermediate without awareness and cruised on.

I was still retrieving and saw the fly “puffing” through the clear water about 5 meters out, when the Brown turned in its tracks and flashed like an arrow to snatch my fly and run. I actually saw the trout open its mouth and snap the fly, and crunch it before turning and diving. This was the fish I had been seeking for a fortnight and there was no way I was going to lose him!! I think my whoop of triumph as I lifted the 4 pound brown in my net was heard in Christchurch!!!

Now I know why fly fishermen who catch trout say that theirs is the ultimate of the sport. To actually SEE a fish, and cast to it and SEE it take your presented fly, whether dry or wet or nymph has to be the ultimate in fishing.

March Club Outing – Mooloolabah

By Thomas Seebach

Five Members Glenn Court, Mario Demaio, Drew Griffith, Denis Shaw and Thomas Seebach made the annual pilgrimage to mooloolabah. This year it was decided that we coincide the trip with the Invitational Longtail Tuna Chase. Friday night saw the briefing being held at the Kawana Hotel at 7.00 PM with some drinks and information shared about where the Tuna might be.

Saturday morning all boats and competitors lined up at 6.00am in front of the Mooloolabah rock walls for a shotgun start. Most boats headed south towards Bribie. Mario and I got about 1 Km south and couldn’t resist casting at boil ups of mack tuna, we landed 2 fish and pulled the pin to head further south. On the way we came across Drew and Glenn who also couldn’t resist and had landed 1 fish. Once we arrived at Bribie we could see Longtails porpoising and boiling all around and came across another competitor boat with a double hook up and fish boiling only inches from their boat. The morning session was highlighted by Glenn with best hook up for the trip (in our group) on a longtail, unfortunately losing the fish to a half hitch around the reel (we’re up to about # 9 on the way to lose a tuna). I also had a shot at one with hook up coming almost next to the boat and hook pulling out as quickly as going in. The rest of the day was spent chasing schools of mack tuna with another few fish being landed. Denis struggled with his partner Gympie John who was suffering from back pains and migraines and had to be returned to shore eventually.

The weather on Sunday was an absolute disaster. We pounded back down to Bribie eventually finding some schools out wide, with the wind blowing SE at about 15 to 20 knots there was only one way to come in on the schools and we were finally rewarded with a few fish. Drew, Glenn, Mario and myself decided to come back mid morning to clean up and eat before the trip back home, Denis toughed it out till the end and stayed back for the presentations.

Flies that worked for us on the weekend were Jon Makims polar bite, Jelly beans, Anorexic clousers and Surf candies tied in olive and white.

Congratulations go to drew who caught his first mack tuna and biggest fish on fly and to Glenn who nailed the largest mack tuna (in our group) 80cm.

Final Standing’s were

Mario	3 mack tuna
Thomas	3 mack tuna
Glenn	2 mack tuna
Drew	1 mack tuna
Denis	1 mack tuna

In the overall competition there were 7 longtail tuna and 87 mack tuna caught.



Quote of the month:

If quitters never win, and winners never quit, then who is the fool who said “Quit while you’re ahead?”

Anon

Tight Lines and bent rods!

Your Scribe

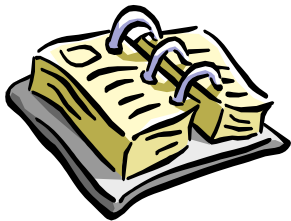
Coming Events

CASTING ARVO

**Sun. 4th April Pizzey Park, Miami
1:30pm**

NEXT MEETING:

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



**NEXT CLUB
FISHING TRIP:**


**Sun. 18th April
Location – Nerang River
Target – Bream
Time: 6:30 (or earlier)
BBQ at 11, Gladys Moncrief Park**

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


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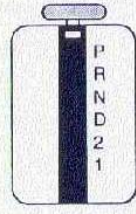
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