



# NEWSLETTER

March 2009

## *Greetings, Gang!*

At our February meeting we welcomed **Shaun Ash**. Shaun has helped our club out many times over the past few years with tying lessons, casting days and interesting talks. It was good to see him again.

Quite a few of our members went to the "Matthew Quinn Memorial Fly Classic". The event was well attended and run very smoothly. **Harrison Perrin** took out the Junior Division with a nice Golden Trevally. Congratulations Harrison!

This is worth space in our newsletter The Qld. Conservation Council are blinkered bigots sadly in need of education and should have their activities curtailed until they acquaint themselves with fully researched facts. Tom

### **Recfish Australia Criticises Queensland Conservation Council**

Recfish Australia, the peak national body for recreational fishing has hit back at James McLellan from the Queensland Conservation Council over claims that recreational fishing 'plays a big part in declining fish stocks.'

Reacting to an interview on ABC Radio's Country Hour, Len Olyott, Chief Executive Officer of Recfish Australia said; "No one is saying that recreational fishers do not have an impact on fish stocks, we do. However, it's not true to say that we play a big part in declining fish stocks. I would ask Mr McLellan to produce his evidence which proves that this is true.

Most Australian recreational fisheries are managed sustainably. Most recreational fishers do the right thing and believe in sustainable utilisation of fish stocks. We are tired of being branded as mindless fish killers. Recreational fishers have been at the forefront of conservation since long before many contemporary conservation organisations. We spend time on the water, we introduce our children to the natural environment and we care for our environment.

I encourage Mr McLellan to contact me so that we can discuss ways in which the Conservation Council and recreational fishers can work together to improve the sustainable management of our natural resources."

Olyott also dismissed claims by Dr Colin Simpendorfer that recreational fishers cannot identify different fish species. "Given appropriate identification guides, fishers can distinguish different fish species. We are not stupid; we just need the right tools. Recreational fishers, in particular spearfishers, are contributing to the biggest, community-driven shark monitoring program in the world.

The Great Australia Shark Count is an initiative of the Australian Underwater Federation and is finding out where sharks occur and the range of species that inhabit our coastal waters. The main problem is a lack of funding for this project; existing funding sources such as Caring for Our

Country simply do not recognise fish as part of our cultural and environmental heritage. In fact, fish or fishing is not mentioned once in the 90 page business plan for Caring for Our Country Funding.

Recreational fishers represent a vast resource of passionate and knowledgeable champions for the environment. Work with us, not against us.”

### ***Anyone for chasing Tuna?***

The following is an excerpt from **Nat Bromhead’s** report in the **Australian Saltwater Fishing Forum**:

... “We have also made a few trips down to Tin Can Bay where there have been some good numbers of Mack Tuna with a sprinkling of Longtail’s thrown in for good measure - this is a great place for mid year tuna fishing. Tin Can Bay is an hour north of Noosa where many clients stay which is a win /win - keep the wife happy and have a great few days fishing at the same time! My boat record for tuna was actually set in Tin Can Bay (not Weep !) four years ago. David Henley landed 22 Longtail’s in one session there - it can be a fantastic place to fish particularly during the cooler months”

**Note:** Maybe we should consider a club trip to Inskip in May or June?

### ***Chasing Spotties*** – Mark Hosking

Rick & I made a couple of trips during January to Moreton Bay chasing Mackerel. Whilst the fish were not in plague proportions we did have a little success. We both lost plenty of flies in the process, had some classic bust offs (line around reel handle, line around bollard etc etc) and on the last trip I donated about 5 feet of flyline plus leader and fly to these toothy critters. Apart from this we have had some great fun chasing these speedsters. They sure put you into the backing quick not to mention that they taste fantastic!! The secret like a lot of pelagic type fishing was locating the birds and positioning the boat so as to get a shot at the fish underneath. On our first trip there were not many birds around and after a while we discovered that often there would be a couple of mackerel under single birds. There were no slashes in the water and often if we were in the right position we could spot the mackerel swimming towards us and get a cast away. Our second trip was totally different, flocks of birds, fish busting up and small bait balls being carved up. We also had a couple of casts at the odd school of Longtail’s, but they were pretty spooky and never hung around for long. No luck with them at this stage but we intend to keep trying!!!





**\*\* DON'T FORGET\*\***

Peter Morse will be here this weekend. Saturday evening 7:30pm and Sunday from 10am. You won't want to miss this event; Peter will give us a talk on Saturday evening and Sunday will be a family picnic and casting day. Nial Logan, Gordon Low and John Burgess will assist Peter in sorting out all your casting problems. This will be a great weekend and we hope you all attend if you can. Ring Tom on 5564-6660 so we can know how many to cater for.

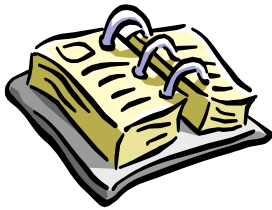
***Quote of the month:***

**The most effective way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once.**

Nash

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

**Coming Events**



**NEXT MEETING:**

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

**NEXT FISHING**  
**TRIP:**

**Uncle Billy's Retreat**  
**2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> May**  
**Target: Trout**

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