

# Club Newsletter

March 2010

# Welcome to all,

With the heaven's delivering their payload of long awaited moisture over the last few weeks there has been several changes to everyone's fishing plans. As history has shown when the skies open up to this extent and the waterways and water storage facilities receive natures cleansing and replenishing the fishing that follows is top shelf.

With many of our major water storage facilities serving the dual purpose of both water supply and flood mitigation continuing rains will test many of the systems that feed from them. It seems like a pipe dream, excuse the pun, that major water storage facilities like Wivenhoe Dam are sitting at over 92% as I write this news letter. No arguments that the thirsty hordes waiting downstream will soon put a dint in these figures once the weather patterns settle, but for now the water laden soil and overcast skies will continue to deliver to a fantastic result for the many people whose very lives depend on nature's blessings.

Although the club fishing calendar has seen more changes than a political press report on the justification of travel expenses, there are still some stories to tell. Put a fly rod in someone's hand and it still comes down to that old saying, "idle hands, simply means all the flies are tied, and it's time to wet a line".

So on with the story,

Jeff Christoffel

## Club Meeting - 9th February 2010

Our February meeting for February was well attended with 23 members present. A special welcome and thank you to Charlie Foster from New Zealand. Charlie is a professional flytyer and took time out from his busy Australian trip to spend the evening with our club members, and to share his interesting experiences with the group. Charlie also made a very generous offer of making available a compilation of fly tying materials and books, which will be put to good use by the club.



Mark Hosking and Charlie Foster

#### **Coomera Club Outing Cancelled**

With the effects of the heavy rain having already making its presence felt and the subsequent flood conditions being experienced in the Coomera River a change of venue for the next planned outing was first on the agenda. Kruger put forward the suggestion that Emerald Lakes near Carrara might be fishable. The suggestion was to prove a cracker alternative. More detail on this day in outing reports later.

#### **Clarrie Hall Dam Outing**

Details for the bass trip to Clarrie Hall were signed off.

#### **Trailer Maintenance Workshop**

Muz's plans to hold a trailer maintenance workshop was discussed and the date of the  $20^{th}$  of February was set in stone.

#### The Variety Children's Maroon Dam Bass Competition

Details and entry forms were covered. Full report on this outing under club outings later in the newsletter.

## **One Fly Outing**

Results of the one fly outing were acknowledged with congratulations going to Angus Collins in first place with 1 x Giant Herring(37 cm) and 1 x Bream (18cm) all taken on BMS Specials. Second place went to Paul Goodey with a Trevor (20cm) taken on a bead head baitfish pattern. Because of the maturity of the vegetation and the subsequent loss of casting opportunities there was some discussion given to a change of venue for next year's outing.

## Beaudesert Festival in the Olives - 9th May 2010

The "Festival in the Olives" is an annual event held on an olive grove situated just south of Beaudesert. The festival takes in arts and crafts, drumming classes, black smithing, children's activities, food, and the like.

Last year the club was asked if they would like to conduct a workshop to tutor both fly casting and fly tying. We subsequently took up the challenge, and a good day was had by all. The organisers arranged the 12 participants and the marguee and we supplied the instruction.



A Day on the Greens

The participants were divided into two with the top half going to the tying, and the bottom half going to the casting, or something like that. After lunch the groups changed places till the finish of the day.

Then it was time for some discussion on putting it all together and what to think about should the line go tight with a fish attempting to steal your fly.

All things done and dusted it's not a bad spot to take Mum for Mothers Day.



Taking it in

A river somewhere



## Impoundment Bass with Paul Goodey

With two bass outings on the drawing board for the month, Paul gave a talk on the key points for consideration when chasing those wily impoundment bass.

In the past chasing bass in both impoundments (stocked populations) and the wild (breeding populations) has been shrouded with elements of mystique that have given rise to many wanting to have a crack at these pocket dynamos but often held back with the uncertainty of where to start.

Thanks to the efforts of the many forward looking people who operate and support our many stocking associations and other freshwater development groups, the current and future prospectus of bass fishing has never looked better.

The other great aspect to chasing bass is that the pastime can be as technically involved or as basic as you wish. You certainly don't require one of every piece of equipment in a bass pro shop catalogue to catch bass. Land based, float tubes, kayak/ canoes and boats all have their place when it comes to bass fishing.





Float tubing bass with fly

Canoes and bass go well together

A key ingredient to a successful bass outing or any fly fishing outing for that matter is to understand what is happening in the world of the bass. Different times of the day often mean totally different techniques need to be applied to locate and entice the Bass to play. The same applies to the different behavioural patterns brought about by the seasonal changes from the cold winter to the humidity of late summer.

For the bass fisherman the rewards are many. Bass live in some of nature's most breath taking environments. The world of the bass will take you to places where the scenery will have you searching for the view around the next corner or bend.





Clarrie Hall Dam on daybreak

**Upper Tweed River region** 

This month, the main focus of Paul's talk on bass on fly is centred on fishing the impoundments. The principles that Paul has covered in his talk come from fly fishing for bass in many of our local bass habitats over many years of fly fishing. The techniques cover the two main successful methods for Bass on fly.

- Surface Fly
- Deep Fly

#### **Surface Fly**

Bass are often more receptive to surface fly in lower light conditions. That being just prior to first light and last light and on into the evening. Overcast days can often have the effect of extending the bite periods which given the mood of the bass have been known to continue well into the day.

Because of the visual aspect and the aggressive nature of the takes many fly fisherman are happy to work surface opportunities as their preference.

#### When working surface fly:

- ♣ The use of flies that generate noise. Flies like the Gurgler family, loud mouth poppers and flat face poppers will often draw a take.
- Once your fly has been cast to the target area, let it sit. Staying stationary for a minute or two is ok. Sometimes the bass are more inquisitive than anything and will suspend under the floating fly to check it out.
- When you do tweak the fly, give it a gentle bloop and let it sit again. This technique is not only hard on the fly fisherman nerves but it is often more than the bass can tolerate. It is often at this time that all hell breaks loose and you come up tight. Continue this process till you consider you are well out of the target zone.
- Don't rip your fly off the water when still in the target zone. Doing this will more than likely destroy any chance you have of a surface hook up in that spot.
- ♣ Try tying your surface flies on longer hook shanks to assist your surface fly to sit more vertically in the water. This can enhance the appearance of the surface fly in the water and improve the hook up rate on a take.
- ♣ Paul uses a clear floating fly line with a 20lb leader nail knotted to the flyline.
- ♣ Use mono leaders and tippets with surface flies. Mono holds the surface better with fewer tendencies to sink like fluorocarbon lines.
- ♣ Mono lines like the more supple "Platypus Super 100 series" are fine for this application.
- Nail knot 20 lb mono leader off the fly line, 12 lb tippet to finish off. Total length of leader and tippet 10 to 12 feet.
- As the sun starts to get higher work the shaded areas. On partially overcast days these shaded areas have been known to produce surface strikes throughout the day.
- ♣ If you can locate a spot just outside the lilies and with shade as well your chances of holding on to the surface bite is much better.





Bass surface take next to the lilies

#### Deep Fly.

As the term implies deep fly techniques are used when the bass are holding in deeper water. This behaviour is often apparent when the day is clear and the sun is sitting higher over the water. The bass move off the unprotected shallow grounds and tend to school at various depths in the deeper water column.

Finding these schooled fish is difficult without the use of a fish finder/ sounder. Once the school of fish have been located the next step is to get them to play.



Schooling bass on the sounder



The mother of all sounders

## When working deep fly:

- Use a sounder to locate the bass schools.
- ♣ Start sounding out from the points (Hinze) or around the depth changes (Clarrie Hall)
- Cast to where the weed beds finish and the depth changes start.
- Use sinking fly line like a "Scientific Angler Striper 4" or similar performing fly line to get your fly into the strike zone.
- ♣ Flies with a black body and a red wing are a good starting point.
- The addition of glow in the dark products tied into your fly can often entice the bass into striking.
- Always keep a tight line to the fly. Often the bass will hit the fly on the drop. Any slack in the line to fly will cause missed opportunities.

- Use a quick but short 2 to 3 strips and then pause. Keep repeating this stripping pattern until you are out of the strike zone.
- If using a mud eye pattern, longer, slower strips are the go.
- ♣ Longer casts with good line control get the best results.
- If you feel resistance on the line lean forward with the fly rod to give a tiny bit of slack and then strip strike.
- 4 Allow your fly to sink all the way to the bottom. 70% of the bass caught are taken as the fly leaves the bottom.
- If you are drifting along with your fly down deep, you should not be moving faster than normal walking pace.
- Always cast into the wind.



Bass clouser with glow in the dark body



39cm bass taken on deep fly clouser

Our thanks to Paul Goodey who gave this fact filled presentation on targeting impoundment bass.

Paul also demonstrated the technique of manufacturing glow in the dark eyes for tying his bass flies. I will cover off on this part of the workshop in the fly tying section of this newsletter.

## **Club Outings**

#### Emerald Lakes - Jeff Christoffel

With the cancellation of the Coomera River trip due to the local flooding the first club outing for the month was switched to the Emerald Lakes estate.

Emerald Lakes estate is situated on the Gold Coast not far from the Carrara sports grounds. Like many of the estate lake systems it is fed from one of the major river sources. In this case the Nerang River. At times all these systems can hold a healthy population of the estuary species of the area. This can make them a good land based option for a quick cast on the way home from work or when you just need some vitamin "sea" therapy.



**Emerald Lakes Estate** 

After fishing Emerald Lakes for the first time as a club event I received this email from Paul Goodey.

"Hi Jeff,

Here are a few photos from this morning, it's a good venue for further club outings, plenty of walking and loads of features to fish to. Personally speaking I find most lakes in suburbia noisy and ugly and the noise from the traffic too much. You have got all those negatives here, but early morning starts and for the advantages for club members without boats it is a good club location. There is some nice scenery; you just have to switch off to the car noise. The fishing was good. It was the first time I had been to this lake and I caught 2 flathead, 37cm & 57cm, a small bream and a 35cm tailor and got bitten off by another. Muz got a flattie and a tailor as well so it's probably a better fishing lake than Lakewoods.

In short, good fishing prospects, a bit noisy, ugly, tidal influences, great walking and casting spaces, lots of good socialising space.

Cheers Paul,

PS. It's not that "ugly."



**Local Lizard on fly** 



Lip hooked tailor from Emerald Lakes

As you can read into Paul's email fishing suburbia may not be a back to nature experience that many of us long for, but as Paul eludes to in his email, it is fly fishing, so it can't be all bad.

The aggressive nature of the flatties' and Emerald Lakes has to be seen to be believed. The flathead in the picture below left the water to launch an attack on Pauls fly box.



Lizards take flies like lollies

Perhaps this is the most positive feedback you will ever get on your fly tying. No wonder Paul wins the club fly tying competition so frequently. "Well done Paul."

## Variety Children's Bass on Fly Weekend - Jeff Christoffel

#### **Maroon Dam**

The weekend of the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> March saw the running of the Variety Children's Bass on Fly event. This weekend is put together by three hard working individuals whose main focus is to allow people to enjoy themselves fly fishing and at the same time support the great work being done by the Variety Children's Organisation.

Jeremy Wakelin and his wonderful wife Judy along with Kelly from Variety Children's put in a terrific effort to make these weekends possible and to them we owe a vote of thanks.

There are two weekends set down for Variety Children's on the fly fishing calendar each year. The first weekend is the Bass on Fly weekend in March at Maroon dam and the second is the Toga on fly weekend in October at Borumba Dam.

The venue for the Bass on Fly weekend was the "Camp Lakefire' facility on the south western side of the dam. Camp Lakefire has cabins, camping, dining and cooking facilities as well as hot showers to freshen up at the end of a day on the water. There is also access to the dam from the bottom of the property. The track down towing a trailer with a conventional vehicle is fair providing the weather is fine. And launching is no problem off the grassy bank.



The Saturday night dinner being enjoyed by all

With two low pressure systems passing through the area in quick concession and the flows into the dam bringing the dam levels higher than seen for many, many years, no was really sure exactly what to expect when we arrived at the camp at Friday afternoon. The one thing that never changes is the hospitality so we were off to a good start.

Up went the tent with the speed of 40 startled gazelles and it was down the hill and on the water to get a feel for the next few days. There were already a few crews on the water. Their eyes were glued to their sounders as they checked out the lay of the land. Denis had his new colour sounder up and running. At a first glance we thought it was a LCD television he had set up however we later found the he actually cooks the bass with the output from the transducer and they just float to the surface for him to measure them. Someone mentioned that Denis was trailing a power lead from his boat back to camp just to power up the sounder.



Denis has to look away or wear sunnies to turn around and read the sounder.

Having a gecko on the newer covered ground back closer to the camp I struck gold with a 36cm bass on the surface just before sunset. I was like the cat that swallowed the canary as I had just christened my new 5# fly rod. Back at camp it was time for the briefing and one of Judy and Kelly's hamburger and chips. Then a little interaction with the natives and off to bed ready for the 5.45 kick off.

It would be remiss of me not to mention that by this time Mother Nature was doing her best to make sure that no one was going to suffer dehydration at any time. Yes, the skies open up and rained on us frequently. Not a bad thing if you are an Aussie or Kiwi, bit tough on the others though.

Our first session took us up into the newly covered ground at the top of the dam. With the increase in water levels this place had bass written all over it, or so we thought.







Kruger and Kate working the weed edges

We worked surface and deep all through the top end of the dam but there was something missing, bass. At the close of the first session, 1100 on Saturday morning the reports were starting to get posted on the score board. The bass were in the main dam area close to the weed. Working the weed and more importantly the water just out from the weed had produced the numbers on the score board. For us fishing the upper end of the dam the only fish to cross the gunnels were spangled perch.

Denis, Norm and Kerry were looking healthy on paper at this time, with Dean and Connan nipping at their heels. This was Connan's first bass outing and he wasted no time posting the runs on the board. Fishing a floating line with a fluoro carbon leader just off the edge of the weeds near the launch area worked well.

Dean who enjoys a crack at the bass any time was also doing well working the same area.







**Spangles are pretty little critters** 



The Launching pad



Slippery track back to camp

With all this new found knowledge we set off for the afternoon session at 1400 sharp. But all attempts to redeem the situation failed badly. Fish were on the sounder but remained tight lipped. Those who chose to follow the pattern set by the results posted by the first session in the morning met with mixed results. An example of this was where Paul and Kerry were fishing as a team out of the same boat, Kerry had the secret key in the morning session and Paul produced the goods (excuse the pun) in the second session. The jury rests.

There had been a changing of the guard with the absence of Vince in the morning, so Denis saddled up with Connan on the second session on Saturday. Just a short time before the 1400 hrs start time Vince appeared. There was no mistaking Vince's boat, the blue beach umbrella which doubles as a sail when Vince executes those stealth manoeuvres into secret bass hideouts.

Mother Nature continued to ensure that dehydration was not going to present any safety issues. With one hand on the throttle and the other hand shielding my eyes from the wave of showers coming down the dam we set off for the area closer to the dam wall. On the sounder there were some large schools of fish. Most of which were holding at 4 to5 metres in 10 metres of water. For quite some time we worked deep fly through the schools but they remained very tight lipped and showed no interest in coming out to play. Denis and Paul's boats were directly across the other side of the dam not far from the public boat ramp.

Both crews were working over their pieces of turf and not moving around that much. Given the results coming from both boats in the first session on the Saturday, I concluded that they must be on to cooperative fish.

By the end of the second session on the Saturday, Ezvin's and my score card showed no signs of improvement with not one recordable bass coming over the gunnels. By this time I was seriously considering manufacturing a fishing net from our fly lines. Back at camp people were very conscious of keeping all sharp objects away from us. There was also continued movement on the score board. With continual fine adjustments being to applied techniques in the field, a nervous jostle for positions was starting to unfold.

With his attention to detail and home work in on time, Denis was sitting in a very healthy position. Denis has always shown a deserving respect for his fellow flyfishers and always gives it 100% from start to the finish.

The catch rate Norm was achieving in the weed beds in the southern bays was more than enough to hold his interest. And this perseverance was to pay dividends when the final results were posted. Norm, Goodey and Kerry were experiencing mixed results but I must say that Kate, Kruger, Dean and others were in the melting pot. The dinner on the Saturday evening was top shelf. All the hard work that was put in by those who prepared the evening meal was well received as we all sat down to a great meal in good company, swapping stories and ideas and planning for the day to come





Flat out in the engine room

To much for some, collapsing under the tables

From the weather's perspective, Sunday morning was looking a touch more comfortable on the water. The category 5 cyclonic conditions had been downgraded to a Category 4. Just joking.



Dean loading the animals two by two

After consulting with our fishing colleagues and our astrology star signs Ezvin and I set off prepared for whatever. Well, you could knock me over with a feather, whatever showed up and the bass were playing.

The skies were clearing and the deep "glow in the dark Clouser's" were weaving their magic. To add to our excitement there was a touch of size to some fish. In fact Ezvin scored the biggest bass for the weekend with a 39 and I the second biggest with a 38cm. Who said good things don't come to those who wait.





Ezvin's 39 cm

My 38 cm

Maroon bass are often a tad smaller side when compared to some of the other local stocked impoundments. I have been told that this situation is the result of some over stocking many years ago and also the reduced natural food supplies in the dam. Maroon does have a strong reputation for producing good numbers of bass and this can make for a bonza day's fishing if they decide to play.

The lines out time was set for 1100 hrs and true to form Mother Nature sent down the mother of all showers and a wind pressure in front of it that would have done a tornado proud. By this time nearly all the boats were fishing the south western corner of the dam and this short lived squall left most of us setting up on the weed beds instead of fishing to the side for them. Time to head back to the launching area.





Paul and Kerry coming in

Ezvin and Vince in the smokers den

All the boats were in and it was time to load them and get back up to the camp. With the amount of rain that had fallen over the past few days and a bit of activity at the launch area the task of retrieving the boats and trailers was now in the hands of those who had vehicles better suited to those conditions.

With several 4wd, and some all wheel drive vehicles pitching in to help the transfer back to the camp, it seemed no time that we were all back, showered and ready for the presentations. A special thanks to all those people who jumped in to help getting the boats and crews back to camp.

By the time we had taken down the tents, and packed the vehicles, it was time to gather for a bite to eat, prepared by Judy and Kelly and make ourselves comfortable for the presentations.

The presentations started on time and everyone was keen to see how the results had panned out for the weekend. The workmanship that goes into the trophies for these events is simply first class. All of the trophies are meticulously hand crafted by Jeremy and a testimony to his skills as a wood machinist.



The top shelf trophies

The Southeast Queensland Fly Fishers club members did exceptionally well securing the top three positions. Dennis, Norm and Connan took out the line honours.



Jeremy presents the winning trophy to Denis



Norm in the top spots for another year



Connan had a cracker weekend for a well deserved placing

There are several sponsors who support variety children's and these fly fishing weekends each year. Their contribution to these weekends is much valued by all involved. The local Boonah business communities donating meat trays and fuel vouchers, Angler rods with a range of their fishing rods, Marshall batteries with deep cycle batteries, Anaconda camping and leisure, BCF outdoors with eskies, Tackle Warehouse with fly tying equipment just to name a few.



Jorgan with one of the great random draw prizes

The word on everyone's lips as they were closing the gates to "Camp Lakefire" and this great weekend was the anticipation to the next Variety Children's Toga on Fly Weekend at Borumba in early October this year.

## Results from the Variety Children's Bass on Fly Weekend

103 points
81 points
61 points
36 points
34 points - Biggest Bass 39cm
26 points
23 points
22 points
17 points
16 points
13 points
12 points
10 points
9 points
3 points
0 points

Total number of bass caught over the 3 sessions – 155 bass.

## Bring on Variety Children's Toga on Fly at Borumba!!

## The Fly Tyers Corner

At the last club meeting when Paul Goodey gave his talk on catching bass in local impoundments, Paul also gave a demonstration on making "glow in the dark" fly eyes.





All eyes and ears as Paul gives a demo

Some basic tools for the task

#### Materials and Tools Required.

- ♣ Powder Paint. Tiewell sell 20g containers of powder paint. It is sold as PRO-TEC Powder Paint. These powder paints can be purchased in three finishes, standard, glow and fluorescent.
  - They also come in several colour variations, Glow finish comes in chartreuse/green, chartreuse/ yellow, hot pink, and white.
- ♣ A heat source is required. Shown is a butane fuelled soldering iron with the soldering tip removed.
- Fine pointed pliers or tweezers. These are used to hold the eyes when applying the powder paint and hold while heating.

#### **Process**

- ♣ Simply hold the metallic fly eye by the shaft section, using the fine pointed pliers or tweezers and heat with the flame source.
- ♣ Dip the heated fly eye into the container of powder paint and tap off excess. It is not necessary to get the fly eye to extreme temperatures. A little experimenting will soon give you a feel for this.
- While still holding the metallic fly eye with the pliers or tweezers, reheat the powder that has adhered to the fly eye. It is important not to apply to much heat to the powder paint at this time. When you see the powder paint melt slightly and take on a glossy appearance stop applying heat.
- Allow the fly eye to cool, tie onto fly. Add water and hang on.

## Photographers Corner

We have run out of space, so the Photographers Corner and will hopefully make next edition. Next month I would seek to simplify the issue of lens size. What size, for which application?

## Photo's of the Month

This month I have chosen two photographs that are interesting in their composition. Creative composition can give rise to photos that can capture the imagination of the viewer and be presented with captions and titles that can create humour and depth to an article, flier or card.

Here are two examples of this style of composition:



Who said bass are hard to catch? (Jeremy Wakelin)



Lizard's salad bar (Paul Goodey)

## Club Events and outings for March

Gold Coast Flyfishing Convention 2010 (March 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> 2010)

The great news is that circumstances have allowed that this top shelf event can go ahead. With a cast of top line fly presenters, products available on site, accommodation and all meals included this opportunity is not to be missed.

\$150 will cover all of the above. If you have the time to be there, can cope with three days of constant fly fishing experiences and have \$150 lazy dollars to cover all of this just visit the Southeast Queensland Flyfishers web site to be there.

#### **Ebor Weekend**

The weekend of the 30<sup>th</sup> of April to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April has been posted for a trout fishing weekend at Ebor. Those who have experienced this top shelf location have spoken of well of their times spent exploring this area. Jon Burgess is the events co-ordinator for this weekend. There is already a great deal of interest in this weekend so I would suggest that if you would like to attend, jump on the club web site to book your seat for a great weekend. It is important that put your hand up early for this one as accommodation and car pooling need to be sorted ASAP.

#### **Special Thanks**

To all the people who submitted material for this month's newsletter. Much appreciated. To Paul Goodey and Vince and many others a special thank you for when I needed your contributions and your support.

Jeff Christoffel

## **Quotation for March**

A traveller strolled up to a fly fisherman.

"Having any luck?"

"Pretty good," replied the fly fisherman. "I haven't had a touch for three hours." What's good about that?" replied the amazed traveller.

"You see that chap bloke over there; well he hasn't had a bump for over 6 hours" (A Victorian Magazine.)

#### Tight Lines and bent rods! Jeff

#### **Coming Events**



**NEXT MEETING:** 

Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> April at 7PM. Mermaid Beach Bowls Club, 9 Markeri Street, Mermaid Beach

#### **NEXT FISHING TRIP**

Ebor April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010 Next Meeting for more details or go to the Club website

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