



Newsletter

March 2011

Welcome to all,

Today is the last day of summer and it is time to rattle the keys again and report on our club activities over the last month. Looking back at the summer just past and you could be forgiven for praying for a better trot in the months ahead. Mother Nature delivered a knockout punch on many fronts and tested the extent of human endurance to the extremes in the process.

Spending some time on the local water in recent weeks, the recovery process reflects a picture of business as usual. Certainly in the estuary systems the diversity and quantity of bait fish present is a healthy sign. Local estuary systems that I have visited on the south side of Brisbane are carrying large populations of prawns, sprat, silver biddies and mullet. A trip down to the upper Nerang last weekend painted a similar picture with schools of gar, herring and mullet wide spread through the system. There was plenty of interest from passing predators when the dinner bell rang. The mouths of many of the inlets and drains went off like an F111 dump and burn throughout the day signalling the presence of sizeable schools of trevally or hungry jacks.

On the club front, the focus on a range of fly activities is also hotting up with casting clinics and fly tying evenings firmly on the drawing board. Identifying new options that are suitable for fly fishing and club outings has been fruitful in recent times. Once new locations are identified there is then a fair bit of ground work required to understand the full potential of the new territory. Mapping these opportunities gives our club members the option of fitting their fishing opportunities to the conditions and time frames available.

Welcoming visitors to the club and catching up with past members who have moved back to the local area has been an enjoyable kickoff to the year. This coupled with a top selection of options on the club 2011 outings calendar certainly set the scene for a cracker year for our club members.



Jeff Christoffel

Club Meeting - 8/02/2011

The February club meeting was well attended with a crew of 22 taking in the evening. A special welcome to Brian Gilloway, Bruce O' Brian and Kev, our visitors on the night.

General business items:

- ✚ Welcome to visitors.
- ✚ Report on the health progress of one of the clubs valued members, Bob Knott. We are all looking forward to seeing Bob's smiling face at our club activities soon.
- ✚ Report from recent club outing. (Brian McDuffie Memorial, Byangum).



February Club Meeting

- ✚ Preparations for upcoming club outings.
- ✚ Discussions on developments for a casting gathering to be delivered by John Water (Australian National Grand Casting Champion), Shaun Ash (FFFCCI Instructor and fly tier extraordinaire) and Steve Hoagland (Partner and Australian Manager of Great Bay Rods, Sponsor).
- ✚ Reports from members on who has been catching what.
- ✚ Discussions on the clubs "Top Ten Species" recordings.
- ✚ Formal awarding of the "Brian McDuffie Memorial" to this year's winner, Rick Slennett.
- ✚ Presentation of the "Club Member of the Year"

The second half of the evening saw the fly vices come out and Paul Goodey took the club members through tying the "Shaggy Dog" fly pattern.

It was interesting to see the variation in the creations and forms of this pattern at the conclusion of the instruction. Mine, for one, was nowhere near a mirror image of Paul's pattern.

Paul assures us that the technique of building materials for this and other patterns of this type will come with practice. Rome was not built in one day. Paul has used this pattern successfully in many salt water applications on a wide variety of species. Well done Paul and thank you.



Paul tying the "Shaggy Dog" fly pattern

Presentation of the Brian McDuffie Memorial Trophy

The Brian McDuffie Memorial is one of our club outings traditionally held in December of each year. Brian is a much loved mate of all who had the pleasure of knowing him and on his passing this event was named in his honour. Due to inclement weather in December of last year the outing had to be rescheduled to a later date. The holder of the trophy for the 2011 club year is Rick Slennett. Rick who is an outstanding fly fisherman blitzed the field with 6 bass in shut down conditions.

Well done Rick.



Rick Slennett receiving the Brian McDuffie Memorial Trophy from Paul Goodey

Club Member of the Year



Jeff Christoffel receiving the "Club Member of the Year Award" from Denis Shaw, last year's winner

The Club Member of the Year Award is set around club members who contribute substantially to the on goings of our club. In being awarded this honour, I was surprised and humbled when you look at the day to day contributions of so many in our club.



Past recipients of this award

The icing on the cake was being presented this award from Denis Shaw, a member who works hard for the club and for whom I have much respect.

For myself there is no greater honour within our club than to be awarded the trophy and I would like to thank our club members for finding me worthy of this award.

Club Outings

Brian McDuffie Memorial, Byangum 6/02/2011 – Jeff Christoffel

The early morning drive down to Byangum was made more entertaining after picking up my fishing partner for the day, Tom Boylan. I had not had the opportunity to catch up with Tom for some time and the trip down and back and the morning fishing from the canoe would give us a chance to chat.

On arriving at the Byangum launch area it was pleasing to see so many of the club member's vehicles there. Daylight was just breaking and many were on the water ready for some bass surface action. The launch area had been duly affected by the heavy rains through the area during and post Christmas. Launching became a bit of a team effort but still manageable for the small tinnies. The water looked to be in good shape. Water clarity was fair and the weed growth not out of control. Some of the launching must have given some people some grief though. More on this later.

From the launch area we made our way down stream, methodically working the southern edges with surface presentations. Tom was the first to have some interest shown with a healthy smack on his Dahlberg surface fly that didn't connect.



Tom on the lookout for surface movement

The scenery down this nick of the woods is breathtaking to say the least. When you add wild bass to the equation it doesn't get much better than this. Many of the boats had gone up stream to try their luck in adjoining branches and inlets of creeks and drains. As we made our way down stream we caught sight of Rick and Kate with Ezvin and Kruger close by.



Comparing Notes in the shade of the overhanging trees

After putting in a cast with a suspending fly I was rewarded with a well hooked bass that played up like a second hand lawn mower on the 5#.



On his way home to the timber

It came down to death by a thousand casts from that point on so we slowly made our way upstream past the launch area and into Oxley Creek. On the way we passed Denis who was travelling well in his kayak setting a blistering pace that would set him in good stead for the London games.



Denis showing good form

The early section of Oxley Creek looks like bass heaven, but the sun was much higher now and working deep was the only option to come up tight. After working some great looking snags we headed out into the main stream to see how the conditions were suiting the others.



Brian prospecting the edge of the weeds in his "Caningi"

All the reports were similar with shut down being the "go to" comment.



Mini Mark at home in these waters

Mark Miller who knows these waters like the back of his hand had struggled with the fishing on the day. It did not stop him enjoying a top day on the water though. We caught up with Dean and Paul and it was pleasing to hear that Paul had picked up a bass early in the day. Dean had struggled which is surprising as he knows this area well and is handy with a fly rod, but that's why they call it fishing.



Dean and Paul making there way back for the BBQ

One person we didn't catch up with in the water was Jon. Jon was fishing his pontoon boat and we were hoping he hadn't been taken by one of the giant carp that call this place home. Some of these carp are the size of VW's and have a particular liking for people of South African origin. We eventually caught up with Jon changing out of his wet suit pants and there were no obvious signs of fear so we gathered that all was well.



Jon slipping out of his rubber tights

By the time we had the canoe on the racks and the gear packed in the car the smell of sausages, bacon and eggs was too much to bear. Jorgen had taken on the cooking duties in good fashion. Thanks Jorgen.



Jorgen preparing to feed the crew

The number of bass caught was down on previous years but the conditions and the scenery made up for the fish being a tad tight lipped. The final tally was Rick 6 bass, 3 on the surface and 3 sub surface, Paul and I with a bass a piece, both 32cm.

Rick had weaved his magic, but once again. Well done Rick.



Rick, proudly receiving the Brian McDuffie trophy



The crew at Byangum, minus Kate who is taking the picture

Robina Waters 20/02/2011 - Jeff Christoffel

The club outing that was planned for this date was set down for Clarrie Hall Dam in northern NSW. However an outbreak of blue green algae close to the date threw a spanner in the works. Advice from the council was that the area was a no go zone.

After making some quick phone calls to members on the Gold Coast regarding possible venues to explore for this club outing, I made a call to go with Robina Waters. This was a location the several of our club members fish as an easy and often productive location at varying times of the year. After posting the change of venue from Clarrie Hall Dam to Robina waters on the club

web page the responses that were posted caused some concern as to whether fishing this piece of turf was in fact OK.

Thanks to some healthy discussions from which the appropriate controlling bodies were identified, approval to proceed was granted. As time had run out to finalise some of the arrangements due to the time involved sorting the access issue, the BBQ and supplies did not make the cut.

On arriving at the launch area with Ezvin we were surprised to see an empty car park. Shortly after Shaun arrived and we chatted with him for a while. We started to think we had the correct location when Rick and Harrison arrived a short time later. It was great to see Harrison again. Study commitments have kept both he and his brother Tim very busy of late.

We launched the canoe and proceeded south a few hundred metres to the mouth of a small inlet on the western bank. There were some signs of activity close in the mouth which was only small mullet working the surface. After working this spot with both small surface and subsurface presentations we made our way back in the direction of the launch site. We were hoping to see some more club members who had some local knowledge of the area.

As we got closer to the launch area we saw Jon Burgess. Jon was fishing from the bank near the launch area. He informed us that he had left the bungs for his float boat at home and was shore based for the morning. As we prospected the area closer to the houses we came across some large bait balls that also had fish above and below them. The activity was pushing the bait ball close to the surface at times and we worked the schools with our fly for quite some time with not so much as a bump.

We worked the edges of the jetties and pylons for some time hoping for one of the horse bream that reside here. But no luck. We then made a decision to make our way down to explore the entrance to Mudgeeraba Creek as a chap from MSQGC, Anton had commented on some success in that area. At the end of the system where Mudgeeraba Creek enters the basin Ezvin hooked into a nice bream. Ez was fishing his 5# and the 32 cm bream took the fight up to him.



Ezvin with Robina lakes bream



Home to mum

We made our way back to the launch area after checking out Mudgeeraba Creek and having a few casts under the bridge at the entrance to the creek. The amount of bait fish that was visible all the way through the system was amazing. Mullet, gar, herring and jelly prawn were across most locations. There seemed to be some surface action in close in the weed cover even as the sun sat higher in the sky.

On arriving back at the launch area we were the only car left. A phone call from Rick later that day to let us know that Rick had not had a touch but Harrison had a nice fish on for some time before it threw the hook. As it turned out some of the others had launched at another spot and had come up to the car park where we had put in after having a fish. As we had no BBQ, the crew took some time out for some casting practise in the adjoining parkland.

This area has plenty to offer and is a worth while arrow to have in or club quiver for the future occasions.

Fly Equipment Reports



Paul has spent some quality time looking at fly rods that fit the bill when fishing from kayaks. Paul has kindly shared his findings to benefit our club members who enjoy this style of fly fishing. Many thanks to Paul for this very informative and interesting article.

Kayak Rod Cast Off

I recently rekindled my passion for kayak fishing, given a fairly long break due to bad back aches after spending too long in kayaks with inadequate seating. Since purchasing a decent seat I have found I can fish for about 4 hrs with no problems. I then started to look at 6# rods approx 7ft 6 to 8 ft. At first the Sage Bluegill was at the top of my list to try, then a Redington Predator, then a custom built bass rod by the Great Bay rod company and the last rod I tried was Jon's TFO TICrX which incidentally was an 8#.

I read various write ups on all the above rods and as I have a few Sage rods including the Sage bass rod THE LARGEMOUTH, which is great for point and shoot fishing and casting whole chicken sized flies for barra, so the obvious favourite for me was the Sage Bluegill which is supposed to be like a 6 # and great for our bass and bream. If I had just cast the Bluegill and not cast the others at the same time I would probably own one by now. With the SB you get a free line with the rod which is great but when we started putting other 6# and even 7# lines through the rod, it still didn't feel as if the rod was loading, I then worked backwards and cast the sage line on a Sage TCX7# which as most of you know is quite a fast action rod and even then the line was over powering the rod a bit. After chatting with a few guys about this we agreed that the Bluegill is more like an 8# and would suit such lines.

The Redington Predator was a good value rod and was the cheapest and was 7ft 10" 6#.

The TFO was a nice rod to cast as well but being an 8# I didn't make a comparison but it too was a good value rod.

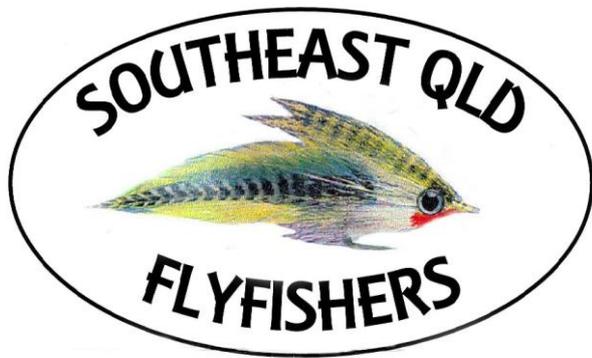
The custom built bass rod built buy the Great Bay Rod Company was slightly cheaper than the Sage, but in my opinion is a much more versatile rod with better attention to detail with slightly bigger guides. When casts were side by side the SB felt like a cannon, I tried a SA Striper 4, Rio bass, Rio saltwater, SA sharkskin and Monic clear tropical floating and a few other lines in 6# and 7# and most of the lines on the GBRC custom built bass rod matched and loaded and felt right, where the Bluegill wasn't loading with the exception of the SA Striper 4, 7#

What does all this mean? Well because I want a kayak rod to fish for bass and bream, high sticking can be a problem when landing fish so I don't want a rod that's too stiff, so if I was fishing for Murray cod or standing up in a boat fishing for bass then the Bluegill would be a great choice but not from a kayak IMHO. Any of the other rods would suit the fishing style but I will be getting the custom built bass rod by GBRC, The approx prices for the rods are as follows Sage Bluegill \$460, Great Bay custom built bass rod \$405, Redington Predator \$280 and the TFO TICrX \$300.

Footnote, the type of flies that I use when kayak fishing are not very big, normally small gurglers, cicada patterns, sliders and poppers, slow sinking flies would be muddler minnows, fuzzle buggers and wiggle minnows, fast sink would be bass vampires, clousers, beadhead fuzzle buggers, but they are all generally small flies and suit a 6# rod, it is all close to snag fishing and doesn't require long casts.

Cheers, Paul.





Flycasting Clinic

Aside from flyfishing, flycasting has become a sport in its own right. It is challenging, great fun and is an activity shared by both men and women.

John Water, Australian National Grand Casting Champion will be visiting the Gold Coast in June 2011 to conduct teaching sessions for both beginners and experienced casters.

Saturday June 4th John will offer private tuition for \$75 per person giving personal attention that will advance your skills enormously. Bookings are essential.

Sunday June 5th is an open day where John will be joined by other internationally certified casting instructors to assist beginners to advanced level casters. This will cost \$10 (\$15?) for participants for the full day with lots of novelty events both challenging and fun, being planned. All gear will be provided or you may bring your own.

This is to be held at the Gold Coast Rugby Club, Fremar St. (off Bermuda St.) Broadbeach commencing at 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Full use of the clubhouse is available together with access to the staffed bar and a sausage sizzle.

Bring the family as they will be well catered for and for the kids there will be touch football and an art competition with prizes.

For enquiries and essential bookings please phone 5564 6660

Fishing Reports

Extract from Seaway report by Vince

It was magic at the C-way very early morning. Lasted only on top of the tide, about an hour.

Got one Jew around 60, 2 tarpon 55 to 60, 2 bream, 1 - 32cm & 1 - 25cm, 1 trevally around 40cm. Hooked up something big the line rapped on my finger, took a piece of the finger, in the panic and pain broke the rod before the leader snapped, it all happened in few seconds. All the fish were taken on 4/0 big titties including the breams.

T8 line and of course 5wt kamakazi. Can't wait to be morning again.

Extract from Clarrie Hall report by Dean

Clarrie fishing well for bass. Several caught around the lily pads.



Clarrie Hall Bass

Russell Coight Awards - 2011

Some months ago I received a call from our mutual friend Bob Knott. Bob made reference to how much he missed the "Russell Coight" awards for club members who are unfortunate enough to have committed a blooper between meetings. Well Bob, you will be pleased to know that this month we have two contenders for this coveted award.



Ricks abandoned trailer. Pre-daybreak, Byangum

And



Andrew finds fly fishing from a kayak puts you in touch with nature

Members will get to vote for their favourite "Russell Coight" award winner for 2011 at the August AGM. Please keep the entries coming in.

Photo of the Month



Andrew closing in on the "Pot of Gold"

Photo taken by Paul Goodey

Paul's eye for creative composition with his photos is amazing. Well done Paul.

The Cooks Corner

Fish Fillets with Wine Sauce

Ingredients

- ✚ 500 to 600 grams of chosen boneless fish fillets.
- ✚ 3 shallots, finely chopped.
- ✚ 250 grams of sliced mushrooms
- ✚ ½ cup of dry white wine
- ✚ Juice of half a lemon
- ✚ Dash of port wine
- ✚ Butter
- ✚ Salt, pepper and paprika

Method

- ✚ Wipe fillets dry with paper towel.
- ✚ Butter a shallow baking dish, one that is "Teflon" lined is preferable.
- ✚ Place the fillets into the baking dish in two or three layers, sprinkling each layer with chopped shallots, pepper and salt.
- ✚ Dust the top liberally with paprika.
- ✚ Completely cover the top with the sliced mushrooms.
- ✚ Pour on the white wine, and lemon juice.
- ✚ Sprinkle several dashes of port wine over the top.
- ✚ Add three or four parts of butter on top.
- ✚ Bring oven temperature up to 375 degrees F.
- ✚ Once oven is up to temperature, place dish in oven and bake for 15 to 18 minutes.

The quantities set out in this recipe will serve 2 to 3 people. Adjust the ingredients accordingly should you have more people to serve. It is important to ensure the fillets are not too thick. Fillets the thickness of your average bay mullet, are ideal. If wish to use fillets that are thicker off the fish, simply slice the fillets to a suitable thickness before preparing the dish.

I have tried several different species of fish in this recipe and find it suits most species that generally suit your taste buds. When it comes to the texture of the flesh I have found that fillets that have a firmer are better suited to this recipe.

NB. The broth and pieces that remain will make up a great soup the next day.

Tuck in and enjoy.



Jeff Christoffel

SEQFFC Library - Jeff Christoffel

Some time ago a gentleman by the name of Charlie Foster visited one of our club meetings. Charlie is a fishing guide from New Zealand. The club purchased a whole heap of gear from Charlie including a great selection of books. It has been my intention for a while to kick off a club library for our members.

The books we currently have to lend to members are as follows.

- ✚ Stalking Trout, a serious fisherman's guide – by Les Hill & Graeme Marshall
- ✚ Trout fishing by Norman Marsh
- ✚ Country Life, "The Fisherman's Companion" by John Buckland
- ✚ An Introduction to "Fly Tying" by Peter Cockwill
- ✚ Fly Fishing by Stephen Windsor

- ✚ Float – Tubes, Fly Rods & other essays by Marv Taylor
- ✚ Fishing Smarter for Trout by Tony Bishop
- ✚ Flies That Catch Trout. The NZ Anglers Waterside Guide
- ✚ The Complete Book of Game Fishing by Peter Gathercole
- ✚ Advanced Trout Fishing by Peter Gould

If people have any books or DVD's that they would like to donate to our club library please let me know or bring them along to one of our club meetings.

Members who wish to borrow from the library simply flick me an email and I will bring the item along to the next club meeting.

It is my intention to keep a register of the outgoing and incoming items for the members benefit.

For Sale

- Horne thigh waders size 6 men's (or 8 ladies) nearly new. \$80.00
 - Hone thigh waders size 9 men's with cheated sole, worn 3 times. \$90.00
 - G. Loomis bait caster – 5' 6" great for Jacks /Barra – very good condition \$140.00
- Contact – Brendan Johnson 32242291

Special Thanks - To all the people who have contributed to our club newsletter

Quotation for December

"Why not go out on a limb? Isn't that where the fruit is?"

Tight Lines and bent rods!
Jeff



NEXT MEETING:

**Tuesday, 8th March at 7PM.
Mermaid Beach Bowls Club,
9 Markeri Street, Mermaid Beach**

NEXT CLUB FISHING TRIP:

**Sunday 3rd April 2011
Where: Tweed River
Target Species: Flathead
NOTE: Club Championship Round
Refer to website for more details**

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