



NEWSLETTER

March 2005

Hi, Gang!

We arrived at our March meeting fresh from two fishing trips, Borumba and Bribie Island. **Rick Slennett** was this year's winner of the John Rowe Borumba shield with his 47cm Toga. Sooner or later someone has to out fish Rick; he has been running away with all the prizes for a year or so now. Anyway Congratulations, Rick. You have been really fishing well!

At our March meeting we welcomed visitor, **David Chan**. We hope to see more of David in the future. I have been watching our club grow over the past few years, and seeing a few old members drop out for one reason or another. They are always replaced by new members, which bring new ideas and outlooks to the club. Whatever we are doing, we must be doing something right.

I was one of the inaugural members, when the club started, eight years ago, with about a dozen guys. We didn't have planned trips and we didn't have guest speakers. We got together at Gecko House, in Currumbin, once a month and read the minutes of the previous meeting, approved the fact that we had \$126.37 in the bank, and drank beer. We got to the point that those of us who were on the committee were tired of the whole thing. It was time for an election, and when we asked for someone to stand for President, silence was the stern reply. I said at that point, "If no one wants to hold office, the only alternative is to fold the club." Wayne Beggs finally agreed to preside and did so for, I think, one meeting. Tom Boylan, who had recently joined, agreed to be Vice President, and Mark Hosking became Secretary, since he had some ideas, which eventually made the newsletter what it is today. At the time, the club was stagnant, but only for a while. We moved from Gecko House to Mermaid Beach Bowls Club, because Gecko House was going to renovate. This location meant that we were now more central, and since we had members coming from as far north as Brisbane, this was an important step. From then on Tom became Acting President, and then President at the next election, and has been President ever since. I could try to name the members who have worked hard to make our club a success, but I would be sure to miss someone, so I won't even try, but if we can give any one person the major credit for making our club what it is today, it is Tom Boylan! There are still a few of us who were there from the beginning, and we are glad we stayed with the club. Thanks, Tom!

Expo

We had a long discussion as to whether our expo, later in the year should include lures and soft plastics. It was decided that doing so would broaden the scope of people we want to attract and, just as importantly, allow for a wider range of sponsors.

Bribie Island Trip

Our trip to Bribie was well coordinated by **Shaun Connolly**, who researched accommodation and storage for our boats. Well done, Shaun! We booked into the Bribie Island Hotel/Motel and found it quite a comfortable place to stay, and the restaurant served up a good meal. Shaun had organised with the local bait shop owner, **Nigel of Gateway Bait and Tackle**, at Ningi, for us to store our boats in his backyard. Since he was only 5 min from the boat ramp, this was ideal. We were of no value to him as customers (since he doesn't handle fly gear) but he knew that and kindly offered anyway. Our thanks to him for his generosity.

When Mark Hosking, Tom Boylan and I arrived, late in the afternoon, a few of the guys, including Steve Dahl were in the bar discussing the prospects for the next morning. Unfortunately the weather did not look good, with strong Southerlies expected. Steve suggested we start off at Mooloolaba, since it has a bit of protection from the South.

The next morning, all refreshed from a good night's sleep (except for a couple of guys, who shall remain nameless for the sake of my continued well being), we were on the water at 6:30 and headed out to sea. It was just sort of manageable; 30knot winds blowing and a 2m swell...well it was not all that comfortable, and although Tuna, both Longtail and Macks were blowing up all around us, we found it difficult to fish while hanging on with both hands! After about a half hour, with the wind picking up, I asked Mark if he minded that I chickened out. He didn't at all so we headed in. I rang Steve to let him know where we were, and 15min. later I got a call from him, saying, "We're all coming in". One boat did stay out; a big Southwind, and the three guys aboard each caught Mack Tuna, but they looked beat to death when we saw them later.

We all retired back to the motel, ate, showered, and rested before gathering in the beer garden to get acquainted, swap stories and lie to each other. There were some guys there from the Sunshine Coast, a couple from Brisbane, and even one from Melbourne and one from Canberra, so it was a good gathering! We finished the day with a barbeque in the park across the road and all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. It was great to get together with Flyfishers from elsewhere and talk about the things we are all interested in.

Sunday morning dawned much calmer, so we went outside Bribie. It was better conditions; Mark said, "I can even see over some of these waves." The only problem was that none of us saw any signs of fish...no birds working, nothing. The weekend may have not been successful from a fishing standpoint, but it was one of the most sociable trips we have had.

Other Fishing News

Paul Goodey caught his first Saratogas on fly...64cm and 25cm. Well done, Paul!

Brian caught a beautiful 50cm Bass in the Tweed River. Have a look at the picture below.

Drew Griffith has been busy too; he came 8th in the Australian Bream Championships at Bateman's Bay. Good on ya', Drew!

Mark Hosking spent a week in Tassie and continued his love affair with the place. I guess you would too if you caught 49 trout in one week! He also found out about a "One Fly" event held every year down there and wants to get a team from our club to participate next year. Later in this missive he will explain the details.



A New Law

A new law has been passed to require that if you catch a Spanish mackerel, you must cut a pectoral fin. Failure to do so incurs a fine. It is hard to keep track of all the new rules; I just hope some of them do some good!

Junior Coaching Programme

Our programme is now under way. Gary Sheppard has approached Miami High School and the want us to teach fly-fishing to 25 students for three Fridays in September. Gary has asked that the members who have checked out a copy of the DVD, "Introduction to Fly fishing", please bring it to the April meeting.

That's not a GT

Tom's son, Simon sent this picture of a 58kg GT taken on 10kg line...a potential world record, but the sacrilegious bastard was using a live bonefish for bait. See the pic below.



Tasmanian “One Fly”

Whilst I was down in Tassie for my annual trout fishing trip I met some guys from the Illawarra Flyfishing Club who were in Tassie for a weeks fishing as well as to compete in a “One Fly” competition that is held at Bronte Lagoon early in February each year. The event is run by a couple of guys from Tassie and has been growing steadily each year. It is held over a weekend with 3 fishing sessions on the Saturday and 2 sessions on the Sunday. It is a team’s event with each team comprising 4 people. I will keep in touch with the guys organising the event for next year’s dates however it would be great if we could put together a team for next year. Maybe even more than 1 if there are enough of you interested! February is great time to fish in Tassie. I would suggest that we spend a week in Tassie incorporating the “One Fly” either at the beginning or the end of our stay. If the thought of a week in Tassie chasing trout appeals to you please let me know (Mark Hosking) so we can begin to plan for next year.

Uncle Billy’s

So far we have 7 confirmed starters for the Uncle Billy’s trip on the 29th, 30th April and 1st of May. If there is anyone else who wishes to go please let Tom Boylan know at our April meeting.

May Fishing Trip

Our May trip is to Moreton Bay to fish for Snapper (or whatever, but the target is Snapper). We will launch from Victoria Point early. At our April meeting, Duncan will fill us in on the best way to catch Snapper on fly (something most of us have never done).

Quote of the month: Sometimes I feel like an oblique in a parallel universe.
Anon.

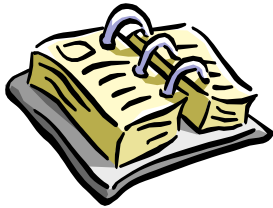
Tight Lines and bent rods!

Your Scribe

Coming Events

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, April 19th - 7.30 p.m.
Mermaid Beach Bowls Club,
9 Markeri Street, Mermaid Beach



NEXT CLUB
FISHING TRIP:

Fri, Sat, Sun. April 29th, 30th, May 1st
Uncle Billy’s Retreat
Target - Trout

South East Queensland Flyfishing Club Inc. – Contacts:

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