

Club Newsletter

Feburuary 2017

Welcome everybody!

Welcome to the February newsletter. Once again, we have a series of entertaining and informative articles from our regular contributors, Paul Goodey, Jason Stratford and Tom Boylan. Bravo, sirs!

We also have some new contributors in this edition: treasurer extraordinaire, Peter Nolan and our ever-lovely Apple Richardt. Thanks guys!

THIS MONTH'S FEATURES

First up in this edition we have a trip report from Peter on his trip to Tasmania last year.

Next we have Apple's rundown on the tried'n'true Woolly Bugger. This is a presentation Apple gave to the club on this staple fly at our December meeting and we figured it was worthy of a wide audience, especially those members new to fly tying.

We hope to make these presentations a regular occurrence at our meetings to tie in with our monthly fly tying sessions.

Next up we have the first of two articles by Jason. This year he has set a goal for himself to fish with 50 different fellow fly anglers. Dubbed "50 Friends On Fly" we have included two recent entries which involve our own club members. They give an entertaining insight into the diversity of fishing carried out within the club.

Then we have Paul's long running obsession with deer hair and Tom's regular joke spot is thrown in there somewhere too.

CLUB OPEN WEEKEND

The date has been set for our annual club open weekend. The dates to put in your diary are **22-23 July 2017**. It will be held, as usual, at Currumbin Special School and will begin at 4:00pm on the Saturday with a presentation from Gavin Platz from Tie'n'Fly that evening and continuing on Sunday with fly casting and tying. This is an open, public event. All are welcome.

IMPORTANT DATES

8 March 2017

Club Meeting

March 2017

Club Trip: Bribie Island

Date: TBA

12 April 2017

Club Meeting

April 2017

Variety Bass on Fly Maroon Dam

Date: TBA

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20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEQFF

2017 represents the 20th anniversary of our club and to commemorate the occasion we are having special club meet at Borumba Dam on the Weekend of **7-8 October**. Please register your interest either on the forum or by return email so we can start making arrangements for the trip. This promises to be a special event in the history of our club. Let's get as many members there as we can.:)

CLUB CALENDAR

Speaking of club outings, this years calendar has been hashed out and looks as follows:

March Bribie Island

April Variety Bass on Fly Competition – Maroon Dam

May Lake McDonald June Inskipp Point

July 8 Lure Expo @ Ipswich
July 22-23 Club Open Weekend

July 28-30 Uncle Billy's

August Gold Coast Seaway

September 15-17 Upper Clarence River (w/Coffs Harbour Fly Fishing Club)

October 7-8 Club 20th Anniversary Meet @ Borumba Dam October Variety Toga on Fly Competition @ Borumba Dam

November Wyaralong Dam December Clarrie Hall Dam

Note that some exact dates are yet to be set and others are subject to change so keep an eye on our <u>forum</u> and our <u>calendar page</u> as these event come closer.

That's all from me. Hope you enjoy the read folks! :)

Stu Jamieson Vice President

TRIP REPORT: NTH WESTERN LAKES, TASMANIA DEC 2016

By Peter Nolan

I went fishing recently in Tasmania for trout in the North Western Lakes District. I fished from the 10th December to the 14th December. During that period it snowed for two of the five nights and the morning temperatures were about two degrees. If you are going, the locals tell me the weather changes dramatically overnight in the Lakes District which is the coldest part in Tasmania. In other words, take some proper thermo gear.

I fished with a guide, Stuart Dick, who I met through the club via John Burgess. Stuart guides for Rainbow Lodge which is a well-known business run by Christopher Bassano. He is apparently one of the best known fishing guides and trout fishermen in Tasmania next to Peter Hayes. The set-up is that Rainbow Lodge owns a small house that houses up to about 6 people. It is about an hour and a half out of Launceston. Food can be catered for or alternatively you can cook for yourself.

When I went down the place was full and apparently most of their clientele are from Melbourne or Sydney. What they did was book me into a newly opened lodge. The Rainbow Lodge have a number of guides who are all local Tasmanians. They also have two boats but because I met Stuart I insisted on going with him. He is interesting in that he has a science degree with a master in fresh water fish management. He is also studying medicine and is doing his internship at Maroochydore. However he goes back to Tasmania in the holiday period and guides for Rainbow Lodge. He is also in the Australian fly fishing team which came third in Canada about two years ago so as far as I was concerned he seemed to know everything I needed to know about trout.

Tasmania is interesting in that it has three different types of fishing you can do in the one locality. You can either fish from a boat in one of a number of lakes. You can also fish by walking along the lakes or alternatively there are fast flowing rivers a short distance from the area where I stayed. I personally found the walking along the lakes the most intriguing but I will talk to you about that in a moment.

From the boat we caught the most fish. Fishing from a boat is interesting in that the wind is so strong and blows into channels which have frothy runs in them that look like dividing lanes in a swimming pool. From what Stuart tells me you have got to be able to cast right on top of the lane and I found that's when I caught the most fish.

The second interesting point is that when you take the line out of the water you have to do it very slowly because often the fish are trailing behind it. I caught the biggest fish of the whole trip in this way. As I lifted the line-up I thought it had snagged and I gave it just a slight tug because I didn't want to snag it anymore, then next minute fishes had appeared. It took me another 10 minutes to land the fish because it got a bigger fright than I did when we saw each other.

On day one we fished at Woods Lake and I caught four fish including the five pounder. I also lost a couple of big fish that day but I am not going to apportion blame on that point.

On day two we went out to one of the flattest lakes I have ever seen and I saw tailing fish. The lakes in this area have no trees or cover and as such you have got to keep a distance of about 20 metres back from them or the fish will see you. The fish that feed in this tailing sense are often big fish and the lakes are only as deep as the length of the fish. I didn't catch any fish but it was the most interesting day I had. To catch them, the locals tell me, is extremely difficult but you have got to be able to put the fly about 30cm from where they are digging around in the dirt and still not be seen.

The other problem is that often you are casting around the 0500 when the sun is coming up and you can end up with the sun straight in your eyes. It was fascinating to see it and the landscape is also like a moonscape, there are little bushes and you sort of walk straight into a lake.

On that day I also saw a number of fish in another lake close by that were coming right up to the edge of the water almost to the bank and feeding. Again to catch them you have to stay well back and almost hide in the bushes. If you can land the fly near them you will catch them but it is very easy to be seen. This was fascinating in my view; I'd never seen tailing trout. On these days you normally use dry nibs and floating lines.

On Monday we went to the Tyenna River which was fascinating. The rivers are much smaller than anything I have experienced anywhere else and the water is not pristine clear so the fish don't see you. We caught 10 fish on dries and nymphs. What was interesting was that we were catching them at distances of about 20 meters. You can get much closer to fish in this area than I have ever been able to in the past. The rivers are noisy because they are running hard and as such the fish don't hear or see you. The other thing is they are not as slippery as the ones in New Zealand.

Tasmanian trout are smaller than the ones in New Zealand but they fight harder. I would have to agree with that, I am not sure why. In New Zealand I suspect the trout are aware of the fact that most people put them back but in Tasmania I noticed a lot more people would catch and eat the trout. There is a lot more catching fish for the table than I have seen elsewhere. That may not be the reason they fight but they definitely fight harder.

On the Tuesday we went back to lake fishing out of a boat. It was about as windy as it gets and I landed three big three pound trout. It was hard to land the fly right into the little frothy lane but on the times that I did I certainly caught fish. On the last 10 minutes of the day when the boat was about to be landed we took a punt and just decided to fish in what looked like a swampy area and I caught one of the biggest fish I have ever seen. The other thing that was interesting was this fish really ran in a way tuna do and it took a lot of line. The day was also memorable because I hooked my first rainbow. I was surprised at the way it sort of went crazy when it got hooked and it got straight off the hook.

On the last day we went to another river where it was difficult fishing. I think to be fair to both Stuart and myself, the fish were off that day. It is a river where he has caught a lot of fish in the past and nothing seemed to be interested. From memory we caught two fish but they weren't worth talking about. It was an interesting little river about an hour down from the lakes and again we fished with nibs and dries. I also got introduced to the fun of trying to cast with a leader which has about three hooks on it and that isn't easy. Fishing was difficult but the river was fantastic. I don't remember the name of the river but it was a really attractive little area. The main thing to watch in the Tasmanian Rivers is the overhanging trees. It is almost the complete opposite to the lakes where you don't see a tree.

In all it was a fun trip and I would advocate it is worth doing. If you book in advance with Rainbow Lodge it would be possible to get the house and I understand from Stuart that if you land in Launceston the local guides will come and get you. There are enough guides to easily fish six fishermen. Generally they have two to a boat but as I said there is also the lakes that you don't require a boat on and the rivers which can be fished on foot. Tasmania is not cheap but by the same token it was a tonne of fun.

WOOLLY BUGGER FLIES

By Apple Richardt

History

The original Woolly Worm, one of the most used fly patterns in the history of the sport of fly-fishing - with almost infinite variations - was first dressed to imitate a caterpillar. The original dressing of black, yellow, black chenille, with white hackle was a very close imitation. (Taylor)

There was a large group of Henry's Lake fly fishermen fishing Woolly Worms with marabou tails, long before anybody coined the term Woolly Bugger. A pattern called the Henry's Lake Leech (a.k.a. Big Red) had first been tied with a marabou tail several years before someone call this pattern a Woolly Bugger.

Fly Fishing Techniques / Woolly Bugger

The "bugger" can be fished on a floating line or sinking line.

Cast it upstream and high-stick it through fast pocket water on a sinking line.

Feed line as it drifts downstream, stopping occasionally to let the fly come under load as you feel for the take.

Additionally, try suspending the bugger with split-shot under an indicator and strip it three times at the end of a drift.

Tie a #16-#20 Zebra Midge off the bugger hook. Many times, the hook-up occurs just as the fly comes under tension or as the fly is retrieved along the edges of fast current.

Cast the Woolly Bugger at the edges of your favourite river for trout, bass and even carp! For pocket water fishing from a boat, throw the bugger using a type VI or even VII sinking line. as soon as the bugger hits the water, practically landing on structure like trees, branches, roots etc., strip three times.

Make those strips long! We're talking reaching back behind your hip on the strip! No more than three strips, then pick it up, heave it back into the river.

If you can't pick up all your line after three strips, try shortening the cast or reach higher on the back cast where the reel and your elbow is above your head as the rod come to a stop (on the back cast).

Fishing on a lake is a lot different. Think "sloooo....ooo...owww strips. Start with really short, but smooth retrieves, nothing nervous or sudden.

It's so very important in still-water venues to understand the movements of natural food like dobsonflies, damsel flies, chironomids and even frogs.

The better an angler can visualise natural food movements, the better the fly is fished and the better story-teller you become!

And if the slow strips don't work, then go fast! Mix up the strips. Sometimes the fish won't take a fly on the strip, but instead attack as the fly stops and drops a couple of feet.

Carp Fishing

Put the bugger in the water ahead or reasonably close to where the fish are cruising.

Cast, and once the fly has sunk to the bottom, wait!

As fish close in on the bugger's location, begin a slow short retrieve, but don't make the Carp chase the fly!

Wait, let the fly drop and hold your fly line just tight enough to feel a pick-up. Lift the rod and pull snug to the fish.

Woolly worm tying instructions



Step 1

Clamp the hook in the vice and crimp the barb.



Step 2

Start the thread behind the hook's eye and lay down a thread base back to the hook's bend.



Step 3

Tie in a small piece of red wool for the tail. Return the thread to the hook's bend for the next step.



Step 4

Select an appropriate rooster neck feather and tie it in by its tip at the base of the tail with the feather's curved side facing the hook.



Step 5

Prepare a piece of yellow chenille by stripping some of the chenille off the core with your fingernail.



Step 6

Tie in the chenille core at the base of the feather and move the tying thread to the front of the thread wraps at the hook's eye.



Step 7

Wrap the chenille forward with close wraps to the front of the thread base.



Step 8

Bind down the chenille with a couple tight wraps of the tying thread and remove the excess chenille with the tips of your scissors.



Step 9

Palmer the feather to the front of the body as shown. Bind the feather down at the front of the chenille with a couple of tight wraps and remove any excess feather with the tips of your scissors. Make sure that you don't accidentally clip the thread in the process.



Step 10

Form a neat thread head and tie off the thread with a couple of half-hitches or a whip finish.



Step 11

Coat the thread head with head cement and your Woolly Worm is ready to be fished.

References

Taylor Marv, http://flyanglersonline.com/features/lakes/part24.php. http://bethefly.com/fly-pattern-7-the-woolly-bugger/.

50 FRIENDS ON FLY: LEVELLING THE PLAYING FIELD

By Jason Stratford

50 Friends on Fly started to get really interesting this week when an opportunity to fish with an old mate (Stu Jamieson – Friend 13) and one of his cohorts, (Michal Duzynski – Friend 14), came up.

Stu is the Vice President of the South-East Queensland Fly Fishers club out of the Gold Coast. He's a capable caster, does a bit of backwater fishing for carp & bass and is an all-round nice guy to boot.

Stu mentioned that Michal was a very good caster and in the lead up to the day, I discovered he has competed in the world distance championships and similar tournaments. He throws long...real long in fact!

So, it was a 3:30am start from Tamworth to meet the guys up at Beaudesert in QLD at 9am local time. Michal arrived first and we had a good chance to chat about his casting experiences around the world.

He currently uses the Sexyloops 10wt rod for his distance casting, throwing the competition 5wt line. As I understand it, he has placed in the top few in the world on occasion so clearly...can cast! We also spoke about his more recent fishing experiences since moving to Australia and like many people, gets frustrated about land based fishing in the salt around Southeast Queensland - which can be difficult a lot of the time.

Stu joined us soon after and we all continued into the hills to find the waiting fish.

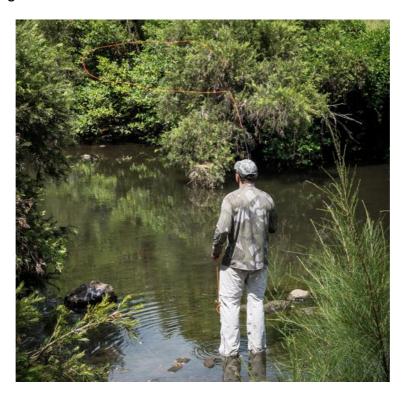
Knowing you are about to start a friendly bit of 'duelling', particularly with someone of Michal's casting standard, can have you second guessing your own abilities. No-one wants to embarrass themselves on the water...so it was 'game on' so to speak.



But first...how do you level the playing field when you are going to fish with a guy that can throw 40 meter casts? Yep...you hit an overgrown creek where bow and arrow, rolls and single hand spey casts are all that's required...in fact... the local conditions demand it!



That cunning plan may have negated Michal's long bombs...but he was able to put all sorts of casts into some of the tightest of places. Yep...both Michal and Stu were very comfortable fishing in the conditions at this creek!



On the up side, there were certainly plenty of fish (carp) sighted and many were feeding well. But as is regularly the case in this location, the fish are easily spooked! Add to that, they also seem to be fussier with the types of flies they will take and really seem to key in to a specific food type much more than carp do in other places. This leads to a lot of flat out rejections with no love at all being shown for many a tried a tested pattern!

To complicate things further, whenever you got some interest, the fish tended to roll the fly in their lips, almost 'feeling' it, rather than providing a clean take. This resulted in plenty of trout strikes which simply pulled the fly free from the fish's mouth...which in turn gave a few laughs for the other two onlookers!

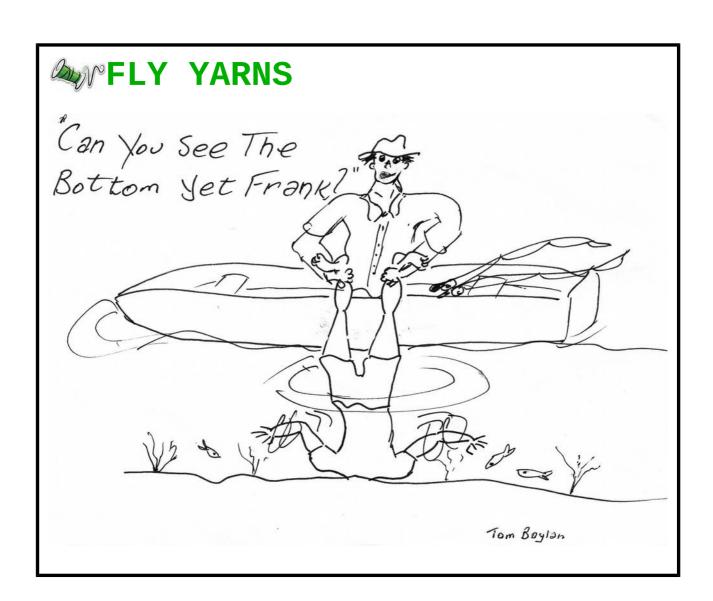
We were lucky enough to pull a few from the creek which included a mid 60cms model which is quite sizable for the section of water.



On the downside, we fished pretty hard, so actually ran out of time to have the distance casting session which Michal had originally offered. Probably for the best as I am confident that his rod would have been renamed from Sexyloops to 'Droopyloops' in anyone else but Michal's hands!

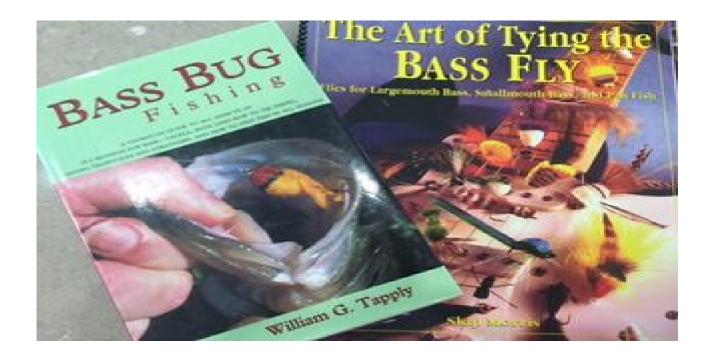
There will certainly be a repeat visit to meet up with these guys again at some point this year, as we all enjoyed the session and I particularly enjoyed watching Michal cast!

Bring on Friend No.15!!!!



DEER HAIR FLY ADDICTION

By Paul Goodey





I first became interested in deer hair for surface bass flies about 20 years ago when watching an old master fly tyer called Desi Welch tying some bass bugs at the Anglers Warehouse down on the Tweed. A few members from our club used to go to his Sunday morning lessons, Desi was a commercial tyer connected to Tiewell and could tie anything from the tinniest trout flies to huge billfish flies but really enjoyed working with deer hair and his salmon flies really were a work of art. I think it was the ability to create a great looking functional surface fly out of dry slippery hard to handle (at first) material and carve it with scissors and razor blades, some flies had lines, spots and colours blended, always interesting shapes.

My early attempts at spinning deer hair were woeful, lopsided, loose, deer hair everywhere except on the hook, bloodied thumbs from hook points when trying to pack the hair, thread breaking, hooks bending, but learning from Desi back then, practising, then years later after joining the club Jon Makim pushed the interest on; his water dragon fly being a must tie for me when visiting Borumba Dam fishing for Toga.

Another deer hair enthusiast Gordon Low gave me one of his cod flies, to have a practise with, he also wrote a really informative article in the now defunct Fly Angler. No, 7. (Spinning Out).

The sound a good Dahlberg Diver makes as you make that first twitch either early dawn or into the evening is magic, calling the bass, the takes are explosive at times. Other times when the fish are not aggressive it's time for a rear weighted slider, minimal sounds but a nice erratic wake, and work it slowly.

I remember Jon B and myself getting a lesson from Shaun Ash, another commercial tier, some more helpful tips and another 3 months of addiction trying to tie up some Dahlbergs with various colours and spots and stripes.

About 2 years ago I saw some Pat Cohen creations on one of the sites, have a look at his <u>Superfly website</u>, his tying has taken deer hair work to another level. Jon mentioned Chris Adams from the Sunshine Coast had been tying up some great looking flies (Pat Cohen inspired) my interest was fired up again, getting Pat's dvds, plenty of practise, learning where to get the best deer hair and finding out about some great new tools to make the process a bit easier. Here are a few tips.







Top left - Deer belly hair, crunchy and long, great for stacking big hair flies.

Top right - Premo strips, deer body hair, a lot softer, ok for spinning smaller flies good value.

Bottom - Deer body hair softer, good for spinning and stacking small flies.



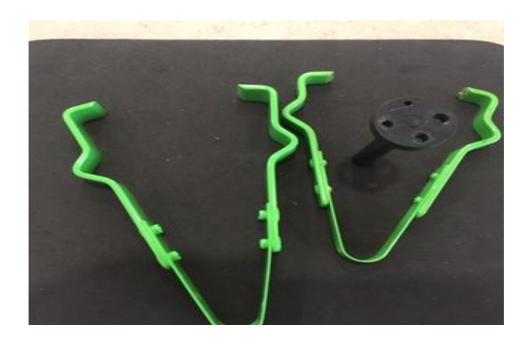
Left, big Peak hair stacker, two smaller stackers, fuzz comb.



Dr Slick long point scissors, blue handled curved Tiemco scissors.

Gsp 200D, thread for stacking, 210 Flat waxed Nylon, for tying tails, weed guards.

Razors for sculpting. Rio hard mono for weed guards.





Top - 2 fuggly packers designed by Pat Cohen, (hair packers) no more bleeding thumbs!! One small black hair packer, good for smaller flies.

Bottom - Some of the hooks I use are ultra sharp, big gape and longish shanks.



Top - Before and after shaping frogs. Below - 2 divers size 30's with double weed guards.





Stacking and blending deer hair bugs, zonker legs (left), colour and create your own with Cohens felt creations (right). I used UV knot sealer to give them a 3D look.



Most bugs are shaved flat on the underside to expose the hook gape. The yellow belly frog is rear weighted giving an arse down frog!



Above - Cod flies, 4/OS stacked n blended n shaped. The baby bird is articulated.

Below - Pat Cohens helpful dvds, 3 so far, lent the diver one out!!





Bass sized bugs, 2s /6s all B10s Gamakatsus



Cicadas, sizes 6s/ 10s long shank hooks Tiemco 200R. Copying a Clarks Cicada Mark H gave me.



A size 4/O articulated frog stacked hair, crunchy, long and stiffish belly hair. A size 10 Cicada stacked softer body hair.

A few pointers working with deer hair:

Decide on the best DH for the fly you want to tie, the best belly hair for Bass, Cod or Barra flies comes from Pat Cohens "Superfly", I did get some from Gavin Platz, Hairline brand which was also good.

A really good way to improve any tying is to break it down and tie sections at a time.

Tie all the tails in first with weed guards x10. Stack and pack hair x 10, shape x 10. The first ones are rough but they get much better!!!

Thread control is important in all fly tying, especially with deer hair. With the Gsp you can stack huge amounts of hair for big flies, (Cohen's style) it's a steady pressure though, a sharp pull down of Gsp thread will cut the hair straight off!!

After cutting some hair off the hide, hold by the tips and clean all the underfur out with a comb, this is a must for stacking or spinning.

Some moments to make you swear- thread snapping, cutting too close to the hook shank on the underside of fly with a razor blade cutting through the thread and ending all your work! Impaling thumb on hook while stacking hair, Pats Fugly hair packers have dealt with this problem.

When shaping your creation you find it's lop sided!!! You cut too much off!! Your fly tying area turns into a multi coloured hairy mess that goes everywhere!!

But when you get a good one you will be hooked, it is a creative part of fly tying that can get under your skin, and be really rewarding when you get that surface smash.

Cheers, Paul Goodey.



A rear weighted slider





2 water dragons slow sinkng



Lowy's Cod Fly

50 FRIENDS ON FLY: QUEENFISH IS KING

By Jason Stratford

Many people will already know Friend 15 in the 50 Friends on Fly journey. A quiet, unassuming gentleman who is known on a few fly-fishing forums simply as 'Queenfish'. This man has shared so much fly fishing and fly tying knowledge with me (and many others). Whether you want to know about chasing kingfish in the salt or trout in the fresh... he's done it...and done it well.

Vince once mentioned how long he has been involved in fly fishing and it's scary to think he's been chucking fluff for as long as...well...I have been alive! (He started 46 years ago).

So, this instalment is a quick write up on a session I had been looking forward to, like an excited kid at Christmas, as its always great to catch up with my good friend - Vince Margossian.

This time we would be fishing in his 'eastern office' otherwise known as the Gold Coast Seaway. His 'western office' is Hinze Dam...and given the number of times he is getting down to Lake Keepit now...we'll start calling that his 'Regional Office'!!!

Fishing with Queenfish in the Seaway normally follows a pretty standard pattern. We leave on sunrise, head to the north wall, land a few small queenies, luderick, or trevally on 3wt gear...all the while waiting for a bust-up from some hoodlum kingfish. If that happens I change setups to a 10wt. Vince on the other hand might (yes 'might') change from his 3wt to a...5wt. (He knows how to fight fish and is right up there with the very best I have seen).

If the action is slow, we usually head back to the ramp by mid-morning to avoid the Seaway water traffic which can get hectic. It's all leisurely to say the least.

This trip started no differently...well except that the usual schools of small 'entertainment fish' forgot to turn up early!

So instead we enjoyed a great sunrise, watched the early boat departures to the off-shore reefs, saw the surfers paddling over to the tip of South Stradbroke Island, gazed at the sea eagles cruising overhead and basically chatted about all things fly fishing!



As there was not much happening at the north wall, we did a bit of a recon trip back to Wavebreak Island where, as routine would have it, we waited while Vince made coffee. I on the other hand stood waiting and scanning the water for action.

'Drink your coffee and have something to eat...We'll make the fish wait for us!' says Vince.

Laughing...I think to myself 'gee I like Vince's view on life!' With him, nothing is serious, he never gets wound up and I truly can't say I've heard him say a bad word about anyone! Yep...a gentleman!

So, after the coffee, Vince says to me...'I'll put on my guiding hat', which was really more of a shirt with a zip front hoody. I have to say, it made him look like a camo version of Kenny from Southpark! More laughs follow.



Back out to the Seaway north wall and we come across a couple of spin fishers throwing slugs at a school of small queenfish. Vince hands me a 3wt with his new Striper IV line (yeah...the 8/9 rated line that Squish arranged recently) which was surprisingly easy to cast. Not long and its on like Donkey Kong! Not big fish at all...just fun on the light rod.

The spin guys were getting increasingly frustrated as every time they looked over at our boat...we heard 'oh for shit sake...they're on again'. We land about a dozen, they land none, before things go a bit quiet. They roar off to go to some other place where they can continue to not catch fish...but don't have to see another boat catching fish beside them.

Another cruise to the north of Wavebreak Island sees us hook a few more fish and again, another bunch of spin guys get the poops watching us do OK...while they practice their casting.



While there were no visits from gangster Kingies this time, the session, as always with Vince, is enjoyable. I don't mind catching small fish and it's certainly better than catching no fish!

The highlight for me is actually what I learn from Vince each time we get together. That might be fishing, casting, fly-tying or plain and simply...how to approach life in general.

Yep...This is Vince...Be like Vince!

Bring on Friend No.16!!!!

*****CLUB SPONSERS******







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