



# Club Newsletter

October 2016

## Welcome everybody!

Welcome to the October newsletter. Once again, a series of entertaining and informative articles are proffered for your degustation. Many thanks to new contributors, Blommy and Mat for their excellent content. It's always great to have new blood in (or is that "on") the newsletter. It keeps the content interesting, diversified and (most importantly) keeps the workload off me! Win!! :D

Many thanks also to regular contributors, Tom Boylan and Paul Goodey for their excellent content also.

### THIS MONTH'S FEATURES

This edition we have a round up on the recent Wivenhoe trip by Peter Blom and Paul Goodey. Following that, two informative articles: one from Tom on fishing structures; and another from Mat Lawton on his recent boat renovation. All great reads; I hope you enjoy them.

### MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE

Just a quick reminder that membership fees for the 2016/17 year are now due. You can pay these electronically to the following club account:

BSB: 064480

Account No: 10045793

***Be sure to put your name in the payment reference field so we know the payment is from you.***

Full or Family Annual Membership is **\$50**.

Associate and Junior Membership is **\$10**.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM came around again on 10 August 2016 where the club committee was dissolved and, following some stiff competition, last year's committee members were all re-elected. Actually, that's not true; there was no competition but last year's committee was re-elected. So the committee for one more year stands as follows:

President:	Paul Goodey
Vice President:	Stu Jamieson
Secretary:	Mark Drewett
Treasurer:	Peter Nolan

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### **12 November 2016**

Casting day with Tim Rajeff and Katherine Hart.

#### **9 November 2016**

Club Meeting

#### **November 2016**

Lake Monduran

*Date TBA*

#### **14 December 2016**

Club Meeting

#### **December 2016**

Clarrie Hall Dam

*Date TBA*

### CONTENTS

#### **Trip Report:**

Wivenhoe Dam.....4

#### **Feature:**

Fly Fishing Around  
Structures.....6

**Fly Yarns**.....12

#### **Feature:**

Boat Bits.....13

## **FLY TYING COMPETITION**

Speaking of the AGM, the trophies for this year's fly tying competition were also awarded.

This year we were looking for a **saltwater fly tied in all natural materials and a freshwater fly tied in all synthetic materials**.

Mat Lawton took out the Lefty Kreh Trophy for best outright flies. And Jason Stratford was runner up with the Novice Trophy. Well done, Guys! Good show!

## **MEET AND CAST WITH TIM RAJEFF AND KATHERINE HART**

The Brisbane club have organised a day with Tim Rajeff and Katherine Hart, co-founders of ECHO Fly Fishing, and have kindly extended an invitation to our club members.

Both Tim and Katherine are IFFF Master Casting Instructors and Tim is a commercial rod builder and former world champion caster.

As well as show-casing some of their rods, Tim and Katherine will be giving an informative talk on a variety of subjects followed by a casting session.

This is a rare opportunity, not to be missed.

If you're interested in going along, contact Tony Ham from the Brisbane Fly Fishing Club on [saratogabone@gmail.com](mailto:saratogabone@gmail.com).

Event details as follows:

Date: 12 Nov 2016

Time: 11am to 2pm

Place: Prentice Park, Lutwyche.

A BBQ lunch and drinks will be available for sale on the day.

## **TOM BOYLAN MEMBER OF THE YEAR TROPHY**

As the previous recipient of the Member Of The Year Trophy, it was my great honour to award the next recipient: Tom Boylan.

Tom is, of course, no stranger to anyone in the club. It may be some years since he was president but this hasn't deterred him from working tirelessly behind the scenes – more so, I suspect, than many club members know.

Tom is a perpetual contributor to this newsletter and is always on the lookout for ways to improve the club and make our meetings more interesting and has been a steady guiding hand for me personally during my short tenure on the club committee.

Despite the Member Of The Year Trophy bearing his name from inception (Tom initiated the trophy – see [March 2016 Newsletter](#)), his name has been conspicuously missing as a recipient. So Tom becomes the first member to have his name on the trophy twice; a wonderful irony having been awarded it only this once and a fitting honour for somebody who, in many ways, has come to define what our club is about.

I trust Margaret has welcomed this (previously “disdained”) object back into her home with pride! ;)

## **NEW CLUB ROOM!**

As of the last meeting we are using our new club room which was kindly offered to us by the Mermaid Beach Bowls Club. It's great to have our own space again. No more meetings in the dining room! No more must a guest speaker compete with the whoops and hollers of excited darters!!

The room is accessed via a corridor left of the pokies room and meals from the kitchen are delivered to us there.

Many thanks to Tom for orchestrating this.

Well that's it from me, folks. Happy reading and see you at the next meeting on 9/11/16. And remember:



Stu Jamieson  
Vice President



## **TRIP REPORT: WIVENHOE AUGUST 2016**

**By Peter Blom**

Friday fishing began with an exploration of one arm of the dam with the Grand Poobah but no luck with fish, so it was back to camp to welcome other club members. Our return coincided with the arrival of Mark the Marina Maiden followed by the South African.

Friday night campfire is a happy little introduction to a great weekend.

Saturday brings great weather and more crew, Jim 'Big Willy' Williams and the Wizard of Ez in one boat, Grand Poobah and the Maiden in another, the South African goes alone in a rubber bath toy, while Butch and I share a leaky boat.

Morning session is tough but as usual the South African lands the target species, Australian Bass, in the mid to low 30cms. I catch a Golden Perch in the low 50's but we are all stunned when the Wizard catches a 60cm corker. Opinion is divided over the ID of his catch - some call it an Iron Bark Cod others think it might be a Silky Oak Perch - I call it a stick.



Lunch is a massive fry up and lots of banter while some enjoyed beverages that resembled cold tea. The Wizard was also busy preparing a lamb on a spit for our dinner - I'm sure he is inspired by 'Waltzing Matilda'.

The afternoon session is slightly depleted as the Maiden is a no show which works in the Grand Poobah's favour as he lands a Golden in the low 40's while the rest of us don't perform so well. Everyone is looking forward to the Wizard's feast and on return to camp we find the Maiden has gathered firewood and everyone starts drinking cold tea.

Nibbles precede the Wizard's Rosemary Lamb Strap accompanied by Butch's Feta and Rocket salad - absolutely superb!!

After dinner we retire to the fire side where the combination of the warmth of the fire, rising full moon and the euphoric effect of the cold tea produces strange personality changes. Some dance, some feel romantic while most enjoy the laughter of the night with tall tales and true of legendary fishing adventures.

Sunday morning is great for some and not so for others but we go fishing anyway. We find plenty of fish on the sounder but only 1 hopped in the boat - a Golden in the low 40's.

We arrive back at the camp to find everyone gone so I don't know what others caught but I do know we all had a great time and are looking forward to the next outing.

### ***An additional perspective from Grand Poobah Paul Goodey.....***

Some info to explain how we caught the Goldens of Wivenhoe. 7 weight rods loaded with stripper (sic) 4 sinking line. Chartreuse coloured vampire type fly, 14 lb fluorocarbon leader 12 ft long.

Saw thousands of birds on the water, baitfish showing up in huge schools on sounder about 65 ft down. Long casts, count to 100 letting all fly line out. Followed by erratic shrimpy strips.....

The highlights of the weekend was Ezzys gourmet cooking, my wife's coffee 'n' chocolate cake, bloody good company, laughing round the campfire with a few good beverages. Oh I nearly forgot Blommy snapping a Sage rod!

A golden weekend.





# FEATURE: FLYFISHING AROUND STRUCTURES

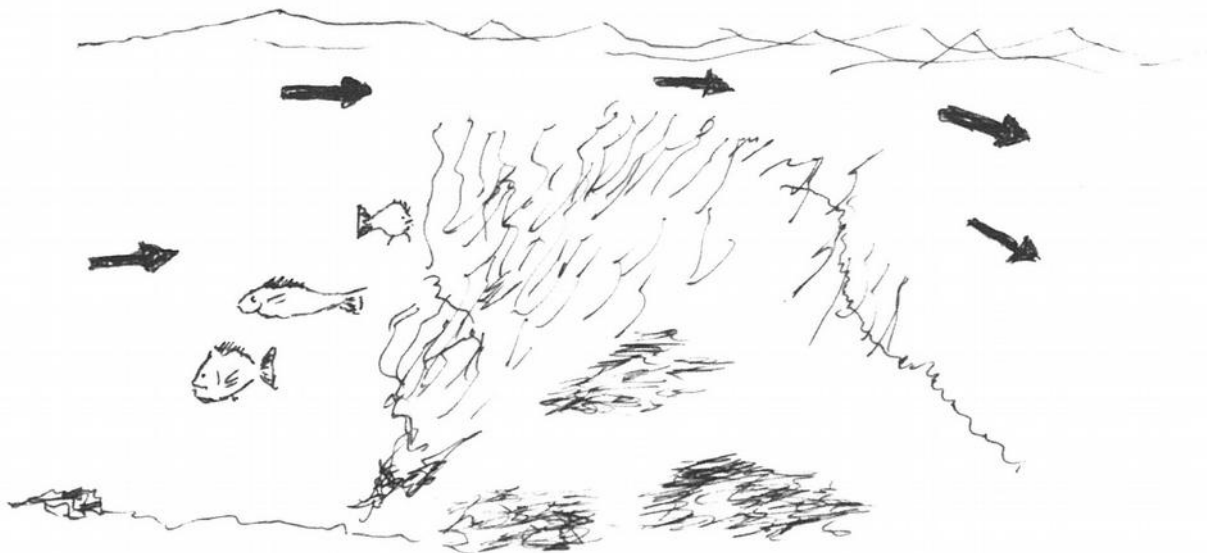
By Tom Boylan

All living creatures share similar survival needs, we all require to be safe, comfortable and well fed and to achieve these goals with a minimum amount of effort.

Fish are no different and structures in and around water provide them with the opportunities to achieve these needs. Something as simple as a floating object may provide them with nothing more than a gathering place that is easily found and that they can adhere to, being that there is safety from predation or at least good odds in numbers, perhaps a little like the flags on surf beaches.

Structures are a subject that does not easily lend itself to photographic coverage so, lacking the breath or technical skills, I have chosen to use illustrations to describe a number of common structure types, what benefits they offer the fish, and some of the ways to take advantage of them.

## 1. UNDERWATER STRUCTURES



Underwater structures such as natural reef, man made artificial reefs, and wrecks abound along our coastline. Most appear on local maps with many providing G.P.S. marks.

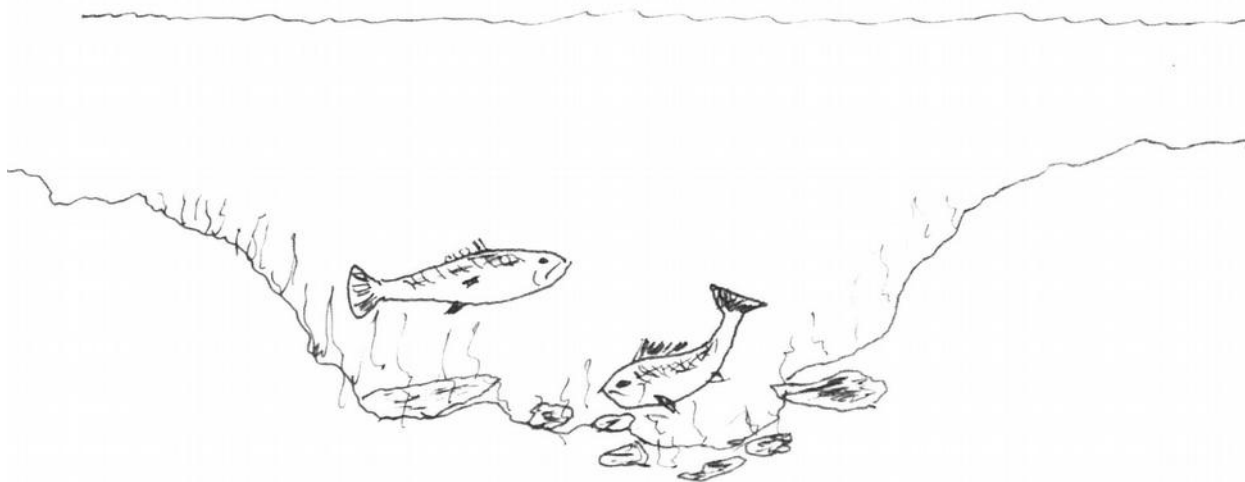
These bumps on the bottom provide a catch net for water borne organisms with areas of weed and mollusc growth providing a perfect environment for many sea creatures. Prawns, squid, octopus and many small fish species find a home in these areas and, in turn, those that feed upon them.

When approaching these areas determine which way the current is running and try to maintain or secure a position up-current of the feature. Whilst an eddy of comfortable water will be found on either side, food and nutrients are brought to the up-current side and this is where you will find the majority of fish.

Full sink lines will get the fly to the fish and the use of a frozen burley mixture, a rock inserted in a large ball of burley, wrapped in gladwrap and frozen will sink, dissolve slowly and encourage the fish to feed and stay where you want them to be.

Pre-dawn and late afternoons into night provide an opportunity to suspend burley under a float well back from the boat to encourage fish, particularly snapper, to rise from the depths where they can be taken on floating or intermediate lines.

## 2. HOLES



Sometimes the total absence of structure like a hole can offer great advantages. Fish can loaf about in the absence of current or strong tidal flow rising periodically to take passing morsels.

Holes of course come in all sizes but even small depressions in the sand provide excellent attack possibilities for flathead and flounder (also stonefish and fortesque).

The size and depth of the hole will determine your line choice, intermediate, sink tip or full sink, the criteria being to get the fly to the fish in the least likely way to cause alarm.

Deep holes demand the use of full sink lines bringing the opportunity to use a small foam bodied fly that will, when anchored by the fly line, hang suspended above the bottom and upon your strip, dart to the bottom and slowly wriggle back up.

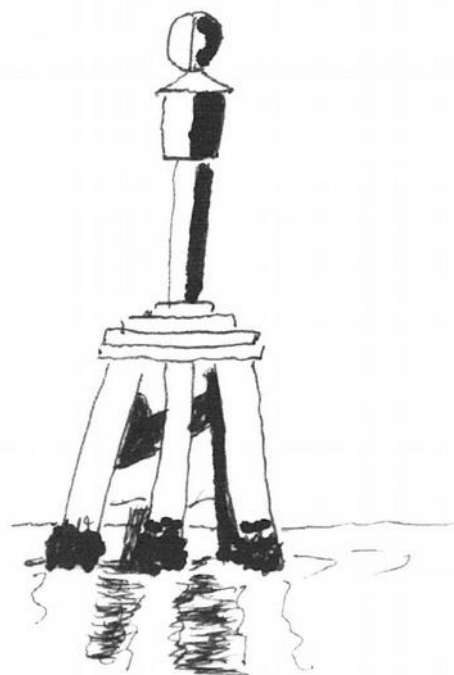
This provides a behaviour almost irresistible to the main residents of deep holes, bream, trevally and mangrove jack. Note: a fluorocarbon leader will impair the fly's ability to rise quickly from the bottom. Stick to monofilament.

## 3. SINGLE STRUCTURES

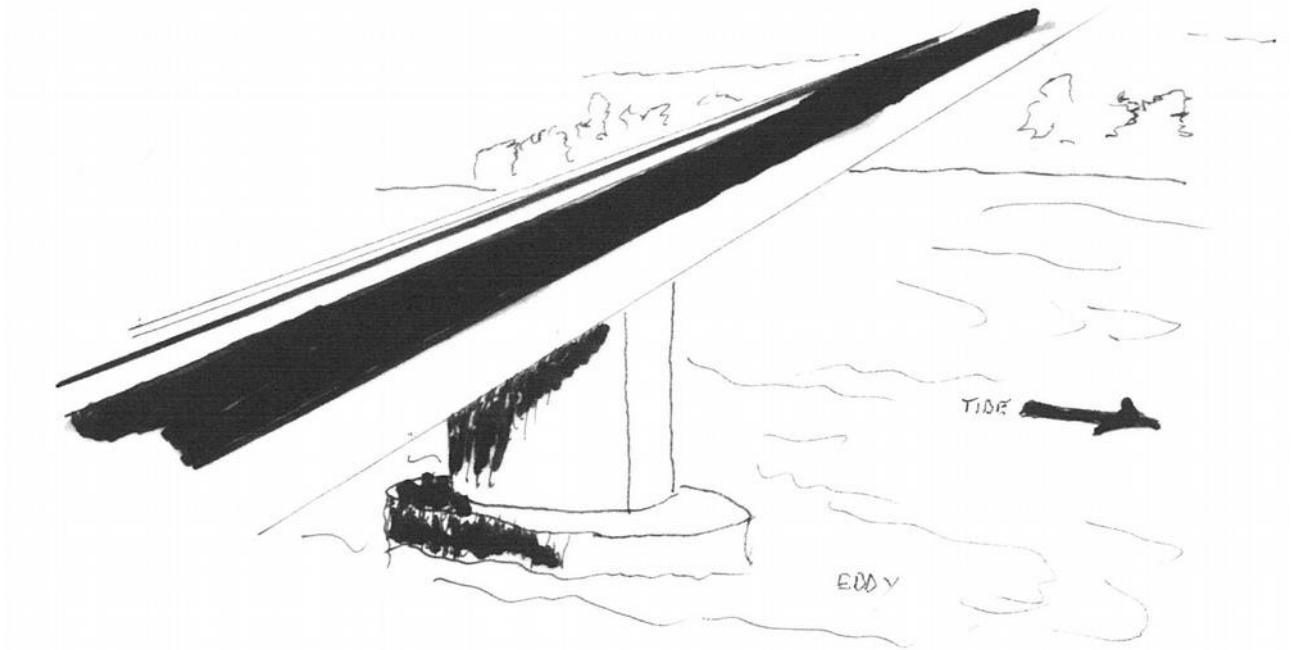
Single structures such as beacon lights, channel markers, buoys or f.a.d.s are always worth checking. These intrusions often attract concentrations of fish far greater than they can provide food or shelter for.

These gatherings are spasmodic and sometimes seasonal with the fish rarely feeding freely. Whilst you may enjoy contact with the occasional opportunist, a hookless popper, pilchard or garfish ripped through the water at speed on a threadline outfit will often cause sufficient excitement to have a closely following fly savagely taken by one of a number of following fish.

A note of caution, the use of an extra long leader of four or more metres will help avoid the destruction of your flyline. Kingfish, cobia, mahi mahi and others who occupy these areas are renowned chain and pole wrappers.



## 4. BRIDGES



Bridges offer excellent flyfishing opportunities drawing together and holding a variety of fun species and they are generally fairly convenient with obviously a nearby road and often some sort of boat ramp. The attendant weed and molusc growth makes them a marine supermarket for creatures great and small.

Whilst an eddy may exist at both ends of a pylon it is the downstream side that offers the greatest comfort from tidal run allowing fish to dart out into the current to take passing prawns or baitfish as they are carried back and forth by the tide.

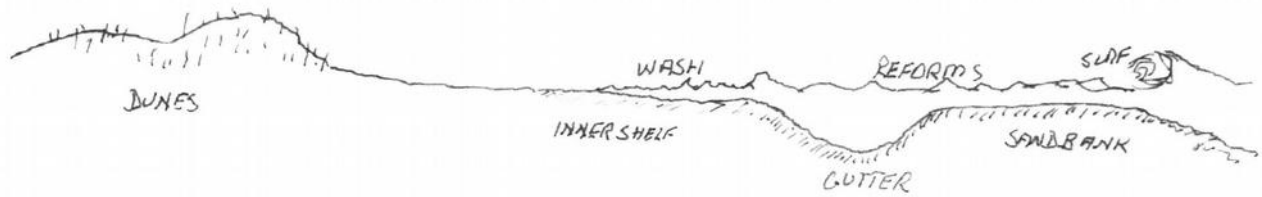
Where strong tidal flows occur, these areas are best fished on slack water at the top and bottom of the tide when all the residents move about to feed or relocate.

It is at night when things really get moving, the bridge lights (I am a city boy) attracting swarms of marine life and their ever attendant hunters.

Fluorescent eyed flies are particularly attractive, moving in and out of the lighted areas. As most action is near the surface, poppers can be quite effective and exciting.



## 5. SURF BEACHES



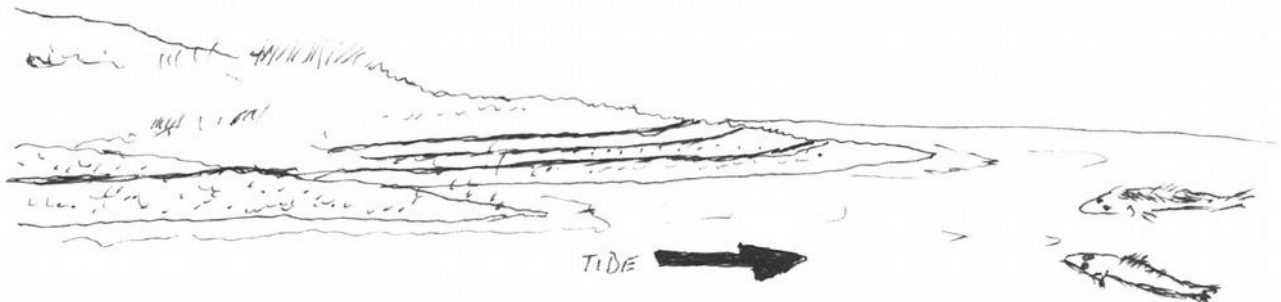
Surf beaches are difficult places to flyfish often having to contend with both turbulent water and wind however they are constantly restructuring and on occasion can provide opportunities for great sport.

The inner shelf is the home of smaller species, bream, whiting, flathead and dart whilst the gutters, particularly those with an exit to the open sea at either end, are the realm of tailor, salmon and mullet.

Frequently after a big sea settles down, these gutters form along the edge of the shore and can be within reach of a 30 to 50 ft. cast. With bait being swept into the gutter from the outer banks.

These close in gutters can hold numbers of quality fish and with the shore dump and rips, fish accustomed to these pressures are strong and can be quite challenging.

## 6. ESTUARY FLATS



There is no nicer thing to do in summer months than to wade estuary flats with a fly rod, stripping basket, sandals and perhaps, a keeper net.

Flathead are the main quarry and a reconnoitre at low tide will reveal their favourite lies through flathead "footprints" in the sand. These can be marked with sticks stuck in the sand for a subsequent rising tide visit. Don't forget to take your sticks away with you.

The points of sand islands where water flows converge are genuine hot spots and allow you to thoroughly cover both sides of the point. As the tide recedes baitfish are forced from the flats along with many other types of flathead fodder into the adjacent channels. As the water is relatively shallow, small bead chain eyes are all that should be required to get the fly down and still maximise movement.

## 7. ESTUARY AND STREAM BANKS



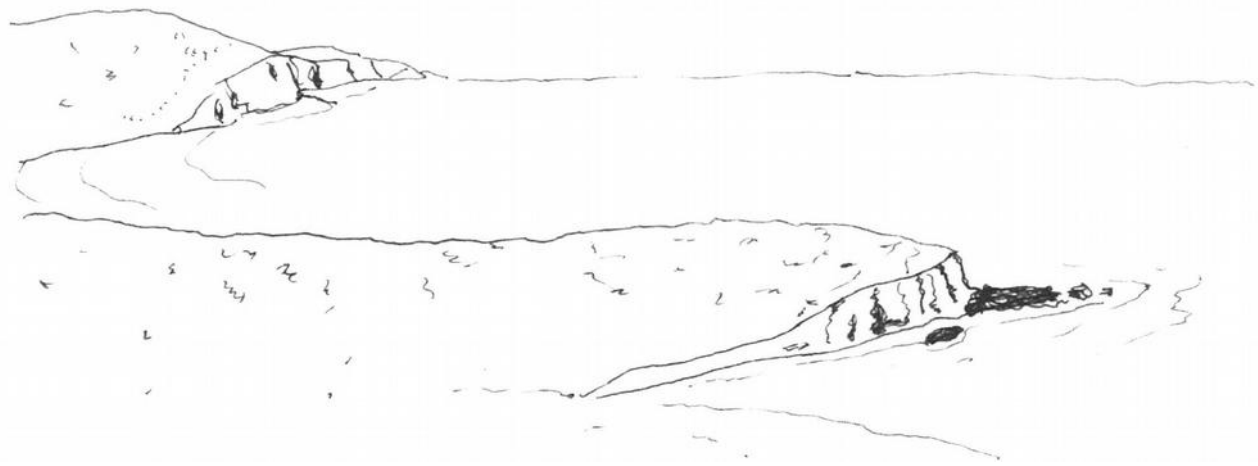
The banks of estuaries and streams should be searched for rock formations, overhanging banks or foliage and particularly dead trees projecting into the water, it is in these places that fish will be sheltering in preference to clear water.

Man-made features such as oyster racks are major fish holding and feeding locations and are best fished with small surface poppers that will imitate a fleeing prawn although there is nothing small about the bream you can attract.

Other man-made structures are weirs and in spring mullet and bass will congregate on the salt side awaiting the rain floods that will allow them access up stream. Mid summer or autumn rain will see the salt side visited by many predatory species seeking an easy meal of the hapless washed over. Even tailor, normally a clear water dweller, on occasion will visit these upper salt regions for the volume of food available.

Where weed banks appear in the body of the river, fish will hide themselves in deep cover and are best dredged out with a sinking line and floating fly swum just above the weed.

## 8. HEADLANDS



Not a structure in the true sense of the word but headlands have a large enough impact to be included here.

Along our coastline, some headlands protrude quite a way into the ocean forming a barrier to coastal currents. Migrating fish use these peninsulas as gathering and rest points, sometimes staying a few days before moving on to be replaced by another group. These places are especially worth trying after a period of bad weather when fish gather in large numbers seeking rest and the abundance of food that has been bashed out of the surrounding reefs.

Having found the ideal structure, how do you get the fly to stay in the strike zone? Here are a couple of suggestions that offer an answer.

Given that the ideal presentation is a slowly sinking, unweighted fly descending alongside the structure, how can we achieve that?

Conduct a swimming pool trial by extending an intermediate flyline down the length of the pool and drop the fly in. The fly line, as it sinks, drags the fly away from the pool wall ending as much as two metres outside the potential strike zone.

A one to one and a half centimetre button held in the attachment loop of the leader will act much like a drogue anchor and inhibit the forward travel of the sinking fly. Now the swimming pool trial will give the desired result.



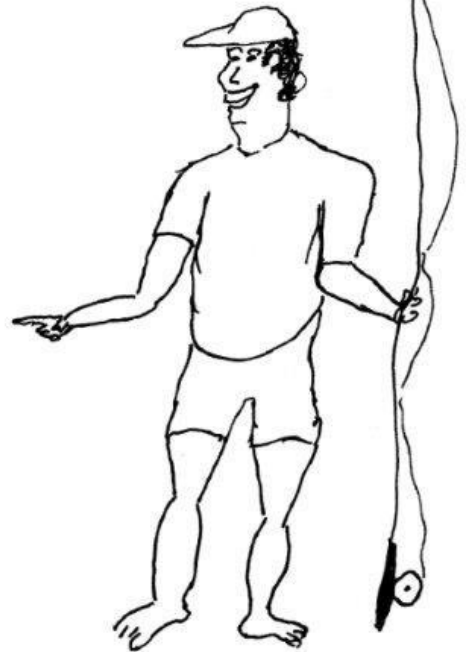
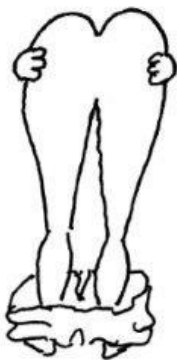
You will find a fair bit of whistle noise when you cast it but I have not experienced any real difficulties and it has certainly worked for me on a number of otherwise unproductive walls and wharves.

Tidal flow and current bring a new set of problems to maintaining a close presence in the desired area. The use of a lightly weighted fly and a floating indicator that will suspend it allows you to drift the fly in the current close to the structure and at the desired depth.

Since you are not stripping the fly you will need to impart action through the use of soft flexible fibres such as marabou in the construction of the fly.

Whether fishing from a boat, canoe or land based, search out the features in your area and try them at various tide and season times. Remember that fish love structures and you will too.

"Frank Read Somewhere  
That Fish Bite Better  
With a Full Moon"



TOM  
BOYLAN



## FEATURE: BOATS BITS

By Mat Lawton

I enjoy fishing out of a Kayak. It has many benefits. They are cheap to buy, easy to store, transport and clean. Most importantly they are highly effective fishing craft particularly where a stealth approach is required.

They do, however, have their drawbacks.

I am unashamedly a tackle rat. I enjoy planning, tying and packing for a trip, often as much as the trip itself. One of the benefits of the kayak is its simplicity, but one of the drawbacks is the inability to take 6 rods and a few hundred flies on every trip.

People often tout the benefits of the exercise with a kayak. I dislike exercise. They limit your fishing range and decrease your fishing time and options. I like the ability to stand, to increase vision into the water; it improves my casting with that little extra distance between line and water and most importantly I enjoy it more.

While I usually fish alone, my partner Stef, whom many have already met, also enjoys fishing (to a point). The ability to have her come out with me on an adventure and do some sight seeing, wildlife watching, picnicking and fishing increases my potential outings significantly.

SO the search was on. I wanted a new boat. My dreamboat was for the time being out of my reach (5m glass centre console). I needed the right “now” boat and the budget was less than I desired, which I am sure many relate to.

The prerequisites were:

- (1) being able to hold at least two people;
- (2) the people were comfortably able to stand and fly fish;
- (3) small enough that it planed/reached reasonable speed with a small motor (so it can be removed allowing Hinze and Clarrie to still be accessed);
- (5) I didn't mind material (glass/poly/ali);
- (6) long enough that I could store rods in the boat, preferably horizontal; and,
- (7) above all else it needed to be cheap, as then it would be easy to justify to myself as the “for now boat”

With the above mental list I began the long nights of stalking the internet. All the regular spots: boatsales, boat point (are they the same?) gum tree, eBay, trading post etc. I was soon to realise when the budget was the same as a Kayak you didn't get much for your money. Having the boat and trailer registered was a big selling point for me as I saw this as a potential roadblock to me getting on the water.

A boat came up on the Saltwater forum. The price was \$900. It was clean and the trailer was registered. At 3.7m v-nose punt it ticks most of the boxes. I rang the owner and I was away.



Changing the trailer rego was easy, a form with the previous owner's signature and a bit of cash (I can't remember, about \$100?) Trailers of this nature didn't require inspection so the process was straightforward.

The first thing I did when I got home was to change the trailer bearings. My last boat was new and were checked at servicing so despite knowing what they were and their importance, I had not done this before. Bad, I know, but this was the first step.

YouTube had all the answers and half a day later (about 3 hours more than I had expected) I had new smooth bearings. The race is incorporated into the wheel so they are a little different to the normal assembly but I got there in the end. It will be a whole lot easier next time. I have since showed Stef and she has changed the bearings on her father's trailer (yes I was impressed) with minimal help.

I had already come to the conclusion that rowing sucked. So although the boat came with oars I needed a slightly more passive form of propulsion. Bow mounted electric is what I had in the past and what I like, but once again it came down to dollars and at this stage I was considering going electric only. I picked up a new Water Snake 54lb transom mount for less than \$400. I was away off to Clarrie Hall. After a long hard think I decided a small easy to remove outboard would open up many new fishing opportunities. Back to the internet, many more late nights, and eventually I found a 15hp USA Mercury that looked in good nick for \$800.

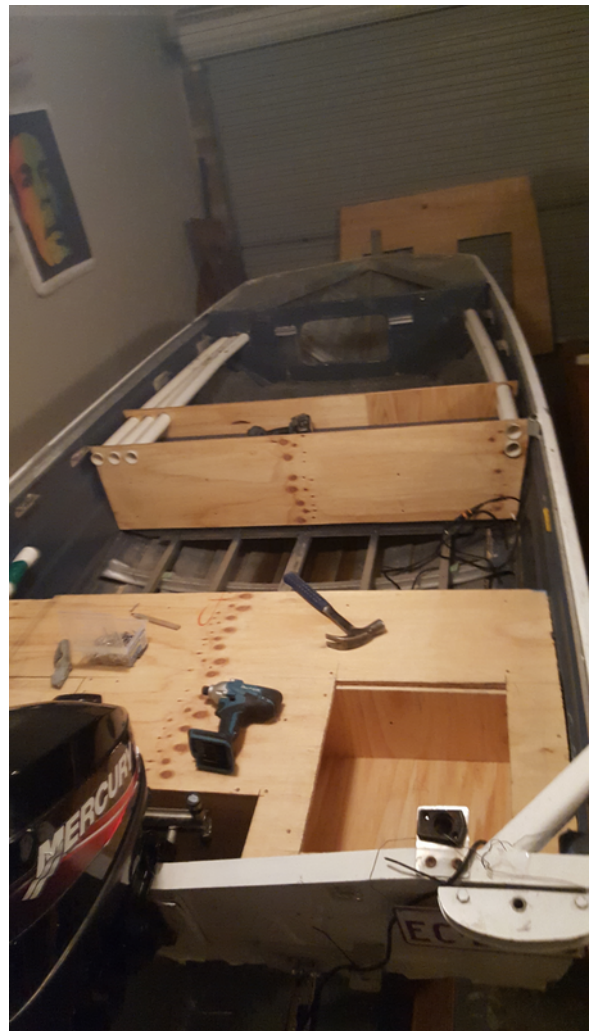
After a couple of outings it was clear I hated the trailer board lights, it popped out once on the highway despite having 2 nuts securing it. It also rubbed on the motor and ate into my fishing time at the ramp. It had to go. New LED lights including the harness were purchased and fitted to the trailer. The only hard part of this was coming up with a way of pulling the wires through the galvanised box sections as there was a bend and I was unable to get a wire through. After much thinking and swearing, the answer was string at one end and a vacuum cleaner at the other. This worked extremely well. It was quick and easily repeated on the second side. The coupling I also updated to a standard modern one from the older screw type.

Enter Cousin Damo.

We have recently bought our first house and by coincidence my cousin from Toowoomba lives 4 doors up. He has just discovered fishing and although he has not yet seen the light of indulging in the purest (read most frustrating) form, he's very interested in going into partnership with regard to boat ownership. This has its pros and cons but lets face it most boats don't get enough use and increasing that makes them easier to justify.

He had also helped enormously thus far and given he is a young guy and a chippie by trade, this swayed my next decision- to leave the boat as is or deck it out.

So the boat moved up the road and we started to sit around the boat and plan the fit out. Our thoughts were to create a rear deck at the level of the rear seat. With hatches in the rear deck for tackle and batteries.



The front was to be raised to just under the level of the gunnel. This was scary as we were not sure how stable the boat would be. The fuel tank was to be moved under the front deck to help with balance. I also wanted a lean bar so I can drive in a standing position and something to grab when I am on the dance platform (front deck) and the bow wave from that 40-foot Riviera sneaks up on me. I also wanted rod storage for 9-foot rods.

The next problem was how to suspend the decks. After much contemplation we used aluminium angle pop riveted on the sides with Sika as a sealer. Vertical supports and decks were made from 12mm ply with the edges of the hatches reinforced. All timber was sealed. We got carpet off-cuts from a friend and used a combo of quick grip and turf glue to secure the carpet down. One of my work colleague's families has a stainless company and they sorted me out with a lean pole.



It was a great learning experience and it took a lot longer than the couple of weekends I had planned on. It also cost more money than I initially expected. Each step of the way seemed to raise another 6 steps that we didn't count on. But it was fun and it has inspired me to try it all again.....starting form scratch. That is, building a boat from plans.

P.S. It now needs a bigger motor...so back to the Internet...





\*\*\*\*\*CLUB SPONSERS\*\*\*\*\*



## Marine Detailing & Boat Valet

TRAILER BOATS TO SUPER YACHTS

Mob 0418 754 385

<b>South East Queensland Flyfishing Club Inc. – Contacts:</b>	President – Paul Goodey	0409629049
	Vice President – Stu Jamieson	0403570907
	Secretary- Mark Drewett	0418754385
	Treasurer – Peter Nolan	0414340011

**Newsletter Editor:**

Stu Jamieson