



# NEWSLETTER

August 2008

## *Greetings, Gang!*

At our April meeting we welcomed visitors **Des and Adele Lomax, Noel Stoker, Mal Trotter, Heath Boxer** and **Alan Tree**. We hope they will all be joining the club before long.

A reminder to everyone that our Annual General Meeting will be held at the Bowls Club on the 19<sup>th</sup> August, starting at 7.30pm. Members are reminded that membership fees of \$50 for Full Members and \$10 for Associate Members are due at the August meeting. To be involved in and/or to vote at the AGM payment must be made prior to the start of the AGM. Those who have joined in May or later do not have to pay again this year.

**Paul Goodey** brought an acrylic painting kindly painted and donated by his wife **Tina**. This painting is a beautiful scene of flats fishing and will be our main raffle prize at our Convention in September.

## **Clarrie Hall Dam – A Fish with the Master - Bob Knott**

Those who have fished with me know I pride myself on my punctuality; I have never been late for fishing...until now.

I left home with time to spare and was driving to Clarrie Hall, looking forward to a chance to fish for Bass with **Rick Slennett** who we all know is just about the best Bass flyfisherman around. I am, by contrast, notable only for my dismal catch record. Driving through the dark I was pretty sure I was going alright because I went through Stoker's Siding, but then I knew I was lost when I went through it two more times. I finally found an early morning cyclist who gave me directions but by this time I was going to be very late, one hour late as it turned out. I didn't really expect Rick to be waiting all that time for me so when I got to Crams Farm and saw only empty trailers I wasn't surprised. I was just about to leave when I heard my name being called, and there was Rick!



It was a cold start to the morning with mist hanging over the water, but it was so peaceful gliding among the lily pads on the electric. A huge mob of Black Ducks flew by overhead and the only sounds to be heard were those of many species of birds just starting the day.



We started out surface fishing and almost immediately Rick was on to a nice fish. After the sun was up and starting to warm the water we switched to sinking lines and Vampire patterns. Rick located some active fish on his state of the art sounder and we began fishing deep. I was pleased to see I was using the same line and the same fly as Rick (thanks to **Paul Goodey**). I knew I was bound to catch fish if I did exactly what Rick did, so I tried to cast, wait and strip just the way he was doing it. He immediately had a fish on, then another, and another, and so on. I, on the other hand remained fishless as usual. Rick patiently corrected my technique as we went along and by the end of the morning I was feeling the subtle takes but still not hooking up.



There is a lot more to this than I thought. Although I didn't catch a Bass that morning I thoroughly enjoyed fishing with Rick, and I know he taught me a lot in that short time. I hope I have a chance to have another go before long.



Rick wound up catching 11 Bass, **Vince Margossian** fished into second place with four, and most of the others caught a couple. A day like this makes you realize that there is a reason guys like Rick and Vince catch a lot of fish. They just really know what they are doing!



## **Is this as close as it gets to fishing heaven? - Brian Kirkley**

I've just returned from 8 days in Kiribati (Christmas Island). It's a paradise on earth for fishing in my opinion. I went over well prepared with lots of flies and the professional and freely given knowledge of Neil Logan who arranged and orchestrated this smoothly run trip.

Let's skip past the travel since anywhere that's good to visit entails travel and focus on some of the details and highlights. The group consisted of eight fisherman and 4 guides with the agreement there was a regular rotation so everyone fished with everyone else and all fished with every guide at some stage. We stayed in Ikari House and the accommodation and food was faultless. We were picked up at 7.30am in outrigger canoes with outboards and dropped off at Flats chosen by the guides to suit wind and tide and throughout the day the boats ferried us between Flats as the tide and conditions changed.

I have read a lot of posts on forums about fishing there and most were helpful however as days passed I came to realise that there are some basic requirements you need to address to fish successfully. The wind never dropped below my estimate of 15 knots and often during the day was as much as 30 knots. I'm estimating here, but I have some awareness of wind speeds, however sufficient to say--it was bloody windy most of the time.

The guides chose flats and approaches to put the wind behind you, and often if possible over your left shoulder, however when you are advancing across a flat twice as big as a football field (and sometimes a LOT bigger) the bonefish can decide to come from anywhere in that 180 degree semicircle in front of you. This means if fish are appearing from 11 o'clock then sometimes the cast has to be made to 9 o'clock and may need to be punched out low across the water. Of course a 2 o'clock cast can easily mean wearing the fly in your back if you don't punch the backcast out, especially in the excitement.

Casts were between 10 feet and 40 feet with the majority about 20 feet, and since the leader is about 12 feet many casts were less than two rod lengths. I had been practicing reasonably long casts into the wind before I left and while that's useful, I soon found that the prime requirement was the ability to flick a short cast very accurately a short distance. I was fortunate that this practice was a lot like some trout fishing I'd done and once I changed to that different style of casting my strike rate improved. I could see about one in twenty of the fish sighted by the guides so it needed a good working relationship to hook up. Usually the guide would say, "Bonefish 30 feet," and if he's carrying a second rod points with it. He would usually then point to one side or the other and say, "Cast 20 feet that way," (to combat the wind drift) and ideally you could do that without a dozen false casts, since of course the fish is constantly travelling closer every second. Ideally a cast is made with one false cast and even sometimes loading it from the water so the leader lays out fairly straight. This part of the process is a lot like sight casting nymphs to cruising trout in a lake and as the fish approaches the fly is "worked" slowly across the path of the approaching fish. Bigger fish seem to respond better to tiny slow strips and smaller fish longer strips. As fish approached and followed the fly it became necessary to almost bend so far forwards to "kiss" the water to stay out of the fishes angle of sight, and I actually hooked up several times after hearing the knot between leader and fly line rattle up the snake guides. The Guides can see the fish approach the fly through the ripple waves and give easy to follow directions on when to strip and when to wait.

The Flats vary in depth and difficulty ranging from ankle depth to hip deep (even waist deep in places) and the bottom fairly level and sandy, to areas of dead coral washed up onto the white coral sand. The staghorn coral can easily cut a leader and I lost a couple of bigger fish that way. I think it pays if you know there's coral outcrops it pays to trust the strength of your knots and keep a fairly heavy drag set to show the fish as quickly as possible.

I found there was nothing more exhilarating than to have a bonefish run, stripping line and backing off your reel and then after recovering the majority of line has it happen all over again. The ultimate rush was when it became apparent that the run was stronger and longer than the norm, and you

realise you have a really big bonefish on that might take 3-4 runs and strip off 100 meters of backing. I was fortunate to catch 39 bonefish in 7 days fishing, and while all were amazing experiences, a few were big and totally mind-blowing.

I'd go again tomorrow if the wallet allowed it! And I certainly understand anyone wanting to go back time and time again.



**Note from Scribe:** I asked Brian to tell me the story of the picture

“I was with another guy and had English as our guide for that session when we were at the Korean Wreck. He was spotting for the other guy and so I wandered a little further down the beach by myself. I had been blind casting along the edge of a small wave break since the tide was coming in when I saw a shadow about 30 feet out and cast about 3 meters in front of it and stripped slowly and saw it accelerate and felt the telltale weight of a take and lifted my rod and the reel screamed. I was glad I was fishing with a 9 weight and a Vortex reel since the fish took off a LOT of backing in the first run and almost as much in the next two runs. I had run backwards up the beach to higher ground to try and keep the leader out of the coral and this time I was successful. Once I had control I swam the fish about 30 meters down the beach to get the picture before releasing it. I didn't measure it--but it was HUGE and in retrospect I am not that concerned about length or weight--smiles--the picture says it all.” - Brian

### **Brian's Flat**

On 21 July 2008 on a flat between Eddie and Paris on Kiribati (Christmas Island) three Australians spread the ashes of a fishing mate onto the turquoise water and held a small ceremony to dedicate the flat to good fishing and the memory of Brian McDuffie who passed away in June without realizing one of his fondest dreams of fishing for bonefish on Kiribati.

They were accompanied by the head guide from Ikari Lodge, English, who chose the unnamed flat and suggested that it would be appropriate for it to be known from this time as Brian's Flat, and with that agreement he announced the decision by radio over the common frequency used on the Island. Notices were read over the local radio station and printed in the local paper over the next few days.

There are plans to erect a small metal plaque in the future.

English said that the flat has the potential to be one of the best in Kiribati for plenty of big bonefish. The three mates Mark Miller, Denis Shaw and Brian Kirkley then fished Brian's Flat and caught a few bonefish in his honour.

Brian McDuffie was a dedicated fly fisherman who took a purist view on the sport and while his first love was dry fly and trout he had spent many pleasant hours successfully fishing small streams with light gear for bass near his home in northern New South Wales.

## **Annual General Meeting**

Our AGM will be held next Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2008 starting at 7.30pm. Anyone interested in a committee position or helping out in any way please speak to Tom or Mark. We are always looking for assistance.

### **President's Report - Tom Boylan**

We have completed another successful year with further membership growth and now a sound financial base. Most pleasing is the numbers attending our monthly meetings and participation in our flyfishing outings. Oh the laughs and joys we've had!

I would like to thank my fellow committee members, Mark Hosking, Glenn Court, Mark Miller and Bob Knott for their never ending support, enthusiasm and devotion to our club. These people are the engine room.

Among the highlights was the well attended casting instruction day at Pizzey Park and we thank Gordon Low and Nial Logan for their professional input.

Our 10th Anniversary party was celebrated with a great day long party at the ever generous Mark Hosking's magnificent property.

Miami State High School once again invited us to teach year 12 students fly fishing. This comprised of lessons in flytying, flycasting and practical flyfishing. At the conclusion, student's abilities were assessed with their marks forming a part of their Marine Studies Course.

Our members have taken their skills on trips to Darwin, Cairns, New Zealand, Canada, Tasmania and Christmas Island spreading the strong "bon homi" that is a hallmark of our club.

A jarring note was the sudden loss of Brian McDuffie, a foundation member who is very much missed by us all.

So we face another year expected to be filled with continuing high points starting with our Gold Coast Flyfishing Convention in September.

Thank you and congratulations to all members for making ours the friendliest club in Australia.

## **Secretary's Report – Mark Hosking**

Yet another year has gone by. We have enjoyed continued membership growth and it has been great to see some more and different faces attending our monthly fishing trips. This year we will host our third Flyfishing Convention. All members jumping in to lend a hand will ensure its success.

Some highlights & successes over the last year by our members included:

- Rick Slennett - Club angler of the year
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Overall and a member of the Runner-up team in the Territory Freshwater Flyfishing Open held at Corroboree Billabong.
- Denis Shaw - Winner of both Variety Club Children's Fly Challenges – Borumba Saratoga and the Maroon Dam Bass events.
- Mark Hosking - 8<sup>th</sup> overall and a member of Third Place team in the Territory Freshwater Flyfishing Open held at Corroboree Billabong.
- Mario Demaio - Club member of the year & 8<sup>th</sup> place overall in the 2007 NT Saltwater Challenge
- Paul Goodey - Club Flytying champion
- Gordon Low - On achieving his FFF certification
- Beverly Cheffins - For the promotion and successful running of the "Ladyfishers Barra Classic" at Awoonga

## **Treasurer's Report – Mark Miller**

The latter half of the last financial year has been busy for the club with organising the 2008 Convention. Our finances were rather low at the beginning of 2008 as the club paid booking fees for Camp Bornhoffen at the end of 2007. With the combination of the club membership fee increase to \$50.00 and the Convention participation fee our funds have dramatically increased so on June 30 2008 we had \$3,895.00 in the bank.

It is important to remember that the majority of available funds will be spent on the Convention and what profit we do make will be available to pay our essential insurance and contribute to monthly B.B.Q and raffle costs.

Thanks to all club members who contribute to club membership, purchase our monthly raffle tickets and participate in the convention and other club organised functions.

## **The Cooks Corner - Wobbygone.**

Hi all, hope the fish gods have been with you this last month. This month we are going to have a gecko at rolling out the *“roll mops”*.

Roll mops are traditionally made using herring fillets but there are several other things that swim that cut the mustard just as well. Take for example the humble mullet, and in particular the small poddy mullet, yellow tail pike or any of the oilier fleshed fishes.

Well, roll mops here we go, and how sweet it is.

### **INGREDIENTS**

- 6 butter flied fish fillets or simply thin filleted flesh sections of your chosen fish.
- 1 large onion thinly sliced into rings and blanched in boiling water.
- Thinly cut slither of gherkin.
- A pinch of salt and freshly ground black pepper.

### **MARINADE**

- 400ml white wine vinegar.
- 150ml water.
- 3 tablespoons caster sugar.
- 2 bay leaves.
- 2 teaspoons juniper berries.

### **METHOD**

1. **Fillet**-Fillet your fish and place the fillets on a chopping board skin side down. Sprinkle a little salt and pepper over the flesh and place a few slices of onion and thin sliced gherkin on each fillet. Roll up the fillet and secure with a wooden tooth pick. Place the fillets in a flame proof container.
2. **Marinade**- Add all the marinade ingredients into the heatproof container with the prepared fillets. Place the container over a moderate – high heat and bring to the boil then reduce it to a simmer for a minute.
3. Remove the roll mops from the heat and allow them to cool in the marinade. When they are cool place them in a sterilized jar. Pour over the marinade making sure the fillets are well covered. Seal the container well and refrigerate them. Your roll mops will be ready in one week and will keep for 6 month in the refrigerator if unopened.

**Best served with beer!!!**

Next month we will attempt to take the mystery out of the Sushi Roll (Nori- Maki) and have a crack at the Slender Sushi Roll (Hosomaki).

Till then, tight lines to you all.

### **Variety Children's Toga On Fly Competition**

This comp will be held at Borumba Dam, on the 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> of September. The fee is \$55 and will include dinner Saturday. This is a fun event; not to be missed! An entry form is attached if you are interested in going along.

### **An invitation to dinner on 19<sup>th</sup> August – Tom Boylan**

We have some new people coming to our next meeting with view to membership. I have suggested that they come to the club around 6PM for dinner with a few of us.

I would like some "US" to be there.

**Quote of the month:**

**“Be careful about reading health books. You might die from a misprint.”  
Mark Twain**

***Tight Lines and bent rods!***  
***Scribe***

**Coming Events**



**NEXT MEETING:**

**Tuesday, 19th - 7.30 p.m.  
Annual General Meeting  
Mermaid Beach Bowls Club,  
9 Markeri Street, Mermaid Beach**

**NEXT EVENT:**

**12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> September  
2008 Flyfishing Convention  
Camp Bornhoffen**

South East Queensland Flyfishing Club Inc. – Contacts:

|                   |                |                |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| President         | - Tom Boylan   | 5564 6660      |
| Vice President    | - Glenn Court  | 5573 0873      |
| Secretary         | - Mark Hosking | 5522 4802      |
| Treasurer         | - Mark Miller  | (02) 6672 4364 |
| Publicity Officer | - Bob Knott    | 5598 3254      |