



# NEWSLETTER

May, 2004

***Hello, once again!***

It is great to see our monthly meetings so well attended. Over half of our members regularly turn up. Now if we can just convince those same members to come out fishing with us once a month, we could really have fun!

At our May meeting we had the pleasure of welcoming visitors, **Troy Loredmanns, Robert Schultz, and Robert Shaw.** Good to meet you, Guys.

## **Any colour, as long as it's Black!! - Angus Collins**

On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, on my arrival at Hinze Dam to renew my fishing Permit, the kiosk attendant informed me that the mornings had been calm all week. Unfortunately, the wind had only picked up that morning and that at this stage it was blowing at least 20 knots. As the weather forecast also predicted rain for the Sunday, I tossed and turned all night dreaming of big bass.

The sky was clear as we headed for the dam on Sunday but Mark Hosking and I both noticed a slight breeze moving the trees. We arrived at the gentlemanly time of 6:00 am. Dennis Shaw emerged from the shadows (where had he been???) as we were preparing our gear, Rick Slennett arrived, boat in tow, shortly after. As we set off we saw Mark Miller arrive and then disappear back across the wall.

Mark and I decided to try surface flies while Dennis and Rick were concentrating on deeper fish. Mark's foam muddler was hit quite early but the strike was not successful. Mark managed to boat a solid Bass on his foam muddler as my Dahlberg was spending most of its time sub surface. The decision was made to head across to Dahlberg Den. Rick hit the turbo chargers and had Dennis onto a fish by the time we arrived.

As I persisted with my now sodden, "I've caught Bass here before on this one" Dahlberg, Mark's change to a Gurgler quickly paid off with a solid bass in the boat. After putting two and two together and coming up with Black I changed to a black Dahlberg and proceeded to drown it. After threatening Mark with a dip in the Dam if he caught another fish before I did we decided to try a new spot. As I was watching my now sub surface Dahlberg through the water and wondering what I was doing wrong a Bass darted out and grabbed it. Of course in my daze the fish had dropped it and taken off before I had a chance to react.

Finding a new spot that was protected from the wind, and with Mark politely not catching any more fish, I decided to try a sub surface woolly buggler which eventually paid off with an average size Bass in the boat. As the wind increased we decided to head back to the ramp, as we motored off we noticed Rick landing one of his six fish for the day.

Mark Miller had already left when we arrived back at the ramp and it appears that new members Vince and David had launched before us and returned some time after us. After a telephone

conversation later with Vince it appears that they didn't see a fish and were predominantly using mauve or chartreuse vampires.

Much of the day's discussion was centred on Fly colour. The successful flies for the day were;

Foam Muddler – Black  
Gartside Gurgler – Black  
Woolly Bugger – Black/Fluoro Red/Purple  
Bumblebee Dahlberg – Black/White/Yellow  
Bass Vampire – Black/Purple  
Woolly Worm – Black

For those interested the Woolly Bugger I used was tied on an unweighted 1/0 Mustad Aberdeen.

Tail - Black marabou.

Body - Black chenille, (black super salt may be substituted to add sparkle.)

Head - Three turns Fluoro Red super salt chenille

Hackle – 2 x Purple saddle hackles, palmered approximately 1/3 of shank length.

**Robert Coddington** has been fishing the front of Wavebreak Island with **Vince Margossian** for Kingfish. They report that they have been having a lot of fun, but Robert says the score so far is “Kingfish-12, Robert-1”! A 12 kg Kingfish is fun on a fly rod, isn't it, Guys?

### **Sight Fishing for Kingfish? – Trevor Johns**

One Friday recently I volunteered to help our Vice-President, Gary, try out his latest purchase, a 435 Quintrex. This very comfortable craft whizzed us about the Broadwater on a glorious sunny morning. For the first time, for us, we were mounted in a boat which was suitable for venturing outside the seaway into the open sea.

Our hunt for seabirds that might be diving on baitfish proved unsuccessful. The only two seagulls that looked like they were diving were merely trying to “have it off” we think, so we headed for a spot where, in the past, we had caught Queenfish on fly.

As we approached we saw there was another boat anchored there. This turned out to be fellow club member Vince Margossian, who was about to give us an education in what saltwater flyfishing is all about.

We had just dropped the pick and were rigging up when we saw that Vince had hooked up. His fly rod was bent over and twitching out the back of his boat, something sizeable on the end was using the fast incoming tidal flow to put the rig under duress.

We guessed from previous experience that Vince was connected through his eight weight rod and line to a kingfish. Every now and then across the 50 meters that separated our boats we clearly heard the buzz as the fish stripped line as it ran while Vince tried to slow it's attempt by palming the spinning reel.

For 20 minutes this contest took place, at the end of each run Vince would wind in what line he had managed to strip back and the progression made was evidenced by the deeper bend in his rod. Then, with an audible splash and flash of a (big) yellow tail the Kingy broke surface 7 or 8 meters behind his boat.

Vince worked it closer and closer toward his tinnie, at first on the far side, where we could only guess at what was happening, then on the near side. The splashing increased in intensity as it was brought toward the boat and we spectators could almost feel the strain on the rod and what must have been Vince's tiring arm.

But Vince hadn't finished impressing us yet. As he brought the fish close and reached for his gaff he called out "There's two here, his mate's underneath him. And (I kid you not) Vince put down his gaff and took up his other fly rod and cast out near the broaching kingy. And he hooked up!

We were now watching a man who had a kingfish on one rod and a kingfish on his second rod that he had sightcast to and was trying to boat them both. If Vince had been born with 3 arms I suppose he would have had a triple hook up, but the double was a sight to see never the less.

Although a third arm would have been useful to hold the gaff because it all got too much in a way as the last hooked fish broke him off and Vince was left with just the one 6 kilo fish to play and eventually gaff.

As he swung the fish onboard we thought it safe to motor over to him and give our genuine and well-earned congratulations. It had been a mighty tussle with a double (rod!) hookup and a successful landing.

Vince sat down and said "I think I deserve a smoke after that." And though I am an ex-smoker myself, I thought, "You sure do Vince, you sure do."



"Kiny Vince"

### **Junior Coaching**

We have for some time, been thinking about getting a Junior Coaching Programme going. **Gary Sheppard** has put in a bit of time and effort on the subject and we may be close to getting it happening. We have applied for an educational grant to provide us with some rods, reels and lines to get us started. We have received some quotes from suppliers on the equipment and have sent them to Council with our application. We feel we have a good chance and are anxious to get the programme under way. We need to encourage the juniors because they will be the future of our sport.

## A Great Fishing Opportunity

**John Polson** has contacted us to let us know the **Kurrawa Fishing Club** has 3 cancellations for their annual trip to **Swains Reef, July 24-31**.

For details go to: [www.thefisherman.com.au/html/swains.html](http://www.thefisherman.com.au/html/swains.html) or contact John at **The Fisherman, Sporty's**. If you want to get on some great water, this is your chance!

## Weipa Fishing Trip - May 5-13<sup>th</sup> 2004 - Denis Shaw

I was invited to join a group a year ago to go fishing off Weipa on Eclipse Charters – we had to book this far ahead to get the good tides. Cape York is a Fly Fisherman's paradise so I planned to leave the lures at home this time. The fun group of 8 guys came from Coffs, Port Macquarie, Tamworth, Brisbane & yours truly Robina.

After our flights we headed straight to Weipa Harbour & onto the waiting Eclipse with owner skipper Dick Foster at the helm. We left at sunset & headed 120 nautical miles north & in the early morning hours we anchored off the Skardon River. Eventually we would end up only 70 kms off the northern tip of Australia.

The Eclipse has four 4.5m tenders so there would be 2 of us on each one so the previous evening we chose a fishing partner – I teamed up with Mark from Brisbane who had also only brought Fly gear. I also brought a portable fish finder along which is essential.

This was my 2<sup>nd</sup> time on the Eclipse & both were unguided. It is straight forward to work out the fishing areas but you use up a bit of time so Dick has said he will employ a guide now to brief everyone the night before as to where the best fishing is as this will save fuel for the tenders & put you onto the action straight away!

At dawn Mark & I were away but we all stayed within 5 miles of the mother ship due to Maritime laws. After the first few hours of fishing my intuition was coming true that we were going to catch a lot of Queenfish & who minds with all the fish around over a metre. The lure guys were having a ball on a big bait school but were losing a lot of hookups to sharks. After they left I decided to cast a popper to the school & was instantly hit by a big Golden (photo). We then made our way to the Jackson River (10 km north). The rivers were fishing slow as they were still flowing from recent rains & quite dirty.

We went back to the Eclipse every day for lunch & today we were towed another 15 kms on to the McDonald River & lots more Queenfish. As the tide was low we fished the drains near the mouth while the lure guys landed Barra in the 80 cm range. We were all supposed to be back by sunset too but Mark & I had a problem knowing when to stop & everyday we fished & watched the sun go down & the sky glow red to almost dark & were always last back but it also meant our boat was first out in the morning. This sunset we fished a rock bar for Golden & Diamond Trevally & more Queenies which we took back to the Eclipse to feed the huge resident Gropers in every river - never wash your hands or feet off the side of the boat because if you don't lose them you will at least definitely need a skin graft.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day the lure guys headed offshore & we chose the estuary as we wanted Barra. It was high tide & cleaner water & a Barracuda played with our flies but didn't strike but we had landed a few small jacks & tarpon. As the tide started to run we headed for the mouth & caught a larger jack off a rock bar & then had a run with a Barracuda before he bit off. One of the lure boats brought some sashimi back – the longtails were out there! They came back as they had had their fun but didn't like the rough wind conditions – a challenge for us on fly but we headed out to try our luck & could faintly see 2 of our guys silhouetted on the horizon & then saw lots of tuna activity – the fish were just as difficult to approach as in Moreton Bay & I believe the skill is in the boat handling & not all in the fly casting. The tuna were in a frenzy & so were we. Mark would use an intermediate

line casting from the front & when he was on & in control I would cast with a full sink & it was so much more exciting when you were both on so that's why we didn't notice the other guys on the horizon setting off their flares.....they kept thinking we were coming to get them & then they'd think 'no they're still fishing' & set off another flare until they were all gone..... we never noticed & after 2 hours of drifting around they finally got the motor restarted & came on over on the way back to the boat but we shoed them away from our 'zone' & did we get a serve that night when we got back to the Eclipse - obviously don't rely on Mark & I to notice you need rescuing when we are fishing.....

On this trip I had 5 rods with me & 4 were always on our tender set up for different fish – after lots of Tuna I started using an 8 wt & popper for the extra excitement of seeing the hit. Back at the McDonald mouth we picked up some good Golden's & a Giant Herring then back to the rock bar to watch the sunset & catch a few more Trevally & Queenies.

The night before the Fly guys were behind on the species count but were now catching up & this is the time things started to get slightly competitive but never too serious...

Next day we decided we wanted Barra badly but after only catching more Jacks headed out for more Tuna fun. On one occasion I cast a popper over a bait school that was being charged by sharks & tuna - once the Tuna was on & running we overtook it in the boat & kept going to tow it away from the sharks & landed it - I said to Mark it was his turn to cast but he said 'no way.' After an hour fishing other schools I said to Mark here's that bait school again & he said okay & put his popper in a metre from the bait school & hooked a Tuna which ran straight through the school & then the Sharks attacked his fly line. The destroyed line was brand new for the trip & one lesson Mark learned was don't listen to me.....around these schools some fish ran that hard it seemed like you didn't have a drag – I'm sure they were Spaniards.

The Eclipse went back to the Jackson River where we still had no luck in the Barra department. After the night there we moved slowly south fishing the beaches along the way – no signs of Permit but lots of Golden's & Queenies but at the Skardon mouth I landed my first Cobia. Marpoon was the next stop & just before sunset 4 of us lined a sandbank – I almost landed a good size Blue Salmon but because there was a small croc there no-one volunteered for the net job so I tried to drag it up on the sand but it didn't like it & snapped off but when Mark caught a Blue Salmon I became the net boy & quickly slipped in to get it.

Next day we fished the Pennyfather & some offshore reefs. Alan was with us today also as his partner was resting a neck injury & he wanted to flyfish. Alan & Mark were casting in turns from the front catching metre plus Queenies. I was down the back using a 12 wt tungsten line with jumbo Clousers to fish 35 ft of water. I had the biggest hit ever in my fishing career – the rod bent to maximum load & I slowly released line then with another enormous tug the flyline broke so I'll never ever know.....

We moved into the beaches again & found 8 Manta Rays feeding on jelly prawns. Six of them were huge & the ray's backs were covered in Golden Trevally - about 30 or more on each one – the rays would circle the prawns into a ball then roll over upside down in a tumble & devour them while the Golden's would move to the side & feed on the leftovers. This was a great rare sight to see. The lure guys were hooking the Golden's on small slugs & retrieve fast but we had no luck trying to match the hatch with prawn imitations.

At one time a ray was heading directly towards us & I bounced a popper along its back – a Queenie charged up & pushed the Golden's out of the way to smash the Fly & I hope it was all caught on Alan's video which I may have a copy of at a later date.

We motored back to Weipa overnight & next morning we fished until lunchtime – the current was too fast around the shipping channel so we fished a small estuary to the South – we had 2 Barra follow poppers but no hookups – a couple of Golden's & then back to the Eclipse for what everyone was dreading – packing to go home which no-one wanted to do.....I had 2 rods that didn't want to go home either – they just wouldn't pull apart – I tried lubricants, hot & iced water on the male/female without luck – Dick suggested putting tape on the rod & using multi grips – I wasn't impressed with his suggestion but went along with it – in my first aid kit I had some strapping adhesive tape & so I used this - the first rod I looked the other way as I didn't want to see the end result but it worked & actually came apart with ease.....a handy tip for others who find this problem.

All up 28 species were caught with around 10 Barra on lures. I had a memorable time, made 7 good friends & Dick & his assistant Jennine were great hosts & made us fantastic meals. If anyone is planning a trip don't forget to invite me. The trip with a group of 8 cost about \$2,500 each but will be about \$2,700 now with a guide included plus a night at Heritage Resort Weipa & airfares via Cairns to Weipa. (Buy the QF Cairns Weipa return online as far in advance as possible as they don't get cheap seats on this flight & the advance purchase goes early) There always seems to be a problem with baggage on the Qantas Weipa flight & they will try & offload your rod tubes to the next day which is just not on as the boat leaves as soon as you can get there from the flight unless you want to arrive a day earlier but there isn't much to do in Weipa. The lures & rod tubes add a bit of weight to your baggage & luckily the fly fishing gear was underweight but as a group it was still 6 kgs over & a fight to get it on so make sure you don't exceed it or you won't have any rods. There is more to the airline saga also but that's another story.

If you want to book on the Eclipse Ph. (02) 9543 9377 or email at [eclipseoz@bigpond.com](mailto:eclipseoz@bigpond.com)



## June Outing

Our June trip will be to Jumpinpin to catch whatever swims. This will be on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June, launching at daybreak from Jacob's Well, this spot won't make it too far to run to The Pin. A barbeque will happen about 11am. This should be a great trip so we hope you will all turn out if you possibly can. Boats and riders will be allocated at our June meeting.

## The Jumpinpin – Gary Sheppard

The Jumpinpin Bar or "The Pin" as it is commonly referred to, is the stretch of water dividing North Stradbroke from South Stradbroke Island. The Pin Bar was formed back in 1896 when surf broke through the sandy island known as Tulleen Island. The name Jumpinpin is derived from the Aboriginal word "Oumpinpin" which is the name for the root of the Pandanus Tree. The myriad of sand islands and sand bars that form the general landscape of The Pin are constantly moving and many boaties have found maps unreliable for this reason.

Suffice to say that despite significant pressure from commercial fishing, The Pin continues to provide exceptional opportunities for the recreational angler. In my younger days my mates and I could always rely on a feed from the Pin when the Broadwater was not producing. As the weather becomes cooler, **bream** become very active around the Pin and all reports are that they are on now. Pin bream have a reputation for being smallish but I don't believe that this reputation is deserved and I personally have caught many large fish here.

Prime spots are in fast running water along the edges of drop-offs or steep banks. Large fish can also be found hard up against mangroves and dead timber which abound. I'm sure you've all got a selection of bream flies so I won't bore you with my recommendations but remember that bream will generally only take a fly when it is stationary or sinking so allow plenty of time for a strike in between stripping.

**Tailor** are also common at The Pin at this time of year. Best spots are just inside the bar itself where you will find several deeper holes or in deeper water off the end of Short Island. I've always found the run-in tide best for tailor in this area. Tailor prefer larger streamer type flies that imitate the baitfish they are feeding on. You will need a heavier leader for tailor, at least 15 lb. They don't call them choppers for nothing so don't repeat my idiotic behaviour and stick your thumb in their mouth forgetting that I was not dealing with a Hinze Bass.

The ever present **flathead** are also worth waving the long wand at but I believe that they are not huge fish at the moment. Try along the bank on a run out tide on the ocean side of Swan Bay. There are several large outcrops of coffee rock along this bank that have produced some good fish for me in the past. Remember also that Swan Bay is a Fish Sanctuary.

I would also suggest taking some weed flies for **black bream** on the day. If you don't have any weed flies or if you're not sure how to tie one, give Brian Kirkley a ring. Not only can he tie them but I happen to know he's connected with a few niggers in his day. Deep embankments alongside Short Island and in Wally's Gutter are well known for producing Black bream at this time of the year.

If we get some wind on the day, there are plenty of places to hide and fish so don't be discouraged if Huey turns on some weather.

Jumpinpin is a fascinating and diverse fishery and well worth our attention as a Fly Club. There are many fish species to be caught in the area and several that I haven't even mentioned here.

I am personally looking forward to the trip and would encourage all members to come along on the day.

## Guess who's having a Birthday??

Our esteemed President turns 70 shortly and has extended an invitation to all members, wives, husbands, partners & kids to help him celebrate. The venue is the Benowa Tavern (on the rear deck) on Sunday July 11<sup>th</sup> starting at around midday. The Benowa Tavern has a great lunch menu and there is also a large playground for the kids. If you can't make it for lunch then please drop in during the afternoon to have a drink with the old bugger! Not only will you be celebrating his birthday but Tom will not be standing for re-election this year and it seems fitting that we send him into "retirement" properly after his contribution to the club over the years.

**Remember! Flies for our Annual Tying Contest must be in by the June meeting!**

**Quote of the month:**

**"If you find the going easy, you are probably going downhill."**

**Anon**

*Tight Lines and bent rods!*

*Your Scribe*

## Coming Events



**DIARY THESE  
DATES!**

### CASTING ARVO

**Sunday July 4<sup>th</sup> 1:30pm  
Pizzey Park, Miami**

### NEXT MEETING:

**Tuesday, June 15<sup>th</sup> - 7.30 pm.  
Mermaid Beach Bowls Club,  
9 Markeri Street, Mermaid Beach**

### NEXT CLUB FISHING TRIP:

**Saturday June 19<sup>th</sup>  
Location – Jumpinpin  
Target – Anything that swims  
Time: Daybreak, Jacob's Well  
BBQ 11.00am Jacob's Well Boat Ramp**

### TOM'S 70<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY:

**Sunday July 11<sup>th</sup>  
Commencing at Midday  
Location: Benowa Tavern (Rear Deck)**

South East Queensland Flyfishing Club Inc. – Contacts:

President - Tom Boylan 55646660  
Vice President - Gary Sheppard 55637470  
Secretary - Angus Collins 55355499  
Treasurer - Mark Miller (02)66724364  
Publicity Officer - Bob Knott 55983254