



NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting **Tuesday** 7th November

Beenligh Bowls Club

11 Hanover St, Beenligh

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Next Meeting – John Reid has been to the ANSA Qld conference in Cairns and will report on the weekend, plus some info on the ANSA tagging program. Glen and I have just returned from a 4 week trip up through the Burnett, to the area west of Mackay and back down the coast. I have 15 minute DVD on the fishing we did, to bore you with.

Coming Trips – Apparently the trip calendar for 2018 is waiting on some details to be confirmed. The 2017 trips as per normal, with the Kerry trip postponed to January (date to be decided on)

Trip Reports

Jumpinpin Flathead trip , October 14th

It was good to make the most of the favourable weather conditions on this Saturday morning because as we all know the heavens opened that night. We had a few members making the most of it and the tide was spot on for the flathead.

I got to the Jacobs well ramp early but had to wait for my deckie Chris Lund to finish his shift at work. While I was waiting I had planned to cast hardbody lures around the jetties not far from the ramp. There was quite a lot of activity around the pylons and starting with a Ecogear SX60 but no interest. I like to start with a larger lure but sometimes it will spook timid fish. A smaller lure was then chosen and had a result on the second cast. A small Mangrove Jack probably around 260 mm was boated. I am happy with any Jack as it has been a while since my last one was caught. I have landed bigger Jack on the small SX40 Lures but it does give the trebles a workout, so care must be taken on larger fish.





Time to pick up deckie Chris and out to the Pig Sties for some Flattie. We seemed to be about half an hour too late. Brad Baldwin and his deckie Gary were picking up quite a few Flathead on the first of the runout at the mouth of duck creek. There were a lot of boats around this area but we didn't see any one hook up. There was this one guy, but I think he may have spent 10 minutes battling his anchor. I did this once and believe me anchors fight hard!

So, with the tide getting to strong around the Pin we moved to the Channel near tipplers Island. Trolling a Lively lure pink mad mullet soon picked up a nice Flathead and a stingray with the same lure. This always seem to be a productive area, even with the amount of boat traffic around. By 10 o'clock the wind was starting to pick up and the tide had started its run in, so we decided to call it a day.



Kevin Ford made the run from Redland bay and Neil Mc Neil fished from his kayak but soon got sick and tired on the Jet skis around Jacobs well. Chris and myself finished the day with a bit of a sausage sizzle at the Jacobs well Ramp BBQ area.

Jeff Maddalena

Glen Lyon Report to come (except for the below)



As the old song goes "There is a hole in my Bucket, dear *#%@" How it got there? We will have to wait for the story.

Our month on the road

Week One -“B-----y Hell, look at the people, we forgot it was the school holidays” This was the scene as we pulled into Boondooma Dam campground. Camps all along the water’s edge, and up on the powered terraces. It was the first week of our trip with the new A’van and Cross Country Easi Topper. This was the start of a month long expedition to assess and run in our new camping and fishing outfit. We found a spot handy to the amenities, back from the water, and far enough from the water skiers. Now it was about 30 years since I had been to Boondooma, and then the dam side camp area didn’t even exist. How things change.

The van was taken off and set up, the boat off the top, motor unloaded and the trailer assembled. The next morning, it was the first voyage. The motor wasn’t even run in, so it was going to be a bit slow until the motor loosened up, so it was basically slowly



ruuning around the first morning. The redclaw pots were out, resembling a WW2 minefield, and as we found out not producing many at all, just getting in the way of fishing. Who was going put the first fish into the new boat? Glen always catches more, so the odds were on her.

The dam was at about 90%, no fringing weed beds, so edge casting and trolling were going to be both methods we could try. That afternoon, we went out again and started casting along the prominent rocky points a short way up the dam. You could put a lure right up to the edge without being fouled by weed. Fishing our own timber lures was one of the primary objectives of the trip and the first Golden slammed a new profile I had just made, a fish of about a kilo. First target achieved. Naturally, Glen landed the second fish, another Golden.

Goldens were in the majority, all about the kilo mark, Bass were scarce, and the ones we caught were pushing to reach 25cm, about 20 fish in total for the 5 days. Not frenetic fishing, but we seemed to be the only ones doing reasonably well on lures. The bait soakers were pulling a few, among them some 40cm plus Bass. By the end of the week, I could squirt the 20hp four stroke Suzuki up to full throttle for short periods. It certainly lifted the 58kg hull up and away, a bit frightening actually. The bride loved it, no getting bashed around (like in a tinny), while sitting up in the bows. Economy? about 12 litres for 10 hours travelling and trolling, so far living up to expectations.

Week Two – Heading north to up the Burnett Highway to Eidsvold and west to Theodore via Cracow. We spent 3 nights in the Theodore showground, \$15 a night, power and water,

toilets and hot showers. Great if all the country towns were as accommodating, many are, but some could be more budget traveller friendly. The next stop was Sapphire on the gem fields west of Emerald. The rain came the first night, 54 mm. Great to be in a van, not under canvas. The town was deserted next day. Rain washes the top soil away, and “specking” (picking up gemstones on surface) is on the go. They were even picking up sapphire chips in the gravel road in the van park. Heading on to Cleremont via Theresa Creek Dam, and then up along the Peak Downs Highway via the central tablelands coal fields (the extent and size of the open cuts is mind blowing) to Mirani west of Mackay in the Pioneer Valley. We were planning to fish Kinchant Dam near Mirani, but we were now a few days behind schedule, and the logistics of putting the boat outfit together, not mention the crap dirt road up to the dam from Mirani, didn't fill us with enthusiasm, plus the Barra fishery there is a night time thing, and we weren't set up for night excursions yet.

We were waiting for Tom & Di Walbank, who were coming up via the coast. They joined us at Mirani, at the end of week two, and we went in convoy up the range to Eungella Dam, touted as the home of the world's biggest Sooty Grunter, up to 6kg. The road up? well, the Toowoomba range is child's play compared to Eungella. We were both in first gear from the bottom, Tom even



in 4wd (on a bitumen road) The range negotiated, about another hour saw us at Eungella Dam on the Broken River, a tributary of the Burdekin. The camp ground was run by Sunwater, \$8 a night (honesty box) flushing toilets, cold showers, dam water on tap, fires and camping on the water's edge. One thing we were told before camping at Eungella, was

to camp on the western side of the point the camp ground was on. The prevailing wind was from the east, and was consistent. They were right. Eungella should be a name for swirly, gusty gales.



Week three, day one, camp set up, boats in the water we were itching to do battle with the monster sooties. Now, Glen and I have caught heaps of Sooties in streams, but a dam was a different scene. Do you troll (as for Goldens and Bass etc) or casting? The tip here was to find the cormorant nest trees and cast under them. Now there are about 10 million trees in Eungella, so it was a case of trolling around looking for the above.

The first day was a big fat zero, even for the redclaw pots

Day two, we went further up, and after a couple of hours, Tom caught a 41cm Sooty trolling. We trolled up the same arm and a 35cm sooty hit my lure as I stopped to retrieve it.

Tom decided to test the eating quality that night. From all advice, they are pretty ordinary. Tom has eaten them before, from Koombaloomba dam, and reckons they are OK. They cooked it up that night, had a couple of mouthfuls, tossed the rest on the fire, which nearly exploded from the fat. Fish meals were not on the menu this week.



Day three, up to where we caught the fish the previous day with a glass calm morning. As we trolled around, I saw a shag rookery about a kilometre away. Over we went, shags flying off as we approached. We started laying out casts to white, sh--- covered trees. Glen put one up under a large branch, moved the lure only about a centimetre and the surface



erupted. The fish went for cover instantly, diving deep. She was only using her bass outfit with 4kg braid. With her usual skill she held it out (even then it was touch and go) as I used the electric to move away. It came to the surface and we both were transfixed at the size. Safely into the net, we couldn't get over the size and condition. We didn't measure it, but we reckon over 50cm and pushing 4kg. That was it for the day, the Eungella gale started, and it was nearly impossible to fish any structure properly.

Day four, again to the scene of the previous action. The wind was howling, so a run up into the Broken River section where it entered the dam. A few kilometres of fringing beds of lotus flowers, steep banks but still wind affected. Tom was at the top, drifting around having lunch. We asked him if he had fished a good looking section a short way back. He said he had, but no luck. We said we would give it another try. Casting between two fallen trees, I moved the lure about a metre, stopped and a sooty came up and nailed it. It was about 40cm and it went better than a jack in saltwater. The next snag, the same retrieve, another missed hit, and that was it for the day, and the trip.

It blew harder that night, and next morning, so we all packed up. Tom and Di heading for Cairns and yours truly, to Cape Hillsborough, north of Mackay.



While we didn't do any fishing at Cape Hillsborough, I'm mentioning it for political reasons. It is in one of the net free zones, that is no commercial net fishing. Talking to the locals, especially one who had permanent van in the camp ground, and they said the fishing had improved out of sight since the netting bans. That night, the bloke I was talking to, took his lads down to the beach and caught 80cm Barra on a live whiting. The first he had ever caught in 10 years of fishing there. The LNP when questioned about net free zones, said they would not rescind them, but no more would be established. There is a lot of lobbying by the commercial sector for getting rid of them in Central Queensland.

Annual Membership Fees (Due by August Meeting every year)

Normal Membership - \$70

Family Membership - \$90

Student over 16 - \$20

Student under 16 (non family) \$15

Junior – \$15

You can pay by cash at a meeting or by direct deposit into BSB 814282 Account 30814236

Any club member wishing to sell gear, please let me know so I can place it in the newsletter