



JULY NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting **Tuesday** 4th July

Beenligh Bowls Club

11 Hanover St, Beenligh

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Next Meeting

With the Evan's Head trip coming up, Ross has been down there on a recce and has put together his results along with previous experience from JC, Lloyd and myself, you should have information overload. A club trip to the Logan area for Jew on the 8th so Lloyd will be passing on some tips.

Trip Report - Pumicestone Passage Trip – June 2017

by Neil McNeil

John Reid, Glen Kennedy and myself arrived at the Toorbul house on Friday afternoon, after a quick lunch we decided to try nearby Ningi Creek to get out of the wind. Glen and I worked our way up the creek without a lot of success, Glen landed a small flathead and I only managed a couple of Pike. John tried his luck around the oyster leases.

We decided to head back and load up before the rain came but as usual missed by ten minutes and then off the Toorbul Tavern/Shop for dinner which then meant that John had bait for the morning as he didn't have to cook his chicken fillets for dinner. The usual Friday night raffles were run by the local fish stocking group who told us that they have over \$40,000 in the bank to buy Mangrove Jack & Flathead fingerlings to put into



Pumicestone Passage but they can't get permission from Qld Fisheries to do so because fisheries are concerned that it will upset the balance of the ecosystem.

Saturday morning the rain had cleared and the wind had dropped, Ray Bricknell and his mate Ken arrived and were off as soon as they had unpacked.

Glen and I decided to try to find a launch point for our yaks closer to Elimbah Creek but soon found out how soft the sand/mud was once you got close to the water with Glen thinking that he was going to have to get a rope to pull me out of the mud at one stage, so it was back to the main boat ramp for use.



The water clarity in the passage was great considering the rain that we had during the week. Glen and I headed north towards Elimbah Creek but within a few hundred meters north of the boat ramp we both managed to pick up flathead trolling the shallow banks. Glen ended up with four the best being 580mm and mine was 450mm all from the shallow flats in front of Toorbul.

At one stage I suggested to Glen that he should use the landing net which he was not keen on, I learnt a good lesson why at times it is better to not try to use a landing net in a yak, Glen managed to lose his measuring stick that got caught in the net while getting it out to land a fish and I dropped a good sized fish because the net got tangled with my dry bag while getting it out.

John Reid fished the deeper water along the main channel with a combination of bait and lures and landed a few smaller fish. In the afternoon it was back to the same area with a few hook ups and small flathead, I managed a reasonable bream

Sunday morning was another perfect morning, John decided to head home to get a start on the modifications to his new caravan, Glen and I decided to try heading south of the ramp, Glens idea was to only travel a couple of hundred meters but with the outgoing tide and my enthusiasm we soon found ourselves a kilometre or more down the passage which then meant a solid paddle back to the ramp against the wind and tide. I managed to land one legal flathead trolling back and Glen a couple of under sized flathead.

All in all it was a good trip Ray has also put together a report on the trip below.

Ray Bricknell's Report

The first thing to be said about this trip is what a great job Neil McNeil did as Trip Captain! From the initial reconnaissance to the Trip Sheet to the on-site co-ordination to the final

clean-up, Neil set a very high standard for future Trip Captains to live up to. He deserves a big pat on the back for his efforts.

My long-time friend Ken Park fished with me on this trip – many members will remember Ken from some earlier week-long club trips. We could only make the Saturday and Sunday morning, but we both enjoyed the trip immensely.

The others had not caught much on the Friday afternoon, and there was not much guidance available as to the hot spots, so we relied on the excellent fishing location tips circulated by Neil after the club meeting briefing by Peter Griffiths. The weather was idyllic as we set out across the glassy water around 7am Saturday and made our way straight to Elimbah Creek to troll and drift for Flathead.

We trolled as far up the creek as we were game to with small hard body lures against the run out tide, and then drifted back with the tide using chicken breast as bait. Both systems caught fish. The morning got off to a great start, with four Flathead hooked (three by Ken) within the first couple of hours – including one quite good one which escaped alongside the boat by biting through the line, having swallowed the bait. Only two were got into the boat, one legal at 47cm and one under-size at 37cm.

When the tide turned at 10am all four boats/kayaks gathered together for morning tea and to compare notes – always a plus on a club trip. On this trip we also kept one another informed by radio as to who was catching fish, and where. Another plus.

Ken and I then had a quiet time for a couple of hours, after which we decided to switch to Bream fishing with good old standby chicken breast. We anchored just out from a section of large mangroves in about 3 to 4 feet of water, used only a small split shot to take the bait down, and soon had a 30cm and a 27cm Bream in the boat, plus several under-size Bream released. Lots of action – many times our baits were taken for a run by a Bream which somehow managed to avoid the business end of the hook. Frustrating, but fun.

As is so often the case with Bream, each time we caught or dropped a fish the Bream in that location were spooked and went off the bite, and so we had to move to a new “unfished” spot. The smaller Bream were also highly skilled at removing baits without putting any detectable weight on the slack line as it drifted across the front of the mangroves. So, not a lot of legal fish, but loads of action and a very pleasant and busy day’s fishing. The intermittently overcast winter weather made it easier to stay out all day than might have been the case mid-Summer.

Sunday morning we trolled from the boat ramp all the way to Elimbah Creek without success, and so we then again fished for Bream in the creek. Caught several under-size, but only one legal at 25cm, which was released.

I was impressed with Toorbul as a club trip destination, just 1½ hours from Beenleigh, and I suggest it should be a regular club trip destination – with one proviso. We saw it at its best, with virtually no wind. However, the water is for the most part very shallow, and it would whip up very quickly and become unpleasant for small boats and kayaks if the wind was over 15 knots. Not too many sheltered areas available to get out of the wind?

Upcoming Club Trips

Logan River – Saturday July 8th The main target for this trip is Mulloway and the trip captain is the club's Mulloway expert par excellence, Lloyd Wilmann.

Evans Head - August 5/12th A week's trip to Evan's Head, North Coast, NSW. John Eldred (Trip Captain) is looking into accommodation. Winter species such as Bream, Luderick and Tailor would be the main targets this time of year.

.Notice of Annual General Meeting

Due to the Evans Head trip, the August AGM has been put back until August 8th. Reports from the President, Secretary, Treasurer, Tagging and Recording Officers must be in for inclusion in the August newsletter. The deadline is August 1st.

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