



MARCH NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting **Tuesday** 1st March

7pm Beenligh Bowls Club

11 Hanover St, Beenligh

Editor Trevor Saunders 33988733 - 0418708858 tgkmsaunders@gmail.com

www.sbsfc.org PO Box 5057, Eagleby 4207

Please note, our meeting night has been changed to the first Tuesday of the month

Next Meeting – Quite a few things to discuss this meeting. The tagging situation for one; the change in the Suntag/ANSA partnership with a fee of \$45 (discounted from \$75) for the supply of tags and being in the program. We will be having Brett Ragusse, one of the Logan City mayoral aspirants coming along to touch base. Brett, I think was a federal member in the area at one time, and was made aware of the Luscombe weir restricting fish movements on the Albert. If? possibly elected as Logan's mayor, lobbying him for some action on it would be a way forward. There is an I.T. person possibly coming along to give us some directions on websites etc. No confirmation on that as yet.

Coming Club Trips

Borumba Dam March 18th to 20th

Our regular trip, (flooding notwithstanding) based at the Deer Park camping ground in cabins or camping if you desire. Bass and Saratoga are the species for this trip. John Eldred is usually the trip captain, but has had to cancel for a family wedding. Reports have blue green algae an issue at Borumba at the moment. An update on that problem this meeting.

Southern Moreton Bay April 17th

Our usual trip out to the southern bay Islands, with Snapper, Tailor, and Jew the target species. Kev Ford is the trip captain, with the Weinam Creek ramp, the suggested departure point.

Mid Year Dinner May 21st

The venue has to confirmed for this. JC is the social director for this one.

Southern Bay May 28th

This trip will be around the Southern Bay (mouth of the Logan, Russell Island and adjacent area) Lloyd is the trip captain for the trip

Trip Reports

BP Dam Trip Report

Thursday - I managed to get away a day earlier and arrived at BP on Thursday, Brendan Moore from Kingaroy Sportfishing Club kindly organised a session for me to fish with himself and Matt and Dave from the club on a section of Barambah Creek to the junction of Baker Creek that we accessed through a private property. Matt had fished this area the day before with good success, the fishing was not quite as good for us although I was able to land five small bass and one legal bass using Jackal Chubby and Mazy Popper, the other guys had similar catches, with Brendan landing a good size yellow belly that Dave took home for the land owner.

Friday - Caught up with Trevor Saunders at the boat ramp and he reported that the fishing on the dam had been tough on Thursday and for the first time in years his mate Norm who fishes the dam regularly did not get a single shrimp in his traps overnight. I headed off on the yak to put in my red claw pots and shrimp trap and then spent the morning trying to get out of the wind, I fished using lures, spinner baits, vibes and blades without any luck, casting to snags, working the edges, trolling and fishing the deeper water.

In the afternoon Ray and I went to put his shrimp trap in under the bridge over Barambah Creek before heading out on to the dam to put in Ray's redclaw pots. Trevor called in to the ramp to report that their luck had not improved, although a couple of the others had caught some fish. The wind was still blowing so we spent the afternoon anchoring up and casting to snags without any luck. We returned to camp to the rest of the crew had arrived safely and we had a great evening telling stories and drinking more than we should have.

Saturday - After collecting the shrimp traps Ray and I headed out onto the dam in his boat again, I will leave the report on the shrimp and red claw to Ray. We tried some different areas casting lures blades and spinner baits without any luck but had a pleasant afternoon discussing a wide range of issues.

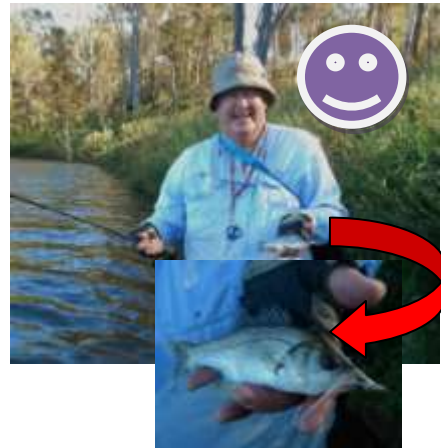
Brendan Moore came out to the dam with his 4.8m Tabs and was kind enough to take Kevin & I out for a session, just as well as the wind was blowing even harder, no place for canoes and yaks. We travelled the length of the dam right up to the top of Bakers Creek fishing the timber. Unfortunately the only fish that we caught was a bass on the troll on the way back near Bass Point.

Saturday night was another great SBSFC social although we did learn our lesson from Friday night and eased off the alcohol – just as well because I was put on the bag at an RBT in Goomeri on Sunday.

Sunday - The wind was still blowing so Kevin Ford and I got out the fly rods and walked the bank north of the boat ramp (special thanks to Kev for his guidance on my fly casting) I managed to catch one very small bass on fly (my first) but it was enough to get me hooked on fishing with fly, now for a legal bass.

The accommodation that we had in the new cabins/villas was first class, with ample room for boats and cars.

Neil McNeil (fast becoming a fly fishing tragic)



Report on Trev's trip to BP

BP dam is a dam I have never fished, and after coming back into regular contact with my old fishing and ANSA mate of 40 plus years, Norm Collingwood, we got together for a long planned trip. Norm moved to Nanango for work when the Tarong power station was built in the late 80's. BP dam was built soon after, when Premier Joh, decided to give his electorate (a vote catcher) namely a dam. Actually, nobody wanted it, and the geologists said it wouldn't hold water. Norm has fished BP, almost since it filled, so he is pretty clued up about it, so naturally myself along with 2 old mates, Billy Rudder and Ian Elliot we started off pretty confident.

Due to family commitments on the weekend, I couldn't get together with the club, but I did catch up with a few of you Friday afternoon. We started fishing late Thursday morning, with Norm giving us a tour as we fished, pointing out all the features and structure. BP is a shallow dam compared to some, and at 50% the deepest water (at the wall) was about 50 feet. Norm put out his red claw and shrimp traps at his go to spots as we moved around.



The show of fish (or lack of) on his sounder had him worried. What schools of Bass showing weren't active, coming up as static arches. When they are feeding the arches and lines crisscross each other. "Bass Point" which is a underwater point on the line of the creek bed seemed to hold the best show of fish. A couple of small Bass on the troll with spinner baits over the point was the result between our two boats over Not looking good.



The next morning, up early, about 30 minutes to the dam from Norm's place at Nanango. Norm pointed out an interesting feature about 10 minutes from the dam. A flat piece of country, crossing a watercourse called

Brisbane Gully (dry). Barkers Creek (Burnett River catchment) was on the left side of the road and the Brisbane River catchment was on the right. In the 2013 flood which went 10 metres over the BP spillway, the back up from the dam actually flowed from the Burnett catchment over into the Brisbane. A bit of interesting geographical trivia.

We were launching the boats, a figure in black tights and shorts appeared from the trees at the top of the ramp, No, it wasn't a cross dresser from Cherbourg, but Neil coming to say hello and getting the bad news, fish wise. First task, check the shrimp pots, absolutely nil, the first time in 30 years, Norm has not had a result. Back to trolling the edges, one Bass along a deep bank on the Cherbourg side on a new design timber lure I made for the trip. Bill and Ian were trolling near Bass Point, which by occupied by a fisherman sitting on it with his I Pilot working blades etc. We saw him land one nice fish. Bill and Ian were picking a few small Bass on the troll, but they had to get the lures right down on the bottom near the point (25ft).

A trip up into the timber to soak some worms at Norm's go to spot proved fruitless as well, but it did give us a good look at the top of the dam. We managed to catch up with some of you at the ramp on the way home to pass on the "exciting" fishing news.

Trev

LAFMA Wyalong Carp/Tilapia Catch Day

Apart from fundraising to stock fish in the dam, the losing effort to remove Carp, has transformed into Tilapia. How many fish removed this comp? 251 anglers caught 1,189 Tilapia compared to 62 Carp. A real turn around in species. One regular fisherman from Boonah, has caught 5,000 to date. One bright spot was the capture of a couple of juvenile Mary River Cod at the top of the dam on worms, and the report of a 38cm Bass recently. The biggest Carp was 6.89kg and Tilapia 1.8kg.

The predicted SE blow came in just after a lot of the competitors, made it to the other side of the dam, which saw the safety boat used in anger for the first time, rescuing a overturned yakker, luckily close to the ramp and a couple of tow backs for dead motors and a canoe that doing it tough. Even with the conditions, the catch was pretty good. The number of yakkers fishing this year was well up on previous years, and in windy conditions a lot safer than conventional canoes.



Bass Stocking in Victoria

I came across a bit of interesting news the other day. If you didn't already know, Victoria the last few years, have been stocking Bass into impoundments and streams. Well known for Estuary Perch, a close relative, Victoria had quite a good Bass fishery at one time. A lot of the better streams were in Gippsland, were rivers like the Genoa and Wallagaraugh which run into Mallacoota Lakes, had excellent Bass fishing. Siltation has all but killed these streams. Vic McCristal wrote about Bass fishing in the Genoa and about going back a decade later and finding the river totally silted up. The Snowy River is the same in the lower freshwater section, clogged with sand, but upstream with more water being released from Eucumbene and Jindabyne for environmental flow, Bass have been restocked. Mention Victoria's freshwater and you naturally think Trout. Bass have been stocked in a couple of Gippsland lakes, Blue Rock and Glenmaggie that have trout fisheries. In the Western District, one of the crater lakes, Bullen Merrie, a noted stocked Quinntat Salmon lake, had Bass stocked quite a few years ago. Now they are being caught together (see photo 46cm Bass and Salmon)



Deep Diving Lures, How deep can you get them?

A well debated question. This comes up from our recent trip to BP. The Bass were sitting in 20 to 30ft of water on "Bass Point". Bill and Ian caught heaps more than us because they were getting their lures that little deeper. A lot of things determine the depth that a deep diver will reach and often it's short of what is advertised on the packaging. For instance a lure that is expected to reach 5m might do it if you are using 6lb braid, but will fall short of that if using 20lb braid. Mono line in the previous sizes will be even worse. The drag/friction of the water is the key factor. Braid is thinner than mono, less drag, some braids are thinner than others, less drag. Increase the speed (trolling) again more drag. Lures will run deeper on the troll than cast and retrieve. Distance the lure is back, even more drag. Even the size of your leader and snap can be a factor, drag wise. The lure design comes into the equation. A lot of people think the bigger the bib, the deeper it will go. We won't go into the position of the tow point on the bib or body, that again is a subject for debate, as is the shape of the bib. A yachting friend once said that people think that bigger the sail, the faster the boat will go. It won't, everything has to be in proportion. Put too big a bib on too small a body, it doesn't work. Bass seem to like smaller body lures (40 to 70mm)

Bill and I were both using some of our home crafted lures. He accidentally used 1mm lexan for the bib in his, instead of 2mm. Mine had 2mm. The thinner bib cut the water better (less drag) and the water pressure over it (same as 2mm) made it run that little deeper, that put it through the school (the fish weren't active) that probably triggered a reaction take. (See photos to compare, I've made a 1mm bibbed lure that does run deeper in the pool) Other ways to make a



**Top 2mm Bib, Centre 1mm Bib,
Bottom 2mm**

lure run deeper? A sinking lure, not really, to sink, the lure has to be heavier and denser, harder for the bib to give it action which is one the prime fish attracting features. Downriggers? again never a big thing on our dams. Whether a bass school likes a big downrigger weight ploughing through them is debatable. In fact fishermen using downriggers in Wivenhoe found the water pressure at depths (50 plus feet) diminished the action of the lure.

The answer? Using and changing between the above factors, try trolling different lures, over flat, clean bottom, in a depth you want it to reach. You'll feel them bump bottom. *This is tongue in cheek now!* Enter it all on a spread sheet in your lap top. You'll need it, to sort it all out.

Annual Membership Fees

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

Club Logos & Stickers – Shirts & Boat

Large & small boat stickers – Large \$6 Small \$5
SBSFC Club Logo embroidered on your shirt - \$10 - Bring to a club meeting, Back the next.

LENDING LIBRARY

The club has a number of fishing and fishing associated DVDs for hire. Available at club meetings, a \$20 deposit, refunded when they are returned at the next meeting