



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting Monday 5th October

7pm Beenligh Bowls Club

11 Hanover St, Beenligh

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Last Meeting

We had our rundown and slide show on Baffle Creek, the next club trip. I hope I didn't confuse you too much. It's hard to fully explain the features and fishing in an hour. I've spent 6 weeks on total fishing there, and still don't know everything about the area and never will.

Next Meeting

As promised, Kev Ford (alias the **KLONDIKE KID**) will be telling us all about his fly fishing trip to Alaska. (article further on) If anyone wants to ask any more questions about Baffle, this is your last chance. I'll be bringing a cast net along to show the way I throw (badly), as some of you are going to be looking for live bait up there. We will be running this meeting with a minimum of business, a format we will be trying every second meeting.

Coming Club Trips

Baffle Creek October 10th to 17th – Deposits paid, money up, as per John Eldred's e mail

Upper Albert Bass & Cod Tag November 6th to 8th – Our regular trip in conjunction with LAFMA to tag Bass and Cod in the upper Albert and Logan Rivers. Camping on Mark Ward's Property at Kerry on the Albert River.

Glenlyon Dam November 20th to 27th – Our regular week long Glenlyon trip. Always popular well attended. If you are thinking of going, let us know this meeting. Tom Walbank has booked 4 cabins.

Club Calendar for 2016

Still a couple of things to iron out on this. Trout trip to the New England and a different venue for our weekend impoundment Bass trip. Usually Maroon dam which has been a bit disappointing. One suggestion is Cressbrook Dam between Toowoomba and Esk. I dropped in to check out the camping etc, a few weeks ago. Always been a bit different up there. You can access the camping area all hours, but the boat ramp only between 6am and 8pm. You can moor boats in front of the camp ground across on the other side of a bay from the ramp, but the signage seems to indicate, outside the hours above. If you have a trailer on your

vehicle, parking in the camp ground is very squeezey, if not impossible. Clean amenities, camp kitchen, grassed tent sites (see photos) but camping on a first in/first serve basis. You might be able to camp with vehicles/trailers in the caravan/motor home section, but a long way from the amenities. Further investigation is needed.



Bass Tagging Trip LowerAlbert River

One of our regular trips, this time we had an over nighter, camping on Wilmann's Island belonging to Lloyds's cousin, who kindly let us camp and launch there, even supplying a portalo. Eight members participated, with Owen and Ray calling in to rally the troops. Not many fish were tagged.

The usual questions, too early, too cold, too big a tide (8 foot) Bass fishing in tidal water is like that, a few more variables than further upstream. A great social event all the same, a nice fire and good company. The score, Lloyd 2 Bass in the 30's, JC, three a lot smaller, Kev, one of 38cm. Jeff Maddalena thought he must have been down the 'Pin with a Flathead and a Bream. Actually right up near the bridge, there were a heap of flathead lies on a sandy section at low tide.



Alaska Revisited 2015 or "Have Fly, Will Travel!"

After a trip of a lifetime in July 2014 to Alaska to fly fish the Kanektok River on the remote Western Alaskan Coast. I was fortunate enough too able to once again consider a return .The dilemma faced was after such a fantastic trip the 1st time, do you go somewhere different or go to the same place.

What if it's not as good this time round? What if I go to a different river or lodge and it's not as good? What if the fishing isn't as good? I contacted one of the guides from last trip who I'd been in contact with occasionally for advice, but in the end I decided there must be something special about the Kanektok for guides and outfitters from North America to keep going back. My final decision was to fish a different week, which offered different Salmon species at least and the river and food source in the river would be different. I reflect on a Quote- *"No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man."* — [Heraclitus](#)

So after visiting the lodge in week 5 last year, I settled on the final week of the season week 12 this year. Going off all I learnt last year, the later week will off the chance for plenty of Silver Salmon, Coloured up Dolly Varden and the Rainbow Trout. All the resident Trout should be active in bulking up in preparation for the winter when the river freezes over and food becomes scarce. Arrived into Anchorage on the Saturday afternoon, and repacked to only take 1x bag out to the river. We're flying on a smaller regional airline this time round and a luggage limit of 70 pounds applied.



Sunday morning, I wake noticeably calmer than last year. Walk over to the Carrier terminal, and be told to wait as there has been a last minute change and we're going with a different carrier.

This is Alaska and plans change, often. We're shuttled to the main airport terminal and travelling Trans Northern Airlines. Time to board were lead casually onto the tarmac, I see a nice small aircraft and think this is notice. We're lead around the front of this one towards a DC3, What the? Now once on board this old girl was built in 1941, a history sheet on the seat pocket tells a checkered past of Drug running and confiscation by the US Drug Enforcement agency on more than one occasion. This is one very cool old girl.

We arrive into Quinhagak and the unloading and loading for the changeover begins. Groups for the new team of guests start forming. Hellos' with the familiar faces of the guides from

last year are exchanged and they seem genuinely excited to see a few familiar faces in the new group for week 12. We're transported to a slightly different launching location to travel the 5 miles upriver to camp in the boats. There our gear and loggings are sorted for the week. As it turns out there are 9 guests from the full week and 1x guy arriving tomorrow for 3-4 days. 7x of the nine are from Syracuse New York on a trip organised by Wayne.

So being 2 of us travelling solo, we learn we are teamed up for the week. It seems we both like similar things and are similar in personality. We're bunked together in the same cabin, we fishing together for the week. So Kasey is from Montana, (I want to do a road trip through Montana sometime), he's younger, but also fished Alaska West last year and returned again this year.

It's not long into conversation that we're on the same page, and clearly the guides or lodge have profiled us or something. We have the opportunity to just go for a fish ourselves near camp so Casey and I head off, We both land a few fish that afternoon. And I guide Kasey onto a nice Rainbow on his flesh fly, and he lands what we think is a King Salmon close the camp. Picking the difference in some species can be difficult, I didn't brush up on the differences this year before the trip. We're happy it was a King.

Day 1. with Grant who I fished with last year on the last day. We have a good day and Grant works hard exploring some different areas since the river has risen a little. Grant tunes up my hook sets while we're drifting for Trout during the afternoon. (To the side and downriver). I do land a nice solid Rainbow during the day amongst other fish, it was a snag that turned into a fish. Did I catch as many fish one the first day as last year? Clearly no, but last year I had an exceptional day on the first day in "Old Main". One Rainbow I landed towards the end of the day was a quality fish.

Day 2. we're guided by Eric, Eric is from Colorado, He's a first year guide in Alaska this year. I ask if he is likely to come back, He's undecided, He hasn't been out of waders for 7 months, and not be in a warm climate. Going from a Colorado winter to Alaskan summer is not that different. Eric is quite dry and quiet in his personality. We're chasing Dolly Varden in "Dollywood" today. Kasey and I are fishing slightly apart for part of the day. Kasey is fishing Streamers in the backwater, I'm on beads in the main part of the river. Eric gives me a refresher on Nymphing technique, even though I felt I was going ok. Eric is a cool dude. The wind comes up around lunch, and the afternoon is really difficult.



Day 3 we're guided by Jason, We're going to catch our limit of Silvers today, Kasey is taking fish home and I'm taking a few back to Anchorage for Bill the host at my BnB. So a double

hook up on Silvers in the first couple of casts, it doesn't get much better than that! We mix things up during the day, Jason gives me some tips on my water hauling, so I get my fly in the water much easier. We do some Lo-Bo but it's a bit quiet, and we finish the day with a short session chasing silvers from the boat and have a great session. Kasey lands one on a popper.

Day 4 We're with Kyle, The river rose and dirtied up overnight. There must have been rain in the mountains earlier in the week. We head up stream and get to "Old Main" for the first time in the week there are no boats at the mouth. We hike in to "Old Main". This was the spot I fished with Jeff Forsee on the first day of my trip last year and we had a great time. This year it's heavily pressured. Late season and one of the other lodges hits the river earlier than our lodge and are often here first. We mix it up a bit, it's all sight casting. The channel is full of spawning Sockeye and Silvers and the occasional late Chum. Clearly heavily pressured, Kyle walks the high bank spotting for us, and we work a snag with 5-7 jaw locked Rainbows in it. I get a Dolly on Mouse, and next cast pull the mouse away from a Sockeye that was looking to eat off the surface. Kyle's standing beside me and after I pull the Mouse away, Kyle tells me a Sockeye on mouse would have been really cool!! (Damn). Back to the boat and at the mouth, Kasey and I have a couple hook-up on Silvers on our 6 wts which is a hoot. Further up-river Kyle and I walk a high bank looking for trout in tight, but the wind is up again this afternoon and trying to get a cast parallel to the bank with the wind blowing at 90 degrees is tough. We're walking close to the bushes, and it's very beary, I can't stop looking behind me, and I think we are both a little nervous, we decide to leave.

Day 5 We're teamed with Ben West. Now Ben is a very talented Artist and does beautiful Oil paintings. Ben also does the best shore lunch and loves doing them. This morning it's cold, enough the guides are noticing it, and we thought our gas heater in the tent must have run out of gas, but it hadn't. We start the day Popper fishing for Silver Salmon. This is great fun, 6-10lb Salmon taking a surface popper!! We quickly catch lunch and Kasey gets his bag. We walk the high bank taking turns casting up the deeper water of masses of Silvers. Later Kasey and I compare notes and we both noticed a change in the smell in the air, and in one spot felt uneasy. We suspect we were being watched from the bushes.

We stop on a rock bar and Ben cleans the salmon and prepares our Shore Lunch. Last night we heard Ben talking to the guides about a chocolate cake recipe, so Kasey and I had hit Ben up to put that on the menu as well. A shore lunch was one of the things, I had completely forgotten about last year even though it was on my list, caught up in the moment I guess. Ben did a magnificent job on lunch. Kasey did a plaster cast of a small bear footprint for his 6 week old boy's bedroom, while lunch was cooking.

We drifted for most of the afternoon, and I had a great afternoon session. Fish were dialled in on the bead again. 3 x Grayling, with the nicest being 16". Kasey and I were netting our fish while Ben continued to guide the boat, we worked as a team and maximised our fishing time rather than stopping of each fish. I figure I easily caught 15-20x fish, some quality Rainbows, Grayling and Dollies all mixed in. Ben's dropping hints on what might work tomorrow, I'm getting the feeling he wants to Lo-Bo on the last day of the season, I've unfinished Lo-Bo business and am thinking it may be worth a roll of the dice.

Day 6, The final fishing day for the 2015 season at Alaska West. Kasey was looking to tick off his Big Dollies on streamers, I was happy to try of Lo-Bo again. So we decided to split up for the final day. Kasey gets Eric, I draw Ben. We're all happy! Lo-Bo is Lower River-Rainbow Trout. The day will be we get fish or we don't. If we do get fish they are likely to be good ones, and we're going to lose a lot of flies to snags in the process. Ben is excited to fish Lo-Bo, as he knows what can happen. Our day starts well and we're working snags as we drift past. We have 5 rods rigged, and if we bust a fly off its grab another rod and keep fishing. We land 2 out of 3 nice rainbows, all tight in on structure staying out of the heavy flow. We talk about Lo-Boing during the day, Ben say's some people don't get it, but we do. I've had success but as we found earlier in the week, there's no guarantee. Kyle Lo-Bo'd yesterday and they bombed out.

At a stop, we find a slough loaded with Silver Salmon piled into it. We estimate over 1000 fish. Out comes the 8wt and we pull a few on the popper to break up the day. Ben walks up to the very end and sees a northern pike in the tight water. On reflection, Why we didn't try and hit it, I don't know?

We continue downtown and fish the town stretch, searching out and landing another couple of nice rainbows. The final fish of our day is 22" long x 12" girth. This year I knew to be excited, as this was the quality of fish we were looking for. We worked this stretch for a couple of times looking for Walter, but he's not playing today. Back at the Boat bar, Kasey and Eric are there, they have had a good day as well. Good news all round.

Fishing is done. The Slideshow from the first 5 days fishing is running in the Drinks tent. Although the Syracuse boys stuck to themselves for most of the week, they also clearly caught some quality fish, as did Kasey and I.

Kasey and I join the guides and camp staff for the last night Bonfire, which is just a special way of finishing off what has once again been a great trip. Sunday is haul-out day. It's sad to be leaving again. This year it's not handshakes and pats on the shoulder, more often than not it's hugs and the exchange of deep felt comments from most of the staff. As returning customers, Kasey and I feel as though we're now part of Alaska West more than ever. Relationships and special moments have been shared, and given the excitement from both sides when meeting the guides and staff on the first day, I feel as if they do actually remember individuals, and cherish the interactions and time spent on the river just as much as the guests do.

I've made new friends this week, and strengthen ties with existing buddies.

So was the trip as good as last year?

The weather was certainly more of a challenge, we caught plenty of fish some days, one afternoon with plenty of wind was a struggle, we made a good call on a back channel when the river colour changed overnight one night.

The days definitely shorter, temperature definitely cooler, more wind.

Did I tick off my list of things I wanted to achieve? Hell Yeah!

I reflect on my introduction on the first evening, when I introduced myself, I said “Last year I came to Alaska for a trip of a lifetime, So this year I don’t know if it’s a second trip of a lifetime, or of it’s the trip of two lifetimes”.

On the charter flight back to Anchorage, I score the seat up front beside the pilot, although I’m worn-out and tired, it’s also a great experience and a cool way to close out this adventure. They say that if you go to Alaska a small piece of you remains there, and you’re never complete until you go back.

Before flying out of Anchorage to start the trek home, I ring a friend of a friend of my mothers who lives north of Anchorage. In talking to Paddy I learn she visited Alaska after finishing College and never returned to live in the lower 48 again. Paddy is now retired.

Would I go back to Alaska West again!!

In a heartbeat!!

P.S. I’ve subsequently seen a YouTube video by OPST done earlier in the season at Alaska West, Ben and Jason did much on the guiding but Kyle was also there. I seem familiar spots in the footage. The OPST guys used to guide at Alaska West when it first kicked off, and the skills and passion they have for the trout and the Kanektok River come through in the video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EqAIBMGo0ek>

Again reflecting on discussions with Ben over the week, and now I’ve seen this video, even though I wasn’t aware one was made, I now see where some of Ben’s comments about good times to fish were coming from. I have this set firmly in my mind.

Fly casting instruction

Don’t forget to give me a call if you’d like to do a Fly Casting session at any time. It doesn’t matter if you’ve never picked up a fly rod, or if you had been casting for year. We practice the following- The 5 Essentials of Fly, Casting, Good Timing, Lee Cummings Triangle Drill, Various keywords to use, Loop Formation - 8’s and Straights Pickup Lay Down Cast, Double Haul Drill. If you want to catch up, give me a call on 3829 2525, I’m generally available on weekends. I can supply a rod if you have no gear, or you’re free to bring your own along.

Kev Ford

Glenlyon Dam Trip, September 2015

As my old mate Wadey was unable to accompany me on my annual September sojourn to Glenlyon, Owen volunteered to suffer me for a few days and see if he could add to his tally of Glenlyon cod.. After setting up camp and a quick bite to eat, it was off to inspect 'stinky' to see if there was anything worthwhile to put in the shrimp pot ... nothing but one old frame floating in a sea of maggots ... obviously not much happening in the way of keeper fish ... so it was dog biscuits for shrimp bait. Traps set, it was off to troll a few spots and get the feel of the place before nightfall. The dam was around 32%, a bit less than the club trip in November 2014. I must say here that the weather was kind to us, mostly light winds, cool in the mornings and at dusk, but rather pleasant during the days.

Day 1... No shrimp from the dog biscuits, so it was off to see if we could troll up our own legal fish, and hence some shrimp bait. We worked the same flats area that was kind to JC, myself, Darryl & Glenn, and later Tom, on our last November club trip. By lunch time I had 2 legal cod in the ice box 'a bird in the hand is worth 2 in the bush', and Owen was still waiting for his first 'hit'.



With lunch and cod to look after, it was nearly 3pm before we got to bait the traps and start the afternoon trolling session. Trying old know yellowbelly hot spot, Home & Away bay, wasn't successful, so it was off to the caves area to see what was on offer during the dusk session. Owen started with a cod of around 500 and finished the day just on the bell with a cod of 550. In between, I managed a cod of 570 and a big GP. Not bad for the first real day, 5 cod and 1 Golden.

Day 2 Only a couple of shrimp but it didn't matter, nothing wanted our bait. so it was back to the lures and work the drop offs and banks above the caves to Debbie's Run. Two legal cod for me tagged and released. The afternoon session was much of the same except that this time Owen bagged a 770 cod and tagged another of 530mm. Apart from a couple of goldens and a silver on bait over the next couple of mornings, my run had come to an end, not a single hit on any of my lures for the next 3 days.

Day 3 ... A few shrimp this morning, so it was off to Stockyard Creek till lunch ... a bait fish then work over the basin towards the old weir and back. It was tough going, not a bite on bait and even less trolling. We decided to work our way to the dam wall and back and had only gone 200 meters and I'd just got the words "I have never caught anything in this bay or off these points" out of my mouth when Owen's expression changed slightly, a legal cod of 610 was on its way to the boat to be tagged. Owen is like no other I've fished with. Most nearly jump out of the boat when a fish hits, especially a cod not Owen.



Days 4&5 ... Our best bait fishing mornings, 3 GP and 2 large silvers in 45 foot of water fishing at 15 feet .. you need patience though. As I said earlier, not a hit for me but Owen tagged 2 legal and one at 580 as well as keeping his 2nd cod. Brian had informed us and shown us a DVD of cod protecting eggs at the top of the dam, so on day 5 we headed up to see for ourselves. One large cod sighted in the shallows, but the water had gone murky and we were unable to confirm the spawning sites etc. Great for the dam though ... looks like a good recruitment this year

Overview - great weather, great company and the best cod fishery in Australia. We caught 14 cod total, of which 9 were legal ie. 60cm or above (Owen 9, Lloyd 5) 5 Golden perch and 2 silver perch. I'm working on my MOJO so I'll be in top form by the club trip in November.

Lloyd Willmann

Australian man left bloodied after catfish 'assault'



An Australian man has been left bloodied and embarrassed after being hit in the face by a catfish.

A member of the public spotted the injured man near a Darwin beach in the Northern Territory on Monday night and phoned police.

Police arrived to find the 45-year-old man with a lot of blood on his head. The man said he was fishing with a friend when he tried to reel in his catch but the catfish flew up and struck him. "The impact caused the venomous back spine of the fish to lodge into the side of his head," Duty Superintendent Louise Jorgensen said in a statement. "He writhed in pain and bled profusely while his friend calmly took possession of the prize catch," she said.

"Remember folks, its Northern Territory Water Safety Week - be careful out there."

Submitted by Ray Bricknall

Suntag Tagging Awards

A fast departure from the Bass tagging on Sunday, saw Lloyd and myself at Suntag's annual award presentation at the Waterloo Bay Hotel. Now, I don't if Lloyd knew he was going to be inducted into the Suntag Hall of Fame, and I was careful not to spill the beans on the trip. All I knew that I had to be there to represent SBSFC and say a few words about his prowess. Lloyd had tagged over 1,200 fish in his tagging history, which wasn't a lot compared to some others. An old mate, Mick Dohnt, a tagging legend, had tagged over 25,000 fish. Congratulations Lloyd.



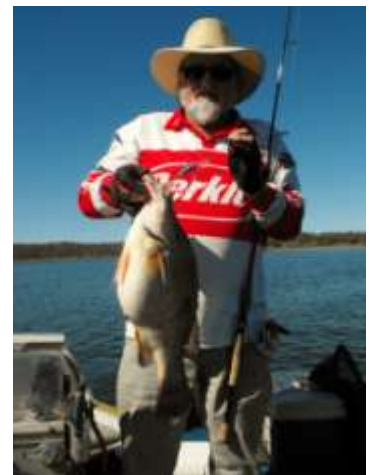
It's great when your own lures work!!

A couple of weeks ago, a mate Dave Brown came down from Maryborough to pick up some lures I had made for Dave and his 2 sons. Yesterday these pics were emailed to me. Dave's phone went at work and these images appeared. James, his son in Agnes Waters went out from 1770 in his tinny, saw a school of bait being hammered, dropped over a "Barra" lure, I had made for them, and below was the result.



How fat can a Yellowbelly get?

This photo was sent to me by Norm Collingwood of a fish he caught in Boondooma Dam recently. It went 53cm, but almost as deep as it was long. Full of roe.



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

DEALS FOR CLUB MEMBERS

Marine Safe Australia – Marine Safety Gear

21 Rowland St, Slacks Creek 3808-1988

Danny Hughes Fishing Restoration – Rod/Reel Repairs Ph 0438 012619

Yatala Outboard Wrecking – Specialising in used parts for all makes & models. Repairs & Servicing – Gary & Trent 3807 2488 – 7 Old Pacific Hwy

Gem Bait & Tackle – 281 Jacob's Well Rd, Alberton Ph 3287 3868

Fuel, Gas, Bait & Tackle, Ice, Groceries & Takeaways - Open 7days

