



Southern Brisbane Sportfishing Club Inc.

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Newsletter

April, 2005

Next Meeting

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY 4 April, 2005 (even if it's a public holiday) at the Neighbourhood Centre, Mansfield Walk, Beenleigh (between the roundabout and Crete St).

The venue can be accessed for off street parking via Kent Street (behind the Police station), or via James Street, just up from the Court House. Otherwise, park in James Street and walk behind the Gold Coast City Council branch office.

NOTE:- We have a Bar. *Please remember the new gear swap table at the meeting – bring your swaps or items for sale.*

MEMBERSHIP FEES – Great News! – Join at the April meeting and you will be paid up to 30 June 2006.

Single membership is \$55.00 p.a. - Family Membership is \$75.00 p.a. (Subject to review by ANSA for 2005/6 year)

APRIL TRIPS

Sunday 17 April – Coomera River Day Trip – Chasing Mangrove Jack and Bream with Master Fisherman Lloyd Willmann as Trip Captain. Trip sheet attached. **PLUS** – a 'Meet the Members' BBQ at 1:30pm – see below for details.

30 April – 1 & 2 May – Beautiful Burrum Heads with Brisbane SFC – Mangrove Jack & Estuary Cod. Come and get amongst the real fighters. Trip Captain – Ray Bricknell Ph 3287 2668; Mob 0403 969 606. **BOOK YOUR ACCOMMODATION URGENTLY PLEASE** – Dave Marsh (BSFC) Mob 0409 898 800. Trip Sheet distributed with March Newsletter – Need a new one? Email your Editor.

Guest Speaker: How Does ANSA work? What's in it for you? Our President, Lloyd Willmann, has given countless hours to ANSA over many years. **He will bring ANSA alive for us at this meeting – Be There!!**

Acknowledgement: This Newsletter was kindly copied by Margaret Keech's office at no charge to the club.

Meet the Members BBQ: We are indebted to new member, Peter Peters, for the following suggestion: Even if you don't plan to participate in the club day trip to Jabiru Island on Sunday 17 April, how about coming along to the Phil Hill Environmental Park on Jabiru Island for a BBQ or picnic lunch at about 1:30pm? A good roll up will allow us all to meet one another – new members and existing members and prospective members – and to talk about the sharing of boats and accommodation on future occasions. Feel free to bring the family if you wish – they will all be made to feel most welcome. **See you there.** (Thanks for suggesting this, Peter.)

Future Trips: See list below – last page of Newsletter. This is the 2005 Trips Calendar as it currently stands.

Committee Members: See below – at end of Newsletter.

RADIO FREQUENCY REMINDER – Just a reminder that we are not permitted to use the following channels on our two way radios:
Ch 5 – 11 – 22 – 23 – 35.

LAKE BORUMBA TRIP REPORT

Lake Borumba was at its most beautiful for the club trip there on the weekend 25-26-27 February, with the dam full to spillway level. As always for the Lake Borumba trip, this year's trip was well attended – a total of ten club members and one guest participated.



(Lake Borumba in the early morning light. Where else would you want to be?)

The weather was hot, as you would expect in February, but not as hot as last year. We stayed in the brand new cabins at the Deer Park. Whilst not yet air-conditioned (maybe by next year?) the cabins are reasonably spacious. Each cabin comfortably slept four guys, each in his own bed!

The fishing was a bit quiet, but we caught Bass, Saratoga, Yellow Belly (Golden Perch) and Silver Perch. More fish were caught on bait than on lures or soft plastics, probably because the fish were simply not very active. JC caught a few shrimp, and in one session he and Neil McNeil bagged five Saratoga with their total holding of four shrimp.





Shrimp also produced a couple of Golden for John and Neil in another morning session. The local Worm Farm \$5 container of worms also accounted for one Silver Perch for Brickers. Several Saratoga made serious attempts to attach themselves to hard bodied lures (mostly Walkers), but were too timid to really grab hold. Lloyd showed the way with four 'keeper' Bass from trolling about 12 to 14 feet down.

SEQ Fly Fishing Club was also there, as was the Borumba SFC, and we spent a bit of time chatting with their members – all very nice guys. Interestingly, it seems from general conversation that our members caught more fish than any other group. Not bragging! Just luck? (Never!)

As usual, the delightful Deer Park was fairly busy, and the water skiers drove the fishers mad on Saturday and Sunday – but you could get away from them if you were prepared to travel a bit. Of course, the camaraderie amongst our club members was great, and led to a few people having one or two drinks more than was good for them. This is a trip every member should attend in 2006.

DON'T HAVE A STROKE ON A FISHING TRIP!

Feedback from a member regarding the Tests for a Stroke: Apart from the ability to smile (which was not a problem) the symptoms described in the Test for a Stroke almost match (name withheld) and myself the other Saturday night at Borumba. Based on this, it may be difficult to diagnose someone having a stroke while away on a fishing trip!

OUR CLUB THANKS ROSS WILLIAMSON

Ross Williamson is a new member of our club. We are most grateful to him for taking on the job of responding, on behalf of the club, to the Qld Govt's call for submissions in respect of the Associations Incorporation Act review. Ross not only did this job promptly, but he also did it very well.

It is great to see a new member putting his hand up for such tasks. Without member input and support of this nature, clubs like ours cannot have an input to the development of government policy. And if we don't provide input when it is called for, we can hardly complain when the policy adopted runs counter to our wishes or interests. **Well done, Ross – and thank you from all of us.**

P.S. Ross has also volunteered to produce the July Newsletter whilst your Editor is overseas – and there is no doubt it will be a very high standard Newsletter that month. Probably the best ever!

Cheap Trip Opportunity – Coffs Harbour Area

Ray Bricknell has a 2 B/Rm unit booked in the four star Boambee Bay Resort, Toormina (near Coffs harbour) for the week Saturday 7 May to Saturday 14 May. He is looking for one or two mates to share the unit with him for the week.

The plan is to 'explore' all the available fishing opportunities in that area. Many will be aware that the Bellinger River mouth comes out at Urunga, just a few Km north of Coffs, and the road between there and Bellingen is called the Waterfall Way. It crosses several creeks and rivers in the high country, and those streams are understood to contain Trout, Bass, and the like.

Urunga itself offers good fishing opportunities, including huge Bream off the rock wall just inside the mouth, and maybe some early Luderick. A trip up the Bellinger River by boat is a possibility.

Ray plans to contact the ANSA affiliated clubs in the area to pick up some tips from the locals. It should be a very interesting week of fishing and touring.

The unit is costing only \$500 for the week (7 nights), and Ray is happy to meet half that cost. Hence, for just \$35.70 a night for one person, or \$17.85 per night each for two sharing a bedroom (twin beds), this is a very cheap, luxurious holiday opportunity. Maybe someone would like to bring their wife down for the week? Ray's wife can't go, due to other commitments.

Please speak to Ray at the April meeting, or else email raybrick@bigpond.net.au or phone 3287 2668 if you would like some more information.

Fishers Caught in Poverty Trap

Here's a story to pluck at your heart strings! The recent devastating tsunami disaster killed 8,800 people along the south Indian coast. It left many more devastated by the loss of loved ones, their homes and livelihood. Fishing communities were hardest hit, with thousands of boats destroyed or severely damaged.

Prior to the tsunami thousands of families along the Indian coast relied on fishing to support their families. These communities were

trapped in poverty as the ratio of boats to fishermen was 1:25, and few had access to credit to buy their own boats. The owners of the boats hired fishermen to work for them, paying them meagre daily wages. The daily wages are unstable, and often insufficient to meet even the basic needs of their families. When the tsunami struck, both boat owners and the daily wage fishermen lost their livelihoods.

These communities urgently need the means to re-establish the fishing industry and regenerate livelihoods. The communities need replacement boats and increased opportunity for boat ownership, rather than reliance on daily wage fishing.

Opportunity International Australia will meet that need through the provision of 200 boats and equipment to tsunami devastated fishing communities.

The Vision

To build **200 boats for poor Indian fishermen** and their families, providing them with the opportunity to re-establish their fishing businesses and re-build their lives. As each boat will be jointly owned by 3- 5 families, up to **600-1000 families** will be able to earn a direct living from fishing. Impact assessment work in India has shown that there are on average 5 people per family, therefore **3000-5000 people will be positively impacted by the provision of the boats.** It is our vision that these families will earn increased income as compared to their previous income as daily wage fishermen, and be able to better provide for their family's and community's development.

Funding Opportunity

\$A 5000 will provide the construction and equipment of a new boat. Opportunity International Australia is seeking to partner with the Australian community to raise **A\$ 1,000,000 for 200 boats.**

Could SBSFC manage to raise \$200 – even \$100 – towards the cost of one boat? Maybe \$5 per member (but only if you can afford it!)? Perhaps we could pass the hat around at the April meeting, if there is no objection?

ITEMS FROM OTHER NEWSLETTERS

Note: To open these links you need to hold down Ctl, place your pointer over the link, and then Left Click.

High Water Temperatures Kill Barramundi (NT/Queensland)

28 February 2005 Source:

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/stories/s1312542.htm>

Lack of rain in the Gulf of Carpentaria has seen water temperatures soar, and some barramundi are getting cooked before they've even left the commercial fishers' nets. Steve Barrett has fished for 27 years in the gulf. He says water temperatures of 35°C plus are causing barramundi to rot in nets, and fishermen have to go further out to sea in search of cooler waters...

"Two days ago there, out the front, it was so hot along the coast there, I saw a crocodile come out of the water and lay under a tree - and that was at five o'clock in the afternoon, because the water was too hot.

"The barra have now gone out to sea; they're in deeper water, and they're not moving."

Shark, Cod, and Other Fish Populations Drop 90 Percent in North Atlantic and Other Areas (International)

Source: SeaSpan, from the Pew Institute for Ocean Science
http://www.pewoceanscience.org/projects/Pew_Global_Shar/
28 February 2005

Predatory fish populations continue to spiral downward, with many dropping 90 percent or more in the past 40 to 50 years, according to a new study in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B—Biological Sciences, published by the United Kingdom's national academy of science.

In a sequel to an earlier highly discussed study showing a significant depletion of predatory fish communities worldwide, originally published in Nature, Ransom Myers and Boris Worm of Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia provide additional population data for sharks, tuna, billfish and the North Atlantic cod which has shown dramatic declines throughout the region.

"Industrial fisheries have changed marine ecosystems in fundamental ways," says Professor Myers. "Current fishing mortalities projected into the future could lead to the extinction of certain sensitive species of sharks and other large predators at the top of the food web"...

Full article:

http://www.pewoceanscience.org/projects/Pew_Global_Shar/

Fish Shrinkage Threatens Survival (International)

Source: BBC News

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4281171.stm>

The shrinking size of fish due to their overexploitation has dire consequences for the recovery of depleted stocks, scientists have claimed.

Fishing drives natural selection for smaller fish that grow more slowly and have reduced reproductive potential.

These changes are genetic and therefore hard to reverse, scuttling the renewal of dwindling fish populations.

Details of the research were discussed on Saturday at a major science conference in Washington DC.

"Most fisheries are collapsing and many are on the brink of potentially irreversible loss," said Jeremy Jackson, of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in California.

"There are massive evolutionary shifts going on in the remnant populations of fish. Large fish with huge reproductive potential are being replaced by smaller fish with diminished reproductive potential," he told the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)...

Full article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4281171.stm>

Reefs Re-Open for Fisheries Experiment (Gr Barrier Reef)

Source: <http://www.reef.crc.org.au/media/elfreefs.htm>

23 February 2005

Four reefs that have been closed to fishing since 2000 will re-open on 6 March 2005, in the final stage of one of the biggest fisheries experiments in the world. CRC Reef's Effects of Line Fishing Experiment spans more than 1000 kilometres on the Great Barrier Reef, and has been running for 10 years. It is gathering vital information on how fishing affects the number and size of fish on the Great Barrier Reef.

Unnamed reef 14-133 near Lizard Island, Fork Reef (18-083) off Townsville, Boulton Reef (20-146) off Mackay, and unnamed reef 21-139 near Storm Cay re-open to fishing on 6 March. Two of these reefs (Fork Reef and unnamed reef 21-139), are now zoned as Marine National Park (green) reefs under the current Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan

and will open temporarily until and including 30 November only.

"Since 1995, we've been studying how various amounts of fishing affect fish populations on 24 reefs in four clusters of reefs from Cooktown to Rockhampton," said Dr Annabel Jones, from the Effects of Line Fishing Experiment team at CRC Reef.

"The experiment is providing important information about the effectiveness of green zones and other management strategies. This will help managers to understand how we might expect to see fish stocks change following the implementation of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan and the Queensland Coral Reef Fin Fish Management Plan last year. It is also being used in computer models to assess the effectiveness of different management plans 25 or more years into the future," Dr Jones said.

"We've looked at a range of important commercial and by-catch fish species on the Reef. We have found that reefs closed to fishing can have more and larger coral trout and red throat emperor than those where fishing is allowed," Dr Jones said.

Dr Phil Cadwallader, Director of the Fisheries Issues Group at the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority said "this is a world class experiment, which has provided Marine Park managers and fisheries managers with valuable information on which to base management decisions."

The Effects of Line Fishing Experiment is a collaborative effort between CRC Reef, the Australian Institute of Marine Science, James Cook University, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries and the fishing industry.

For co-ordinates of the reefs to be re-opened, visit www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/fisheries/commercial/effects_of_line_fishing_experiment.html

For more information about the Effects of Line Fishing Experiment visit

www.reef.crc.org.au/research/fishing_fisheries/elf.html

For more information: Dr Annabel Jones on 07 4781 6365 or 0417 612 737, annabel.jones@jcu.edu.au

Breeding Success (Queensland)

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/northqld/stories/s1311109.htm>
25 February 2005

While Australian's demand for seafood seems insatiable, the ability of our wild stock to continue to fulfill that demand is doubtful.

Aquaculture is seen as the answer - but breeding many species is not as easy as you might think.

The Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries researchers are undertaking pioneering work that may improve the odds for some popular table and export species.

A team of scientists at the DPI&F's Northern Fisheries Centre in Cairns have successfully spawned thousands of flowery cod, gold-spot cod and sea cucumbers.

The big breakthrough came in September last year when the Cairns team oversaw the first successful production of juvenile flowery cod in Australia.

This was a world first, with the team using environmental control to spawn the flowery cod broodstock.

That initial success was followed in October/November with the successful spawning of juvenile sea cucumbers and in December by the spawning of gold-spot cod.

Fisheries biologist Elizabeth Cox said recent developments

provided the foundation for researchers to continue developing methods for the mass production of juveniles.

"Both of these species have been produced overseas but production techniques remain unreliable," Elizabeth said.

"Part of our success to date has been the production of novel prey species, such as copepods, as live feed for the delicate larval fish stage.

"Our research is targeting the reliable and cost-effective production of juveniles of a range of reef fish species to support the development of a sustainable reef fish aquaculture industry in Australia."

The next phase of the project was to transfer the research outcomes across to industry."

The development of this future growth industry will be advanced with further production of juvenile grouper at the DPI&F during the 2005/06 breeding season. This will enable the centre to begin collaborative trials with industry partners. An opportunity has emerged for aquaculture to supply the burgeoning and high value markets of Hong Kong and China. Demand is high in these markets where flowery cod retails for A\$55-75 per kilogram live.

Do Fish Have Consciousness? Do Fish Feel Pain?

(International) 5 March 2005 Source:

http://www.seaweb.org/resources/85update/85update_listserv.html#1

"There is growing societal and scientific interest in the welfare status of fish used for commercial enterprise. As animal welfare is primarily concerned with the quality of life of a conscious, sentient organism, the question of whether fishes are even capable of consciousness must first be addressed in order to assess their welfare status." Thus begins a review paper in the journal Fish and Fisheries, by Kristopher Paul Chandroo and colleagues from the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada.

The authors note a recent resurgence of research investigating the biological basis for human consciousness, and argue that, as a result, understanding of the cognitive mechanisms underlying fish behaviour has improved significantly. Although it is frequently stated that consciousness is rooted in the neocortex area of the brain, and that fish, lacking such a neocortex, therefore lack consciousness in the way we understand it, Chandroo and others posit that neither assumption is necessarily correct. They argue that assessments of the capacity for consciousness, and indeed the relationship between consciousness and pain, that are appropriate for humans and other higher vertebrates may not be applicable to fish...

Full article:

http://www.seaweb.org/resources/85update/85update_listserv.html#1

New fishery in Burnett region

A partnership between the DPI&F and a small but dedicated fish stocking group in Eidsvold may see the development of a brand new barramundi fishery.

Visit

www.dpi.qld.gov.au/news/NewsReleases/17071.html

New rules for Spanish mackerel catches

New regulations for recreational fishers designed to stop the illegal sale of Spanish mackerel come into effect from March 1.

Visit www.dpi.qld.gov.au/news/NewsReleases/17048.htm

Get hooked... on online freshwater fishing permits

Anglers are getting hooked on buying their [stocked impoundment fishing permits](#) for Queensland online.

Visit <http://statements.cabinet.qld.gov.au/cgi-bin/display-statement.pl?id=5472&db=media>

Protect our inland waters: use the right bait

Anglers are being asked to be mindful of the bait they use in Queensland's inland waters because they could be putting the environment at risk and breaking the law.

Visit www.dpi.qld.gov.au/news/NewsReleases/17078.htm

Australian fisheries production up in 2003-04

Australian fisheries production rose by 5 per cent in 2003-04 to around 267 000 tonnes according to the latest publication of Australian Fisheries Statistics 2004.

Visit www.abare.gov.au/pages/media/2005/22feb.htm

New fish habitat protection for Queensland

Three new Fish Habitat Areas have been declared in Queensland to help sustain fish populations.

Visit <http://statements.cabinet.qld.gov.au/cgi-bin/display-statement.pl?id=5620&db=media>

Annual barramundi survey underway

Queensland's wild barramundi stocks will once again be under the scientific spotlight with the start of the DPI&F's annual surveys.

Visit www.dpi.qld.gov.au/news/NewsReleases/16976.htm

Researchers to track muddy supply

Scientific monitoring is underway to ensure the ever-popular Queensland muddy remains available in ample supply.

Visit www.dpi.qld.gov.au/news/NewsReleases/17077.htm

Callers help patrol nab nets

Calls to the Fishwatch Complaints Hotline resulted in a man being fined \$1300 in the Yeppoon Magistrate's Court on February 10 for illegal netting and for last Sunday's retrieval of another net from Moores Creek containing barramundi.

Visit www.dpi.qld.gov.au/news/NewsReleases/16975.htm

Late Item:

The planned club trip to Hervey Bay on the weekend 11-12-13th of March was largely 'blown away' by winds too strong for most of us to face in that area.

'Fearless' Dave Weston went out with John McAllan on the Friday, with John McA and Brad Baldwin on the Saturday, and then with Brad again on the Sunday. Dave says: "It was a great trip, but a bit rough. Good decision for others not to come because of that.

'We caught heaps of fish, broke my Loomis, and I fell out of the boat. Caught Longtail Tuna, Mac Tuna, Watsons Bonito, Spotty Mackerel, GT's, Queenfish, Dart, Blue Parrot etc.'

Ah well – maybe the weather will allow others in the club to enjoy such a trip on another occasion, with Dave as our guide?

COMMITTEE

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