



Southern Brisbane Sportfishing Club Inc.

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Newsletter

April, 2006

Next Meeting

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY 3 April, 2006 at 7:30pm (even if it's a public holiday) at the Beenleigh Bowls Club, 11 Hanover Street, Beenleigh. See access map further on in this Newsletter.

NOTE:- The Bowls Club has a Bar. *Please remember the gear swap table at the meeting – bring your swaps or items for sale. This can be a great club facility if we all use it.*

Single membership is \$55.00 p.a. - Family Membership is \$75.00 p.a.

Guest Speaker:

Something really special this month – we're going to build our club's own Fishing Calendar. The end product will contain all you need to know to be able to catch fish all year round. We'll pool our knowledge to record, for each common species of fish: Where, when and how to fish; best month, best moon, best tide, best place, best bait or lure, best tackle – and 'special' hints from our club's best anglers.

Acknowledgement: This Newsletter was kindly copied by Kay Elson's office at no charge to the club. Special thanks to Neville Wright for his kind assistance.

April Trips: There are two trip options available this month, including the Bundaberg SFC weekend at Burnett Heads and a day trip option to Southern Moreton Bay – see below for details.

- The Bundaberg SFC weekend trip to Burnett Heads is over the long weekend Friday 28 April through to Monday 1 May. Details of this trip will be supplied at our April meeting.
- Our club is holding a day trip to Southern Moreton Bay on Sunday 23 April. Check with our Trips Sub-Committee Chairman, John Eldred, for trip details.

SPEAKING OF TRIPS ...

Don't forget to book well ahead for the Lake Monduran trip for the week 3-10 November this year to REALLY get among those big Barra. Start planning your holidays now guys – we're serious this year.

There'll be a full moon whilst we're there! It drives the Barra into a feeding frenzy!

AND ANOTHER GREAT VALUE TRIP OPPORTUNITY.....

Ross Williamson and Ray Bricknell are locking in on the week 23 to 30 June for a low cost week fishing the creeks and rivers close to Coffs Harbour, including the lovely Bellingen River at Urunga, **in the heart of the Blackfish season.**

FishCal says the week we've picked is a **TOP** fishing week – **the fish will be in a feeding frenzy all week.** **And the early morning high tides will present ideal Luderick fishing conditions.**

Book your place for this trip with Trip Captain Ray Bricknell now.

Nerang River Summer Whiting

Wow! A free day! So, on the spur of the moment your Editor decided to go fishing (a rare event lately). It was Wednesday 8 March, a couple of days after our March club meeting – the date will become significant in a moment.

Before I joined the Southern Brisbane Sportfishing Club I **MAY** have just 'gone fishing'. But not these days. **Now I had to decide which species to target, and then where to go.**

The forecast was for showers and windy, so The Pin area was out for my little boat. We'd had quite good rain in recent days, so the local rivers were even muddier than usual – scratch the Albert, Coomera and Pimpama Rivers.

The Nerang River would be a BIT muddy, but nowhere near as bad as these three, so chasing **Summer Whiting** in the Nerang River became my choice. I have caught some very nice Summer Whiting in the Nerang over the years, and they are good little fighters on light tackle. Good eating, too.

A spot that has been kind to me a few times in the past is the area at the southern end of Little Tallebudgera Creek, where it broadens out at the back of the new Gold Coast Convention Centre. Good for Bream and Whiting. So I decided to go there – out of the wind.

My late decision to go fishing meant I had missed the dawn period, but no worries – Summer Whiting seem to feed through the middle of the day. I had some 'good old standby' bait in the freezer – salted chicken breasts, and bulk frozen shelled prawns from Coles – so I decided not to waste time buying or catching bait. I could only spare a few hours.

However, just in case the Summer Whiting weren't on the bite – they've been a bit scarce this summer – **I decided to make up a brew of burley to try to get some of the Bream under the jetties and pontoons excited.** Multi-grain breadcrumbs, **tiny** pieces of chicken breast, and some Weet Bix crumbs, all mixed thoroughly into damp sand at the boat ramp - that should do the trick!

I launched the boat about lunch time from the little boat ramp on the Isle of Capri. Having seen some quite reasonable Bream caught off the bank there, I decided to have a try under an adjacent jetty pontoon, just a few boat lengths from the boat ramp, before heading off to my intended Whiting spot.

I used my well documented Jetty Bream technique, described in detail in the June 2005 Newsletter article entitled: ***Fishing an Intelligence Test, which can be accessed in the Members Only section of our web site by members who have joined since then.*** To make it even more effective, I used a 'Reefa' hook, named in deference to Reefa Rawlins. He introduced me to the idea of using small long shanked hooks for just about all fishing (Mustad Size 6 Bloodworm hooks, for the purists among us).

I started fishing about 1pm. Tossed in a couple of scoops of burley, waited a few minutes, another

scoop of burley, and then I dropped a tiny, unweighted chicken bait in amongst the sinking burley. [Lots of slack line, so the only way I could tell if there was a fish taking my bait was to watch for slack line suddenly being taken up.](#)

I missed the first run, and lost the bait – but second bait, and there was a ‘keeper’ Bream in my creel. Must have taken me all of ten minutes to catch my first fish!

However, several scoops of burley and lost little chicken baits later I still had only one fish. Typical! One bloody Bream per jetty – they are HIGHLY educated in the Nerang River, I can tell you. So, off to my Whiting spot I went.

But wait – there is that other old jetty and rock wall I’ve caught fish off in the past. I’ll just give the Burley ‘n Bait routine another quick run over there.

Less than an hour later my tally was five Bream – sadly, three were just below legal size (22cm), but at least I had dinner for two in the creel. And, amazingly, four of those Bream were caught without moving the boat.

I felt like a real smart arse. At last, I’ve worked out a way to fool these Jetty Bream into continuing to take baits after other fish have been caught under their noses. Bloody brilliant! What a pity they don’t just grow a bit faster!

I ran out of burley then, so the fish went right off the bite, and so again I headed for my proven Whiting spot.

Waste of fuel – not a single fish from this spot, so I called it a day with just two ‘keeper’ Bream.

The following Wednesday evening I noticed there was a full moon, and Thursday 16 March presented another clear day for me. This time I climbed out of bed at 4am and got on the water nice and early. [I had checked FishCal on the SBSFC web site Wednesday evening – more on that later](#) – and it said Thursday 16 March was a ‘Good’ day (not a ‘Best’ day – that was the day before, of course): “Best times 01:10am/01:35pm; Minor times 07:23am/07:48pm.” So I was all set and fishing at the 07:23am ‘Minor’ feeding time. And guess what? **The Jetty Bream were really on the chew!**

To cut a long story short, I fished all morning around several of my favourite Nerang River jetties, all near the northern end of Little Tallebudgera Creek, and **I had caught 8 Bream by lunch time – and the ‘Best’ fishing time was yet to come!** However, 5 of the 8 were 22 cms long – [have the Bream in the Nerang River been genetically engineered to stop growing at 22cm?](#) Another two were 23cm, but I’m afraid a 23cm Bream just looks too small for me to keep – I think NSW has it right, setting a legal minimum for Bream at 25cm. **So out of eight fish, I had only one ‘keeper’, at 25cm.**

I had run out of burley at one stage, and hence stopped catching Bream – so I found a bit of sandy riverbank and made up another small bucket full.

The Bream were biting all morning that day. Late morning I anchored under the road bridge over Little Tallebudgera Creek, simply to get out of the blazing sun, and the Bream were biting there too – **but I couldn’t boat one to save my life.** I was fishing with 5lb breaking strain line until a very nice size Bream busted me off under one of the jetties earlier on. **At that stage I decided giving the fish a fighting chance wasn’t such a great idea – especially when decent fish were proving so difficult to come by.**

Under the bridge I was fishing with a clear mono line which had a 15lb breaking strain, but it felt like much lighter line because it was unusually thin. I must have had at least five decent Bream on that line under that bridge – [each one for about one second.](#) They weren’t breaking the line – I had the drag set ridiculously light – so I can only assume I was hooking them right on the bottom and they were dragging my line straight across an oyster rock. There were plenty of oyster rocks there on the bottom for them to choose from.

I even tried fishing the bottom with a 25lb line and a 40lb leader – bigger hook and bait – but they were too smart to take that!

So here’s the tally: almost lunch time, stinking hot, 8 Bream caught but only one 25cm long kept. Can you believe it? I looked like going home with less fish than the previous Wednesday, which FishCal said was only a ‘Fair’ day.

Hot and desperate, I took my remaining few scoops of burley back to one of the previously productive

pontoons. I anchored slightly upstream of it – by this time the Nerang River was running out at a serious rate of knots, as it does – and I started Burleying and Baiting in under the boats moored at the pontoon jetty. **Bang! Bang! Bang!** Three ‘keeper’ Bream in the bag in about half an hour, all from the same spot. Two were 25cm, the third was 28cm. **And they were caught pretty close to the indicated Best feeding time.**

Maybe there is something to this Phases of the Moon stuff that Ross Williamson wrote about in last month’s Newsletter?

(Chris Eldred will be pleased to hear I caught all 11 of my Bream that day on the 5’ – 6’’ Daiwa IM6 Graphite rod I bought from him for \$10 at the club Buy ‘n Swap table. Thanks Chris! Great little rod!)

Footnote: No sign of a Summer Whiting on either trip, but back at the boat ramp a local gave me a ‘confidential’ tip which sounds worth trying. Apparently one can scoop “Jelly Prawns” out of the water from most of the pontoon jetties in the Nerang. You need a very fine mesh scoop, as these prawns are only about 2cm long. Kept alive with an aerator, they will allegedly attract Summer Whiting if you fish the bottom at anchor anywhere along the outside of the river bend from Little Tallebudgera Creek upstream a bit. Fish fairly close to shore. If anyone gives this a try, please let your Editor know how you get on, for a future Newsletter.

Phases of the Moon as a predictor of best fishing times – a proposed Club Project.

Have you spent some time on the SBSFC web site yet? If not, you ought to check it out as soon as you can spare a few minutes! It’s good!

Ross Williamson has done a really great job of setting up a most useful and interesting site for us. There are eight active sections of the site at this stage, and one of them is called **Plan Your Fishing Trip**, and that section contains a link to the Fishing Calendar (**FishCal**) web site.

On that site you can trial FishCal for 21 days to see whether it is worth buying. To register as a licensed user of FishCal costs US\$25 (about A\$36), and you can pay by a secure credit card link. But check with Ross before you register. FishCal is worth checking out – it provides quite a lot of useful information, including Tide Times, Sunrise/ Sunset for a chosen location, Phases of the Moon (of course) and Moonrise/ Moonset, etc.

Now the \$36 question is this: Is there any substance to the claimed relationship between the phases and positions of the moon and the propensity of fish to bite? Some of us have been buying the Angler’s Almanac for years, and have found it to be less than infallible.

So here’s another Ray Bricknell suggestion: **How about we start a Club Project to check out the validity of the bite time claims made by FishCal and The Angler’s Almanac?**

All that individual members need to do is take note of the dates and times at which they fish, and pass this information to Club Secretary Ross Williamson, along with a summary of the catch (if any – nil returns are important here). Ross will then either keep a record of it on the Club Web Site, or else pass the info on to the Chairman of our Trips Sub-Committee, John Eldred. Either way, the info will be progressively consolidated into a format which will allow us to assess the relevance of the claimed Major (Best) and Minor feeding times for fish.

Interestingly, the dates and times indicated by FishCal do not precisely line up with The Angler’s Almanac. As part of my research for this article I bought the 2006 Angler’s Almanac and compared the two. This is what I found for Wednesday 8 March, on which date the Jetty Bream in the Nerang River responded **moderately well** to my Burley and Bait technique. Incidentally, The Angler’s Almanac now costs \$4.95 per year (was \$3 for a long time – must have a new owner!).

FishCal: ‘Fair’ fishing day – Major feeding times 07:42am and 08:07pm; Minor times 01:54pm/ 01:29am.

Angler’s Almanac: ‘Poor’ fishing day – Major feeding times 05:54am and 06:21pm; Minor times 11:54am / 12:21am. (Note the approx. two hour time differences between these two sources – they can’t both be right. Maybe they are each measuring off a different moon? Something fishy here!)

I caught Bream around the 1pm to 2pm timeframe and did not fish either of the Major times that day, nor before 1pm, so I cannot say the Angler’s Almanac times were wrong.

Then, for Thursday 16 March:

FishCal: ‘Very Good’ (not Best) fishing day – Major feeding times 01:10am and 01:35pm; Minor times 07:23am/ 07:48pm.

Angler’s Almanac: ‘Best’ fishing day – Major feeding time 11:54am; Minor times 05:34am / 05:54pm.

The Bream were biting in the Nerang River system for the whole time I was there that day – from about 05:30am until about 2pm. So the indicated feeding times were somewhat irrelevant – but it sure as hell was a good **day** to fish.

Let's continue this research as a Club Project!

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT...

New Lifejacket Rules

It's now official; the laws affecting the wearing of life jackets in Queensland will change from the 1st of April. The new laws will require the master or owner of any commercial, fishing or recreational open boat under 4.8m, which is required to carry life jackets to ensure that:

- **All children under 12 wear the specified life jacket or PFD for the area they are in whilst the vessel is under way.**
- **Everyone on board wears the specified life jacket or PFD for the area they are in when crossing bars.**

An open boat is one that does not have a rigid cabin or an enclosed space that a person could occupy.

The recognised bars in Queensland are Currumbin Bar, Tallebudgera Bar, South Passage Bar, Maroochy Bar, Jumpinpin Bar, Caloundra Bar, Wide Bay Bar and Noosa Bar.

The owner or master of a vessel not complying with the new regulation will incur a Marine Infringement Notice and a minimum fine of \$150.

A full review of life jacket legislation by Maritime Safety Qld is to be undertaken after April 1st to identify other areas of the legislation which may need attention. Please forward your constructive thoughts to assist formation of a reply/response to this review.

Identifying the Catch

A Blackfish is a Luderick, a Beardie is a Ling;
A Jewfish is a Mulloway, & a Prawn can be a King;
A Nannygai's a Redfish, a Morwong is a Bream;
But a Mullet is a Mullet, & that's good enough for him.
- From Nino Culotta's 'Gone Fishing' (Thanks to Geoffrey Daley.)

Interesting Info from SunTag

Mighty Barra Swim.....

Tag details	Recapture details
Tag N27589	
Species Barramundi (<i>Lates calcarifer</i>)	
Date 4/5/2003	12/1/2006
Length 570mm	900mm
Location Baralaba Weir	Lock Narrows
Fisher Robbie Price	John Mitchell
Days Out 618	
Growth 330mm (195mm/year)	
Movement 410km down river	
Released Yes	

This fish was trapped in the fish lock on Baralaba Weir, tagged and then released above the weir. It then found its way down the Fitzroy River into the saltwater during one of the freshwater flows in the river..

And a BIG Mangrove Jack.....

Tag details	Recapture details
Tag N56912	
Species Mangrove Jack (<i>Lutjanus argentimaculatus</i>)	
Date 29/12/2002	19/2/2006
Length 300mm	500mm
Location Fishing Creek; Man & Wife Rocks	
Fisher Paul James	Kevin Hamilton
Days Out 1,148	
Growth 200mm (64mm/year)	
Movement 34km offshore from creek	
Released No (speared)	

Another offshore movement of a Mangrove Jack in Central Queensland.

2005/6 COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: Lloyd Willmann	Ph:3287 3278
VICE-PRES: David Rawlins	Ph: 5546 6588
SECRETARY: Ross Williamson	Ph:3822 0015
TREASURER: Tom Wallbank	Ph:5546 1880
ANSA REP/Rec: Lloyd Willmann	Ph:3287 3278
TAG. OFFR: John Cumberland	Ph: 3801 1110
RAFFLES: Chris Eldred	Ph:3344 2605
BAR OPS: David Rawlins	Ph:5546 6588
CTTEE MEMBER: Neil McNeil	Ph:3880 1843
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Ray Bricknell	

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LIBRARY STUFF

The club library has the following items available for borrowing by the members. Please see Ross on club nights if you want to borrow one of these. A \$20 deposit will be required please, just to make sure they come back at the next meeting.

- ET's Bass and Barra Fishing
- Gently Does it when releasing fish - booklet and DVD
- Gillies Introduction to Fly Fishing
- Squidgy Secrets - Part 1 Basics
- The Kayak Fishing Video (On DVD)
- Basic Bait Fishing (DVD)
- Queensland's Freshwater Fishing Impoundment Guide (NAFA / Tourism Queensland)
- Queensland's Offshore Fishing Guide (NAFA / Tourism Queensland)

SPECIAL DEALS

Gas Bottle Refills - \$15 for 9 Kg. John Prince has found a place which refills 9 Kg Gas Bottles for \$15. They cost \$22 at the caravan sales place in Yatala, and an exchange bottle at the Shell Service Station in Yatala costs \$29.95. Prinnie is checking out the cost of gas bottle exchange at Bunnings, where he thinks it is only \$19 – and they'll apparently take "expired" gas bottles. One of these days he'll give us some updated details to include in the Newsletter.

Troy Park, Mobile Outboard Mechanic

Ph: 0407 198 728 – offers a discount to club members, and has been found to be good value.

R.T.L. Trailers – 3287 4241

Mark builds trailers and repairs them very economically – a good tradesman too.

79 Boundary Street, Beenleigh.

Beenleigh Bait & Tackle

The new owners of the local bait and tackle shop are improving their range of stock, and their prices for both gear and rod and reel repairs appear to your Editor to be very competitive. They will happily give a 10% discount to any Club Member who shows a membership card (which is a bit of a contrast with Springwood Marine, where your Editor had to bargain for his 10% Club Discount recently, and was less than impressed by the prices of the gear he bought).

Beenleigh Bait & Tackle also now distributes a few Newsletters for us – check them out!

GEAR FOR SALE & WANTED

As a service to members, future editions of the Newsletter will contain a small section of For Sale & Wanted Ads. Only paid up members may use this facility. Ads should generally be restricted to fishing and boating related gear – but no value limits apply.

To place an ad, simply e-mail or give the ad contents to your Editor. raybrick@bigpond.net.au

Club Logos for Shirts and Stickers for Boats

Just a reminder - for \$6.00 you can have the SBSFC logo embroidered onto your own shirt. Bring your dress shirt / polo shirt or fishing shirt to the meeting with \$6.00 and it will be back at the following meeting. The \$6.00 fee includes a \$1.00 levy that will go towards reimbursing the club for the \$75.00 set up cost.

Please note:- Do not supply a shirt that already has anything printed on it that would connect the Fishing Club with something that is unsavory e.g. "We hate Pigs" across the back of the shirt.

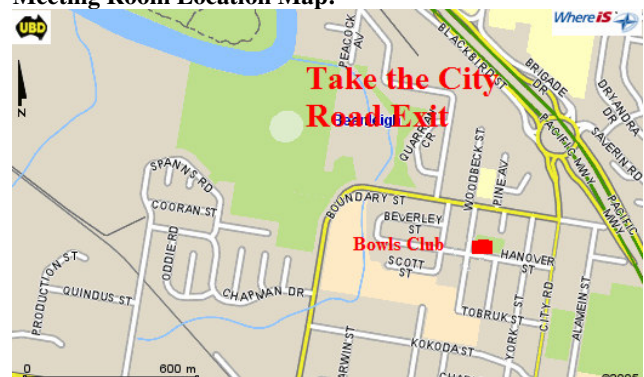
John Cumberland has had large and small boat stickers printed, and these are available for sale at the every meeting. \$1 small; \$5 large.

USEFUL NUMBERS:

Qld Boating Weather 1300 360 426
SE Qld Boating Weather 1300 360 428
Qld Marine Warnings 1300 360 427
Fishwatch Hotline 1800 017 116
Crabpot Theft Hotline 1800 017 116

Prospective Members reading this Newsletter will be made very welcome at any Club meeting – so please come along and check us out at our next meeting on the first Monday of the month at 7:15pm.

Meeting Room Location Map:



Trips Calendar 2006

Month	Dates	Species	Water Body	Nearest Town
March	3 rd -5 th	<i>Various</i>	<i>Bribie Island</i>	Brisbane SFC Interclub Comp
	11 th -12 th	<i>Saratoga</i>	<i>Imbil Dam</i>	Brisbane Flyfishers Club
	24 th -26 th	Saratoga	Borumba Dam	Imbil
	26 th	Flathead	Peel Island	Cleveland
April	23 rd	Various	Southern Moreton Bay	TBC
	28 th -1 st May	<i>Various</i>	<i>Burnett Heads</i>	<i>Bundaberg SFC</i>
May	13 th	Bass	Maroon Dam	Boonah
	20 th -21 st	<i>Various</i>		<i>ANSA Winter State Titles</i>
	27 th -28 th	Flathead	King of the Pin	Jacob's Well
June	9 th -12 th	Various	Clarence River	Iluka
	11 th	Snapper	Brisbane River	Wynnum
July	15 th -16 th	Snapper	Bribie Island	Bribie Island
August	12 th -13 th	Bass & Barramundi	Bjelke Petersen Dam	Kingaroy
	13 th	Blackfish	Broadwater	Southport
	25 th -27 th		ANSA State Conference	Yeppoon
September	23 rd -24 th	Bream	Tweed River	Homestead Caravan Park Chinderah
October	22 nd	Flathead	Coomera River	Jabiru Island
	29 th -5 th Nov	<i>Barramundi</i>	<i>Lake Awonga</i>	<i>Brisbane SFC</i>
November	3 rd -10 th	Barramundi	Lake Monduran	Gin Gin
	5 th	Bass	Crestbrook Dam	Crows Nest
December	16 th			Christmas Party