



Southern Brisbane Sportfishing Club Inc.

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NEWSLETTER

AUGUST, 2007

Next Meeting

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY the 6th of August 2007 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.



Craig Milne took this top picture of Lake Monduran on a recent solo fishing trip. Sadly Craig caught no Barra this time.

Guest Speaker:

As the next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting, we will be holding a swap night. So bring along any of your excess fishing gear, and you can try to flog it off to other members.

Acknowledgement: This Newsletter was kindly copied by Kay Elson, member for Forde, at no charge to the club. Special thanks to Mrs Elson for her kind assistance.

August trips: Two trips for August. The Annual Fraser Island trip. Always a very productive trip held over the Brisbane Show week from the 11th to the 19th. To book a place Ring Dave Weston on 3341 5257.

The second trip will be a Bass trip to Lake McDonald on the 25th. If you are interested in going, call Chris Eldred on 3344 2605.

EDITORS COMMENTS

Hey everyone, this seems to be the first real winter for quite some time. So it is a brave fisherman who gets up early on these cold mornings.

Just one club trip to report on in July so far. You will all have to wait till next newsletter for the Jumpinpin Mulloway trip report.

Thanks to Ray Bricknell for providing an in-depth trip report on his blackfish trip. Sounds like he had a great time, while the rest of us were stuck at work.

Don't forget that we have our AGM next meeting, so it is time to re-elect the committee members and of course to pay our club fees.



Kevin Ford sent me this picture; I really don't know how he had a double hook up and managed to take a photo at the same time. One on hardbody and one on soft plastic.

TWEED RIVER BLACKFISH

By Ray Bricknell

I am writing this up as a full trip report because I learned quite a few things, positive and negative, on this trip which others could find useful in the future. I also have a few anecdotes to throw in, if you will allow me that privilege.

At 69 I don't often get excited about things, and that includes fishing trips. Also, for the past several years, chasing Blackfish has been singularly unrewarding. Each winter I brave the cold and head down to the Northern Rivers of NSW, where the Luderick are more prolific than in Queensland, but recently I have simply been proving what an old local told me a few years back: ***Drought on land; drought in the rivers.***

It seems that if there are no heavy rainfalls to flush food down to the river mouths, those fish which mostly live in

the ocean and come up into the estuaries to spawn just don't bother coming in. They must reckon there will not be enough for their offspring to eat.

However, each year I go in hope, drive for the best part of a day (with stops) down to the Urunga area, and fish the mouth of the beautiful Bellinger River – my favourite hunting Luderick ground – for a week. I guess I do this out of habit. I have been fishing for Blackfish since my early teen years, and I just love this particular branch of the sport of fishing. Sadly, my actual time spent chasing Luderick has been insignificant compared to the number of years, so I am no expert, but I have done a fair bit of it – and I have had my share of really big catches.

This winter things caught up with me a bit, and I could only spare from Tuesday to Saturday, 3 to 7 July. A bit early in the season I thought, because the big ocean going Bronze Blackfish apparently don't come up into the rivers until the water temperature drops below a certain level. However, the weather had turned quite cold over the previous week or two, so maybe....

Being short of time, I decided to fish closer to home. Over the years I have seen a lot of Blackfish in the Tweed River, and caught quite a few. I know several productive spots when they are 'on', so I decided to give the Tweed another try this year.

I was busy Monday, so I had to pack up on the Tuesday morning – I didn't get away until after lunch. No need to book accommodation, I thought. Who would want to visit Tweed Heads in the middle of winter? And the school holidays have just finished – in Queensland! (They started in NSW on Monday 2 July, so every caravan park I contacted was virtually chockers.)

I took my chances, went to the Colonial Caravan Park (close to where I like to fish), and fluked their last cabin for four nights. A bit basic as cabins go, and school holiday rates, but it did have a "sort of" river frontage location. In fact the only thing in this cabin which was big was the shower cubicle – and believe me, when you are having a hot shower after coming in after dark at the end of a long winter's day fishing, size does matter in the shower department! But I digress.

As I checked in, the locals checked me out. That Southern Brisbane SFC shirt sure gave me away, as did the Q in the registration number of my boat. "Bloody Queenslander coming down to steal our Blackfish" was one local's half joking comment. Another reckoned that those in receipt of an age pension (which I am not) should only get an exemption from paying for a Fishing Licence in their home state. Given that the age pension is paid by the Commonwealth, I'm not quite sure how he came to that conclusion.

However, the ladies at reception were very welcoming, and forthcoming with info. “The Bronzies started biting just a few days ago – you’re in luck.” Wow – they usually tell me I should have been here last week!



Note the distinctive bronze hue of the “Bronzie” straight out of the water. This is even more pronounced whilst the fish is still in the water, but it quickly fades as the fish dies, and the fish then looks quite dark – hence ‘Blackfish’.

The Luderick, which remain in the river all year, don’t have this bronze tinge, or the pronounced stripes. (The dip at the back of its head is from a predator’s bite, and is not the normal shape of the fish. However, you do often see Blackfish with a bite in this same place.)

This picture also shows the rocks we were fishing off, and the light pole and fence posts referred to further on in this report. Good for future reference.

I was in luck, actually. As well as getting the last available on-site accommodation, I also got the last two small \$2.50 bags of Green weed at the bait shop (probably from the prawn farm at Yamba). And, very fortuitously, low tide was around 4 pm that day.

So down I went to the mouth of the little creek at Kingscliffe (name unknown – sorry) to gather some fresh Cabbage at dead low tide. The migrating Luderick had got most of it, of course, but that was at least a sign they were about in numbers. Incidentally, the van park Manager told me his mate at Port Macquarie had told him the Blackfish had just gone off the bite there (i.e. left the area) as they continued their migration north.

Fortunately I was able to get enough Cabbage for bait and burley out of the crevices in the rocks where the fish were unable to get their heads. Such crevices are only accessible right at the bottom of the tide. ***So now I had good (?) weed and fresh cabbage – how could I miss?***

Back to the cabin around dusk, having already readied my little tinnie for a quick launch in the morning, to rig up for the next day. It was with pleasure that I cleaned the twelve months of dust off my 11-foot Snyder Glass Blackfish rod. I bought it a few years back at Cash Converters for about \$85, with a really good Alvey 500B Easy Cast reel attached. The reel alone would have cost me much more than that had I bought it new, so the expensive rod came free.

I took all the old line off the reel and filled it with a large amount of semi-clear 6-pound mono. As I did so, I thought: “I’ll need to be VERY gentle with a 1 or 2 Kg Bronzie on this rig, if I am lucky enough to fluke one”. I prefer mono for Blackfish because, contrary to what some fishing writers have said, in my view they are extremely good fighters. They have a ton of stamina, and they sometimes dash and dart at such a rate (at any stage of the fight) that you need a bit of stretch in your line, along with a very whippy rod, to hold them on a light line without giving them any slack. The preferred hook is a size 10 Mustard (the size 8 is too flimsy for these fish), and the best float is one which is easy for the fish to pull down – i.e. a slender body.

Dinner was Prawn Butties. I just can’t resist buying a few prawns whenever I visit the Northern Rivers area, but this time it was an education! \$35 a kilo for cooked local King Prawns almost as big as small crayfish at the Regatta “seafood market”. At that price I only bought a few, but they were very tasty on fresh bread and butter, and easier to prepare than a hot meal – I was already tired by 6pm. By contrast, they had some deliciously fresh oysters on the shell for \$11.95 a dozen, so I had less prawns and a dozen oysters. (I know some might think eating a dozen oysters when you are sleeping on your own could be a waste, but at my age you don’t have to worry about the side effects of oysters.)

By the way, Tweed Heads has gone way up market, as I’m sure many of you will know. Snapper fillets were \$40 a Kg raw, and if you wanted then

'cooking fee' of another \$10 a Kilo. At this rate the estimated average cost of \$200 per fish caught by recreational anglers might soon start to look like a proposition.

A couple of glasses of Chardonnay with the Prawn Butties, and I was ready for an early night. Then I remembered that I hadn't made up my burley – normally an absolutely essential ingredient when fishing for Blackfish. Half asleep, I put one packet of the weed and a good handful of cabbage through the plastic mincer, which I had bought through the mail precisely for this purpose several months back. Better than having to cut it all up by hand, I thought. Sadly, however, it all seemed to get lost in the mincer, and precious little came out the other end.

So I defrosted a bit of John Cumberland's old standby, prime chicken breast, and shoved that in. Still not much came out. Next, in went a couple of slices of bread. But the bread just went all soggy, and clogged the mincer up with a glutinous glug.

Next, half a dozen defrosted prawns went in (almost cooked, actually – I turned the microwave up a bit too high), but still not much came out. So I dismantled the mincer, pulled the glug out, and cut and broke it all into small pieces. I'm afraid my mail order plastic mincer was not a big success. However the end result, when mixed with damp sand, was a burley mix of gourmet standard! It should attract every species of fish known to man – but I don't know whether that is a good thing or bad.

Wednesday was a bit of a write-off. I spent the day, and quite a lot of fuel, prowling the river looking for signs of Blackfish. When these fish come on the bite the fishers come out of the woodwork like termites, and every productive spot is filled to capacity.

I was surprised, then, to see very few clusters of fishers with the tall long rods in their hands. Indeed, only on the rock wall on the eastern side of the southern end of the Boyd's Bay Bridge did I see such a group, and even then it was not huge.

There was no one fishing for Blackfish off the rock walls down near the mouth of the river – and no sign of Blackfish swimming along the northern wall into the river. Incidentally, there are signs there now declaring it to be illegal to anchor in that channel, so even if the fish were there I could not have fished for them from the comfort of my boat.

I visited all the other spots I knew, saw no great numbers of fishers, and could not see any Blackfish. The Tweed was the clearest I have ever seen it – thanks to the lack of rain, I guess – and with polaroids I could see the bottom at 18 feet down near the mouth (but not at 20 feet). I was actually very pleasantly surprised at just how many fish I

did see in the water, so the club trip to the Tweed later this year should be rewarding. But very few Blackfish!

Reluctantly, I moored my boat and climbed over the rocks to join the locals at the "Hot Spot" at the end of the Boyd's Bay Bridge. I don't normally like fishing that spot because it is too tightly "localised". ***If you can't get a spot between the third and sixth fence posts immediately north of the second light pole, you'll catch precious few Blackfish unless they are aggressively feeding – in which case they can be caught up to about twenty metres either side of that little zone.***

Of course, the locals dominate that spot. Just why the fish tend to concentrate in that tight area is a bit of a mystery. One local told me there was a deep hole there, but I checked it out thoroughly that night with my sounder, and I could find no deep hole.

Another confidently told me it is because there is an eddy current there – and I think he may well be right. The tide seems to take forever to turn in that location, and around the turn of the tide your float gets carried every which-way, in seemingly random order.

It was quite late in the afternoon when I got there, about 4pm and it got dark at 5:30, and given that I had to fish some distance away from the Hot Spot I was able to catch only two Blackfish that afternoon. However, one of the locals had caught the biggest Bream I have seen in years on Cabbage, so after it got dark and they had all left I brought my boat up to the area of the Hot Spot and did a bit of Bream fishing with bait – Chicken Breast, of course. I soon had four legal Bream to go with my two Blackfish – but sadly none as big as the monster I had seen in the keeper bag of one of the locals.

One of the Blackfish was 34 cm long – which was about the top end of the average size being caught. Whilst not monsters, this size fish makes a good meal, as the Blackfish is quite a solid fish and much thicker through than a Bream the same length. They are great fighters and have excellent stamina, so the fight is never over until they are in the net.

I did manage to get chummy with one of the locals after the others had left, and he gave me a useful tip. "Fish here from 6am to 10am tomorrow and you will get Blackfish."

So I started my second session of fishing, and my first serious Blackfish session, at ten to six the next morning. I was first there, so I had first claim on the Hot Spot.

I dropped my first fish at 6:10am, netted one at 6:50, and by 9:30 when they went quiet I had 8 in the bag, had put one 27 cm long back, and had dropped 4 or 5 others. A good fun session.



Ray's Catch – Session Two

The biggest fish here is 35 cm, and the others are all over 30 cm.

Having fished until 9pm the previous night, then cleaned my fish, re-rigged my rod with a different float, had a shower and had dinner, I did not get to bed until midnight. I was a bit clumsy when setting the alarm for 5am, so it went off at 4:40 – a fact I did not discover until after I was dressed and had breakfast.

I found fishing from the rocks for 3½ hours very tiring. It is not a very hospitable wall, with very few flat rocks to stand on, and plenty of oyster rocks to fall on if you lose your footing whilst landing a fish. So by the time I had cleaned and skinned my fish (I made heavy going of the skinning bit) and had some lunch it was 1pm, and I was exhausted. So I set the alarm for 3pm and had a kip – but at 3pm I was still so tired I dozed off for another hour. Hence, my fishing time before dark that afternoon was negligible. As a consequence I caught only one Blackfish, which I cooked for my dinner. It was absolutely delicious – I cannot understand why some people say these are not nice eating fish.

Next morning I was back at the Hot Spot at 5:50am, but this time I was the third to arrive. My spot from the previous morning was gone, so I set up to fish about a rod length away – as close as I thought good manners would allow. Then, over the course of the next half hour, two more locals arrived – and squeezed themselves in between the guy and me a rod length away, totally ignoring me. So now there were four of us fishing about a metre apart!

In this regard, Luderick fishing is like none other – only Taylor fishing off the beach comes close. If someone appears to be getting a few 'Downs' in one spot, everyone else within range either drifts or casts their float into that

spot. It is not uncommon to have three or four floats within one square metre, and people quite happily stand almost shoulder to shoulder – using 3 to 4 metre long rods, and 2 to 3 meter long landing nets.

Blackfish do not seem to get spooked by other fish being caught around them. No amount of splashing from fish being netted, or keeper nets full of fish being thrown noisily into the water, seems to bother them.

One of the few 'friendly' locals (most of them ignored the 'intruder') asked me what breaking strain line I was using. When I told him it was 6 pounds, he said "You'll catch more fish on 4 pounds".

Wow, I thought, these fish must really test 4-pound line. And then I noticed a new innovation in Blackfish rigs – a 9 to 12 inch length of elastic between a swivel at the bottom of the float and another swivel. My 'adviser' said that was to allow him to get away with using a 4-pound trace.

Incidentally, another 'friendly' local told me it is best to cut the throat of a Blackfish as soon as you catch it, even though you then put it in a keeper bag in the water (to keep the fish cool and moist). He reckoned they taste much nicer if you do this, and he is probably right.

The technique for catching Blackfish in this particular spot is to let the fish take the float down and hold it down for a count of about three or four before lifting your rod. You don't have to 'strike' as such – just lifting the rod does the trick. And because the Blackfish have such small mouths they seldom hook – but getting these tiny hooks out of their tough mouths results in a few hooks being bent out of shape, so you need several spares with you.

Re-usable split shot make rigging for ideal flotation easy, and you can now buy float stoppers, which easily pass through the runners on your rod. Being old fashioned in this regard, I use a short length of wool wound five or six times around the line and then tied off with two Granny Knots.

The depth you fish at is absolutely critical, so if others around you are getting Downs and you are not, try changing your fishing depth. Most people, even the local clique, will tell you the truth if you ask them what depth they are fishing at – or you can listen to them talk about depth amongst themselves. Ten feet appears to be very popular at the Hot Spot, which is within a couple of feet of the bottom according to my sounder.

The Tweed River locals regularly switch between Cabbage and Black Weed. No one seems to use Green weed in this location. As soon as the fish go quiet on one bait, they switch to the other. Sad!

shop in Kennedy Drive cannot source Black Weed. Besides, it is operated by people who clearly hate what they do, and it doesn't open until 9am – although it does stay open until 7pm.

One of the locals seemed to get 2 or 3 times as many 'Downs' as everyone else. Maybe he has some secret, like adding some kerosene to his Cabbage and Black Weed – a trick I was told about when I was a kid. Does it work? I really don't know. But he out fished the rest of us two to one at least, simply because he got more 'downs'.

Incidentally, a couple of the 'friendly' locals gave me a bit of Black Weed and showed me how to put it on. It is rotten stuff to use, and up until this trip I thought it was a con trick dreamed up by bait shop owners to give them something to sell when they could not source any Green weed. Now I must reluctantly say it does work, although I think it is safe to say two thirds of the fish were caught on Cabbage.

It seems the best way to keep Black Weed on your hook is to plait it once around the line just above the hook (imagine holding the line against your body and wrapping your two arms around it), and then making a half-hitch with your line and drawing it tight around the weed – but not too tight, or you cut through it. You then wind the tails of the weed around the hook as many times as you can, and pinch it off about an inch below the hook.

Opinions seem to differ as to how big a clump of Black Weed to put on. It is difficult stuff to make a small bait of, but one of my 'advisers' said smaller baits are best. (That reminds me – a good Luderick Fisher down at the Bellinger River said he only uses a single leaf of cabbage, the size of the nail on your little finger, and only puts the hook through it once – so it looks legitimately like a leaf floating in the current. He caught a lot more fish than those around him.)

The locals made comments like "there are literally millions – not thousands – of Blackfish swimming along the wall down near the mouth". I asked that guy if he had personally seen that. He said no – he had been told about it. Well, I can say with conviction that there were NO Blackfish swimming along the wall on the three occasions I checked it out.

Another said there were Blackfish everywhere in the river now. Again, I searched hard and could find only a few in any place other than the 'Hot Spot' described above, and around the pylons of the Boyd's Bay Bridge. Indeed, I could find very few patches of weed anywhere else (there appears to be weed all along that particular rock wall). Even in the weed beds there were very few Blackfish to be seen.



Ray's Catch – Session Three

At the end of my short trip I had actually landed 22 legal fish, of which 5 were Bream. 15 of the 17 Blackfish were caught in three sessions, and my biggest fish was 36 cm (the legal minimum in NSW is 25 cm, and the bag limit is 20 – just for the record). So at no stage did I "Bag Out", but neither did any of the locals at any session I fished alongside them – mostly they left with 8 to 12 fish each after about 3 or 4 hours of fishing.

Interestingly, the "Dad's Army" of old locals is clearly divided into a morning group and an afternoon group – like me; none of them has the stamina to fish both sessions on the same day. Which says something important about *which tides to fish?*

You see, every local expert says something different about tides, and they even disagree amongst themselves whilst discussing the subject (you hear their entire conversations when you fish so closely huddled together). ***So it is better to observe what they do, rather than what they say*** – and from that emerges an interesting theory.

Regardless of what they say, the morning group, which was starting around 6 or 7am whilst I was there (and probably always does, almost regardless of the tide, as a matter of lifestyle), whereas the afternoon group was starting about 1:30pm. So, clearly, each group was fishing a different tide. One group is made up of early risers, the other fishes 'after lunch'.

And when we fished the last of the run out one day, as soon as the tide started to run in one of the locals said: "Now the fish will come on the bite." Yet several others had said they only bite on the run out at this spot.

What does appear obvious is that here, as in most other places I have fished with the locals for Blackfish, they do prefer to fish an hour or two either

tide. But I think that may primarily be because it gets to be too much like hard work fishing a fast running current. Three or four hours of holding an 11 foot rod out over the water, pointing it at your (mostly) moving float, and watching your float like a hawk whilst you are perched on a rare flat rock can be pretty tiring, especially for an old bloke. Maybe the Blackfish also take a break whilst the run is 'full on'?

As a comparison, if more fishers chase Jewfish and Barramundi around the time of the full moon, that is when most fish will be caught – and we have a self-fulfilling theory! Yet some Jewfish 'experts' will tell you the Jewies are lazy and only feed when there is not much current. (Drifting for Jewfish over the snags at night down at The Pin can be pretty hard work mid-tide also, and most fishers don't bother!)

So, fish the tide that suits you. As Lloyd Willmann often says, recreational fishers seldom have much choice about when they fish, so they have to fish whatever conditions they strike.

For me, this trip was a big improvement on my previous two winter Blackfish sojourns, and I brought home enough fish to provide at least one good meal for all the members of our extended family. I even tagged and released a 27 cm Bream on my last afternoon – too tired and sore to clean it.

And I now appreciate the comfort of boat fishing even more than I did before!

BROADWATER/NERANG RIVER ***15th JULY***

by Ross Williamson

On Sunday 15th July the Club went down to the Broadwater chasing bream. I had just arrived back from Timor a month ago and was looking forward to a day's fishing. My brother Ian had dragged his boat all the way up from Gosford, NSW and arrived on the Saturday. We were both looking forward to catching up, as I had not seen him for the year I was overseas. Amongst the important topics for the day we also planned to discuss buying another boat and getting organised for the club's trip to Lake Monduran in November.

The day started off well enough. We both got up at 5 AM ready to leave after a quick cup of coffee for the run down to meet the others at the ramp at 6 AM. We had loaded the boat the previous night ready for a quick getaway.

We left on time and then troubles started. We had passed Beenleigh when a small remark from Ian mentioned, "I left the bung at home". I immediately took the next off-ramp and started back towards Brisbane. In the mean-time God bless Optus, I tried unsuccessfully to ring my wife and organise her to bring the bung towards us. Long story short we arrived home to collect the bung and started off again. At least I got to have another cup of coffee.



We arrived finally at the ramp at 6.45 AM still looking forward to a morning's fishing. I must say normally I would have exploded about the bung but the year in Timor has given me more patience – or maybe I was just looking forward to getting out there.

We left the ramp and headed out to the Seaway. Thanks to Dave Rawlins I now have a reasonable knowledge of this area and we carefully avoided the sandbars. Like sheep we anchored near the others on the north side of the seaway in the shelter of the island opposite Wavebreak Island and settled down to wet a line. It was cold and the coffee was getting a workout. As we anchored we were watching others bringing in and keeping many bream. That certainly encouraged us that we were in the right spot.

And then it started. The bream were on and it seemed every cast we got one, or at least I did. Ian was not having as much luck. My peeled prawns seemed to be the right bait and the light tackle I was using did the trick. By about 12.30PM when it was time to head back for the club BBQ we had caught 5 keeper bream over 35cm (the biggest was just over 40cm) and all in good condition. This was to be the nights dinner for the family. We had caught and released countless legal and undersized sized bream and had a great day. The 400 grams of bait was almost completely gone. Amazingly the fish then went off the bite.



Dave Rawlins had taken two prospective club members with him to fish the Seaway. Dave was joined by Jason Brown and Greg Lord. After collecting yabbies and slimy mackerel, headed to the end of the North Wall. Jason was the first to have a hit, and after a hard struggle pulled in a 75cm Cod. All up the trio had a ball. Catching about 20 Bream and 20 Tarwhine.

Meantime Jeff Maddalena and Mark Veivers were fishing a bit further up the Nerang River. It was not quite as productive as the others but that is the joys of lure casting compared to bait fishing. It was hard early on with the water being crystal clear, even Jeff's canoe was scaring the fish. After a few lure changes Mark caught the first bream. Not a big Bream at 21cm, but Mark did get to tag his first fish. Jeff was next to hook up, and boated a 29cm Bream, which was tagged and released. The Bream went quiet again so they decided to troll for Flathead. Jeff was rewarded soon after with a 40cm Lizard.

Ian was not keen on leaving for a BBQ as we still had things to talk about and organise so we finished up trying a few drifts from Wavebreak out to the Seaway. On these I caught a tiny flathead. You can see from the photo of it with a prawn we were using this predator was attacking prawns of a size comparable to it and it did so with gusto.

We left the water at 3 PM and went home. We arrived home and after describing our fishing trip, my wife said, "That was your best day's fishing since we moved to Brisbane 17 years ago" and I must say I agree. Fishing is about enjoying the company and catching a few fish and that is why we join a club to share the experiences. My only regret for the day was missing the BBQ.



This Months Tech Tip Tuning Lures Part 1

Tuning hardbody lures can be an interesting way of getting a little more from your particular favourite lure.

A lot of the higher end lures are tank tested and tuned out of the box, but they can get out of tune easily enough by banging them off structure or fish giving them the torture test and twisting them up on you. Other types don't have a fixed connection point on the bib or nose of the lure, these rely on a clip or link through the bib and are less likely to need fine tuning because of the movement in the connection point to the line.

For basic tuning if the Lure is swimming to the Left then your need to bend the Eye to the Right to get the lure to swim straight again. On small lures these adjustments are minute, by the time you feel the tow point move it is too much and best done a little at a time by putting pressure on the tow point in the direction you need to move it.

So gently does it is the go, otherwise you could break the towpoint out of the lure. Goes without saying, That's not a good thing!

The faster the troll or retrieve the more noticeable any "out of tune" effect is. Sometimes "out of tune" isn't necessarily a bad thing. I have a couple of Hardbodies I use a lot for Bream; One is a little out of tune to the left. It swims straight when I retrieve it dead slow, but if I crank up the speed it swims slightly to the left. It comes in really handy knowing this because if I put a wayward cast in or the wind catches the lure and it lands further away from the structure than I would have liked, with a few quick cranks I can swim the lure over closer to the Structure or get the lure to swim along under the edge of the Structure.

Of course if it rolls over and blows out of the water it needs the pliers treatment. With this in mind it is worth a mention, with small lures a pair of fine tipped pliers are required to get to the tow point of the lure without damaging the bib, they also allow for a better feel when only small movements are required. Generally by the time you feel movement you have gone too far.

More on Tuning and changing lure characteristics next month.

KEVIN FORD

If you haven't joined Team Lure World yet,
Click here to register.

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Fishers For Conservation News

Environmental statement regarding SS/A hooks and discarded fishing line

This education project is looking toward a huge potential boost with a proposed partnership with the Marine and Coastal Community Network (MCCN) to take the campaign to the next level (subject to grant funding which has been applied for).

The issues to be addressed in the expanded project are:

- 1) Marine/coastal litter from discarded fishing lines, bait bags and lead sinkers which can degrade habitats, kill and injure a range of marine invertebrate, fish, mammal, turtle and bird species;*
 - 2) Active fishers accidentally hooking birds or other wildlife and the use of unattended baited or unbaited lines resulting in entanglements; and*
 - 3) The use of less environmentally damaging tackle - eg stainless steel hooks which are non-biodegradable and remain active in marine environments for longer than the alternatives*
- The proposed education campaign will include a national TV community service ad campaign (to air during popular fishing shows) as well as partnerships with fishing clubs and educational materials to be distributed in tackle shops and elsewhere.*

So fingers crossed there.. Meanwhile we would like to see a ramp up of the current campaign including the environmental statement. Please take this opportunity to get involved at the ground level. Those of you who have not yet looked at the statement I urge you to now and to send it back with your support.

http://www.ffc.org.au/SSA_fishing_line_environmental_statement.html

We are also looking for a couple of volunteers to support our current campaign volunteer with the continuing mail out of this statement. Please contact fisherfc@internode.on.net if you can help out.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

A young ventriloquist is touring the clubs and one night he's doing a show in a small town in Arkansas. With his dummy on his knee, he starts going through his usual dumb blonde jokes.

Suddenly, a blonde woman in the 4th row stands on her chair and starts shouting: "I've heard enough of your stupid blonde jokes. What makes you think you can stereotype women that way?"

What does the colour of a person's hair have to do with her worth as a human being?

It's guys like you who keep women like me from being respected at work and in the community, and from reaching our full potential as a person.

Because you and your kind continue to perpetuate discrimination against not only blondes, but women in general...and all in the name of humour!"

The embarrassed ventriloquist begins to apologize, and the blonde yells,

*"You stay out of this, mister!
I'm talking to that little sh#t on your knee".*

2006/07 COMMITTEE

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| PRESIDENT: Lloyd Willmann | Ph: 3287 3278 |
| VICE-PRES: David Rawlins | Ph: 5546 6588 |
| SECRETARY: Craig Milne | Ph: 3804 6203 |
| TREASURER: Tom Wallbank | Ph: 5546 1880 |
| ANSA REP/Rec: Lloyd Willmann | Ph: 3287 3278 |
| TAG. OFFR: John Cumberland | Ph: 3801 1110 |
| RAFFLES: John Eldred | Ph: 3344 2605 |
| BAR OPS: David Rawlins | Ph: 5546 6588 |
| CTTEE MEMBER: Ray Bricknell | Ph: 3287 2668 |
| NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Jeff Maddalena | |

jmaddalena@optusnet.com.au

LIBRARY STUFF

The club library has the following items available for borrowing by the members. They are available at our monthly club meetings. 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)
- Evinrude Etec DVD
- Zed Lure field test series 2004 parts 1 to 4
- Fishing DVD volumes 1, 2 & 7
- Flathead Study (cd-rom)

Club Logos for Shirts and Stickers for Boats

Just a reminder - for \$10.00 you can have the SBSFC logo embroidered onto your own shirt. Bring your dress shirt / polo shirt or fishing shirt to the meeting with \$10.00 and it will be back at the following meeting. The \$10.00 fee includes a \$1.00 levy that will go towards reimbursing the club for the \$75.00 set up cost.

*Tom Wallbank has had a number of large and small boat stickers printed, and these are available for sale at every meeting.
COST- Small \$1; Large \$5*

WANTED – light spin rod 2 – 3 kg, 6 to 7ft, contact Mark Veivers on 38056125

FOR SALE – **Castrol products**, 7 x 4lt castrol bio-lube 100 full synthetic 2-stroke oil, 3 x 500 ml gearbox oil, and 1 x 500 gm boat trailer grease. \$140 for the lot. Call Peter 0421351825.

FOR SALE – **1 x Shimano 2000LD** charter special spooled with 8kg pretest matched to a Chris Britto custom rod, Live fibre 6-8 kg short stoker plus a spool 6kg pretest & another 8kg pretest. - \$150
Call Peter 0421351825.

FOR SALE – **Rapala Magnum** 9 x CD-14 GM (gold mackerel) sinking. Some still in box. \$80 the lot, don't want to separate.
Call Peter 0421351825.

FOR SALE – **Rapala Magnum CD-9** sinking, 5 x red head/tete rouge body, 1 x Gold Mackerel, 2 x Blue / Black stripe top white body, 1 x green black stripe top / light green body.
\$ 80 the lot. Call Peter 0421351825.

FOR SALE – **12ft Fibreglass Canoe** (reasonable condition) with electric motor (needs work) \$250.
Contact Dave 3387 3787 or 0427 003 787

To place an ad, simply e-mail or give the ad contents to your Editor.

jmaddalena@optusnet.com.au

SPECIAL DEALS

Troy Park, Mobile Outboard Mechanic

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

Marine Welding

Members should note that Jason Small of J & T Marine Welding is a brilliant aluminium and stainless steel welder, located near the Gem Hotel, and is prepared to do small jobs like repairing small leaks and cracks in tinnie hulls. He is a really straight shooter, and his charges are embarrassingly low, based on one member's experience

(two jobs). Phone Jason on 3807 8746 if you need his help.

R.T.L. Trailers – 3287 4241

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

79 Boundary Street, Beenleigh

Des Hughes Marine Services

A few club members use and recommend Des. His marine repairs are inexpensive and very good. So if you have a problem with your boats give Des a call!

Des Hughes Marine Service
192 North Road
Woodridge
(Next to BP Garage)

Ph: 3208 3349
Mob: 0409 274 136

Logan River Marine

Logan River Marine has been in business for 30 years. They have always based themselves on good old-fashioned service.

As the boating industry has advanced, so have they, providing to all the modern demands. Whether it is the tuning of a direct injection motor or providing the latest electronic equipment, they always aim to provide for all your boating needs. Please call and talk to their friendly staff. They also offer a 15% discount to SBSFC club members in their Pro Tackle Shop.

Logan River Marine
1 Christensen Road
Yatala QLD 4207

Ph 61 7 3287 4888
Fax 61 7 3807 0715
email loganmarine@optusnet.com.au



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USEFUL NUMBERS & WEB SITES:

SE Qld Boating Weather 1300 360 428

Qld Marine Warnings 1300 360 427

Fish watch Hotline 1800 017 116

Bureau of meteorology

<http://www.bom.gov.au/index.shtml>

Sweetwater fishing

<http://sweetwaterfishing.com.au/>

Crab pot Theft Hotline 1800 017 116

Bonzer imports <http://www.bonzerimports.com/>

Brownies coast watch

<http://www.browniescoastwatch.com/>

SEQ kayak fishing

<http://members.optusnet.com.au/aus-kayak-fishing/>

Southern Brisbane Sportsfishing Club

<http://www.sbsfc.org/>

NEW MEMBERS

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.

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 - \$58.00 p.a.

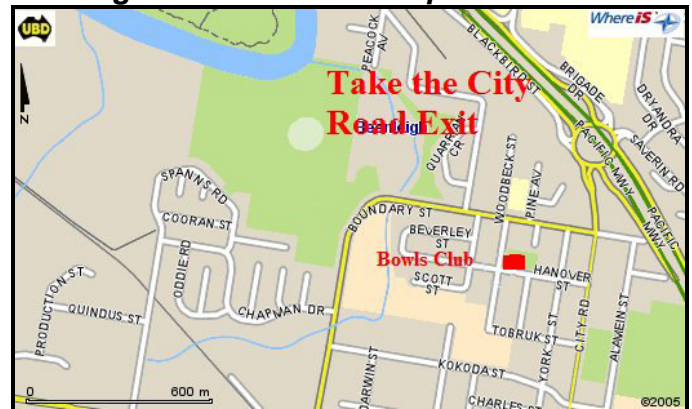
Family Membership - \$78.00 p.a.

Student (over 16) - \$20.00 p.a.

Child (under 16) no parent in club- \$20.00

Child (under 16) parent in club- \$10.00

Meeting Room Location Map:



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CATCH OF THE MONTH

Proudly brought to you by...



Beenleigh Bait & Tackle are open 7 days early til late. The new owners Bill & Joyce have an extensive range of fishing tackle, will take care of your rod and reel repairs and of course have live – fresh & frozen bait.

Don't forget to show your SBSFC membership card to receive 10% off all tackle at Beenleigh Bait & Tackle.



Jason Brown caught this 75cm Cod from the Gold Coast seaway; he was using live bait.

Just email your photos to jmaddalena@optusnet.com.au and your prized catch will appear in the newsletter.

TRIPS CALENDAR 2007

| Month | Dates | Species | Water Body | Nearest Town |
|------------------|--|---|---|----------------------------|
| March | 4th | Snapper | Southern Moreton Bay | Redland Bay Ramp |
| April | 22nd | Bass | Hinze Dam | Advancetown |
| | 21st-25th | Mangrove Jack, Reef & Pelagics | Burrum Heads | Burrum Heads |
| May | 20th | Bream, Flathead, Mulloway | Jumpinpin | Horizon Shores Ramp |
| June | 9th-11th | Bass | Somerset Dam | Kirkleigh |
| | 11th | Snapper | Peel Island | Raby Bay Ramp |
| July | 15th | Bream | Southport Broadwater, Nerang River | Jubilee Bridge Ramp |
| | 25th-28th | Mulloway | Jumpinpin | Horizon Shores Ramp |
| August | 11th-19th | Tailor, Dart & Mulloway | Fraser Island | Poyungan Rocks |
| | 25th | Bass | Lake McDonald | Cooroy |
| September | 8th-9th | Bass | Boondoomba Dam | Proston |
| | 25th | Bream, Flathead | Jumpinpin | Horizon Shores Ramp |
| October | 13th-14th | Bream, Flathead | Tweed River | Chinderah |
| November | 17-25th | Bass, Barra | Lake Monduran | Gin Gin |
| | 24th-25th | Bass, Barra | Lenthall's Dam | Marybrough |
| December | 9th | Flathead, Jack | Coomera River | Jabiru Island Ramp |