



## **Southern Brisbane Sportfishing Club Inc.**

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# Newsletter

**December, 2005**

### **Next Meeting**

***THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY 5 December, 2005 at 7:30pm (even if it's a public holiday) at the Neighbourhood Centre, Mansfield Walk, Beenleigh.***

The venue can be accessed for off street parking via Kent Street (up the laneway between the Police Station & the Kindergarten), or via James Street, just South of the Court House. Otherwise, park in James Street and walk in beside the Gold Coast City Council branch office, to the rear. See access map further on in Newsletter.

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

**CHRISTMAS PARTY: Don't forget our Christmas get together (with Wives/Partners) at John & Shirley Cumberland's home on Saturday night 17 December at 7pm. The address is 13 Caparra St. Shailer Park. BYO Drinks & Meat. Club will supply salads.**

Single membership is \$55.00 p.a. - Family Membership is \$75.00 p.a. (Subject to review by ANSA for 2005/6 year). Please pay at the December meeting if not yet paid.

### **Guest Speaker:**

The December meeting is "Fishing Stories Night". Here is your chance to tell a bunch of keen Fishers about your most amazing experience ever whilst fishing. It can be about a fish you caught, or missed, or simply about something amazing that happened to you, or you saw, whilst out fishing. Stories have to be reasonably brief, preferably humorous, and the best story will be published in the February Newsletter (if someone – the Teller? – will type it up and email it to the Editor please (I'll be away at Lake Monduran for the December meeting). So come on all you closet Entertainers – come out of the closet!

**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.

**JANUARY BREAK:** There will be no meeting or Newsletter in January. Best wishes to all from the Committee for a great Christmas.

**December Trip:** Sunday 11 December – Pimpama River and Coombabah Creek chasing Mangrove Jack. Craig Milne is Trip Captain, and the Trip Sheet will be available at the December meeting. Meanwhile, Craig has provided some great background info on the waters to be fished on this trip – attached. Craig Milne 3804 6203 or 0414 741 857.

**HAVE YOU “ICED” YOUR MOBILE PHONE YET? IF NOT – DO IT NOW! It just might save your life.**

### **END OF YEAR BARRA BASH**

This year’s Barra Bash has turned out to be two trips. Lloyd Willmann and a few invited friends (including John Cumberland and Neil McNeil?) headed off on 19 November to Lenthall’s Dam and “Points North” on 19 November, and are expected back on 3 or 4 December – so their trip report should be available at the December meeting. We wish them good luck, and look forward to receiving something in writing for the next Newsletter.

Meanwhile, the annual Club Barra Trip this year is to Lake Monduran, near Gin Gin, about four hours drive north of Brisbane. Ray Bricknell is Trip Captain, and Ross Williamson is attending, along with his brother Ian. Other attendees include Garth Dale and David Rawlins in Garth’s boat (for the long weekend only), Glen Kennedy and friend – prospective member – also for the long weekend only, and perhaps Kevin Ford.

Warren Steptoe reckons the Barra bite best around the full moon, but neither Lloyd’s group – which includes Warren? – nor the Monduran group will be able to test this theory, as both trips miss the full moon. Indeed, at Monduran we’ll start with no moon at all – the New Moon is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December. We’ll see how things turn out.

Rumour has it that ten members of the Brisbane SFC spent a week at Lake Monduran early in November, and between them caught about 200 Barra – many of them a metre in length. This rumour probably accounts for all the belated interest we have had from the SBSFC members in the past week!

Maybe we should plan the 2006 Monduran trip NOW, pick a week in November or December which contains the full moon, and book the cabins nice and early? **Any starters?** Bookings are very heavy at Monduran at this time of year now that the Barra there are so big and plentiful. But their

cancellation policy is pretty tough, so we need some early FIRM commitments please – with deposits!

Members will be able to read all about the 2005 SBSFC Barra Bash in the February Newsletter, which will be distributed on Monday 31 January.

### **JANUARY TRIPS**

Don’t forget the trip to Deepwater chasing Murray Cod and Trout in the last week of January. John Eldred is the Trip Captain for that trip, and those of you on email will receive details of the trip from me in January, as soon as I receive them from John. Those without email can phone John at home during January on 3344 2605 for details of this trip.

John Eldred also has a local trip in mind for earlier in January, chasing Carp in the upper reaches of the Albert and/or Logan Rivers. John will presumably brief all at the December meeting on this trip, and if John will be kind enough to send your Editor some details after that meeting I’ll circulate them to all those on email. Once again, those without email can phone John at home during late December or early January on 3344 2605 for details of this trip.

### **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)

## AWONGA DAM BARRA

Dave Weston sent your Editor this photo of fish caught during the Lake Awonga fishing comp over the last weekend of October 2005. These were the prize winning fish – the one in the centre with its tail on the ground between the two white shoes weighed 30 Kg. Thanks, Dave.



The following Article is from NQ Fish and Boat ,July 2005, courtesy of Ross Williamson. Slightly edited by your Editor.

## How to be 'One Heck of a Deckie'

If you'd like to get a regular place on a mate's boat, the first thing you need to know is the difference between a passenger and a crew member.

Unfortunately, too many would-be-fishos seem to think that getting invited on board for the day makes them a passenger. That's a big mistake. When a mate asks you to go fishing with him or her you're not a passenger, you're the deckhand for the day.

The difference is passengers are invited guests or paying customers. They aren't expected to do any work or get their hands dirty.

A deckhand on the other hand, is someone who is going to do their share of the workload and contribute to the costs. And trust me, as every skipper knows, there is plenty of work and plenty of expense involved in each and every fishing trip.

If you want to get off to a good start with a new skipper, there are plenty of things you can do, even before setting a foot on board. For a start, after you've been invited, be proactive. Offer to pick up the ice, bait or anything else the skipper might need beforehand, to save them the running around.

On the day of the trip, make sure you get there early. There is nothing more frustrating than having to wait for someone who is running late. As a rough rule of thumb, you should try to get there **at least** 10 minutes early, so you can load your gear and help with any last minute details.

You should also have double-checked you have everything you were asked to bring with you. Have you got your hat and sunscreen? If you get seasick, pack your tablets. Nobody wants to have to run back to port because one of the crew is sick or sunstruck.

Don't turn up with a pile of rods and tackle boxes either. You should pack light, because space is always at a premium in a boat, no matter how big it is.

Once you have been out with a skipper a few times, you get to know how much he will tolerate.

Don't turn up with an esky full of grog either. No skipper worth his salt wants to baby-sit a drunk who either tries to fall overboard, or wants to fight everyone else on board. A couple of light beers are usually okay by most people, but it's best to check ahead with the skipper just in case.

Of course, if the skipper asks you to bring a carton, then the alarm bells should be ringing loud and clear, and **you** should be the one having second thoughts.

**Launching:** When it comes time to launch the boat, there are plenty of things a top deckie can do to help the skipper. The boat will need to be untied, the lights disconnected, and any last minute gear transferred from the car to the boat. The most important job for any deckie is to make sure the bungs are in. Trust me, if you don't and they aren't, you will be blamed. So double-check those bungs – but do it on the quiet, and don't make a big deal of it, even if you find one missing.

You will also probably need to hold the boat on the ramp while the skipper parks the car. Try not to let it get knocked around on the ramp, particularly if it's a 'glass boat. And don't talk to much whilst the skipper prepares the boat for launching – he or she needs to be able to concentrate – there is a lot to remember.

**Fishing Time:** It's a sad fact of life that most non-boat owners have no-idea at all of the pressures and responsibilities that go with being a skipper, even on a recreational craft. Out on the water the skipper is in charge and the passenger's well-being is in their hands. Should anything go wrong, the skipper could also be liable. On top of all that responsibility, the skipper also has to steer the boat, decide where to fish, help out the less skilled members of the crew, and generally think of everything else while still trying to get a bit of fishing in themselves. Unless you're usually the one in charge of the boat, it's also hard to understand how good it feels just to go fishing in someone else's boat and not have to worry about all those things.

I love my boat and enjoy being the skipper, but relish the chance to fish in someone else's any time I can, because it's just so relaxing.

Even if you are just the deckie, you will still have plenty of things to keep you busy. You will be in charge of the anchor, or tying up the boat. Don't complain if the skipper takes half a dozen goes while getting the anchoring spot on. He's getting it just right so that you will have the best chance of catching a fish. In some spots, you only have to be a metre or two off the mark to miss out on the fish completely.

While you are fishing, it is important you don't try to monopolise the best positions. Give the skipper plenty of room, and don't try to beat them to all the best spots. Remember the skipper has to drive the boat as well as fish, and he or she will appreciate it if you hold back sometimes to give them a chance to get the first cast into a good looking snag.

Likewise, try to keep your movements around the boat to an absolute minimum. For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction, and if you move, the boat will move and you could possibly tip the skipper or someone else overboard.

In small boats, make sure your movements are slow and deliberate – no sudden moves please. And check where others are before you move, so all the weight doesn't finish up on one side of the boat, or else overboard!

It's just plain polite to let others know in advance when you have to move. It's also important that you watch around you when casting. The last thing any skipper wants is for someone to get hooked by a wayward back-cast.

At the end of the day, the same duties that were completed when you launched will have to be repeated again, only this time in reverse. But, even when the boat is back on the trailer, that's not the end of the trip. When you get back to the skipper's place, you will need to help clean up. The boat will probably need washing and, if you have been in salt water, the motor will probably need flushing. This is where some skippers go wrong.

Instead of washing the boat they want it detailed after every trip. I knew one bloke who was like this. It took longer to clear up after every trip than we spent fishing. The funny thing was he could never figure out why nobody wanted to go fishing with him.

Before you head back home at the end of the day, the other most important thing you must do is offer to pay the skipper some petrol money. In this day and age, even short fishing trips can put a big hole in your wallet, with fuel, oil, bait, ice, permits, etc. Even if the skipper refuses, trust me, he will appreciate the offer. And be generous – remember, fuel is the cheapest thing the skipper ever puts into his boat, so give him more than half, as a contribution towards his many other costs.

Who knows, you might even get invited back!

### **FOR SALE**

The club has laminated sheets for sale that show the Suttgart Fish Species included in current projects and DPI information. These are available for \$1 each. Please see Ross on club nights if you want one of these (See Freshwater sample below for typical contents).

- Freshwater (includes additional DPI Information on back)
- Estuary

- Reef (Offshore) x 2
- Sharks

Example Info on various species:



Barramundi (*Lates calcarifer*) is a well-known icon species that is readily identifiable. The only species that may be confused with Barramundi is the Sand Bass (*Psammoperca waigiensis*) that is very similar in appearance. However Sand Bass only reach about 400mm in size and are dark brown to black in coloration.

Legal Size 58-120 cm Bag Limit 5 (1 in closed season where stocked)

Closed season 1 Nov to 1 Feb throughout Queensland except in many stocked dams/weirs. Stocked dams are exempt the 120cm limit but only 1 allowed.

## 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. More info at the October Club Meeting.

### **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.**

## **Preliminary results of flathead survival project**

The Flathead Survival project is a collaborative project between the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute and the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries. Fishers from Suntag in Queensland, Newtag in NSW and volunteer diary anglers in Tasmania are helping with the project by collecting hooking location data as part of their normal fishing operations.

The project recently completed the winter post release survival trials in Tasmania and Queensland and preliminary short term survival rates have been determined for Sand Flathead in Tasmania and Dusky Flathead in Queensland. Consistent with previous trials, survival rates for Sand Flathead in Tasmania were high (effectively 100%) for shallow hooked fish, and the only mortalities were for deep hooked fish (hooked in the throat or gut).

For Dusky Flathead in Queensland 175 fish were held for two days in the Sea World research tank on the Gold Coast. The short term survival rate of the fish caught on bait and lure was about 95% overall.

For more information on the Tasmania component contact Jeremy Lyle at [Jeremy.Lyle@itas.edu.au](mailto:Jeremy.Lyle@itas.edu.au) and for more information on the Queensland component contact Ian Brown at [Ian.Brown@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:Ian.Brown@dpi.qld.gov.au).

P.S. Note from Ian Brown to SBSFC:

“On behalf of the Project’s Principal Investigator (Dr Jeremy Lyle, Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute) and the rest of the team, I’d like to thank you very much for your involvement in our post-release survival experiment in August. It would have been very difficult, if not impossible, to carry out this work had it not been for the enthusiasm and dedication of the 34 or so anglers involved over the weekend.

You may be interested to know that all up 176 flathead were caught and tagged, over 40% by the Griffith-Sorrell team (from Bribie SFC). One third of the fish were caught on lures, 27% on circle hooks, and 39% on J-hooks. As you’d probably expect, most (65-80% depending on hook type) were lip-hooked, and survival rates were quite high (only 5% of the fish died over the period of the experiment). We’ll be circulating a more detailed account of the results in a few weeks’ time.

**THE FISHER’S PRAYER: Lord give me the strength to catch a fish so big that even I, when speaking of it to my friends, may never need to lie – Anonymous (Thanks to Geoffrey Daley – Ed.)**

### **Have you ever caught a tagged fish? What are the chances of catching a tagged fish?**

Recently a group of fishers out from Townsville caught and released 27 tagged fish. The fish were Smallmouth Nannygai that had previously been tagged as part of a research experiment into reef fish survival being undertaken by CRC Reef and DPI&F. The fish were all concentrated in a small area making this rate of recapture possible. As all these fish were undersized they were released again. This has provided valuable data on the survival of these fish on release.

### **LONGEST SURVIVING TAGGED FISH YET**

Tag details Recapture details Tag Z44891  
Species Aust Bass (*Macquaria novemaculeata*)  
Date Tagged 10/11/1991 Recaptured 18/9/2005  
Length when tagged 300mm – grew to 450mm  
Location Bremer River Warrill Creek  
Fisher Greg Russell Will Pearce  
Days Out 5061  
Growth 150mm (10mm/year)  
Movement 8km up creek  
Released Yes – tag removed

This Bass now becomes the fish at liberty for the longest time, at almost 14 years. Given the poor environmental rating of the Bremer River, this is quite a neat achievement for this fish.

### **Fishing Stocks Drop in Great Sandy Strait**

Source: 4 November 2005

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200511/s1498001.htm>

A new report by the National Parks Association suggests fishing stocks in the Great Sandy Strait in south-east Queensland may be headed for depletion. Conservationists say the drop shows commercial fishing may be unsustainable and no-take zones should be increased.

Conservation biologist Martin Taylor has analysed commercial catch data in the area from 1988 to 2003. He says when sharks and crabs are excluded, the average catch has decreased from 72 to 45 kilograms a boat per day.

Dr Taylor says alarm bells should be ringing as the decline is occurring at the same time as fishing efforts are increasing.

"A lot more investigation would have to be done, but usually in fisheries, if you see there's more and more boats out there fishing longer and longer, and they're catching less and less each time they fish, that's generally a signal something's wrong," he said. (What a brilliant observation – Ed.)

He says the State Government must increase the area of no-take zones from 4 per cent to at least 10 per cent of the proposed Great Sandy Marine Park. "There's a clear assumption stated in their strategy for the marine park that everything's hunky dory with the fisheries, but when I actually went and explored the data it tells a very different story."

Ed: Clearly, this has negative implications for recreational fishers also, in what is a very lucrative area for tourism and recreational fishing.

## **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](mailto: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.

John Cumberland is also getting large and small boat stickers printed, and hopefully these will be available for sale at the September meeting.

**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.

## NEWS FROM ANSA AGM

**Estimated weight by length** is a process that is being progressed by a number of State Branches. Already Qld has in place an estimated weight by length criteria for its Masters and competitions. NSW is moving down the same path. ANSA is supportive of Branches adopting a weight by length criteria for Masters and other competitions but is not at this stage prepared to introduce a National rule criteria because of the complexity of amassing the data to cover a range of fish species over different lengths and regions. There are good and convincing conservation arguments for the adoption of any process that enables fish to be returned to the water quickly with minimal harm and contact. ANSA is mindful though that the expansion of competition options will generate extra work and more complexity for clubs and Branches. The likely introduction of the new IGFA "length only" record criteria may offer more workable options. More will follow on this topic.

**Master Angler Awards.** Members are reminded that there is no longer a National fee for the processing of Master Angler Awards.

**ANSAWARE.** See the new web page on [www.ansa.com.au](http://www.ansa.com.au) for pictures of ANSA Ware products, pricelists and ordering details.

**ANSA Promo'Brochures.** These high quality colour brochures are great for promoting your club at tackle shops etc. Place your free order with Joe Garufi at [jgred@bigpond.com](mailto:jgred@bigpond.com).

### **Updated Trips Calendar & Christmas Function:**

A revised Trips Calendar for the remainder of 2005 is included overleaf. Note the date of our Christmas Function in your diaries now please. Also the revised dates for the Lake Monduran Barra trip.

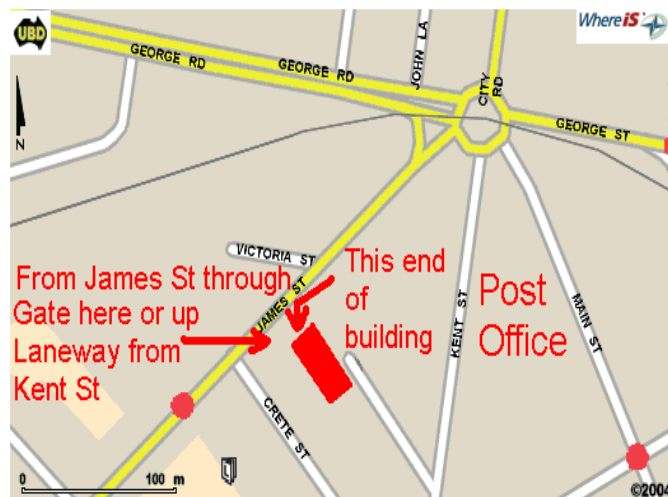
### **USEFUL NUMBERS:**

**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**

UPDATED TRIPS CALENDAR FOR THE COMING FEW MONTHS ATTACHED (OVER PAGE) – PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK IT AGAINST THE DATES ON YOUR OWN TRIPS CALENDAR.

*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 or the first Monday of next month at 7:15pm.*

**Meeting Room Location Map: See next page.**



## 2005/6 COMMITTEE

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>PRESIDENT:</b> Lloyd Willmann        | <b>Ph:</b> 3287 3278   |
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| <b>SECRETARY:</b> Ross Williamson       | <b>Ph:</b> 3822 0015   |
| <b>TREASURER:</b> Tom Wallbank          | <b>Ph:</b> 5546 1880   |
| <b>ANSA REP/Rec:</b> Lloyd Willmann     | <b>Ph:</b> 3287 3278   |
| <b>TAG. OFFR:</b> John Cumberland       | <b>Ph:</b> 3801 1110   |
| <b>RAFFLES:</b> Chris Eldred            | <b>Ph:</b> 3344 2605   |
| <b>BAR OPS:</b> David Rawlins           | <b>Ph:</b> 5546 6588   |
| <b>CTTEE MEMBER:</b> Neil McNeil        | <b>Ph:</b> 3880 1843   |
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*Please check out the very useful info in the attached three pages supplied by Craig Milne if you have any thoughts of going on the club trip to the Pimpama River and Coombabah Creek on Sunday 11 December – admin details for the trip at the December meeting.*