



Southern Brisbane Sportfishing Club Inc.

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Newsletter

March, 2006

Next Meeting

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY 6 March, 2006 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.

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

Guest Speaker:

Remember how much value we got out of our guest speakers on Trailer Maintenance and Battery Maintenance? I for one immediately replaced the wheel bearings on my boat trailer, and committed to do it every year. (Consider the alternative!) Likewise, I started putting my boat battery on a regular short daily charge cycle after the talk on battery maintenance, and got a LOT of extra life out of the battery as a result.

Well, be prepared to learn an awful lot from this month's Guest Speaker from Club Marine Boat Insurance. Be prepared for some shocks and surprises – and come ready armed with those difficult questions and nagging doubts. And be on time, because the Guest Speaker is first up, as soon as the meeting is opened.

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.

March Trips: There are several trip options available this month, including the Brisbane SFC Interclub Comp at Bribie Island, a Brisbane Flyfishers Club trip to Borumba Dam chasing Saratoga, a weekend trip of our own to Borumba Dam also chasing Saratoga, and a day trip option to Peel Island – see over the page for details.

- The Brisbane SFC Interclub Comp off Bribie Island is on 3-4-5 March. Contact Jeremy Arnold on 3357 5113 or 0414 779 107 for details, or contact your Editor for an emailed copy of their Newsletter.
- The Brisbane Flyfishers Club to Lake Borumba near Imbil chasing Saratoga is on the weekend 11-12 March. Check with our Trips Committee Chair, John Eldred, for contact details.
- Our own club's weekend trip to Borumba Dam chasing Saratoga is on 26-28 March. Get the details at the March meeting, or contact John Eldred.
- Sunday 26 March is our club's Day Trip this month – chasing Flathead off Peel Island.
- Plenty of options – we should have several trip reports for the next Newsletter (please).

SPEAKING OF TRIPS ...

It's been decided – we're going back to Lake Monduran for the week 3-10 November this year to REALLY get among those big Barra. So start planning your holidays now guys – we're serious this year.

There'll be a full moon whilst we're there!

Ross Williamson and Ray Bricknell have booked and paid deposits on the two air-conditioned, fully equipped holiday houses at Monduran, so you can choose now which house you want to stay in, book your space, pay your \$20 non-refundable deposit to secure your bed, and square off your better half.

The houses each have sleeping spaces for six to eight, depending on how cosy we decide to get on the Queen Size beds, and they are cheap on a per person basis – not more than about \$200 per person for the week, if we get at least four per house. Plus food, of course.

Ross Williamson is the Trip Captain, so this will be a well organised trip. Ross may even be prepared to put together some form of group catering plan.

So come on guys – let's make this a great week away, with lots of members attending, to end the year on a strong note. Who knows, you might just nab yourself a BIG Barra or five! The conditions should be perfect – hot, still, a full moon, and air-conditioned accommodation to return to at night.

AND ANOTHER GREAT VALUE TRIP OPPORTUNITY.....

Ray Bricknell has access to a two bedroom, sleeps six holiday unit in a very nice resort at Boambee Bay, near Coffs Harbour. It's a fully equipped self contained unit, and Ray can get it for about \$550 for the week. That's under \$150 per person FOR THE WEEK if just three other members join Ray for this trip.

So.....

Who would like to have a low cost week fishing the creeks and rivers close to Coffs Harbour, including the lovely Bellingen River at Urunga, **in the Blackfish season** (winter months – probably late June/ early July is best)?

We need to pick a week when the tides are right for Nigger fishing – the mouth of the river is a great spot for Niggers – but it's also a productive area for **HUGE** Bream in winter, not to mention the monster **Jewfish** which come into the river mouth in winter. We can choose the week at the March club meeting.

First in, first served – any starters?

Reefa Rawlins does it Again – Trip Report By Ross Williamson

For the brave souls that ventured out to the club fishing trip at Southport on Sunday 12th February, it was a mixed bag. I, together with my son Bryan and new club member Jeff Maddalena, accepted the hospitality of Reefa for a yet another good morning on the water. In his big boat.

Thanks to some poor navigating by myself (I blame the Telstra White Pages site!), we were 5-10 minutes late in launching – so we missed the yabbie pumping session. (Editor's comment – must have been a very fast moving run in tide that day!) This left us with dead bait for the majority of the day. We did make the rendezvous for the starter's gun to meet the other boats though.

A quick check out of the opposition boats, and then we were off to try the Southport Seaway entrance.

A few drifts on the last of the rising tide produced little. I gave a nice dark Zed lure a workout, without success, whilst the other used frozen whitebait. Then it happened. Reefa tied on his Zed for it's first ever launch. It flew straight and glided right between the posts, **and sadly caught a sea bird.**



No wonder – the air was full of birds, as the photo shows. Five minutes of struggle later it was off, and the Zed was retired with a 100% score.

Meanwhile the rest of us fished on, with no reward.

Then the tide was turning.

We moved and tried the 60 feet deep hole off the northern rock wall. The sounder showed fish, but they were certainly not eating.

Jeff pulled in a nice black-tipped shark that was part of a group herding a bait fish ball. It was a good fun struggle, and eventually he brought it up to the boat.

Later we drifted further out to sea, and Reefa tried 3 whitebait hooked through the eye. Great presentation? He was immediately rewarded with a nice Golden Trevally.

Meanwhile, the Williamson's were feeding the fish and were looking for divine guidance.

It was amazing just being in the area and seeing the bait fish being rounded up, the board riders paddling across the entrance to get to the northern shores to surf, with boats fishing and spear fishermen operating, all together in the same area.

Once the tide began rushing the entrance got rough and we decided to move back into the broadwater beside the Seaworld spit. This proved quiet and, as the tide was now lower, we moved over to pump some yabbies.

Armed with a layer of yabbies in the bucket we moved over to near the VMR and drifted for whiting. Reefa immediately showed his dominance and started pulling them in – the master at work. We mere mortals could only watch in awe as he caught an entrée of winter whiting for his evening meal.

Jeff proved no slouch and caught a few, but alas the Williamson's could only settle for a consolation prize as the buzzer for the end of the session sounded (not to mention the thunderstorms rolling in from the south!).

A quick trip back to the boat ramp and we arrived just as the showers arrived. A quick loading of the boat onto the trailer and we moved to the BBQ area.

The heaven's opened up and the prudent fishers decided to call it a day rather than attempt to BBQ in the heavy rain.

For those brave souls who ventured out it proved a quiet fishing day, but it was good fellowship and, for myself, another fishing area visited that I had not been to before. **This is one of the many advantages you get from joining a fishing club.**

Well done and thanks to our host Reefa Rawlins for another great and memorable day on the water. It makes it much more enjoyable on the water with the fellowship of other club members sharing coffee, food and a laugh.

The following may be a political media release, but it does draw attention to something we, as fishers, all need to be aware of. (Courtesy of Greg Mifsud.)

Democrats' Bill would see the end of recreational fishing

The Democrats' private Member's Bill, the *National Animal Welfare Bill 2005*, would effectively outlaw recreational fishing. Australian Fisheries Minister Senator Ian Macdonald warned today.

The Bill, introduced by Democrat Senator Andrew Bartlett, proposes to outlaw the "capture and killing of wild animals for the purpose of entertainment and sport", which would effectively ban recreational fishing as well as other outdoor sports such as pig shooting.

The Bill is before the Senate's Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee, who are due to report back to the Senate by the last sitting day in June 2006.

Senator Macdonald said that, although written submissions to the Bill had formally closed on 30 November 2005, the Committee was happy to continue to accept submissions until the end of January 2006, and he urged all recreational fishermen to voice their anger at the Democrats' Bill. The Committee was also expected to hold public hearings in the coming months.

Information on providing a submission to the Committee can be found at: http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/rtrat_cte/animal_welfare05/info.htm

"Recreational fishing is one of our most loved national pastimes and a great family activity, which is threatened by the Democrats' stupidity," Senator Macdonald said.

The \$3.3m National Recreational and Indigenous Fishing Survey, primarily funded by the Australian Government, showed that almost 20% of Australians aged five years or older go fishing at least once a year — that's 3.5 million Australians wetting a line annually.

The study also showed that recreational fishermen spend \$1.8 billion on fishing-related equipment and activities annually, much of this in regional areas, providing a vital cash injection to regional communities.

"The Government is opposed to the Democrats' proposed ban as it would be a kick in the guts for millions of recreational fishermen and destroy thousands of regional jobs," Senator Macdonald said.

"This Bill demonstrates once again how out of touch Democrats are with ordinary Australians, and why their Party's support base has collapsed in recent times," said Senator Macdonald.

The Howard Government strongly supports recreational fishing and has provided unprecedented support to recreational fishermen through the Government's \$15 million Recreational Fishing Community Grants Programme.

Moon Phases and Fishing Times –

With many thanks to Ross Williamson

The moon has a significant effect on all forms of fishing, and it is worth recognizing this. On our website we now have the output from a program which does all the hard work and provides the "best" fishing times for every single day, but also shows the best fishing times for the month. The article below

provides a bit of the science behind these diagrams.

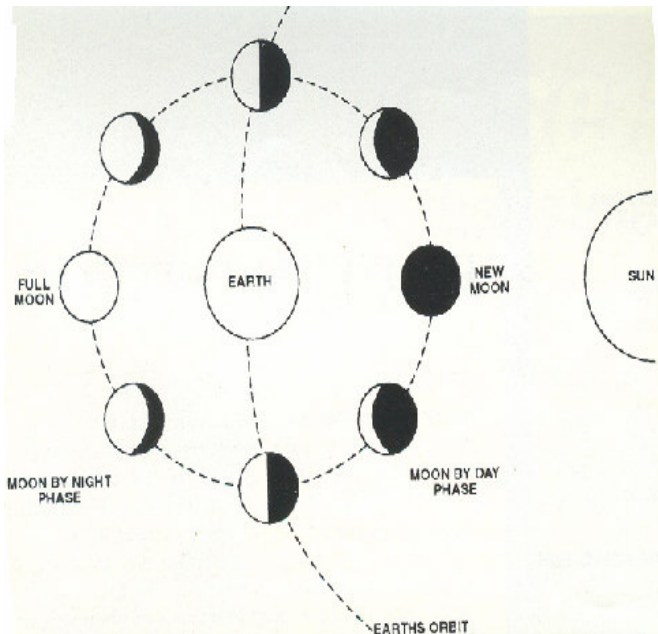
So What Are Moon Phases?

The orbit of the moon around the earth each month is the main factor causing ocean tides. Two thirds of the pulling power on tides is caused by the moon. Since the moon rises 40-50 minutes later each day, there are distinct moon phases each month.

A full moon is when the moon is on the opposite side of the earth to the sun. A full moon rises at sunset, and at full moon, high tide at the Brisbane Bar is approximately at 0930.

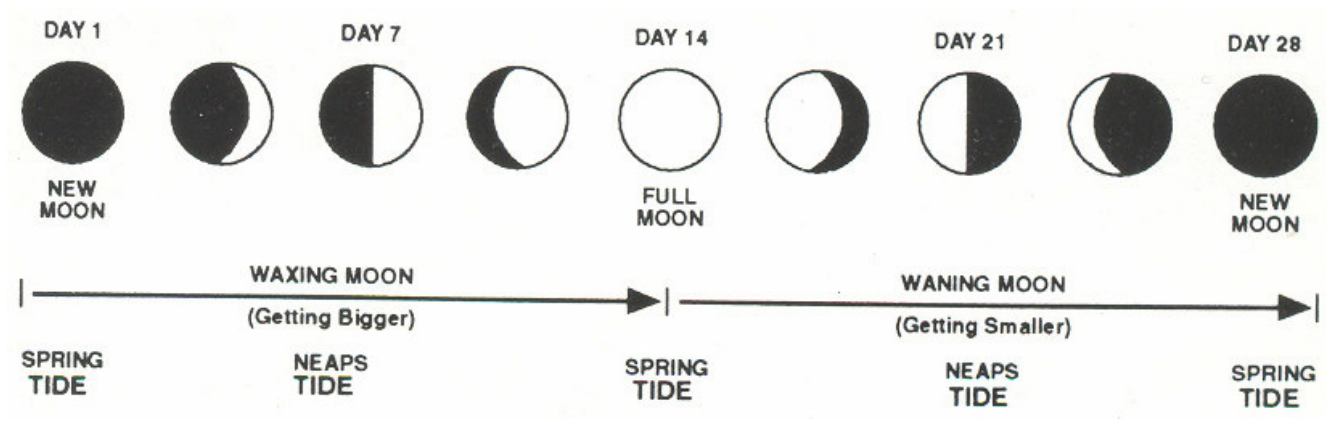
A new moon is when the sun and moon are in line on the same side of the earth. Remember, a new moon sets at sunset.

Moon position to cause full and new moons.



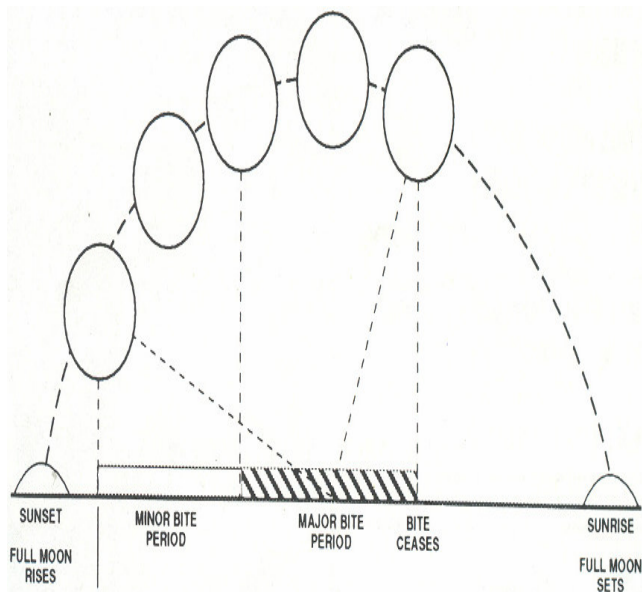
At full moon and new moon, the tides are at their maximum, i.e. the high tides are at their highest, and the low tides at their lowest.

Diagrammatically following the lunar 28 day cycle.
(See next page)



Spring Tide: Tides are the highest and lowest tides, and tidal flow is at its greatest

Neap tides: Are midway between the Spring tides, and the tidal movement is at its lowest.



Moon Phases and their effects on Fishing

When I was growing up I never went freshwater fishing, and I mucked around in boats near Gosford. My dad always said "moon by day – fish by day" and "moon by night fish by night" and it always held true. It was consistently much better fishing if you followed this guidance. It did not stop me trying at all other times during my school holidays, but it is true to say we did much better if we followed this guidance.

Bite Times

According to all the theory, the best bite occurs from when the moon is ¼ way up in the sky to just after when the moon starts to drop, no matter what time of the night. So for a full moon, when the moon rises at sunset, you should find your spot and anchor at dusk, have a cuppa, and wait 'til the moon rises in the sky. When the moon is ¼ way up, check your sounder. If you don't see fish or bait balls on the sounder then try another spot.

The major or best bite occurs just before and just after the moon is at the highest point in the sky. As the moon rises 40-50 minutes later each day, the bite period changes by that amount of time. It is also worth noting that this diagram holds true for the period of the new moon, when the moon is on the opposite side of the earth. On the best days the best bite period is around 2 hours long. On the less productive days on the fishing calendar, the bite period is much less aggressive, and is only about 1 hour long.

So now you know the science behind the fishing calendar program and other fishing almanac type publications. **In these times of increasing time demands, we need to plan our club fishing trips around the moon.** If we do, then all who attend will have the best chance of catching some good fish.

For those of you who came to our planning night, you now know why I was so insistent on using the science and why the Lake Monduran trip is over the week of the full moon. This is my major trip of the year, and promises to be a ripper. All our other weekends also match these criteria as closely as practicable. All the more reason to come along and enjoy good fellowship and good times on the club trips.

Members are now advised to take a look at what the fishing calendar looks like on our web-site, and how it correlates to the phases of the moon.



Before closing, let's look at the other influences on our sport.

Weather

Watch the barometer or risk disaster. A steady and rising barometer (heading into a high pressure zone) is good. If the barometer is dropping, then check the weather forecast carefully as at sea the wind can change into a howling gale very quickly. As most of us fish in relatively small boats, this can be life threatening. **At the first puff of stronger wind, especially at night or in low visibility, you should head to shore quickly.** The water can get up into a chop very quickly and make your ride back very rough – and unsafe. Hence the barometric chart on our web-site.

Tides

These have an influence on where we can fish, so plan your trip around these. (Some species definitely bite more aggressively on particular tides also – Ed.) Remember, on our best fishing days we are into periods of spring (or maximum) tidal flows. So you must think about where you are going to fish, considering the tides for the location versus the influence of the moon. **Remember the 5 P's – Planning Prevents Poor Performance.**

Guest Speaker at February meeting: TC gave all attendees a Zed lure to keep, as well as donating the raffle prizes. Very generous – deserves our support.

Summary: Zed lures are the result of 20 years of research as a professional diver and fisher. There are weighted and unweighted versions. The weighted versions can be fished at any depth from the surface to over 260 feet. They do not rattle, but whenever they are pulled through the water the flutes cause a sonic noise which imitates a distressed bait fish only much, much louder. The colours actually disappear in the water, except that the dots on the side and the fluoro colour patch imitate a bait fish just before it takes flight. The shape also allows the lure to flutter away from the fisher.

TC discussed several of the techniques, and they are included in the instructions. The outer plastic skin is also self-repairing, to the extent that lures have lasted over 200 fish. The wire through the lures is built tough.

Colours of lures may work on any day, so the range of colours is designed to allow the fisher to change if it is a bright day, dull day, or use the fluoro colours at night.

TC advised that if the lure is not at first successful on a particular cast, then make sure you do at least 3 casts in the one place, as the fish will have been attracted from over 50 feet away by the sound the lure makes when moving through the water.

In summary, they are genuinely designed to attract fish and get them to strike. (Editor's note: Member feedback on the effectiveness of these lures will be very much appreciated – please send a brief report in every time you use a Zed lure.)

[A Priest on his Deathbed...](#)

An old priest was dying. He sent a message for a Tax Office representative and his lawyer to come to the Rectory. When they arrived, they were ushered up to his bedroom.

As they entered the room, the priest held out his hands and motioned for them to sit on each side of the bed. The priest grasped their hands, sighed contentedly, smiled and stared at the ceiling.

For a time, no one said anything. Both the ATO Officer and the lawyer were touched and flattered that the old priest would ask them to be with him during his final moments. They were also puzzled, because the priest had never given any indication that he particularly liked either one of them.

Finally, the lawyer asked, "Father, why did you ask the two of us to come?"

The old guy mustered up some strength, then said weakly: "Jesus died between two thieves, and that's how I want to go too."

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.

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.

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.

USEFUL NUMBERS:

Qld Boating Weather 1300 360 426

SE Qld Boating Weather 1300 360 428

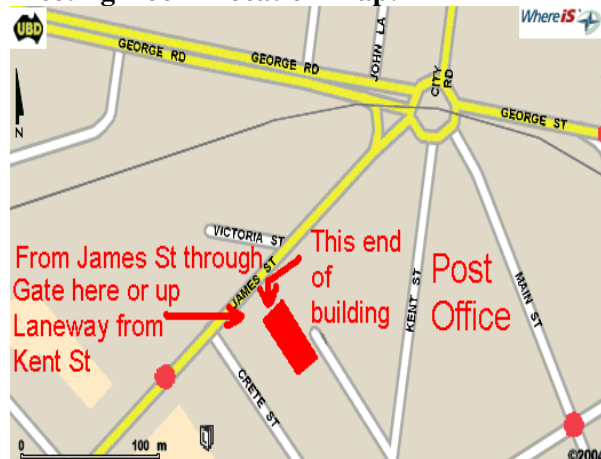
Qld Marine Warnings 1300 360 427

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