



## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting Monday 5th November

7pm Beenleigh Bowls Club

11 Hanover St, Beenleigh

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### Next Meeting

With our Glenlyon trip upon us, Kev Ford and I will try to pass on some knowledge on the dam. We both have been busy handcrafting lures for the trip, so we might display them and get your opinion on the creations. While on the subject, the money for the trip has to be paid by this meeting. The number of cabins we have upped to three, with Ross and his brother joining the merry band.

### Last Meeting

With the Iluka trip coming up, we had Steve Watson along to give us some advice on the fishing to be had at Iluka. He had another purpose for coming, and that was to present JC with the ANSA Qld Eric Moller award. The surprise on JC'S face was something to be believed. A short history of the award further on.



### Christmas Party

Again we have to thank Brad Baldwin for making his entertainment area available for our end of year bash on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December, from 5pm on.. The address is 26 Myra Street, Kingston. BYO alcohol and meat, with the club funding the soft drinks and salads.

### Coming Trips

**December 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Pimpama River, Diamond Head boat ramp. Flathead, Jacks etc.

**January 27<sup>th</sup>** – Our first trip for 2013, again to the Pimpama.

**February (date to be confirmed)** – Our normal trip to Borumba Dam, based at the Deer Park (Cabins booked or camping if you prefer)

**February 21<sup>st</sup>** – A trip to the Southern Bay (Mcleay, Peel Islands etc) Leaving from Weinam Creek ramp, Redland Bay. Snapper the main target.

**February 25 / 28<sup>th</sup>** – A trip yet to be confirmed and details worked out. Cod fishing at Ben Falls retreat on the New England.

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>** – A weekend trip to Somerset Dam, camping at Kirkleigh.

## Trip Reports

**Illuka** - The trip to Illuka seemed to be a bit light on fish wise, and a bit of wind from all accounts. No one seems to be waxing lyrical about the trip. I've picked up on a few things verbally from attendees and a few words from Ray Bricknell. His most exciting moment and subsequent deflation was a monster catfish. Members who went up the Esk caught a few small Bass, but the word was that the cold snap the previous week turned them off.



You don't catch fish in the car park

**Tweed River** – A report from Kev Ford follows

### AKA Croc sighting in Rous Channel

Tweed River Trip- Oct 26-28<sup>th</sup>

By Kevin Ford

Unfortunately this well attend trip in past years suffered in numbers due to its being held close to the Illuka trip. Neil McNeil our sensational new club Secretary headed down Friday for a Kayak trip to a creek near Murwillumbah. Neil spent a few hours on the water late Friday afternoon after setting up camp at the Homestead. I gave Neil a call to see how he was going around 5.00pm Friday afternoon, I was think Neil would be back at camp, but he was still on the water and had just pulled a 42cm Bass which was his 4<sup>th</sup> for the afternoon. So Neil had had an excellent afternoon in the creek, and light was running out on him. As he was loading the car near dark, the area around him was hit with Bassin' surface activity.

I had arranged to meet Neil at Kennedy drive at 8.00am to head to Terranora for a flathead session. First lesson for the morning, when looking at Willy Weather for NSW tide times, consider daylight saving. I was surprised at every water crossing on the way down to Tweed at how high the tide seemed. Arriving at Kennedy drive, it was near high tide. The breeze was up a little even this early. We headed straight to Terranora Lake and started to troll for Flathead. It didn't take long to release a small Dusky at the side of the boat. We did one run of the main part of the lake but the wind was starting to cause issues, so as we had heaps of water to play with we headed close to the Oyster leases, and picked up a couple of smaller fish near the edges.

We could see the breezes chopping and white capping the lake from where we were reasonably sheltered around the corner near the leases. We only managed 1x 50cm Flathead and tagged 2, just under 40cm fish before deciding around 11am, to give it away and prepared for our Rous River trip in the afternoon. After Lunch we headed to Tumbulgum to launch and run up the Rous for a bass fish. Around a 25min run from the boat ramp through the 4 knot zone and then up to the bridge where we started a troll. Neither Neil nor I had been this far up the Rous, but it looked ok. We still had saltwater at the bridge. Around 50 metres into the troll and Neil landed his first Bass, it was a healthy looking fish. We trolled our way up the channel exploring this new country as we went. We managed 3x Bass to the point we found the tide line dividing salt from fresh. Not long after entering the brackish water se starting getting more regular fish. So around an hour and a half, later we reached the Golf course and had 6x Bass and a Bream between us.



We picked up another 3 bass heading back from the golf course to the bridge. Most were on one of my copy lures of a Mini Dart kindly lend by Trevor Saunders. So I was really happy, we also hand fish on Micro Mullet and Attacks. Neil picked up a turtle as well on our return trip to the bridge which was the odd catch on the day. We only had small bass, but all the other were good fish and the biggest was 40cm caught cast and retrieve some the snags.



We raced back to the fish and chip shop for dinner which is the must –do part of any good Tweed trip. The wind below a strong 20knot S-E all night, luckily the campsite was pretty well sheltered by the cabins in the park. Sunday morning The Tweed River was going to blow out for the day. So we decided in the morning we back-up up camp and decided to head back to the Rous. We set off to Tumbulgum around 7.30am. Met Brad Smith a local Fishing Guide from Currumbin at the boat ramp, he was taking some clients out for the day. They had fished Rous on Saturday, maybe it was in the morning as we didn't see them and had scored good numbers of Bass.

So Neil and I headed back up to the bridge to see if we could repeat our efforts. I picked up the 1<sup>st</sup> Bass for the Morning another healthy 40cm model. It was much windier and noticeably cooler on Sunday morning and we found it much harder. We explored further up the Rous than Saturdays trip. We both had hook-ups and dropped fish. Ended the day with 1x Bass each, one at the start of the day and Neil's' cast and retrieve Bass on a Chubby lure at the end of the day. We passed Brad Smith in the 4 knot zone near the boat ramp, they had had a good morning on the flathead on the Soft Plastics. We compared notes as best as you can with a professional Guide even though Brad is an excellent bloke. They had picked up big numbers of bass but only smaller fish on the Saturday. They hadn't gone nearly as far up the Rous as the Golf Course.

Both Neil and I had fished new country, and learnt a bit more about the Rous, It is a very interesting place, we're still to check Goggle Earth to see how far we travelled and how far the Rous still went, but another excellent tweed Trip, for what was a very windy and cool weekend. Looking forward to doing this trip again next year.

Oh Yeah, the Croc was spotted on Saturday afternoon up the Rous.

It was Blue around a size 10 and it looked like it was a left foot one.

Regards Kevin

*Some comments on the above – Above the golf course, there is about another 2km of navigable water on the top of the tide, right up to another bridge on the Tyalgum road at a locality called Boat Harbour. There is a speed limit at the bottom, section, but how far up it goes is a grey area. The upper limit is unsigned? There are a couple of houses on the right hand side above the bridge. Rumour has it that they have complained about speeding boats, so go slow past them. There is one rock bar, above these houses that you can hit at low tide. – Trev*

## BELLINGER RIVER BLACKFISH

By Ray Bricknell

I checked in to the Boambee Bay Resort about 2:00pm on the Friday, after first calling in at "Australia's Largest Tackle Warehouse" in Coffs Harbour to try to buy some Green Weed. "*No one sells it anymore,*" the young shop assistant told me, "*and no, we don't get weed from the prawn farm at Yamba anymore.*" **Damn!!!!** This meant we would be totally reliant on being able to gather Cabbage off Tucker's Rocks – and the low tide was VERY early on the Saturday morning. Peter Thompson was not due to arrive until about 6:00pm on the Friday, after dark, so I had visions of us clambering around on the rocks in the half light of the very early June morning, freezing to death – and with an artificial hip I'm really not up to rock hopping anymore.

When Peter phoned me at 3:00pm to say he had arrived at the resort, I quickly hustled him into the car for a dash to Tuckers Rocks – the tide was low and running in. I could not believe our good luck in being able to gather Cabbage before dark. **However, our luck quickly ran out.** When the Blackfish are in the vicinity they eat the cabbage off the rocks (back to the roots) during every high tide, missing only those few plants growing inside crevices in the rocks – *if there are any such crevices.* And the Blackfish had arrived, so we found almost no cabbage leaves long enough for us to pick. However we persevered, wading about in the surf as the tide came in (and drowning the mobile phone I had forgotten – in my haste – to take off my belt, when a larger than expected wave came through). In the end we were able to scavenge a medium sized Nescafe jar two-thirds full of cabbage – some of it good baits, and some pretty difficult to fix on a hook. This meant we could head straight out on the river the next morning. We even had time for a quick recce to register the boat ramp in the sat-nav so we could find it in the dark on Saturday morning. At the boat ramp that afternoon a local told us the river was "full of Blackfish", right after he stopped laughing at us for wanting to catch such "shit fish" to eat. He only uses them for Jewfish bait – but he admitted to sometimes fishing for them for the great sport they offer. He even told us how to find his "top Blackfish spot".

So Pete and I were anchored up at right angles to the specified section of rock wall in the pristine Bellinger River by about 7:30am Saturday, armed with a bucket of Burleigh (made from my stock of old frozen cabbage), and with a jar of fresh Cabbage for bait, ready to fish the run in tide – high tide being due about 10:30am. To kick the trip off I caught an undersized Bream on Cabbage. But the Blackfish were simply not taking our baits in that spot, so we shifted across to the wall I usually fish on these trips. A very quiet day's fishing ensued. I hooked five Blackfish, but only got three into the boat. One "big" fish broke my 6lb mono line, and another shook the hook as I brought it to the surface. All poor old Pete could do was watch, and net my fish. I was getting precious few "downs", but for whatever reason Pete was getting virtually none.

The three Blackfish in the boat all had the classic bronze stripe markings, but they were only in the 27cm to 30cm range. All legal – and Pete and I ate them for dinner. The three fish were actually more than either of us should have eaten – a big meal for two people. We headed back to the boat ramp about 3:00pm Saturday so we could take some Beach Worms out to the mouth of Boambee Creek to try for a Jewfish as the sun set. Boambee Bay Resort fronts onto Boambee Creek. On the first cast I hooked a large clump of Kelp, which took me ages to pull in against the run-out current and drag of the surf. Then a second cast saw my bait taken by what was surely the biggest fish I have ever had on a line in my life. It fought more like a Jewfish than a Stingray or a Shark, and it was huge. Pete could see the head bumps in the rod tip, and he kept urging me to recover some line. But each time I pulled it in a few metres it went for a run and took twice as much line off me.

After about 20 minutes I was exhausted and Pete and I were both running out of patience. "Lay into it", he suggested – and I agreed it was time to do so. But I got a bit too enthusiastic and finished up breaking my 20lb plus braid line. Very disappointing!

Sunday morning saw us out on the water – and VERY cold – bright and early again, and once again the fishing started slowly. By lunch time I had dropped two more Blackfish (again broken off by one of them), and I had got one about 30cm into the boat. Pete was still doing no good at all, and was becoming VERY frustrated. High tide was close to 12 noon, and just before the run out commenced Pete landed his first Blackfish of the trip – 30cm. *This demonstrated that they will bite during the slack water.*

A quiet period followed, and we again shifted to a different section of rock wall. Then, at about 4pm, the Blackfish came on the bite. For about 20 minutes or so it seemed we got a “down” virtually every drift. During that period Pete landed two more Blackfish and two legal Bream, including one Blackfish 33cm long. I landed another three Blackfish, including one 36cm long – great fun to land on 6lb line. If you leave a Blackfish in the water, it will keep fighting! The Bronzies live in the ocean, so they have great stamina –



***the fact that they never seem to tire is the attraction for me of fishing for this species.*** I also like the fact that they have to be hooked – they never hook themselves.

It was by then getting a bit dark, and we decided to quit – and the fish went off the bite at about that time. This appears to indicate that Blackfish have feeding times, the same as other species of fish, although if they are really “on” they seem to bite over much longer periods. On Sunday night we were both bugged from two days of standing up in the boat, and Pete’s 60 year old back in particular was showing the strain of a lifetime on the carpentry tools. When I tipped the fish out of the keeper net onto the boat ramp, Pete could not get down to pick them up! However, this did not stop him from meticulously filleting the 7 Blackfish and 2 Bream that night for vacuum packaging and taking home. Quite a nice lot of fillets. (I have never seen anyone so patient and thorough as Peter Thompson at filleting fish – and skinning the fillets and cutting off the “fat lines” so they have no weedy taste.)

Incidentally, you might wonder why a seagoing Blackfish would be tricked into taking a Cabbage bait drifting in the current in a river? The explanation probably is that the waves crashing on the rocks wash bits of Cabbage off into the ocean, and eating pieces of Cabbage floating in the water is quite normal for these fish. Monday was another beautiful day – idyllic, really. Indeed, we had two almost windless sunny days out of three, and on the third day the breeze was a bit chilly, but not too bad. However, the great conditions did not persuade the Blackfish to come on the bite. No one was catching many, and Peter and I moved from spot to spot all day, talking to others and always being told they were catching virtually nothing. One local told me: *“Last June we were bagging out almost every day, but they are very scarce all the way up the NSW coast this year”*. That, of course, is the story of my fishing life. After a full day of fishing our hearts out we finished up with just two Blackfish for the day.

Pete left at 3:00am on Tuesday morning to go to work on the Gold Coast, and I went out at 7:30am for three hours – and caught only one 27cm Blackfish. Then the rain set in, and it rained VERY heavily for the rest of the week. Overall, we proved that the Blackfish would eat our Cabbage if they were around, but for a lot of the time we could see no fish in the (fairly clear) water. If we could see no fish we got no “downs”. Given the circumstances I think we did well to catch as many as we did, and it was a very enjoyable trip for both Peter and I. I very much appreciated his company.

## **Some background on the ERIC MOLLER Award**

Again congrats to John, on receiving the award, for service to the club, the ANSA movement and the fishing community, in freshwater stocking and fishing, plus he's a top bloke. Looking around during the presentation, I realised that quite a few members would not know a great deal or nothing about the award and the man that it take it name from.

Eric Moller was the ultimate gentleman. He was retired and lived in Cardwell. Vic McCristal when he settled in Cardwell to fish and write his articles and books, struck up a friendship with Eric and they started to fish together. Eric was a WW2 veteran, and in his life in NQ had been a timber worker, crack target range rifle shot, and a professional fisherman. Vic introduced him to lure fishing, and another whole scene opened up to him. Being a pensioner, the price of lures was beyond him, so he carved his own out of native timbers. So was born the famous Moller "Tiger". When ANSA started in NQ, in the mid '70's, Eric was one of the first members, always offering sage advice and information on fishing. Glenys and I had the privilege of spending time with him on our many trips to Cardwell, watching him hand carve lures, and taking him fishing on a couple of occasions. He took a real shine to Glenys, and was impressed with her lure fishing ability. He always looking forward to having a yarn with his "fishing mate". He carved her a special lure which she still treasures. Eric passed away too early, in the early '90s I think. ANSA Qld named the award in his memory.



**Glenys's Moller lures**



**Moller Tigers, worth \$300 plus each**



**Eric Moller,  
fishing and  
carving his  
lures**



### **Club Membership Information**

Meetings are held the first Monday of the month, at 7pm sharp, concluding at 9pm sharp. Drinks are available at the bar.

Membership Fees – Adult single \$60, Family \$80, Student over 16 \$20, Child under 16 (no parent in club) \$20, Child under 16 (parent in club) \$10. Visitors Welcome.

Newsletters are e mailed before club meeting, copies at meeting. Please notify me of any e mail changes

### **Gear for Sale by Club Members**

Any club member wishing to sell gear, please let me know so I can place it in the newsletter

### **Club Logos & Stickers – Shirts & Boats**

Large & small boat stickers – Large \$6 Small \$2

SBSFC Club Logo embroidered on your shirt - \$10 - Bring to a club meeting, Back the next.

### **LENDING LIBRARY**

The club has a number of fishing and fishing associated DVDs for hire. Available at club meetings, a \$20 deposit, refunded when they are returned at the next meeting

### **DEALS FOR CLUB MEMBERS**

**Danny Hughes Fishing Restoration – Rod/Reel Repairs Ph 0438 012619**

**Yatala Outboard Wrecking – Specialising in used parts for all makes & models. Repairs & Servicing – Gary & Trent 3807 2488 – 7 Old Pacific Hwy**

**Gem Bait & Tackle – 281 Jacob's Well Rd, Alberton Ph 3287 3868**

**Fuel, Gas, Bait & Tackle, Ice, Groceries & Takeaways - Open 7days**

