



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

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# Newsletter

## October, 2004

### Next Meeting

***THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY 4 October, 2004 at the Neighbourhood Centre, Mansfield Walk, Beenleigh (between the roundabout and Crete St).***

The venue can be accessed for off street parking via Kent Street (behind the Police station), or via James Street, just up from the Court House. Otherwise, park in James Street and walk behind the Gold Coast City Council branch office.

**NOTE:- We have a Bar**

**MEMBERSHIP FEES NOW Overdue! Please Pay.**

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

### NEXT TRIP

**WEEKEND MURRAY COD TRIP – 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> October - SEVERN RIVER**

**Trip Captain: John Cumberland – [cumberlanj@powerup.com.au](mailto:cumberlanj@powerup.com.au); Ph: 3801 1110; 0421 281 805 Trip Sheet below.**

**Guest Speaker: Andrew Weekes, Mechanic – “So you think your Trailer Maintenance is up to scratch, eh? Well let me tell you a few things.....”**

**Future Trips:** See list below – last page of Newsletter.

**Committee Members:** See below – at end of Newsletter.

### News Item: LAKE CESSBROOK UPDATE

Your Editor checked out the boat ramp at Lake Cressbrook on Monday 20 September, and the news is NOT good. Even if the boat ramp were extended further down into the dam, there does not appear to be enough water in that section of the lake for a powerboat to operate in. Looks like we have to think again about our Christmas Dinner trip to the Crows Nest Caravan Park, and our December weekend at Lake Cressbrook.

**Fish of the Month:** Flathead, 75 cm, 3.25 Kg, caught in the Tweed by Lloyd Willmann 12/9/04.

## **Oh My God – I'm Going Soft!**

**By Ray Bricknell**

On Sunday 12 September I watched Lloyd Willmann skilfully pull a 75 cm, 3.25 Kg Flathead out of the Tweed River on relatively light tackle. Everything I caught that weekend was too small to be bothered keeping.

In sheer frustration I then went chasing Jewfish and/or Flathead in the Logan River a few days later – Wednesday 15 September. Lloyd caught his on soft plastic (a Squidgy, I think), but all I could catch in the Tweed on soft plastics was tiddler Flathead. So I slipped back into my old ways and went bait fishing.

Big, fresh Banana Prawns are allegedly the go for Jewfish (Mulloway if you must), and I had seen them for sale in the Woolworths seafood section the day before – they looked great. So I bought ten – the bloody things cost me 50 cents each – and took them down to the deep hole (about 45 feet) at The Elbow, just downstream of where the Albert flows into the Logan.

Incidentally, 50 cents each sounds a lot for bait prawns, but it's not so bad when you compare it with the cost of soft plastics – or the \$30 Japanese Rattler lures that Chris Eldred fills his tackle box with. Besides, if you keep your Banana Prawns on ice all day, you can eat whatever is left of them that night – and delicious they were, too!

It was mid-morning before I started fishing, so not much hope of getting a Jew, even if the tide was slack – which it wasn't until about 12 noon in that spot (2 hours behind the Brisbane Bar). Nevertheless, I rigged a heavy line and a lighter one with my expensive prawns, using a long leader (about 1 metre) after a fairly heavy sinker (the current is quite strong and swirly at The Elbow), and settled down for what I knew would be a long wait at best.

High tide came and went, with no sign of a big Jew – or a bite of any kind. Interestingly, though, a constant parade of quite big fish was showing up on my entry level sounder. I had fished this hole half a dozen times since I got this sounder, and never once seen a fish show up on it there. And the water was every bit as muddy as the Logan always is. Was this a good sign?

Well, about three quarters of an hour into the run out, the heavy line took off. Interestingly, it was almost 1pm – exactly the time of day when Lloyd had hooked his big Flathead in the Tweed. (75 cm is legal in NSW – in Queensland he would have had to put it back).

I had that fish on the line for several minutes – it felt like a big Flathead – and so I mentally had it “in the bag”. Then it went for another run, and just kept going! On retrieval, I discovered the fish had pulled the snap off the end of a commercially made wire trace – the crimp had not been tight enough! Ah well, she probably would have been too big to keep anyway, judging by the fight my next Flathead gave me.

Fifteen minutes and a new rig later – without wire trace – off went the heavy line again. This time I managed to land the culprit – a 3 Kg Flathead which miraculously measured 69 cm – at least, that was my best estimate, seeing that I did not have a measure long enough! Incidentally, getting such a fish into an Environet with one hand was quite a challenge – for some reason the fish was not keen to swim into it, and the Environet is VERY heavy to manoeuvre around when full of water.

It's been a while since I caught such a large fish, so this one went into the esky for dinner. That's when my psychological problem started!

First up, when I cleaned the fish back at the boat ramp I found it was full of Roe – there must have been tens of thousands of eggs in the two huge Roe. “Hell”, I thought, “I really wish I had not killed this fish”.

Then, when I got it home, my wife added to my grief. “Poor thing” was all she could say. Not a word of admiration for the great white hunter who had bagged this ‘monster’.

To cap off my dismay, the fish was quite dry when cooked, so it wasn't even great to eat.

So that's it, I'm afraid. I've turned over a new leaf. From now on I'm strictly a Catch and Release fisherman. I never did go fishing for the sake of eating fish – and the fish in the shop cost a lot less than the \$200 each which most caught fish allegedly cost. Bloody hell! I've gone soft!

## New guides to help identify coral reef fish

A full-colour, easy-to-use 68-page field guide will help anglers and commercial operators to identify Queensland's iconic reef fish species. Visit <http://statements.cabinet.qld.gov.au/cgi-bin/display-statement.pl?id=2765&db=media>

### 2004 SE QLD Freshwater ANSA Clubs Challenge Somerset Dam 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> October 2004

Presented jointly by North Brisbane Sportsfishing and Ipswich United Sportsfishing Clubs.

We extend an invitation to your club to send teams to compete in this great event. The "Challenge" will be held to decide the title of "Champion Freshwater Club"

Cost: \$35.00 per Adult competitor  
\$15.00 per Junior Competitor (Under 12) – Flyer & Nomination Forms available from the SBSFC  
Club Secretary.

### NEWS FROM OTHER CLUBS

- **Bribie Island SFC Interclub competition – to be held at Bribie Island over the first full weekend of February 2005.** Does SBSFC wish to participate?

### FISHING THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

The following (edited) article is taken with thanks from the N.B.S.F.C. September Newsletter – in case it inspires anyone!

Hello fellow Sportsfishers. This is in no way the definitive and strictly true account of what I did whilst in the Solomon Islands. Bloody close though.

Picture this if you will: calm waters, gentle breeze, warm fine weather and plenty of hungry fish that have never seen the likes of this Ox-like bloke before in their short pelagic existence. Could this be real? The answer, my friends, is yes! (Unbelievable as it seems).

#### **Johnno's guide to fishing the Solomons.**

First lets talk about getting there. Solomon Airlines flies direct from Brisbane twice weekly. The base cost is about \$800 return Brisbane- Honiara (Solomon Capital). That's fairly cheap, I hear you say? Of course it is, compare it to a trip north to the Cape and back, and I think you'll find the cost of travel compares very well.

Accommodation. There are two hotels that I would recommend. Firstly, The Honiara Hotel, situated at the back of China Town in the Eastern part of Honiara. The amenities are up to date (yes, sit down toilets and running water), the rooms are quite comfortable and clean, and the restaurant is second to none in that part of town. Room rates run at about \$40 AUS per person per night, twin share. The hotel is close to most things, as you can walk nearly everywhere in Honiara anyway. The second hotel is the Mendana Hotel. This one's a hum-dinger! Prices start at around \$120 AUS per person per night twin share, and the rooms are about as good as anywhere in the islands. **Their restaurant and nightly floor show is an attraction that tourists flock for, so even if you don't stay there you should make an effort to go there.**

Well, with that out of the way, lets get to the important stuff, fishing. There are several operators, all contactable through the various hotels, that will run trips at rates from \$50 SOL to \$1800 US (no jokes) per day. So, needless to say, the variety of contractable fishing vessels is out of this world. Another place to try for charters is the Solomon Islands Yacht Club. Entry to this club is free for overseas visitors, and I'm sure you'll find the regular patrons (mostly ex-pats) to be extremely inebriated – sorry, I mean talkative and helpful.

Alternatively there are plenty of small craft that pepper the shores in and around the capital. These are owned and operated by local fishermen. This avenue I found to be very useful when searching out great land based fishing spots for later use, as these guys will really fly you up the coastline and give you a good look around for next to nothing. **Prices are bartered, and ruthlessness is required.** If you what to use these guys to take you fishing, then you will have to hand over a high percentage of your catch as a secondary fee. All's fair in love and fishing.

#### **What should you expect to catch?**

This is something that I really don't have all of the data on. The fish life in the Solomons is so expansive and vastly populated that I don't think I got a decent look at even a small percentage of what's on offer. What I did catch was, in no particular order: Bonito, Mackerel (Spanish and Stripey), Tuna, (Longtail mainly), Dolphin fish (that's not the Flipper variety), Mahi Mahi, Coral Trout, Cod, Red Emperor, Grass Sweetlip, Snapper (at least that's what the locals called them) – anyway, you get the picture. These fish are available all year round.

The main channel through the islands is a little area known as Iron Bottom Sound. Aptly named this, for the 70 odd ships that sit below it, thanks to the second world war. The area is well known around the world as a dive site, and this is perhaps the only other group of tourists you are likely to see out on the water.

**Method for retrieving the fish is very simple:** AS BLOODY QUICKLY AS YOU CAN! Sharks, sharks, sharks, they are everywhere, and I didn't see many small ones. All fishing methods we use in Australia are equally successful in the Solomons. Hard body lures fish well, as long as you can get them to run deep (Iron Bottom Sound can get shallow at about 150 metres). The club's new deep diving lures did me a treat when I was there, especially the new gold colour.

Well done, Mr. Murphy – so well done that the poor thing got bitten in half! So, if anybody is going, could you please retrieve the bottom half of my lure? Soft plastics are successful, but you're going to have to carry about 50 Kg of them, as the fish just seem to murder them. The new varieties of Snapbacks in Pink outlasted the rest of the competition, and caught plenty of Red Emperor and snapper, so be sure to give them a whirl.

Bait, or as some in the club call asterbaiting, is the most productive for catching a load of fishies – stop cringing, Gary. Bait is available at the local markets, from small slimies to larger Bonito, but be early, as these fish are popular on the BBQ in the Solomon Islanders' diet.

Brisbane tackle shop owners will cry when they see the price of fresh bait. A shopping bag full of small slimeys can set you back a whopping \$2 AUS.

**Getting around.** This couldn't be any easier. Taxis are so numerous that you run a very likely risk of being struck by one, and then struck by a second whilst trying to pick yourself up from the first. These guys will take you anywhere you need to go, and will load the taxi up until you think it's going to burst. The price can be bartered before entering the cab, or you can just make him a generous offer when you get there. A \$50 SOL fee is a lot to him, but only about \$8 AUS to you.

## **STORM KING/SEVERN RIVER TRIP DETAILS**

Dates: 8/10/2004 - 10/10/2004

Accommodation:

Storm King Recreational Centre at Storm King Dam

Bunk House accommodation + 2 staff rooms.

Take sleeping gear, tea towels, food, etc.

Large kitchen in centre.

Cost: Total is \$219.60 for the 2 nights. Cost per member will depend on numbers.

Fishing:

### **Storm King Dam**

Fish Dam by boat for Murray Cod & Golden Perch.

### **Severn River**

Saturday drive to the Severn River at Nundubbermere Falls & fish the river for Murray Cod & Golden Perch.

A map will be provided to members attending.

Those attending should confirm at October 4 club meeting.

## **FUTURE TRIPS:**

### **SPECIAL TRIP: NOVEMBER 13th -20th**

#### **LAKE AWOONGA - BARRAMUNDI**

Accommodation Lake Awoonga Caravan Park

Ph: 4975 0155

Trip Captain – to be advised.

### **NOVEMBER - SUNDAY 21st**

#### **MAROON DAM DAY TRIP - BASS**

Trip Captain – to be advised.

**DECEMBER 5th & 6th CRESSBROOK DAM** – This trip will have to be replaced, due to the lack of water in Lake Cressbrook.

**For general enquiries about trips:**

Contact the nominated Trip Captain , or

John Cumberland

Phone (07) 3801 1110

Mobile 0421 281 805

Email [cumberlandj@powerup.com.au](mailto:cumberlandj@powerup.com.au)

**COMMITTEE**

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