

This newsletter is your newsletter, if you have a story or downsized photo or just some general news you want to share with your club mates, send it to Justin Smith for inclusion.

WINTER 2010

SINGLETON FLY FISHING CLUB INC. 2002

*PROMOTING THE ART OF FLY FISHING IN THE HUNTER
VALLEY NSW AUSTRALIA*

Newsletter Winter 2010

Winter for Singleton Fly Fishing means big Lake St Claire Bass

Well done Brent, this is what it's all about!



Winter is an interesting time for fishers, depending on where you find yourself.

Luckily for the SFFC we know this is the best time for lake Bass, and our newsletter stories have lots to say about that!

I for one had the opportunity to chase trout at Jindabyne and Diggers Creek Lake in the Snowy, which for want of a better word; I found challenging, especially when my runners iced up and my fly line refused to loop because it was so cold.

The opportunity to catch a bass came up with our recent Lake St Clair outing, which resulted in one Bass and one broken Coccyx, but that's a story that may never be told.

The water on Lake Liddell is clear and cold at the moment, and polaroiding these swamp trout can be very entertaining.

But as we head towards the spring, there is much to look forward to, Salmon in Lake Macquarie, and in October, our interclub carp invitational.

In the mean time, enjoy this read. I for one love the feature picture Brent proudly showing of his Mega Bass, brilliant fish Brent and well done.

Newsletter Editor

YOUR 2010 COMMITTEE

President: Mick Ewin

Vice President: Justin Smith

Secretary: Greg Hayman

Treasurer: Balinda Baker

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Presidents ramble Winter 2010.

Mik will be sending a special Presidents message in the next week or so, in the mean time, if you would like a poster size copy of this picture for your fly fishing room, contact Mik who has them ready to go in a variety of sizes....(just joking Mik)



(Mr Notherone) Big Mik

Not this time Mik, well done nice Bass mate!

Next Meeting:

September 1st. 2010 6.30pm Dorsman Drive Singleton Heights

RSC***

Winter 2010 Minutes

A small but enthusiastic forum met this August, and an enjoyable and relaxed meeting ensued.

Thanks to Kevin for a very interesting fly tying display and presentation. I know I was inspired to return to my fly tying bench as soon as time permits.

Details for our next outing were discussed. And we will be travelling to Swansea to chase species inside and possibly outside Lake Macquarie, with the hope being that the Salmon will be on.

Our plan is to arrive on Saturday during Gentleman's hours to launch what ever craft you have from the boat ramp proximate to the Swansea Camp grounds. Of course, if you wish to start your fishing before that, good luck to you and we will see you there.

The outing date is for the weekend August 13th, 14th (Saturday) and Sunday if you are lucky!

High tide on Saturday will be at 11:30am, but check to be sure.

Saturday 14th 11:30 high tide

We have proposed a change of date for the AGM, now proposed for 3rd November after Carp invitational.

As usual, all positions will be declared vacant at the AGM, but in particular, we are thankful to Balinda who has given us a heads up that she will not be recontesting the Treasures position,

As we all know, the position of Treasurer is a key committee position so, if you think you could be the one to fill it, put your name forward and make a difference.

Our Next outing is Swansea

Current 2010 calendar:

2010 SFFC CALENDER		
DATE	LOCATION	TRIP MASTER
FEB 20- 27	JOSE CROWS EUCUMBINE	GREG HAYMAN
MAR 26-28	BLACK & GOLD WANG	GREG HAYMAN
APR 23-25	SWANSEA	MIK EWIN
MAY 21-23	BARRINGTON	JUSTIN SMITH
JUNE 11-13	ST CLAIR	GREG HAYMAN
Jul-03	XMAS IN JULY	MIK EWIN
JULY 23-25	ST CLAIR	GREG HAYMAN
AUGUST 13-15	NEWCASTLE BEACH SALMON	BALINDA BAKER
SEPT 3-5	KEEPIT	MIK EWIN
OCTOBER 1-3	ADAMINABY	GREG HAYMAN
OCTOBER 29-31	CARP INVITATIONAL LIDDELL	MIK EWIN
NOV 19-21	PEJAR CROOKWELL	GREG HAYMAN
DEC 3-5	WANGI LAKE MAQUARIE	MIK EWIN



Newsletter Editor

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TALL TALES BUT TRUE, SHORT STORIES, FISHING REPORTS NEWS AND VIEWS

Welcome to the latest edition of Tall Tales but True. This section of the forum invites members to contribute news, stories and events.

This is a quality edition for Winter; thank you again to our star contributors Lawrence, Rod and Peter, Enjoy everyone

Peter, my apologies for being so late in posting your great story from our trip to Wang this year;

Rod, it's great news to hear that you are feeling better and back on the water flinging those great flies of yours!

Diary of the Semi-Employed Or The Old 1-5-2-2 Bass Catch Sequence

By Lawrence Blackburn

WARNING: *The following story contains images of a graphic nature that may upset some readers. They contain surgical procedures that some may find disturbing. Fish were harmed in the making of this story, parental guidance is recommended.*

Being in the throes of changing jobs and finding myself doing a two or three day week (if I'm lucky) I find that I have become Haymanised. Yes folks I find that in my spare time (days in fact) I find myself at Lake St Clair chasing the famed *Macquaria novemaculeat*. (The Australian Bass)

June 13th saw Jenna and I attending the SFFC club outing, in which we travelled up for the day in the trusty Triton and fished with a very social Peter Sewell. Pyro had already caught fish for the day and showed us his craft, and hints and tips for the area as SFFC members always do.

So what else could we do except poach his best spots and catch fish where he would have already been. Jenna cast here and there and so did

I, eventually I had a solid hit (at least I thought it was) but it turned out to be a solid snag, I worked the snag back and forth until it came free slowly. I towed in a kilo of weed and buried inside was a 30cm bass, Pyro took the necessary photos' and then called lunch. That was 1.

We retired to camp St Clair and had lunch with the team, a good turn up for the long weekend with some staying over for the Monday. Greg was teaching some young guns the finer art of casting as JB and I stoked the fire.

My employment conditions have been somewhat vague lately and the following Friday I found myself back at St Clair trying out a new spot further up the lake.

I spent the night before tying some vampires. I tied a few traditional gay pink vamps and then pulled a few more materials out of the box and found myself with a pink variant, using red instead of the traditional purple, and a liquid silver material that I had won at the previous meeting and then said "what the hell am I going to do with this?".

I felt confident that I had the right pattern for the location. The spot I had chosen was about 642.5m north- north-west of where Pyro had been fishing the week before. I scanned the area and found a likely bank that I felt would suit my intermediate set-up. My main concern was the build-up of algae that did not look pretty at all.

Call it luck (I call it skill and over 10yrs fly fishing experience) but the time, weather and sun were just right, in a period of less than one hour I landed five Bass (which would also be a PB for me). As you can see in the photo below the vampire variant was working well, I used the same fly all day. That was 5.



I walked a total distance of 150m and found the fish at varying depths, the bank contour and water depth gave clear indications of how long the intermediate line should be in the water, before starting the retrieve. The standard one-two-three-pause worked every time as I recollect, but as I had been trying various different retrieval methods I cannot be sure what actually worked each time.

The fish size varied in length from around 28cm to about 35cm. In the photo below, the pattern worked very well with some fish totally inhaling the fly to the point where I had to use long pincers to remove my new prized pattern.



By Wednesday the following week I was out of work again...I mean I had done a day and a couple of hours. So back to St Clair and back to my new favourite spot, although I was somewhat hesitant to return so soon to the same spot but it was worth a shot.

This time I managed two for the same area and roughly the same amount of time put in. The first came in on the third cast, so I felt positive but it was a long time between drinks for the next one.

This fish seemed overly plump so it was time for a little stomach content inspection. As you can see from the image below there were three soft plastics, so someone must have been very disappointed at missing this fish. There were also four small shrimp so it had been eating well, but having some serious trouble digesting the plastic.



Interestingly I took the plastics home and within a week they had shrivelled up to small black blobs so I guess the stomach acid was doing its thing in breaking down the plastic. That was 2.

Unfortunately this became a little more expensive than other trips as a Penalty Notice from the OSR turned up on the 30th June. Apparently they want me to donate \$141 for a minor traffic infringement!

More flies were needed as I got snagged and lost my pink-red-liquid-silver-bass-vampire-thingy. So back to the bench and a couple more were produced, just in case I have no work next week.

Well what do you know, Monday and Tuesday free from work and what to do, what to do? Guess I'll head back to St Clair and continue becoming Haymanised. And so for a fourth time in two weeks I packed the trusty Triton with food and a thermos and headed north-west, arriving at Macca's for a cuppa and then St Clair just as I had done in the past.



As I drove up I noticed Three Little Soldiers keen to get there before me, I had put them up on the dash when I packed the car and they sat there very attentively looking to the road ahead, just wanting to be the first to snare an unsuspecting Bass.

Their efforts were rewarded, but at a heavy toll. The first Bass was again caught early, soon after, the fly was lost to a snag. The second Bass came from a location I had looked at in the past and felt sure there would be one there. There was, but again, soon after I lost the second soldier. That was 2.

And now they want me to work during the week, what is the world coming to!!!!!!!

A STORY FROM THE MARCH OUTING 26/27/28 MARCH 2010

BLACK AND GOLD LITHGOW

TROUT, WANG FRIENDS AND MONSTER BROWNS!



Figure 1 Wang is not just known for its trout fishing, but also for its many cultural highlights, although we did have difficulty explaining to our new friends that fly fishing didn't involve explosives!

A well attended outing with some (those who could get away from work) arriving early on Friday, some (yours truly et. al.) arriving late Friday in time to crack open a bottle of red and share some day old birthday cake, some

(Ian Zulu Penfold) arriving on Saturday after flying back from Melbourne on Friday night.

The Black and Gold was well set up with four bedrooms. Master bedroom - Queen Sized bed with on-suite claimed by Greg because he was the queen or because he was first there (one or the other); one bedroom for the boys from Sydney, one for the snorers and one for the others except those such as the Blackburn's and Treasurers who had separate apartments. Collectively Greg (trip master), Thommo Dave, Brent, Rod and Glen, Justin, Ian, Lawrence, Jenna, sister Katelyn and Jenny, Treasurer Balinda, Ass't Treasurer Adam, plus myself makes up a pretty formidable group.



Figure 2 The Adams Family, alias Adam and Balinda Baker enjoy a light moment with Rod Fox, one of our Wang outing regulars

The trout deserved to be scared witless, we had arrived with a vengeance 4wds, off-roaders and the sedate family sedan, Loomis, Sage, Wilkinson(?), Saratoga rods, dry flies, wets, nymphs you name it we had it.

Those that went out on Friday evening to Thompson's creek had a great long walk to the back of the dam and back again, Lawrence even caught a fish (fish No.1 for the event) a big hook jawed jack rainbow or so I'm told 'cause I'm yet to see it! One fish four (five?) fishermen, one broken rod (Greg) things clearly needed to improve. Those that arrived late ate, drank, watched footy and watched Katelyn give Dave a lesson in how to play computer games on his U-beaut phone.

Then there was Saturday. At the crack of dawn (around 9am) after breakfast we all went in different directions some to the Cox's below Lake Lyell, some to the Fish River past Tarana then to Cox's near Rydal, some to Thompson's again. Brent and Dave circumnavigated Thompson's on foot- big walk no fish. Greg and I trudged the Fish River beautiful mountain country- one fish caught on a No 20 Stick Caddis- see photo, had meat pies for lunch at Rydal pub, made some new friends- see photo. Others fished various parts of the Cox's- good walk no fish. Adam and Belinda went shopping for a headlight then fished somewhere while it was still early.

All regrouped on Saturday afternoon at the Black and Gold salubrious accommodation centre and drew up battle plans for the evening (after a nanna nap). I toyed with the idea of taking my new eight weight which had been packed thinking it was the four weight (same brand, same size tube but a bit heavier and a different colour!). Early dinner of sandwiches and 5pm departure all to Thompson's.

The majority did the big walk to the back of the dam, I watched a great big brown carrying on with great airborne leaps, even leaping over my line at one stage, to no avail- bloody show off fish! A few had a bump in the night and Ian actually landed a reasonable sized well conditioned rainbow trout on

a black Matuka. The only fish for the night.



Figure 3 If I let the readers believe this was Ian's fish as described in Peters story, I'm sure he would have some stern words to say about it!

We all trudged back to the Thompson's gate to collect our chariots and headed back past the cemetery with the blue and green glow sticks lighting up some graves and then to the Black and Gold for a BBQ, a few ales and maybe a few tall tales of what should have been. Not to mention a hearty rendition of Happy Birthday to Jenna who turned 12 years old on Sunday (OK it was a day early but who cares) Jenna opened her present of a new fly fishing vest...to add to the two she already had, she also got some girly stuff which she was pleased with. The party carried on, the drinks flowed and Jenna and family (except Lawrence) went off to bed.

Sunday came and all our fishing enthusiasts ate a hearty breakfast at the same crack of dawn time then packed and headed home. Someone (Ian) said "we used to fish on Sundays before going what's happened?) no one answered.

A great weekend, beautiful weather, well organised, good company, good fun, new friends, lots of walking, fourteen people, twelve fishing, two fish (the one I caught probably doesn't count). Well behaved, no fighting, no arguments, nobody got bogged, no crying (although I'm not sure about Justin he wasn't happy about not catching any fish so he might have shed a tear).

Looking forward to next outing!

Hat Jinx Broken

By Rod Dillan

Bloody Hell I thought as I struggled to release my fly from the tree stump 15 metres in front of me. This was the third time this morning that my line had caught in a stump and the previous two had resulted in the loss of a twisted leader and fly. I had been here at St Clair 30 minute's midweek on a day I should have been at work but that's another story. Realising that I was fighting a losing battle I turned my back and the pull on the line resulted in the loss of another twisted leader and fly.

Re-rigging I looked in my flybox and decided to use a pattern that has a history dating back hundred's of years, a Soft Hackle. I had recently read Lefty Krey's "Fly Fishing For Bass" and he rated this fly as one of 5 wets for smallmouth bass. The smallmouth is the equivalent of our

bass. Consequently with a few minutes available recovering from illness I tied a few up. Would I use the purple and black or some other colour? No bugger it I will use the red and black.

The north easterly had intensified so I aimed at the stump hoping that the wind would drift the fly to the left and out of harm's way of the stump. Dropping a metre past and to the left of the stump I began to strip the line quickly with pauses back. I then cast the same and stripped the line back without pauses. Again without result. Readers by now would have expected a fish on the first or second cast but this was not to be. Prior to coming out I had consumed several cups of coffee which now required release. It became the priority and once out of the way I returned to my real priority, getting rid of the jinx that my hat has.

Last year on a trip to Mylestom near Urunga we had a day at Bellingen looking around and I purchased what I thought a great fishing hat. I wore it for a couple of trips fishing up there without catching anything and then on return another couple of fishless trips. I then stopped fishing in it. I wore it last weekend for one of two days and again fishless, although hooking and being gill cut on a bass. Today I thought that I was being silly and mentally psyched out of catching fish with the hat as the excuse.

Enough of the teasing, on about the third cast after my leak I hooked up with a 40cm fork bass (pictured). And what a fish, solid in the shoulders and in prime condition. This has been the biggest bass I have

caught for about 12 months as the Glenbawn bass are generally in the 30's.



And the fly in its gob



More importantly the jinx of the hat has been removed and it was the first fish I have caught after my operations.

Amen.

MAJOR SPONSER 2010



<http://www.proangler.com.au/>

See our club website for more links

www.singletonflyfishingclub.com.au

FOOTNOTES TO BOOT

This is shaping up for a great month and a great start to the second half of the year for Singleton Fly Fishing Club. Some of the club spent some special time fishing with Greg Dougherty at Wanaka South Island NZ. Greg runs Drift Fishing NZ and as a return client, I can highly recommend him. In the mean time if you are looking for a property in the prime fishing waters of Otago, check out the links

below, you might just end up buying the clubs new NZ club house

Hi to all my fishing friends around the world.

Sorry if you have already received this email but I had them returned so thought I would try again.

We are currently trying to sell our house here in beautiful Lake Hawea, New Zealand and were hoping that Winterbe you could spread the word and somebody out there that you might know Winterbe interested.

If you were to put someone our way then we would love to say thanks by giving you a few days drift fishing !!!

You can view our house on www.trademe.co.nz

it is under realestate and the reference # is BAI185

Or you can view it on youtube if you type in

31 Nichol St Lake Hawea

We also have 20 acres for sale next to the Clutha river. Ideally we would like to sell our house and build on this land but we really need to sell something to move on (and keep the bank happy!!). You can view this on www.trademe.co.nz

Under real estate and the reference # is ATP634

Once again sorry for the group email and I hope to see you back here in Wanaka some day fishing with me.

I would love to hear how you are all getting on.

Regards

Greg, Paula, Maggie, James and Sarah Dougherty

Alpine Fishing Guides

www.driftfishingnz.com

That's it for this newsletter.

Stay Tuned and tight lines everyone