



Sportfish

QUEENSLAND WWW.ansaql.com.au
December 2006



Opps!!! What do you mean the bus is stuck?

Editors Note

I would like to thank Helen Johnson for her effort in developing the magazine over the last few years. I hope that I can keep the standard up and look forward to the new challenges of being on the executive and the importance of keeping members informed through this magazine. I have included some background on Ron Dempster and Eric Moller to give new members who may not be aware of the great contributions these men made to the recreational fishing industry.

Thank you to all the clubs and members who sent through information, pictures and stories. Without your help this magazine would not flourish.

Attending the QLD ANSA AGM 25/26 Aug 06

With the build up to the AGM at Yeppoon, a plan was hatched to leave a bit early and catch up with some of the other committee members in Helen and Terri ...so After some two and froing it was decided to go and have fish at Cania Dam just North of Monto we camped at the Cania Gorge holiday park, Which is about 5km from the dam wall .Helen and Terri headed from Townsville on the Wednesday boat in tow and lobbed on the Friday. I left Brisbane Monday at o dark hundred (that's really early in Army lingo)and got to Cania towing the Poly in just under six hours the road there once you turn off the Bruce hwy is a goat track !! to say the least .The girls had booked a cabin and I camped ..one thing that is important before you go anywhere ...CHECK THE BAGS THAT YOU ARE PACKING especially if they look the same !!! it turned out that I grabbed the wrong tent and the wrong sleeping bag the tent was too small for the stretcher and the sleeping bag was the summer one not the winter !!! .So the first night I froze to death. The girls came to the rescue and lent me another bag ...so after setting up we headed out on to the dam which is pretty low 13% and was been pumped while we were there ,you could see the level changing each day .For those that don't know the story, Cania was built in 1981 to assist the farmers downstream it is a pretty little dam and would look fantastic when it is full....thats where lies the problem it has never been full !!! the most it has been is about 60 odd percent and god only knows when that was !!!It meanders its way through the gorge with lots of twists and turns the deepest point is 70 feet and up the back in the creek it is less than a foot with lots of boulders and tree stumps .Getting the boats off the trailer was a task on its own they have some sort of a ramp but hardly any water on it .The girls had already tasted success with some nice Togas and Bass ,from memory they had already added some masters captures on one kilo to their boat . There is no hurry to get out early because most of the fishing fires up in the afternoon .The girls used Floats Bait and plastics ,and I concentrated on flyfishing deep ,intermediate and surface .Success was slow on the first day with only 4 bass caught , but Tuesday the fish were really on the chew ,I caught some on spinner baits and some on plastics ...but the most deadliest method was the deep fly fishing in 14 feet of water and drifting over a river bed into 40 feet the fish were stacked 10 deep !!! seeing that on the sounder to a fly fishermen is like waving a red rag at a bull .The best method was to strip very fast but short deliberate bursts only moving the fly a

couple of centimetres at a time they would attack it with gusto totally inhaling whatever was presented ,small vampires ,wooly buggers , some of my home tied, ruptured budgies, and bastardised cockroaches worked a treat .After just sinking the fly and beginning the strip they were all over the fly like a cheap suit !!! I managed to catch over 150 Bass and the majority of those were legal ...as for the togas ...Togas 6 Gazza Nil !!! .But I did manage on small fish on the spinnerbait .It was good to catch up with Helen and Terri I guess that's what we are all about ...enjoying each others company having a fish and still contributing to the AGM .It was a fantastic weekend and it just goes to prove with some careful planning and a bit of hard work what can be achieved **WELL DONE TO ALL THAT MADE THE EFFORT TO ATTEND** .the committee were richer and rewarded from your presence .On the way home I decided to stop and have a fish at Awoonga which has a huge reputation as the premier Barra fisheries in Queensland ,Jeff Sorrel and Peter Griffiths stayed back as well .We set camp and headed out for a look see on the Sunday afternoon .but only managed a cattie compliments of Catfish King Griffiths CKG for short !!.We had some follows and few half hearted bumps but no barra . Monday morning came around fairly fast and the morning was fogged in so we potted around and got organised .We headed up the dam and spotted a shallow tree lined hump in the middle of a bay ,it was decided upon to pepper this for awhile on My second cast the Arafura Barra in silver and black markings was belted a fish we estimated to be close to a metre jumped in to air after a short but brief tussle it threw the lure ...That was enough to get the blood pumping ,after a bit more work Jeff finally put one in the boat a lovely fish of 780 cm a small fish for this dam but happy to get one just the same over the course of the day we ran in to Warren Steptoe he was working some shallow bays down the back of the dam we followed suit but only had a few strikes . it was then that I remembered a bay that I fished last year it was protected from the elements and the water temperature was few degrees warmer than it was in the main basin .The bank was quite steep with lots of large trees laying in the water Peter and Jeff love this stuff but I was a little apprehensive throwing my lures right up in to this Jungle ...but this is where Pete hooked the next fish it slammed his lure like it was its last meal ,the boat was guided away with the electric and he was able to fight the fish clean in deep water but it didn't stop the barra from trying its hardest to get back to the snag after a short struggle a bronzed thick shouldered bruiser was in the net it went 890 cm Both Fish were tagged and released .Jeff got belted by a huge fish as well but never hooked up ,although not a lot of fish were caught it was still rewarding to have caught something. The weather patterns were just starting to show some signs of stability but on the Monday night the wind changed direction to the S/W and shut the dam down we tried for a few hours on Tuesday but the water temp had dropped significantly .All in all the place is definitely worth some more research in the warmer months and the company was terrific .I dont think I have been sledged that much in my whole life !!! .Pete I promise to practice closing my tackle box and keeping the floor tidy in the boat .It was good to see you all at Yeppoon ,lets try and get some more trips like this happening before and after the AGM anyone is elcome to join in ..believe me it is a hoot !!! . Tight lines and burnt thumbs **GAZZA**



Barra Virgins No More

By Raymond De Lai

Can you guess whose barra is bigger? Read the story to find out the answer.



Ward Nicholas



Raymond De Lai

Recently I invited Ward Nicholas to come fishing in the Herbert River with me. I enticed Ward by telling him that last time I fished the area we were going to, I caught 3 decent sized sooty's (sooty grunter) in my first 5 minutes of fishing and that there was a real prospect of catching barra.

Now keep in mind that I had not yet caught a barra on fly (not for lack of trying) and Ward had not caught a wild barra (that's right – fish farm barra don't count) – we were barra virgins. By the time this fishing trip was over, I would lose the tag of barra virgin, and Ward would gain the title of barra whore.

After meeting in Ingham, we drove west to the fishing location. You will note that I'm not giving details about the fishing spot. That's because I'm under strict instructions by the farmer not to reveal the location under threat of not being allowed back. And as much as I like the members of NQFF, you're not worth losing such a top fishing spot over!

I had my rod set up (7wt) and got off fishing straight away amongst some good snags on the other side of the river. Ward took 5 minutes longer to set up his 9wt and started fishing 10m upstream from me.

He managed to catch 2 sooty's in 5 minutes. He then generously let me fish his spot where we had a double hook-up on sooty's. The sooty's were real thumpers and used the current to their advantage. But the best thing was that there were a school of them and we could see them, which meant sight casting to them. We both landed sooty's in the next section of the river before we got to a medium-sized deep waterhole. I positioned myself near an old tree laying in the water, and

had a barra miss my fly as I pulled it out for a backcast. Meanwhile, Ward was landing another thumper sooty. I noticed several barra following my fly right to my feet. They were touching it with their noses, but just wouldn't take the fly. After about 20 minutes of follows from barra's I let Ward know they were there. It answered his question of why I wasn't moving on!

There were tarpon everywhere, so I gave up on the slow twitchy barra retrieve to try and catch a tarpon. I cast out, and stripped the fly back quickly, and caught my largest tarpon yet (about 30cm). I don't like touching the slimy buggers, so I tried to jump it off which it wouldn't do. After unhooking it, I cast out again, and started stripping the fly back quickly, and again I had something on. I figured it was another tarpon, and tried to jump it off again. That was until a barra came leaping out, attached to my line. Suddenly I was a little more anxious, but I eventually got the barra to the bank. My first barra on fly, I couldn't wait to get a photo, except the barra had other ideas. Once unhooked, it twitched out of my hands, and flopped down the steep bank back into the water.

Ward decided it was time to join me, and within 5 minutes had his first wild barra on fly. After his obligatory photo, he passed the barra over to me so I could get a photo with his barra.

We then both missed numerous barra and tarpon hits before Ward hooked onto a barra of around 65cm. After a minutes fight, it spat the fly back out. Numerous hits and misses followed before Ward caught another small barra, and I busted a leader on another. The sun had nearly gone and it was time to go home.

The wrap up saw Ward catch 6 sooty's (yellow clouser #2) and 2 barra (sparkle clouser #2), to my 3 sootys (yellow and chartreuse clouser #2), 1 tarpon (rubber band fly #2), and 1 barra (rubber band fly). We had hits and follows on pretty well any fly used, but they needed to be changed every 5 minutes as the fish got used to them.

Lessons learnt: the barra and tarpon came on at 5.00pm. The barra would hit only on a fast retrieve. The barra would hit the fly in the split second pause between strips. We found that we needed to keep changing flies to keep the barra interested – it didn't seem to matter what fly was used, but a sinking one helped. I have never seen anything like this (fast retrieves for barra, and the fish not being put off the bite as fish were caught and released), and feel that it was a combination of the hot water temperature (30'C), the time of day, the storm's building, the second really hot day of spring, and that they were competing with the tarpon for food. It demonstrates the need to vary the stripping technique, and change flies, to find the fish on the day.



Raymond De Lai with a nice Mangrove Jack taken on fly on a recent trip to the freash water of the Herbert River



Eric Moller

By Vic McCristal

Eric Moller was born at Childers near Bundaberg and as a child received his education at a small school at Kilkivan near Kingaroy. During his youth he developed a close affinity for the bush, its trees, streams and wildlife. As a young married man things were not always easy in Queensland some 60 odd years ago and Eric worked at everything and anything to support his wife and six children. He hand cut timber in remote country towns worked long hours cutting sugar cane and battled the wind and waves working on a professional fishing boats. A lifetime spent outdoors left him the legacy of a skilled hand and sharp eye. Eric was also an excellent marks man with a rifle and except for two years serving for his country in the Australian Army he lived all his life in north Queensland.

Eric the amateur angler accepted the principles of sportfishing as basic ethics. On his first fishing trip with Vic McCristal after suffering a stroke, the

first fish Eric caught was a mangrove jack of barely legal size. Eric undoubtedly needed the fish at home but he unhooked it and slipped it back in the water, speaking gently to the fish: "You're a bit small old mate" he did this without thinking. Courtesy to fish was as natural to him as breathing.

Eric Moller became the first Honorary Life Member of the Australian National Sportfishing Association on the strength of that philosophy and attitude. He was the classic example of what a true sportsman should be: the kind of man other's admire and respected.

Whether other fishermen follow his principals or not they had no argument about the way he designed and built lures. Moller lures became a classic pattern and Eric fostered their acceptance and developed the hobbyist lure business by giving them away to many a novice lure fisherman.

Eric Moller Award



Picture from Warren Steptoe



Ronald Kitchener Dempster

By Marina Hoare

There is written an old adage, “That our God dose not deduct from the span of a man’s life the hours spent fishing”. This would go some way in explaining the long and fruitful life of our friend, our mate, and our mentor – Ron Dempster.

Affectionately known to many as just “Demo”

For fishing was one of Demo’s greatest passions and as one of his long time associates and close friend said “Demo was a fisherman’s fisherman”

Many within the fishing fraternity were first introduced to the man though his writings and musings in national fishing magazines under the name R.K. Dempster very formal in those times but back the a statement . His writings watersheds of the mighty Mitchell and Walsh Rivers with his father and cousin Stanley chasing sooty grunter, barramundi and of course his beloved “spotties” (Archer Fish).

Many of these stories were to later appear in précis form in what came to be known as “Demo’s Diaries” a segment in the publication “Queensland Fishing Monthly”.

This title itself a statement highlighting over time the acceptance and endearment of a man within the broader fishing community.

But Demo not only wrote about fishing experiences, he was in turn written about.

Not so much for his fishing skills for as he would freely admit he was “just an average fisherman” but for the principles and beliefs he held regarding the sport of fishing. It is well documented his relationship with the likes of Gerald Cook, Hamar Midgely and Vic McCristal and their successful endeavours in raising both the importance and conservation. However Ron was a statesman and every opportunity he passionately pursued the principles of the pastime he loved.

The dedication plus his wealth of practical fishing knowledge and the ability to express this knowledge in logical terms was to see Ron represent fishers at both club and state level, both within and outside of the Sportfishing movement.

Ron was invited to sit on the committee which overviews the Burns Inquiry into recreation fishing and was known there for logical lines of reasoning for what were quite often complex situations.

Many of today’s fishing regulations governing recreational fishing can be attributed to Ron’s persistence in his beliefs and the ability he had in demonstrating those principals. He may not have actually written the word, or coined the phrase, but he did influence those at an early age who would later become decision makers of the future.

But everyone had to start somewhere, and Ron’s official sportsfishing started in 1971 with the Marybrough Sportsfishing Club. From details of those early years

given by his mates Ron Kinghorn, Bob Colishaw and Don Boneham, Demo made major contribution to the club by bringing both experience and wisdom. He was a steady hand.

Ron and his good mate Col Kinbacher (the BBB) owned an island in the Great Sandy Straits on which they build the now famous “Humpy”. Many a Marybrough Sportfishing Club outing and ANSA State Executive Meeting has been held there, and those who were fortunate enough to visit the Humpy with Demo would know just how much he loved the place.

Many ANSA members first met Ron at the State Wide Meeting held in Yepoon. This event was one of Demos strongest wishes and he lobbied hard with fellows like Dave Donald and Bill Sawynok to see such a meeting come to fruition. It did and has been held every year since 1979.

Of course, there have been some epic challenges of wits at these meetings between Demo and the likes of Porter, O’Sullivan, Theofanes and Nissan.

Demo would always score a point’s win with verses from his beloved Omar Khayyam

“ah, fill the cup:- what boots it to repeat,
How time is slipping underneath our feet
Unborn tomorrow and dead yesterday
Why fret about them, if today be sweet!”

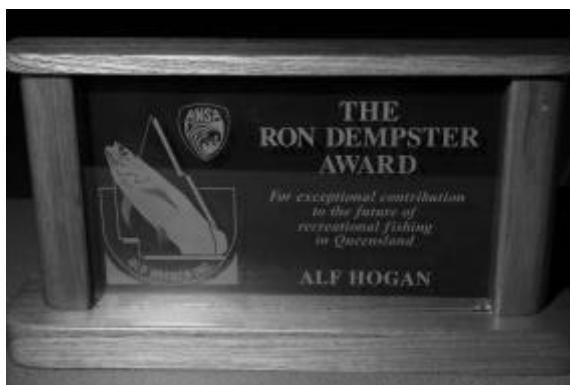
Ron has been honored by ANSA with a Life Membership to the State Branch. The Ron Dempster Memorial Award, for outstanding contribution to Sportfishing, is named in his honour.

Ron’s physical presence has left the rank of ANSA and his principles are ageless, and instilled in everyone with whom he came in contact.

As he wrote in one of his last articles-

“The moving finger writes and having writ...
The time has come to this old scribe to quit.”

Ron Dempster Award



Picture from Warren Steptoe

Any club or member requiring more information on either award can contact any member of the executive we would be more than happy to help.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION
Queensland Branch Inc.
STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2006-2007 Summer
LIGHT TACKLE
Official Results

TEAM RESULTS	Team No:	Name	Points	Score
HIGHEST SCORING TEAM	Bundaberg SFC	Greg Vary	1005.24	2479.9
		Jeff Lund	921.16	
		Darryl Lindeman	553.5	
	Keppel Bay SFC	Andrew Lane	1821.8	1821.8
		Bill Bowtell	0	

TEAM RESULTS	Team No:	Name	Points	Score
HIGHEST SCORING JUNIOR TEAM	Townsville Saltwater Sportsmans	Tyneal Hammond	284	610
		Jessica Hammond	326	
	Burdekin Recreation SFC	Hyden Schneider	97.16	112.627
		Daniel Schneider	15.467	

RESULTS	Place	Name	Score
SENIOR MALE	1	Andrew Lane Keppel Bay SFC	1821.8
	2	Andrew Davies Maryborough SFC	1253.75

SENIOR FEMALE	1	Helen Johnson Townsville Salties SFC	840.7
	2	Elle Hodge Bundaberg SFC	579.2

JUNIOR MALE	1	Ryan Aspinall Weipa SFC	497.2
	2	Joshua Hodge Bundaberg SFC	276

JUNIOR FEMALE	1	Jessica Hammond Townsville Salties SFC	326
	2		

SUB-JUNIOR MALE	1	Hayden Schneider Burdekin Rec. SFC	97.16
	2	Daniel Schneider Burdekin Rec. SFC	15.467

SUB-JUNIOR FEMALE	1	Tyneal Hammond	Townville Salties SFC	284
	2			

TAGGING	1	Warren Ferrington	Keppel Bay SFC	138
	2	Jamie Chapel	Burdekin Rec. SFC	71

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION
Queensland Branch Inc.
STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2006-2007 Summer
STANDARD TACKLE
Official Results

TEAM RESULTS	Team No:	Name	Points	Score
HIGHEST SCORING TEAM	Weipa SFC	Gavin Wust	257.4	747.5
		Steve Wust	318.5	
		Elle Wust	171.6	
	Weipa SFC	Jenny Flavel	301.8	593.5
		Luke Hilton	291.7	

TEAM RESULTS	Team No:	Name	Points	Score	
HIGHEST SCORING JUNIOR TEAM	Keppel Bay SFC	Jamie Wooton	143	143	

RESULTS	Place	Name	Score	
SENIOR MALE	1	Ron Willett	Keppel Bay SFC	449.6
	2	John Turner	Army SFC	436.8

SENIOR FEMALE	1	Jenny Flavel	Weipa SFC	301.8
	2	Ros Ollermann	Cardwell SFC	76.625

JUNIOR MALE	1	Steve Wust	Weipa SFC	318.5
	2	Jamie Wooton	Keppel Bay SFC	143

JUNIOR FEMALE	1	Elle Wust	Weipa SFC	171.6
	2			

SUB-JUNIOR MALE	1			
	2			

SUB-JUNIOR FEMALE	1			
	2			



Some of the Women who fished the State Titles with a collection of Golden Trevally, Giant Trevally and Tarpon. Lt to Rt Terri Hanlon, Leanne Hammond and Helen Johnson



Gary Ransom, Shane Fisher and Reg Jackson From the Townsville Salties, holding some of their fish taken at the State Titles
A mixed bag of Trevally, Salmon and Barracuda.



Jessica and Tyneal Hammond with some lovely fish taken for the State Titles. Jessica holding a Giant Herring and Trevally while Tyneal captured a Tarpon and Trevally.

**AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION
Queensland Branch Inc.**

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2006-2007 Summer

**Light Tackle Family Team
Official Results**

Winner	Hodge Family	Bundaberg SFC	1213 points
Runner Up	Aspinall Family	Weipa SFC	894.6

**AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION
Queensland Branch Inc.**

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2006-2007 summer

**Standard Tackle Family Team
Official Results**

Winner	Wust Family	Weipa SFC	600.3 Points
Runner Up			

**AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION
Queensland Branch Inc.**

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2006-2007 Winter

**All Tackle Division
Official Results**

Angler	Club	Species	Points
Winner Wayne Stenning	Kingaroy SFC	2	300
Runner up John Turner	Army SFC	1	150

The formula held by the State Events Co-ordinator noted in the rulebook was used to work out the winner of this division. .

BRISBANE SPORTFISHING CLUB 2007 INTERCLUB COMPETITION



**This event continues to grow becoming the premier ANSA
Tournament in SE Qld**

Great Location We are back at T the Naval Cadet's Base (TS Koopa) again. It is adjacent to the Spinnaker Sound boat ramp just before the Bribie Bridge and provides us with a stack of space with a full kitchen, table and chairs, dormitory style accommodation divided into about 6 rooms, showers and toilet etc. plus a large secure area for boat parking.

Dates March 2nd, 3rd and 4th 2007 are the chosen dates for the competition weekend. Ibad weather foils us, we will fall back to march 30th, 31st and April 1st for the event.

Rules There has been some changes to the rules to update the event and to keep the emphasis on Fishing & Socialising. There is also a revised Trophy list and also **Inshore and Offshore Tagging** sections that can be fished on a **non line-class** basis. See our website www.brisbanesportfishingclub.com.au for more info.

Accomodation You can stay in one of the bunks (some are a little small) or roll out your swag in one of the various rooms inside. There is stacks of room and everyone will be made to feel welcome. We can even allocate your Club its own room if you prefer. Accomodation with free breakfast is \$5.00 for both nights. Juniors are free.

Cost \$25 per Senior Nomination. This is great value as you get a spool of Platypus pre-test line and other goodies. Lat year's goodies bag had a value of around \$40.00 plus you get a free BBQ lunchtime Sunday for the draw and presentation. There will be hot food available for sale on the Friday & Saturday nights. I am sure you will agree this represents excellent value. Family Prices to be advised soon.

This is advance notice so you can work it into your Club's Calendar of events!

More Information to follow soon.

Or Contact Jeremy Arnold on 3357 5113 ah or 0414 779 107 mob.



OUR LATEST MASTER
ANGLERS
FOR THE 2006-2007 SEASON
QUEENSLAND MASTERS

ANGLER	MASTERS	CLUB
Ian Cross	S/F 10	Army SFC
Robert Fretwell	S/F 10	T'ville Salties
Dave Marsh	S/F 20	Brisbane SFC
Steve Slobodzian	S/F 10	Brisbane SFC
Paul Jensen	S/F 10	Sunshine Coast
Jessica Hammond	S/F 10 Junior	T'ville Salties SFC



Jessica Hammond of the T'ville Salties with a possible State and National Tarpon of 640 gms on 1 kg in the Junior Land Base Gamefishing.



Jessica Hammond with another pending record of a Giant Herring of 1.20 kg on 1kg for Junior Sportfishing.

NATIONAL MASTERS



ANGLER	MASTERS	CLUB
Ian Cross	S/F 10	Army SFC
Robert Fretwell	S/F 10	T'ville Salties
Helen Johnson	S/F 50	T'ville Salties
Dave Marsh	S/F 20	Brisbane SFC
Steve Slobodzian	S/F 10	Brisbane SFC
Kevin Behrens	Freshwater Impoundment 10	Brisbane SFC
Kevin Behrens	Land Based G/F 10	Brisbane SFC
Kevin Behrens	Flyfishing 10	Brisbane SFC
Paul Jensen	S/F 10	Sunshine Coast
Terri Hanlon	Lure/C 10	T'ville Salties
Jessica Hammond	S/F 10 Junior	T'ville Salties SFC

As you can see the start of the season has got of to a very busy time for Terri with all these master coming in for processing. Kevin Behrens completing some very interesting Masters, namely the Freshwater Impoundment masters and the Land Based Gamefishing. This is only the second Flyfishing Masters to come through in the past 3 years.



Tyneal Hammond with Tarpon of 760 gm on 1 kg for a possible Gamefishing record for a Junior



Shane Griffiths with another Cobia of 28.15kg taken on 8 kg for a possible National Sportfishing Record.



Shane Griffiths from the Queensland Sportfishers holding a Black Spot Tusk Fish weighing in at 7.43 kg taken on 8 kg for a possible State and National S/F record.



Shane Griffiths with a Cobia of 21.75 kg taken on 3 kg for a possible National Gamefishing Record.



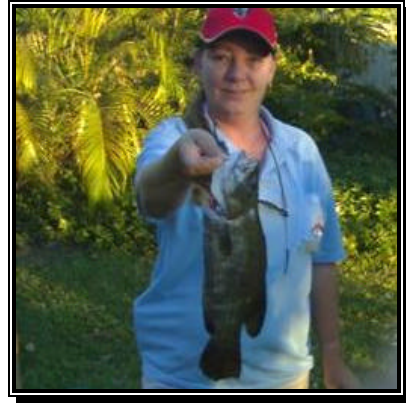
John Tuner from the Army SFC with a Golden Trevally of 11.65 kg taken on 4 kg for a possible State and National G/F record



Graham Weston with Dog Tooth Tuna taken at Christmas Island. Weighing in at 20.5 kg taken on 15 kg for possible National Gamefishing Record.



Darryl Linderman from the Bundeberg SFC with a Lure caught Cow Tail Ray of 5.75 kg on 2kg line record pending line test.



Wendy Thomson with a new All Tackle Record Sand Bass of 540 gms

Townsville Challenge Results North Queensland 2006

Champion Club Over All (Wincomb Carson Shield)

Townsville Salties	915.40
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Champion Townsville Club (Army Shield)

Townsville Salties	2323.53
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Champion Visiting Club

Burdekin Recreational	298.6
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Champion Team Over All and Champion Senior Female Team

Club		Score
Townsville Salties		
1	Wendy Thompson	271.20
2	Helen Johnson	290.00
3	Terri Hanlon	306.6

Champion Senior Male Team

Club		Score
Townsville		
1	Bryan Voevoclin	199.20
2	Gary Dunkley	478.00
3	Trevor Fuller	166.3

Champion Junior Team

Club		Score
Townsville Salties		
1	Jessica Hammond	318.00
2	Tyneal Hammond	141.00
3	Louis Ruddell	125.50

Champion Angler Overall

Points	Angler	Club
478.00	Gary Dunkley	Townsville

Champion Male Angler

	Points	Angler	Club
1	478.00	Gary Dunkley	Townsville
2	316.60	Shane Fischer	Townsville Salties

Champion Female Angler

	Points	Angler	Club
1	306.6	Terri Hanlon	Townsville Salties
2	290.00	Helen Johnson	Townsville Salties

Champion Junior Male Angler

	Points	Angler	Club
1	28.00	Dave Rowbottom	Townsville
2			

Champion Junior Female Angler

	Points	Angler	Club
1	318.00	Jessica Hammond	Townsville Salties
2			

Champion Sub Junior Male Angler

	Points	Angler	Club
1	125.50	Louis Ruddell	Townsville Salties
2			

Champion Sub Junior Female Angler

	Points	Angler	Club
1	141.00	Tyneal Hammond	Townsville Salties
2	22.20	Natasha Bosworth	Townsville Salties

Fly Fishing Champion

Points	Angler	Club
14.00	Bob Avery	Army

Tagging Champion

Points	Angler	Club
141.00	Jamie Chapel	Burdekin Recreational

Most Meritorious Capture

Species	Line	Angler	Club
Diamond Trevally	3	Daniel Knight	Army

TOWNSVILLE CHALLENGE 06



The winners of the **TOWNSVILLE CHALLENGE FOR 2006** were the **TOWNSVILLE SALTWATER SPORTSMANS SFC.**

Taking out majority of the awards.

The **ARMY SHIELD – CHAMPION TOWNSVILLE CLUB** as well as the **CHAMPION CLUB OVER ALL** winning the **WINCOMBER CARSON SHEILD**



SALTIES CLUB also took out 2 of 3 teams events, with the **WOMENS TEAM** of Helen Johnson, Wendy Thomsen and Terri Hanlon accumulating enough points to take out **CHAMPION TEAM OVERALL**, beating the Townsville SFC



The **JUNIOR TEAM** from **SALTIES** Jessica and Tyneal Hammond with Louis Ruddell fished well for a good bag of mixed fish to take out their section.



Bryan Voevoclin and Gary Dunkley two members of the winning mens team



Daniel Knight winner Most Meritorious Capture



Bob Avery Flyfishing Champion with a nice Barra taken on a recent trip to the Herbert River



THE ROWLEY SHOALS by Rob Amos

Upon our arrival in Broome, Peter Wood and I were greeted by a 30 knot easterly that heightened our fears that the trip might see some uncomfortable conditions. However by the time our team of 6 anglers boarded Reel Teaser for the 17 hour trip from Broome to the Rowley shoals conditions had settled to a 5-8 knot breeze which turned out to be as hard as it would blow all week. Reel Teaser is an impressive boat, a 52 ft ocean blaster that was sturdy, quiet and had all the mod cons. The tackle arsenal was first class with top of the range Shimano gear including 20, 50 & 80 Tiagras, Stellar 10&20,000`s, Calcuttas and Gary Howard custom rods. We caught first sight of Clerke reef early next morning and were greeted by a number of whales putting on quite a show. Our plan for the day was to troll outside Clerke in search of Sailfish, have lunch in the lagoon at midday then popper fish in the afternoon utilising the two 5 meter boats left anchored in the lagoon after the previous charter.

Ross Newton our skipper indicated that the Sails had been a bit quiet at Clerke but as everyone was keen to catch one, we decided to give it a go. Reel Teaser prefers to use teasers and switch bait for sails, a concept I had not seen in action before. Although the teasers were constantly being attacked, the sails were not present. To break any monotony a lure would go out that was duly smashed by a yellowfin up to 25 kg or a Wahoo of around 12-15 kg, so everyone was kept entertained.

After negotiating the narrow entrance to the lagoon we unfortunately found that one of the boats was upside down! Between us all we were able to right the boat, drain it, strip the motor, replace battery and plugs etc and to our amazement within 5 hours had it up and running again – great add for Yamaha 4 strokes! At this stage we all felt like cooling off so we decided to have a snorkel over the coral and in through the entrance channel. This proved to be an awesome experience with 60 meter + visibility and finding ourselves in amongst huge schools of 20 kg Double Hump Wrasse, hundreds of Black Trevally, Sharks and various reef fish, not to mention the resident Barracuda that was estimated at about 35 kg !

Next day we tried for sails again in the morning but the only success was on Wahoo, Jobfish, Rainbow Runners, Barracuda and Yellowfin when the lures went out. After lunch we had a great session popper fishing in crystal clear water about 3-4meters deep inside the lagoon, catching Coral Trout, Coral Cod, Long Nosed Emperor, Variegated Emperor, Black Trevally,

Bluefin Trevally, Giant Trevally, Flowery cod, Sharks and Red Bass. I was impressed that my homemade poppers out fished the Halco`s!



That night we anchored outside the reef to do some bottom fishing and try for a Dogtooth tuna. Dropping any bait or jig to the bottom was immediately rewarded with a hook-up and the challenge was to then get the fish up before the Sharks dined out. High speed jigging after dark produced Black Trevally, Barracuda, Jobfish, Rainbow Runners and Sharks but no Dogtooth.

Next morning we steamed down to Imperious reef 20 Nm`s to the south in



the hope of finding the Sailfish. Not long after arriving we found large schools of panicking Long Toms and Spinner Dolphins, a sure sign of Sails at Rowley.

It didn't take long for the action to start and Ross and his crew certainly had us well drilled in the switch baiting technique. Each time a fish was raised we would end up

with 3 or 4 sails hooked up. This obviously caused some mayhem and many fish were lost but the excitement was electric... Switch baiting certainly works and I am keen to try the technique here in SE Qld.

After lunch we decided to popper fish from Reel Teaser casting back towards the reef from the outside. This was another great session with the highlight for me being a GT of about 15 kg

During this session we were smashed up by some fish I could only describe as refrigerators. Other new species encountered were Tiger Trout and Hump Head Maori Wrasse.

We anchored up outside Imperious reef for the night and after a feed of fresh coral trout prepared for dogtooth fishing. The two main methods we used for catching dogtooth were to high speed jig luminous lures, or to use live flying fish. The flying fish were obtained by using a small net and catching them like butterflies as they flew past the lights at the back of the boat (great fun in itself). I was lucky enough to nail the only dogtooth for the trip, at only about 10 kg's not a big fish but still a doggie. We had some huge runs during the session but could not stay connected. Ross had some amazing stories of some of their dogtooth encounters.



Next day saw more Sailfish, Wahoo, Yellowfin, Jobfish, Rainbow Runners, Barracuda and a huge Mac Tuna .Late in the afternoon we motored the 20 miles back to Clerke .



We were all keen to have another session on the poppers, so that was the plan after breakfast. This session turned out to be the highlight of the trip. For nearly four hours each cast produced either a follow, strike or hookup. At times we were catching 2 or even 3 fish (of a different species) on the one lure!

If we needed a spell from casting we would just troll our poppers a short distance and strikes were inevitable. My most productive homemade popper was smashed by a large GT and lost in the coral, only to find it floating a few minutes later minus the trebles. No huge fish were landed but the continuous action and variety kept us more than interested.





After lunch we had a couple of hours left before starting the journey back to Broome, so we decided to troll lures about 200 meters off the reef. This was another great session, glassy seas and wall to wall Wahoo and Yellowfin.

It was tough leaving the Rowleys but to a man we were all thoroughly satisfied with the fishing experience and the natural beauty of the place. I couldn't speak more highly of the boat and in particular Ross Newton and his crew.

Burrum Heads Revisited by Jeremy Arnold

About 18 months ago we did a club trip up to Burrum Heads. There were about 10 club members from Brisbane plus a couple more from Southern Brisbane. We did quite well on that trip and I was looking forward to going back. This trip was for Koula and I to get in some time away together before the new arrival.

Burrum Heads is located between Hervey Bay and Bundaberg and is just under 300 km drive North of Brisbane. It is located at the mouth of the Burrum River and is a lovely, quiet seaside town, although I must say that there is a lot of development happening there now.

We were staying in a large riverfront house with our two dogs. You just can't beat the sunset over the water and being close to the beach for walks.



I had the boat with me and did fish most days, but apart from the Sunday, which was our first full day, I wasn't able to get out the front due to strong winds. This was a stark contrast to the earlier club trip which was a glass out. I fished the Burrum 8 mile on the Sunday for a couple of hours early, and although there were plenty of fish there

going by the sounder, it was very quiet apart from some very active whales. I headed back in to the river mouth about 7 am and managed to find some surface activity. There were several different schools going and I soon had a small Watson's leaping bonito on board. I put the 3 kg gear away and

pulled out the 2 kg gear to get some points for the State Titles. Next thing a school of mack tuna popped up next to the boat and I hooked up. The fight took two hours for me to get it boatside as it was tail wrapped, and I was fishing solo. I finally managed to grab the double and the bloody Albright parted! I went back the 2 km or so to where I had hooked up and managed to get another bonito on the 2 kg line and another mack tuna on 3 kg before the wind got up.

The rest of the week was spent in the river. The tides are quite large (around 3m difference from high to low) and the system is full of islands and sandbanks. The boat ramps are difficult/impossible to use at low tide due to the drop at the end of the ramp. There are also a number of rock bars a few km upstream, only one of which I managed to 'find' during the week! I fished from the mouth to the deep hole above Buxton, mainly using live herring. There were heaps of yabbies but they were all really small.



There were far fewer flathead than I would have expected given the time of year and structure of the system. I did manage to catch a gold spot cod, queenfish and on the last day a small broad bar Spanish mackerel, which were all new species for me. There were plenty of small gold spot cod around the rock bars, and I found that the queenfish like fast running water.



I also saw some tarpon rolling on the surface up at Buxton but they refused to take my lures. In general though the fishing was slow and hard work. Apparently there were plenty of mackerel and trevally in the river the previous few weeks, but they must have moved

back out with the bait.

Anyway, we had a great holiday. Might have to go back again next year. Should be a lot easier next time around now that I have a number of spots both inside the river and outside.

Photos:

1. mack tuna and Watson's leaping bonito
2. queenfish 1.5 kg 61 cm
3. broad bar mackerel 2.0 kg 71 cm

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