

# Eric Moller Award Nomination 2021

## Brian Fleming

Nomination by Keppel Bay Sports' Fishing Club Executive (Excluding Brian!)

Brian has been a dedicated and ongoing member of the Keppel Bay Sports Fishing Club from about 1997. Brian has held the position of Club Captain for at least 14 years, and filled those duties without fail. His on-going and meaningful contributions to the well-being of KBSFC, his continuous participation, his leading by example have made him the corner-stone of Keppel Bay Sports' Fishing Club.

Within the club, **Brian fishes open water, estuaries and freshwater. He is a leading tagger of fish.** When line-class ruled in the club, Brian fished 4kg and less in his favourite weekend escape, Corio Bay. If not winning those competition categories, he placed second or third to those who fished estuary exclusively. His expertise in navigating the extensive rocks and moving shallow sandbars of Corio Bay is regularly shared with others, young and old. He frequently takes members new and old, juniors, visitors, women and children for a day on Corio Bay. Explaining all the way where rock bars are, how sand bars have moved, where bait congregates and why, where target fish congregate through the tide and why, where prawn get isolated, and more. With those that share the ANSA values, he shares all.

Brian also has a passion for inland adventures and freshwater fishing, particularly Saratoga. He is always on the front line organising these social family away events at locations such as Cania Dam, Dawson River, Isaac River, Awoonga Dam and Mackenzie River. On these outings, Brian also brings those functional essentials – the fire pit, gazebos, a shared BBQ etc. so the group can gather and socialise when the fishing is done.

Fishing wide grounds is another passion of Brian's. His knowledge of wrecks and reefs and how and when to fish then is freely shared amongst members which he frequently invites on a trip with him, or as a tag-along. His "old school" approach to fishing for red emperor and coral trout with hand lines surprises many and shows up most. You learn so much in a day fishing with Brian.

In response to a recent Facebook 10-day fishing challenge to post one photo for ten days of yourself with a fish, Brian upped the ante by committing to, and delivering on his promise, to post photos over 10 days, each day with five people that have fished with him. From this it was clear to see the number of fishers of all ages and types which Brian has engaged with, spreading the values of ANSA.

**Club activities** are another place where Brian's presence and influence demonstrates ANSA values.

At club activities, he's the first to look after others. He keeps in touch with members, checking they are going OK. He calls in on members, or takes fish to those needing support. For away trips, he's the one that brings the group gazebo, BBQ, lights, bulk snags, fire pit. For club BBQ's, Brian often becomes the host, or when the BBQ is elsewhere, Brian is the person who jumps in to hold the tongs, getting the food organised and the people fed. If anyone asks "where is my child?", Brian knows. He has kept an eye on all the juniors and infants, to prevent trouble. He makes a point to check-in with everyone attending.

Brian just gets in a does stuff. For our Corio Bay Classic, Brian typically knocks off at noon Saturday, then leads the afternoon crew which prepares the function area, mowing, wiper snipping, clearing rubbish and supplying and erecting tents, tables, BBQ, esky etc. in preparation for 6am sign on Sunday. If he launches the boat on Sunday (comp day) it is primarily to ensure others negotiate the hazards of Corio safely and return to the ramp.

For the Yeppoon Coast Guard Tight Lines fundraising competitions, Brian was front and centre. Brian represented the club at committee meetings prior to the events. He led and coordinated the dead and live fish weigh-in on behalf of the club, being the arbiter and decision maker for contestants' disputes. He placed particular importance on the live weigh-in section, continuously improving processes, holding and release facilities and techniques each year and showing the way with fish handling to making sure fish were returned to the water unharmed. Brian was always first there to setup and last to leave.

**Within the community**, Brian represents the club and values of ANSA.

Brian heads a long-standing local business and uses his extensive network to support the club's activities, represent the club and negotiate outcomes in the pursuit of club aims, and assist youth generally and junior members specifically. His fishing knowledge is immense and openly shared with all members. His actions and values prevail to advance the principles of ANSA, ahead of his competitive spirit.

As owner of Seabreeze Marine, Brian is very generous in his support of the club and community activities. He has donated an outboard motor to Mackenzie River Fish Stocking Association for the last 12 years, outboards for boat motor packages to the Yeppoon Tight Lines Fishing Competition in support of the Keppel Bay Coast Guard, MotorGuide Electric motors for the KBSFC King of the Fitzroy, free maintenance of the Keppel Bay Coast Guard fleet and more.

The push to secure the Fitzroy delta and two other areas in Queensland as 'Net Free', became a heated and divisive debate in the fishing community. By putting Brian's "Seabreeze" business name as openly in support of the Nets Out campaign, his business was the only supporting business which faced a potential financial backlash. By taking this strong stance of support, Brian demonstrated his firm belief in the ANSA values of *Sport, Conservation and Integrity*.

While Brian claims to not like people, he is a great networker, communicator and respectful of others. In about 2008, the club supported JCU research on the effectiveness of local GBRMPA Green Zones. From that time until now, Brian has kept in touch with John and Hugo, and their research, and updates our club members. His contacts with professional fishermen, Qld Fisheries and GBRMPA officers, Coast Guard, and local business provides the club with awareness and perspective. It also provides a way to have the presence and values of ANSA reinforced to these groups.

As a club member, Brian is that glue and the voice of reason that smooths the waters in the club, presenting the other side, points for and against, acknowledging personal constraints with the aim of reaching realistic expectations and outcomes

### **More About Brian**

So, will Brian be present to accept this award? I don't know if the club can ensure that. He doesn't do that sort of stuff – recognition! Brian doesn't like fuss, or attention. There are other things Brian will not do. He will never accept petrol money for any trip, even a 100 - 150 km wide trip. He never drinks (or eats) on a wide boat trip. He never lets you go home without sharing the catch regardless of who caught what. He will rarely allow a photo of himself with fish.

But what we really admire about Brian is that he is not a naughty boy, far from it. Brian is all of the great things above. Brian's fishing abilities, his dedication and assistance to the Keppel Bay Sports' Fishing Club and adherence to and advocacy of the principles of ANSA deserves the recognition of the Eric Moller Award 2021.

This Nomination is endorsed by the following members of Keppel Bay Sports Fishing Club Executive:

Bruce Cowie (President)

Andy Graham (Vice President)

Marcus McCosker (Secretary)

Ron Willet (Treasurer)

Craig Thornton (Records Officer/Weigh Master)

Kev McCosker (Tagging Officer)

Nathen Johnston (Event Coordinator / Publicity)

Anthony Walsh (Committee Member)