

SINGLETON FLY FISHING CLUB INC. 2002

PROMOTING THE ART OF FLY FISHING IN THE HUNTER VALLEY NSW



YOUR 2012 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Newsletter- July 2012



For those of you who pay attention to detail you will notice with great joy (I hope) that the bi-monthly newsletter has come out after only a month and a bit.

Two things have contributed to this. Firstly fantastic member support (thanks Greg, Brian and Brad) and secondly that Christmas in July is worth a newsletter on it's own.

I haven't received an article yet on the July St Clair trip (hint,hint) but I have received some great photos. What a top weekend it was even though the fishing was a bit slow. Roughly 20 members attended over the weekend and socially I thought it was one of the club's best.

Thanks Mik for the way this weekend was organised and to all who participated.

Glenn O.

Singleton Fly Fishing Club meets on the first
Wednesday of each month at:-

Maitland City Bowling Club
14 Arthur Street
Rutherford
At 6.30pm

Singleton Fly Fishing Club Is Moving

At the May meeting it was decided to move the meeting location to Maitland. From the 6th June onward meetings will be held (starting at 6:30pm) in the “Conference Room” at:

Maitland City Bowling Club
14 Arthur Street
Rutherford



All club fishing outings will remain the same. Only the meeting venue has changed.

Check out the website for more information: <http://singletonflyfishingclub.com.au>
But where are all the fish you say, here they come!

June Outing- Lake St Clair 2012

(Article by Greg Hayman)

Friday afternoon saw two members arrive early and set up the camp. Thanks Brent Blackwell and Mick Elphick. New member Noel King arrived shortly after as well as Lachy and travelling from Sydney junior Zulu, Trevor Penfold .I arrived after 6.30pm due to a late finish at work.

The BBQ had just been turned off and the boys were settling down for a cold night. After dinner it got a bit nippy so I convinced them to light the fire, what a great idea. Much of the usual bull =shi ! was bandied around and it was soon time to retire to bed.

Saturday broke for us around 6.30am, well for me anyway and the others stirred not long after.

The plan was for Mick Elphick and me to take the two newbys with us, Darren Foster and Noel King who had boats. We tried one of my winter spots with no luck. Mick and Darren moved up to the wall on the Fallbrook arm and flogged it with vampires also without luck. We arrived there and after a short while I suggested we move right up the back of the arm and have a look as I hadn't been there since the tide went out in St Clair.

Upon arrival about 2km up from the eagles nest there was already a boat tied up to a tree cooking lunch. The guys were fairly tight lipped on what, if anything, they had caught so we threw a few vampires around the general area. The wind was proving a problem so we tucked behind some cover where Noel thinks he had a hit. Maybe wishful thinking but after the wind eased we had a great drift in 10 ft of water along a weed bed.

I cast up behind the only tree on that bank and finally a solid hook-up and after a short fight a 36 cm bass was netted. The boys in the other boat shouted I hate you Greg, just joking I think!

We decided to return to camp for lunch as nothing else was happening .Lachy and Brent had no luck early but Trevor banked a nice bass for his first on this trip. We made plans to fish later in the afternoon at Reedy Cove AKA the cattle race area. Trevor soon to join the Army decided a 5km jog would be a good idea to improve his fitness .Some might think a jogging suit and sneakers would be enough but Trevor stripped down to his shorts and joggers ,maybe trying to get used to the freezing weather at Canberra he will soon face.

The afternoon soon caught up to us and around 2.30 we departed this location and split up, Trevor going right and Noel and I left .

The weed was still very thick in most areas but we did find some likely spots to have a go. Vampires {pink of course} were our choice and after a prolonged effort I landed a nice bass. Maybe this was a sign of what was about to happen.

The sun was nearing the horizon and I always think this is the best time in winter to start fishing. Suddenly things changed and a large caddis moth hatch happened as well as midges and this turned the fish on. Many of the rises I think were silver perch but a few familiar boofs sounded near us .A change of fly was in order so on went a black and red (that's what I call it) and what a great idea. Bang, a large hit and I was on.

The eight weight bent over to the max and the 12 pound tippet was well and truly tested. The bass felt all of my power and decided he wanted the upper hand and took off to the weed where he buried himself and the fish was lost .Noel not having fished with the fly before said it looked like a big one. Oh well fish one Greg nil. The rising fish eased but a few more strikes and a couple of missed fish from me and Noel before I put another on the bank.



Trevor had joined us by now and he had two bust offs in consecutive casts before landing a nice bass around 35cm .Dark had arrived and after gathering some more firewood we headed back .

The guys from Hunter Native Fish were at St Clair for the weekend and joined us around the fire for some fish talk. They were using lures all day without a single hit. Lure fisherman nil, Fly fisherman 3.Mick and Brent still no fish.

Sunday morning was again cool with no breeze so we went and tried near twin soaks and behind caretakers to no avail.

Brent headed north to Lemon Tree Bay and Trevor, Noel and I went back to the Cattle yards but in a different area.

The weed there was close to the bank in deep water so we again chose vampires .Three or four minutes passed before a shout of I'm on from Trevor and his 8 weight was being stretched to the limit .The fish had the upper hand at first but Trevor being a seasoned fly fisherman turned him and guided him over the weed and onto the bank. Well done- 40cm of plump bass.



Noel's wife was waiting at home and as he had promised to be home just after lunch he made a final cast, probably his best for the weekend. Suddenly a solid hook-up and I could see that slightly panicked look on his

face of what I do now. Lift the rod high and hang on I shouted

Noel proved to be quick learner and after a few false attempts by the bass to get into the weed he was turned and finally landed. A nice specimen of 30cm .The bass virgin club of which Noel was a member sometimes takes a few outings to get out of but maybe the expert coaching from Trevor and I was all Noel needed. Well done Noel.

We all said that was good time to finish-up so back to camp to pack up and return home.

A note for the future. The water temperatures throughout the dam varied from 11.5 near the dam wall no go zone to 18 at the Eagles Nest and this I think may have accounted for the lack of fish on this trip. June/ July will correct this and the fish will be more aggressive as the weed should mostly have died off by then and this should prove to be a good reason to go to the next two outings.

See you all there.

Greg Hayman
May Trip coordinator



Not from this trip but what a great bass. Well done Greg!

New Zealand South Island Odyssey

(Article by Brian Quinn)

Southland and the Mataura River in March 2012.

Our group of five met Gavin Hurley at Christchurch and were transported to our cabin in Athol that was to be our accommodation for the seven days of fishing the Southland. Gavin Hurley is the founder and owner of Pro-Angler which operate outlets in Victoria and NSW. Gavin centres his operations in Bentleigh Victoria, and offers guided trips to numerous locations.

See www.proangler.com.au

Gavin has been a strong supporter of the SFFC over many years and has sponsored our activities.

Fellow SFFC member, Stuart Beal along with Tony Stewart and Greg Hellsten from Victoria made up our normal group. We were returning, on another Pro-Angler trip to New Zealand's South Island in March to once again target the big Browns.

The Guides arrived on time the next morning and after locations were decided two anglers per guide departed.

Our allocated guide for the day was Len Prentice, who is an iconic part of the guiding history of NZ fly fishing. Len is well known not only on the NZ scene but internationally. He has guided some notable anglers of different nationalities in his time.

His little shop in Athol, south of Queenstown, was very popular with locals and was the place to visit for internationals. It was well known on the world fly fishing stage by the time Len retired and sold the business.

Having Len guide us for the day was one of the highlights of the trip to Southland. To accompany the master at work was a joy, and a learning experience.



Len guides infrequently now, but has two understudies who he has nurtured.

Graeme Watson and Daryl Paskell exhibit the same guiding skill and are a delight to share the river with.

The river knowledge and fish spotting skill of New Zealand guides is phenomenal and is testimony to the hard work and experience gained over many years.

Some negative press of recent times has criticised Australian groups for encroaching on the fishing localities by independent Australian fishermen acting as guides.

On all the trips I have done with Gavin Hurley of Pro-Angler, local guides have been employed for the majority of the fishing time. This supports the industry and more importantly gives the client the benefit of their skill and willingness to coach and instruct anglers on technique and river reading skills.

New Zealand fishing is so different to what we have in Australia that risking hard earned cash, paid out on equipment and travel, by going it alone could result in very poor fishing results. The scenery is some compensation but essentially I travel with my fly fishing gear to catch fish.



Our group experienced some tough times as NZ has experienced just as big a disruption in the weather patterns as we have in Australia over the last season.

Heavy rain in the headwaters caused the Mataura to colour up in the lower reaches but we did well up higher.

With the benefit of local knowledge the guides knew where best to go in these conditions, and took us to alternative locations where we caught some very nice Browns.

A number of rivers, in the higher reaches were fishable and if we travelled up and over the hill we also got amongst some nice Rainbows.



The week finished with clearer skies and we put on extra bedcovering when respectable morning frosts. Autumn was signalling its approach!

Taieri River or Clutha River?

After the week most of the group headed home but my plans were to keep me in the South Island for almost another three weeks.

With fond memories of the SFFC trip in December 2007 I was tempted to revisit some of the great locations we fished with Greg Dougherty when centred in Wanaka. We visited Lake Wanaka and Hawea, the Clutha River with its incredible head of fish, and the high altitude Nevis River.

A trophy Brown, missed in the Nevis, on that trip was like a magnet drawing me back.



2007 SFFC Group in Wanaka

Peter Sewell's recent trip report, when he revisited this area recently, supported that option but other places needed exploring.

The upper Taieri had caught my attention from a Flylife article. A three hour drive from Queenstown, east through Cromwell, Alexandra and Ranfurly took me to there.



The wide flat bottomed valley hosts the serpentine swings of the river and its many bends and oxbows that trace the changes that have occurred in the course of the river over time.

The Taieri originates from the tussock and gorge country spilling down from the Lammermoor Range to be complimented from the tussock bogs of the Rock and

Pillar Range on its path in a great loop of approx. 280km before reaching the Pacific, about 30km south of Dunedin.

Searching for accommodation in the area led me to Lammermoor Station run by John and Susan Elliot.

The accommodation was in a separate 3 bedroom house, fully equipped for self-catering stays and situated in an elevated location away from the main homestead. This provided a delightful view over the river valley from the covered veranda with its gas BBQ and outdoor table setting. Just the place to enjoy that evening drink.

The tussock fed river has the distinct tannin colouring, characteristic of this type of terrain.



High water levels greeted me and the flow was up but not unreasonable, however the bends and oxbows were completely full with a lot of water still lying in the paddocks from earlier inundations. This area demands a 4WD to safely negotiate the tracks when the conditions are like this.

The setting sun shimmering off these extensive waterways, surrounded by interesting rock formation on the higher ground, gave the view down the valley a surreal atmosphere where it was difficult to see the true course of the river.

Fishing was difficult and even though I sneaked along the banks ready to deploy a cicada close to the tussocks for the Browns I expected to see tucked in close, and searched with nymphs, I returned from the day without a touch.

Before daylight next morning saw me exploring one of the larger oxbows for tailing trout. The first fish swirled under my Guide Tag in a classic refusal, but the second took the black gnat without hesitation. The fight was on then to control his progress, which went well until he burrowed deeply in to the prolific weed beds along the shore and my net became entangled. Fish one Brian nil. His jumping display was energetic and I estimated him at about 3-4 lb. In the usual process of things once the sun was on the water the fish were gone. This reminded me so much of stalking tailers at dawn in the western lakes in Tasmania.

I was sad to farewell the Elliot family. They were very accommodating and such nice and sincere people. I would recommend their accommodation if you are contemplating the unique challenge of fishing for the beautifully coloured Browns in the tannin stained waters of the Upper Taieri.

<http://www.lammermoorstation.co.nz/>

Christchurch.

The flight out of Queenstown with the sweeping views of The Remarkables and Lake Wakatipu is stunning. Journeying north along the Southern Alps before swinging east across the Canterbury Plains showcases both the rugged and the cultivated terrain that makes New Zealand such a special place to visit.

You may have already deduced that the mountains have a special lure for me that I find is hard to resist. I surrender to this environment easily.

Martin Langlands lives in Darfield, about 45min drive west of Christchurch and he had allocated four days to guide me around his territory.

The Canterbury area has extensive fishing opportunities for both river and lake fly fishing. This was to be a chance for me to extend the limited time I had spent in this area last year.



The experience was enlightening.

Martin has an avid interest in entomology and replicates living nymphal insects, in his fly tying that very closely resemble the real thing.

His flies certainly catch fish.

He is passionate about his trout fishing and communicating that to others through his Fly Tying DVD and practices on the stream.

His Scottish heritage and close association with his father during his early years of fishing in Scotland, before coming to New Zealand, has instilled in him a great love of the outdoors and fishing.

<http://www.troutlands.com/troutlands.html>

We fished wide braided rivers, intimate streams and some rivers that closely resembled the southern chalk streams in the UK. This diversity was challenging but with Martin's persistent approach in having the right fly, of the right weight at the right depth, paid dividends in the end with some very nice fish brought to the net.



The pressure was on me from the start to cast accurately, present well and take control of the fish, in sometimes very tight waters. The experience was demanding but very satisfying when it all came together.

We laughed and commiserated when it did not happen, and jointly enjoyed analysing the action in an attempt to correct my faults.



Another beautiful Brown of 7 ½ lb. Needless to say, under Martin's instruction, I improved markedly as the days progressed.



A personal best Brown trout of 11 lb, well over the magic 10 lb, was the highlight of this trip. All these beautiful fish were released.

Christchurch Extended.

On the completion of my time with Martin three friends from Sydney were to join me for two days before we were to meet with the remainder of our group to travel to Owen River Lodge in the Nelson Region of the South Island.

The opportunity to flex the casting arm prior to Owen River was a strong incentive to get in two days of fishing based in the Canterbury Region.

We enjoyed good weather conditions and made the best of the time to fish a small stream, by NZ standards, for rainbows. This was about a two hour's drive to the northwest of Christchurch.

The easy walk along the river was a pleasure with the unique scenery providing a magnificent backdrop, however getting a successful take proved difficult.



This area has unusual jagged rock and chalk cliff structures thrust up at acute angles that have been caused by the tectonic plate fault line which runs through this area.

This was followed by a full day at Lake Pearson, a bit further up the valley. This lake has Rainbows and Browns and we managed to hook some but failed to land them. This area, which forms some of the Waimakariri River catchment, can hold some nice fish.

Hanmer Springs.

Our rendezvous with the remainder of the Owen River group was to be in Hanmer Springs. We arrived after lunch and as the others were not expected until after 6pm we decided to follow up on local information to “go over the hill” from Hanmer Springs and fish the Clarence River.



Low cloud blanketed the pass and as we negotiated the narrow winding road we wondered where we might end up. Good not to be able to see the roadside drop!!

Visibility improved as we descended from the pass, revealing a delightful tussock bordered river, in a flat bottomed valley.

Lovely glides and pools extended each way into the distance. Access was easy, as the road followed the river, so we were soon assembling rods in preparation for action.



This water was a delight to fish and Browns of a moderate size, approx. 2 lb, came to the net after taking both dries and nymphs.

This gave us more fishing exploits to regale the others with when we met at The Monteith Pub in Hanmer Springs for a cleansing ale and dinner that night.

We stayed at the Hanmer Inn Motel which is very comfortable and excellent for group bookings.

<http://www.hanmer.com/>

Our Owen River Exploits- This will have to be told in another article. Brian Quinn.

When you don't have a power point.

This is a cornucopia of the DC world we outdoors people need to know.

I picked it up along the way and sorry I don't know who to thank for this article, it is part of a series.

We'll start by having a brief look at the electrical systems of cars and trucks. These vehicles have one main battery (or, as with larger trucks, two batteries coupled together to function as one). The major role of this battery is to start the engine. The battery also powers an interior light, energises electric door locks, keeps the electric clock running (and enables the alternator to start charging when the engine first turns over), but negligible power is required for these tasks.

Once the engine has started, every single electrical need (ignition, fuel pump, lights, radio, air conditioner etc) is thenceforth supplied by the alternator.



To start the engine, the starter battery supplies a very high current, but as it only does so for a few seconds the energy typically drawn is that required to power a sidelight globe for less than an hour. The alternator replaces this energy in a few minutes, but only to the level where the battery can reliably restart the engine (70%-75% of full charge). The charge rate is then drastically reduced, to a level that is so low it will take ten to twelve hours for the battery to achieve 85% of full charge this is done so that the battery will not be overcharged in taxis, long distance transport vehicles etc where charging may continue virtually non-stop.

This reduced charge rate is just acceptable for a campervan that is driven several hours each day, but it is next to useless for camping where, (unless supplemented by other sources of energy) the batteries must supply sufficient electrical energy to supply all needs when the vehicle is stationary perhaps for several days.

The '**obvious**' cures of (a) fitting a larger alternator, and (b) fitting larger batteries, make less difference than one might reasonably expect. Regardless of battery or alternator capacity, a standard car/truck voltage regulator 'perceives' your alternator/ battery as a starting system and charges it accordingly, i.e. reasonably quickly to 70% - 75% charge. Unbelievably slowly thereafter.

At first sight this might not seem too bad: after all, you might reasonably say, 70% - 75% battery charge is close to three-quarters full. But it **IS** that bad - a battery cannot be safely discharged below 50 or so per cent, and if you do so its life will be drastically shortened, typically to a score or so of such cycles.

In practice then, usable battery capacity starts at 50% charge. A 100 ampere/hour battery thus has a theoretical capacity of 50% - but only if 100% charged. Which it will never be. If the battery is only 70%-75% charged (as is typical of most systems) the usable capacity of our 100 ampere/hour battery is 20 - 25 ampere/hours.

It's actually worse than that because, like people, batteries degenerate with age - losing at least 10% of total capacity each year.

Realistically, using good newish batteries, in a well thought-out motorhome system, a nominal

100 ampere/hour battery can be reliably charged to a bit over 90% capacity, thus providing about 45 or so ampere/hours.

In many instances, particularly where the owner has accurately calculated the battery requirements, the batteries already installed may well be adequate - they have only appeared to be undersized because they were not being adequately charged. In other instances, larger batteries may be required.

But whilst larger capacity batteries are capable of storing more energy, that energy must first be produced - and as we have seen, the standard charging system is fundamentally incapable of doing so in a realistic length of engine-running time.

To charge your existing or larger batteries adequately you will almost certainly need a larger output alternator than that fitted as standard, but fitting a larger alternator is not in itself enough.

However it is also necessary to replace the existing voltage regulator, which is increasingly commonly housed within the alternator, by a so-called 'smart regulator' or other system that enables the alternator to charge the batteries at a faster rate. This is the vital key to a successful electrical system for camping and your car.

Some loads you may be using whilst camping are:

Type...	Hours/Day...	Consumption	Consumed	Per	day
Lights	3 / 4	12			
Radio	1 / 1	1			
Cassette player	2/1	2			
Portable TV	2/2	2			
Refrigerator	3.5 / 8	28			
Water pump	4.0 / 0.25	1			

If you have any questions send me an email or ask your friendly electrician, who may be able to help you.

So the next time you have to replace your battery remember all the work it does for you .

Regards Brad

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Club Calendar (Provisional)

Please watch you inbox closely as specific details regarding the Rise Film Festival and the Carp Classic will be released shortly and numbers will be needed quickly to allow catering to be finalised.

5th Aug Wangi Saltwater – Trip Master = Brent

1st September – Rise Film Festival – Maitland City Bowling Club

15th ? September – Casting Clinic – Location & \$ TBA, - Trip Master = Terry

29th September – Opening of Trout Season – Providence Portal, Book you own Accom. Trip Master = TBA

12 – 14TH October – 9th Annual Invitational Carp Classic, Liddell. More info soon, Trip Master = TBA

27th - 28th October – Glenbawn Starlight Children's Foundation Charity Fishing weekend – Invite from The NSW Police Fishing Club,

??? Nov AGM

??? Nov Club Trip TBA (Ideas = Coss River, Nepean River, Colo River, Barrington, Pejar Dam etc etc)

??? Dec – Windermere

Classic Cartoons



Lake St Clair 30 July 2012 ??

Community Concern

Dear readers. As you all no doubt appreciate this newsletter is not afraid to address issues of great importance and concern. Remember recently how we brought to attention the relationship between Donald Duck and his nephews considering the apparent lack of Donald having a brother or sister.

Well another thought has caused me concern!



As many of you know there is nothing more I look forward to after a day on the water than a nice glass of milk. There are few drinks better than a bovine brew around the campfire on a cool night.

What concerns me is that I wonder what the person who discovered milk was doing with the cow at the time?

Fishy Links

Another link follows. John from Sydney Fly Outfitters and Guiding gave me this product to test and it really works. Remove the indicator or easily adjust the depth and no kink is left in your line!

http://www.flyfishohio.com/2-Weight_Shoot-Out/2-Weight_Shoot-Out.htm	For those in twiggy things
http://www.yellowstoneangler.com/8weightshootout.saltwaterflyrodreview.flyrod.comparison.flyrodtest.LoomisNRX.HardyProAxis.BVK.St.Croix.LegendElite.SageXi3.asp	If a two weight won't do don't mess around, try an 8 weight!
http://www.hardynorthamerica.com/	Something for the hardy fly fisher
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZcuYjDR2tSg&feature=youtu.be	Why I fish in freshwater and don't own a yak!

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www.proangler.com.au/

Important dates are 17 August when a New Zealand Discovery night will be held. In September a night on how to fish the Northern Tablelands will be held.

John is taking a well deserved week off between 6 and 11 August to visit family and Perth so the shop will be closed this week.

Newsletter Wrap Up



A few weeks back I was watching a show on the Amazon and how the locals catch their dinner. They make a basket with a small hole in it and fill it with fruit. Along comes a monkey and puts it's hand in the basket but the hole is too small for the hand to be removed unless the monkey drops the fruit which it never does.

Enter a local with a big stick and monkey stew is on the menu !

What has this to do with fly fishing?

Well a few weeks ago I was having a shocker of a week. No business and every day at the doctors. I was a bit like the monkey in that I was stressed and would not let go of my troubles.

Thankfully that weekend was our St Clair trip and even though the fishing was a little tough meeting friends and sitting around the fire did the trick and by the trip's end I felt fantastic.

That is why our club exists and why I love fly fishing.

See you on the water soon.

Glenn O.

