

SINGLETON FLY FISHING CLUB INC. 2002

PROMOTING THE ART OF FLY FISHING IN THE HUNTER VALLEY NSW



YOUR 2013 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Newsletter- Winter 2013



As I write this things are a little quieter than usual follow the trout season closing and the no take period for bass in the rivers.

Of course St Clair usually comes on over the next few months and it is impossible to forget how hard those bass pull.

We have also enjoyed a fantastic Christmas in July which will be covered in the next newsletter along with the 12-14 July St Clair trip.

Not long until we can hit the rivers again and wander down to Eucumbene again. In a flash the The Carp Classic will be on.

So until we next meet play nicely and stay out of trouble.

Cheers

Glenn

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

Maitland City Bowling Club
14 Arthur Street
Rutherford
At 6.30pm

Today the Sun Shined on the Dog's Arse by Rod Dillon

This is a tale; please forgive the pun, of the agony and ecstasy of fly fishing for a relative newcomer. Of course there may be a little poetic licence taken in the telling of the story but those who know me will appreciate that whilst the story has been twisted a little the truth seeps through.

Our story begins mid morning on a crisp winter's day on a historic property near Crookwell. The owner had kindly allowed several of us to stay in the Shearers Quarters at what we considered to be quite a reasonable tariff for the facilities that were available including the use of two of his dams which were stocked with rainbows, trout that is. Our newcomer managed to hook and land a nice 2lb trout in dam no 1. As I photographed the fish he commented that his father, an American had stated to him in his American drawl that "the sun will one day shine on the dog's arse". Methinks to myself that that saying was very expressive and that one day I would find a situation whereby it would say it all and I could make use of the unusual prose in a story.

After an hour of nothing happening I suggested to all that it may be worth our while moving to dam No 2 where the owner had indicated that there were better numbers. It was also approaching the premium fishing time for the day which was 11am to 12 noon. We moved.

Have you ever been fishing alongside someone that continually experiences fish that touch or hit without hooking up. I am standing alongside that someone! He explains to me that there appears to be a fish near a snag nearby that keeps touching his fly on the way in but doesn't hit it.

Yes is the call as I turn left to see the rod with a bend in it. Suddenly there is slack line and it doesn't take Einstein to work out that the fish has its freedom.

Bloody hell he exclaims it's a knot failure. I am sure that over the years we have all experienced this once or twice, so lesson learnt beginner! That's the agony!

Watching him rig the line he is back in the water. I might digress at this point in the story and say that the two dams are basically the same except No 2 is twice the size of No 1. The interesting thing about both is that there is no structure such as trees etc around the dam to provide cover for the fisherman. So you need to keep below the top of the banks to avoid being framed in the sky and remain unseen by trout. However if there is a slight breeze blowing on the water it will break down the vision of the fish. That was the conditions that existed however it was cold. Maximum temperature during the three days was 7 degrees.

Yes was the call again. Looking left I could see that there was a solid bend in the rod and line was going out rapidly. He was looking concerned and stated that it was a bigger fish than the first. I walked towards him getting my camera out but that action was unnecessary as the fish was not banked for a good 10 minutes. I had commented to him that morning when he was rigging up after breakfast that a 6 lb leader may be a little light on in the dam. I had read a report that a 73cm rainbow had been caught there in the past couple of weeks so I thought 8lb

would be a safer option. Having said that I was busted off using 8 a short while later and I ask myself had I used soft hands would it have saved the day?

The fish in question was being fished with soft hands. Each run it made it was allowed to with only gentle palming on the spool but maintaining a gentle bend on the rod. The fish was played on the spool the whole time which was unusual as most of us usually bring the fish in by way of the line direct. I can only recall once having played the fish on the reel and that was following a large brown run at night at Eucumbene.

The first jump confirmed that it was indeed a larger fish and would need so coaxing to bring it to the bank. During the prolonged tussle the surface of the water was broken many times but our angler remained in control, patiently moving the rod to cushion the savage runs the fish was making in its attempt for freedom. Occasional words of advice were offered and accepted and finally one could sense that the fish was tiring. I suggested that we should try and lead the fish to the end of the wall, some 30 metres away, where there was a small bay where the fish could safely be pulled up unlike where it presently would have to be lifted up a reasonably steep incline. The fish continued to break the surface as it was directed towards the small bay and finally I was able to grab the tail and flick it up on shore. Elation to the angler who stated it was his biggest fish on fly. A lovely conditioned hen of 4 lb which incidentally was full of eggs. You can see it discharging eggs in one of the photos.



Congratulations Jon Novoselak. The sun today shined on the dog's arse !

Gundowringa

Many may probably get the idea from Rod's story above that we had a good weekend at Gundowringa and if you thought this you would be correct. In fact I would go so far as to say it was one of the best club trips I have been on !

The property is 914m above sea level and yes it does get cold and the wind certainly does blow.

Gundowringa was purchased by Charles E Prell O.B.E in 1904. He commissioned the building of the 44sq homestead in 1905 (local heritage listed). Mr Prell also pioneered pasture improvement in Australia, starting in 1918 with clover, phalaris and superphosphate. Today, Gundowringa is still a working farm.

The property is now run by his grandson Jeff and his partner Margaret.

Jeff, who has the original plans of the property, opened Gundowringa as a B&B and fly fishing farm in 1992. Like his grandfather, Jeff was also awarded an OBE for pasture and environment protection.

The historic home is beautiful and Rod Esdaile and I had the privilege to have a full guided tour on Sunday before leaving.



Margaret is a talented artist and the time she spent showing us around was greatly appreciated.

Our accommodation was a little rustic but had everything we needed. There was a separate dining/living area that had a large gas stove and ample refrigeration. In the living area we had a huge dining table and a large open fire stocked with ample wood.



The sleeping area is basic but you have a bed and cupboard. Even though it was cold outside it was not bad at all inside.

The stars were sensational.

Rod's great story above details Jeff's two dams.

In attendance were Jon Novoselac, Rod Dillon, Warwick Sommer, Peter Sewell, Rod Esdaile and your scribe. Ken Smith and Peter and Sally Hanrahan from Bathurst also joined us.

On Friday afternoon we fished dam 2 for an hour or so before the southerly wind and cold sent us back to our lodgings.

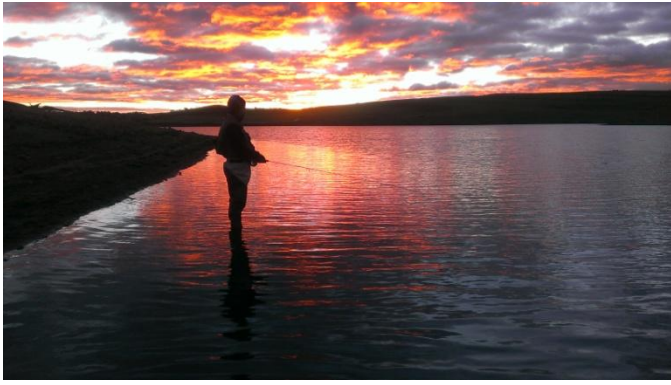
As detailed above Jon was the star of Saturday morning but Warwick and your scribe each caught a fish as well, probably around or a bit below the two pound mark. Once again the evening session was fishless.

Just to prove Saturday's fish was no fluke I also got a smaller one on Sunday.

I think an intermediate line with a Mrs Simpson or woolly bugger is a good starting point.

The real highlight for me was when Jeff joined us on Friday and Saturday evening. For those who love the history of fly fishing Jeff has lived it, not just read about it. Think of things like fishing with John and Pac Sautelle and stocking streams after a three day horseback ride.

The following pictures show a few of the weekends experiences.



Although we only fished Jeff's dams the property is only a few minutes from Pejar dam and when the season is open there is the added bonus of stream fishing as well.

If this year's trip is any guide I believe that Gundowringa should become a regular fixture on the club calendar.

Out and About

I don't have a trip report from the April Blue mountains weekend but from everything I heard the trip was a success and having fished the area since I can vouch for what a nice bit of river this is.



The pictures below did not come on a club trip but it's been a long time since a member landed a 7 pound trout. Well done Greg and I have added a few pictures as well of some St Clair bass Greg caught recently.





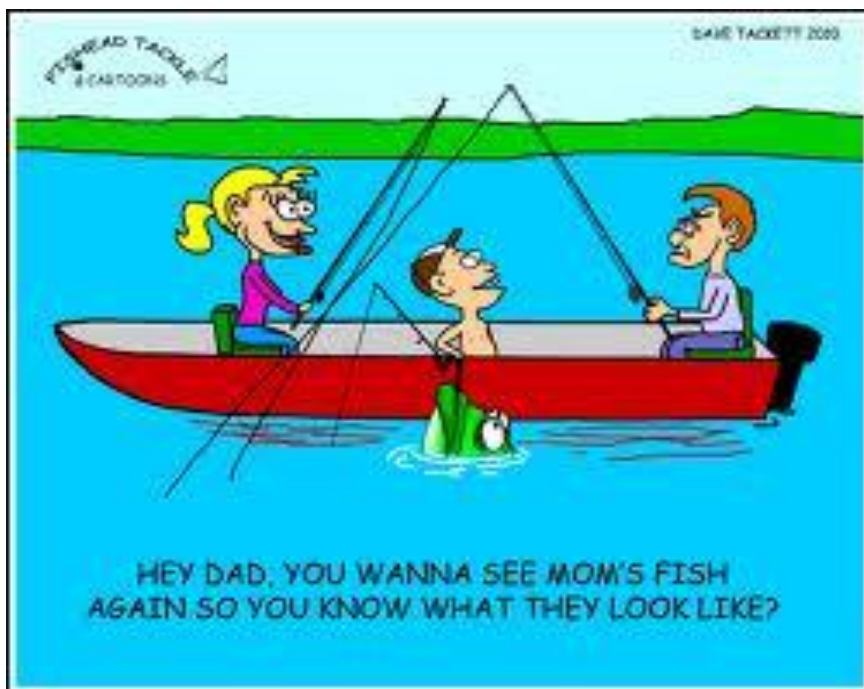
Lake Keepit is a pond many members have not fished before and is rumoured to be the home of some nice yellowbelly and even nicer cod. Darren Foster and greg Haymend did not crack the code this weekend but got amongst some hard fighting swamp trout and something a little more unusual.



Fishy Links

http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0013/202351/NSW_FWG_2013.pdf	This is the updated 2013 Freshwater Fishing Guide. A must read
http://youtu.be/CARVg-JcYTI	Help keep our waterways healthy by protecting habitat, preventing the spread of aquatic pests, and volunteering
http://www.fin-chasers.com/Magazine.html?id=62c592ed&title=FinChasers.1.2013#2	This is a cracker of an on-line magazine.

Classic Cartoon



Don't pretend it hasn't happened to most of you !

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www.proangler.com.au/



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

John has moved the shop to 17 Brodie Street Rydalmere .
Directly opposite Rydalmere railway station. Await further news.



Newsletter Wrap Up



Well as Bugs Bunny said that's all folks.

Thanks so much to all the members who contributed to this newslettter.

Lot's of fishing coming with trips to the Blue Mountains and Pejar to look forward to.

Nothing beats playing in a new pond.

See you all on the water somewhere soon.

Cheers

Glenn

