

SINGLETON FLY FISHING CLUB INC. 2002

PROMOTING THE ART OF FLY FISHING IN THE HUNTER VALLEY NSW



YOUR 2014 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Lawrence Blackburn

Vice-President: Brent Blackwell

Secretary: Warwick Sommer

Treasurer: Cherie Blackburn

General Committee: Darren Foster
Peter Sewell
Jeff Yates

Email: singletonflyfishingclub@googlegroups.com



Newsletter-Spring 2014



Welcome to spring everyone. It's that time of year where our thoughts, both young and old, turn to fly fishing.

Rod Esdaile and I have recently returned from Kirabati (aka Christmas Island) so please forgive me if I ramble on about this amazing place a little in this newsletter.

Still there is much more to report on. We have had Christmas in July the bass are playing nicely at St Clair along with salmon in Lake Macquarie.

As I sit here typing it is finally raining again which hopefully will give the trout a bit of a hand. By the way did I mention Thompsons Creek Dam is going OK as well if you don't mind the odd blizzard or two.

It's sneaking up on us again but I had my first look at my carp flies a few days ago. The infamous carp bash is not far away.

So I hope you enjoy this read.

Tight lines and smiley faces.

Glenn

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

Beresfield Bowling Club
Anderson Drive
Bersefield
At 6.30pm

President's Ramblings-August

From the look of the emails I have seen going around people have been travelling far and wide chasing our piscatorial friends with many having great success, I'm sure the stories will be flowing thick and fast to the editor so that we may all enjoy your excursions. Cherie and I have the pleasure of fishing in Scotland on a loch during our holiday so when I catch up with work and sleep I will put finger to keyboard and write a story.

Thanks to all who attended the Christmas in July night, I hope you all had a good time and hopefully we will see you and more attending next year. I'm not sure if everyone knows how well the raffle was run and won. All I can suggest is that next year if you want to win a prize, clearly you need to be standing out the front presenting. Thanks to Tania and Darren for their evening activities, both added a lot of fun to the night.

Also congratulations to Darren for picking up Clubman of the year and Patrick for picking up Rookie of the year, Darren's speech on behalf of Patrick was very good, but when it came to his own speech he was a bit lost for words. Well done also to Rod for picking up the memorable moment's award, for which he now has to write a story to accompany the picture in the box, no rush you have a year to complete.

The outing to Hartley was very well attended with Les and I catching a couple of huge Lake Lyell rainbows, at least in comparison to the fish caught by the two Rod's back at camp they were huge. Hopefully we can do it all again next year to celebrate my birthday, next time don't forget the presents!

Lake St Clair has been firing over the last few months with some members catching their first Bass on fly. Justin and I had a couple of trips up that way landing healthy 38-40cm fish, including one 48cm yellowbelly. If you get the chance head up and walk the banks and have some fun, just watch out for the storms and lightning strikes nearby.

On the 17th-19th of October we have our carp bash. Thirty SFFC members have already put their names down. Please let me know if you want to put your name down as I would like to ensure that we have the maximum number of people attend this great event.

During the Saturday raffle at the carp bash I would like to see members wear their club shirts (the blue ones, not your smelly fishing shirt that you wore during the day). Also if you can help out when asked that would be very much appreciated, except Brad who has already stated he is there to watch us work, fish and drink, we'll see about that.

That's all for now, see you on the water and/or at the next club meeting, until then have fun chasing those piscatorial predators of the deep.

Cheers
Lawrence.

Christmas In July



Darren receiving the “Clubman Of The Year” award.



Rod Fox with his “Memorable Moment”

Congratulations to Patrick Tobin as well for his “rookie”award.

Lastly a huge thank you to all who pitched in and helped organize

Bucket List Bonefish



‘Big GT- Cast 30 foot, two o’clock’. My heart rate was already up a little but this GT was about the size of a coffee table and the water was only knee high.

The cast was pretty fair and the GT came after the fly. Strip faster was the call. When the fish was only a rod length or so way it hit my little size 6 Crazy Charlie. The rod loaded for but a second and the fish was gone. As it turned it was like someone had thrown a bucket of water at us and the big GT vanished. Such is fishing on Kiribati and we were

not even after GT’s.

Ever since seeing the bonefish episode on “A River Somewhere” all those years ago I have wanted to tangle with one. Watching Gavin Hurley’s trips only made me keener to add bonefish to my list of fish caught on fly.

Fast forward to July 2014 and Rod Esdaile and I are on Kiribati, casting to and catching these amazing fish.

The following story will describe our trip, Kiribati and the fantastic bonefish that live there and a few thought on how to catch them. I’m already booked in to return in 2015, that’s how good it was.

Kiribati is often called Christmas Island but this often leads to confusion with the other Christmas Island so often in the news so for the purpose of this story Kiribati it is.

Kiribati was first in the news in the late 50’s and early 60’s when the United Kingdom and the USA used the area to conduct nuclear tests without evacuating the residents. Many were hurt by the tests.



Kirabati is about 230k north of the equator. If you travel at 45 degrees from Fiji you will be close. The next island heading north is Hawaii.

Although beautiful it is a true third world country. Even if you think you have seen people doing it hard before your eyes will be opened.

It is a long day getting there. Leave Sydney around lunchtime and fly to Nandi Fiji.

There is then a six hour layover before you reboard and fly out at midnight arriving at Kiribati at 6.30am. Allowing for 4 hours time difference you have been up for a bit longer than 24 hours at this time.

If you are desperate you can start fishing straight away or have a nana nap for a few hours.



Based on our experience a quick nap is wise.

We stayed at Ikari House which is probably the best accommodation on the island. It is probably 3 star at best (maybe 2) but is clean, has good beds, shower flushing toilet and air conditioning. Meals are eating out front and as the picture shows it's not a bad view.

Now speaking of food !

Breakfast is usually a mix of bacon, eggs, sausages and cereal.

You are away fishing during the day so lunch is simple. Cold meat and salad sandwiches.

Dinner is where Ikari House shines. Tradition is to have a cold beer and also shout the guides one or a soft drink if that is your choice. \$3.50 a can is reasonable.

Entrée nearly always includes sashimi (I love sashimi) and this is as good as it gets. Add to this prawns, fish cocktails, chicken or breadfruit and you should be happy.

Mains usually include fish steaks, meat or slightly Indian styled food (but not hot) with salads. We had lobster 3 nights and the last night a full roast pig.



Now let's go fishing.



Wake up time is usually around 6.00am and after breakfast you are in the boat shortly after 7.00am. The boats are moored only a few hundred meters from Ikari House and travel is by mini bus.

Usually it is two fishermen to a guide but on a day or two you may get a guide to yourself.

The guides are good and their ability to see fish is unbelievable. Expect to move around a bit as they know the tides and how bonefish move with them.

I was concerned about my capacity to wade the flats but found only a few areas where I had trouble. When I got a bit tired I had a nap on the boat for an hour or so. Best sleep I've had in a long time.

Sight fishing on shallow flats is what brings us to Kiribati and it is everything I expected and more. It helps if you can cast accurately but Rod and I managed just fine even though on two days the wind exceeded 70kph.

When the wind is up, the water is milky or the tide is wrong you may have to blind fish a bit but the surprise when an unseen fish hits is guaranteed to shock the living daylights out of you.

There are two key things to remember when fighting a bonefish.

Firstly you **MUST** strip strike. It's easy but I lost some fish by forgetting this and striking like I do for trout or bass.

Secondly is something I still don't really know how to overcome. The first run of a bonefish is something that no amount of watching DVDs or reading books will prepare you for. They are fast, often hitting 70kph where a trout can't hit 15kph. Not all will take you into the backing but many will.



I estimate my best fish took me 180 meters into the backing against a seriously locked drag but this is not the problem.

After this run they usually swim straight back at you and there is no way you can strip in or wind fast enough to keep the line tight. I usually flatten the barbs on my flies but for bonefish I don't think this is wise. As soon as the pressure is off on a barbless hook so was my fish. Just my theory.

The fun part is that after this the next run is as fast and long as the first.



Bonefish are clean fighters but there are bits of coral around and if your line rubs against these it's all over.

In addition to bonefish we caught Gts, blue trevally, yellow snapper, groper, puffer fish, sand mullet, long tom and queen fish.

I never caught a queenfish and the guides never called one for me. When asked they said Kiribati is crawling with queenies but why would you bother. Rod got one !

So what gear is needed to catch a bonefish ?

If restricted to only one choice an 8 weight would be my selection.. You don't need a million dollar rod. My Stalker Aire and Rod's Teeny TFO were well up to the task.

What you do need is a reel with a bullet proof drag as these things will destroy anything less. I used my 5-6 weight Cheeky and even though this was smaller than theoretically necessary it did a great job. The drag was brilliant and as good on the last day as the first. It held about 250 meters of backing which was sufficient.

In regard to lines there are a number of specialist bonefish lines around and it is worth getting one. I used nothing bar a floating line.

Specialist bonefish leaders are also available and 15 pound is close to an all round leader.

I took over a hundred flies and only used about twenty. Overkill indeed but if you run out you are in trouble.

Think crazy charlies and clousers. Charlies in size 4-8 and clousers between 2 and 2/0. My best bonefish took a white and orange 2/0 bucktail and raccoon clouser.



Do not use cheap hooks. Lynne bought me a box of EBay bonefish flies from a well known seller. Two bonefish=2 crushed hooks. Sparse is the name of the game.

Finally take very bit of sun protection you have. Sun screen, lip balm and a buff.

Don't wear shorts. One of our group did for one day and he suffered for the week !

It costs money (just over \$4,000) for 9 days away but this is somewhere you must visit at least once. \$1,600 of this amount is air fare so considering meals, accommodation and guided fishing are all included it's not bad at all.

You only live once so this is a must do for any fly fisherman.



Fishy Fotos (Kiribati Style)



Never complain about pot holes again.



What do you mean you never saw the stop sign ?

Just A Thought

I came across this the other day. Things can and do go wrong and at times good people get hurt. Regardless of this life is still good when you have friends and even a moderate degree of health.

James Dean was probably not the world's greatest philosopher but I like this thought.

Remember:

Life is short, break the rules (they were made to be broken)

Forgive quickly, kiss slowly

Love truly, laugh uncontrollably

And never regret anything that makes you smile.

The clouds are lined with silver and the glass is half full (though the answers won't be found at the bottom)

Don't sweat the small stuff,

You are who you are meant to be,

Dance as if no one's watching,

Love as if it's all you know,

Dream as if you'll live forever,

Live as if you'll die today”



Sponsors 2014



www.proangler.com.au/



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

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

If you need help with presents give John or I a call. (Prices disguised and hints given to family and friends if required). PS Just joking (maybe)

Email sales@flynguide.com.au 0427904518 (John) 0417402540 (Glenn)

Newsletter Wrap Up

That's all for this newsletter.

Don't forget to send me stories on what is going on fishing wise as it is always good to hear a few are coming in.

For me the river bass are only a few weeks away. I am counting the sleeps.

See you all at the carp bash if I don't catch up beforehand.

Cheers

Glenn

