



## OAC Newsletter November 2010

### President's report

Dear Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very merry Xmas and a happy and fulfilling New Year.

Our club welcomes members' partners to visit us at our meetings and would be grateful for their suggestions for the future development of facilities for the members. As our financial viability continues to improve, we are able to plan for the introduction of new facilities and clubroom upgrades to benefit the members.

With the state elections just around the corner it is interesting to note the policy contrasts between the major parties insofar as Recreational Angling is concerned. Both parties have shown a commitment towards recreating angling as a healthy and worthwhile pastime. Regrettably the Greens consider that angling is anti-environment and want to virtually ban all forms of angling. Hopefully they won't get the balance of power.

Fisheries Victoria has just released the 2010/2011 Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide. It is

recommended that all club members and other interested anglers obtain a copy of the guide and make themselves aware of the contents particularly bag, catch and size limits.

I would also like to thank each and every member who volunteered to serve on the various club committees during 2010/11. Their contribution should enable the club to be proactive throughout the season.

### ANGLING ACTIVITIES

A hard core of members continued to participate in our angling competitions with some achieving good results. In particular the Bemm River trip was the highlight of our fishing activities over the past 6 months and some noteworthy fish were caught. Bream, Tailor and Luderick over 1kg were caught in reasonable numbers. Our Secretary/Treasurer Ean Moser scooped the pool when he caught a Poddy Mullet weighing 2.185 kg.

Apart from Bemm River, catches in other comps were pretty average although the surf comp at McLaughlin's Beach produced the best Salmon catch for many years.

### MARINE PARKS

During the year the club became aware of an attempt by the Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) to extend the Victorian Marine Parks by the creation of 20 new Marine Parks. Your club was very active in opposing their proposal and put pressure on government and key

angling bodies to act against the proposals. Fortunately the government recognized the strength of the angler's argument and did not accept the VNPA proposal.

## **SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

Social activities were somewhat limited and the highlight was the presentation night at La Porchetta Restaurant in Caulfield. Unfortunately a good social night was marred by the poor quality of the food.

2011 will be the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the club and you are reminded to put the date of Saturday 23 July 2011 in your diary, as the club would appreciate a good attendance to celebrate this special event.

Our social committee members are actively involved in planning for a bumper 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Presentation Night. I feel sure there will be some surprises in store for all the attendees.

Best Regards, Yours Fraternally  
Don Ellis

## **INTER-CLUB EVENTS**

The annual November Snapper inter-club event against Elwood Angling Club has been held and won by Elwood by a big margin.

The Elwood members that organize the BBQ do an outstanding job and their efforts are very much appreciated by everyone that attends.

## **A member's childhood memories**

I would like to write about a few funny stories about some of my first instances of fishing.

As early as I can remember, my late brother Daryl used to take me fishing a lot to Flinders pier for Mum and Dad built a holiday house at Balnarring and we spent a lot of time there. Daryl had promised to take me fishing the next day but first he was making a swing off the big pine tree we had at the back of the property. So he tested the swing then my other brother Adrian had a swing then they put me on the swing (I must have been about 3 or 4, then Daryl had a another go when it broke and Daryl landed rather awkwardly and broke his leg. He screamed in pain and my other brother Adrian ran to get Dad and I can remember leaning over a withering, screaming brother and say "Does this mean we are not going fishing tomorrow???"

Later on in life about 3 years after that, we went camping up at Omeo and stayed in the caravan park which had the Livingston Creek flow through it but it only had little trout

in it. Dad didn't like fishing but would take me, for I think I nagged him due to my late brother so this other camper kept coming back each day with a mess of trout when Dad decided to go over and have a chat with this bloke. I might add that at the time and for many years, my Dad was the senior fish inspector at the Footscray fish market so off we went hand in hand. Now dad was a big bloke. 6ft and 20 stone comes up to this guy and said the following:

Dad: Hello there.

Bloke: G'day.

Dad: Can't help noticing you having all these fish.

Bloke: Yeah and I got sick of throwing back the little ones and decided to keep a few (remember there was a fishing size limit on Trout but not a bag limit in the '60's). I asked the caravan manager and he said "there are no inspectors around here" he said whilst kneeling down cleaning fish with a smirk on his face.

Dad: No inspectors ay, well your talking to one.

With that the guy stopped cleaning fish and while still kneeling down pivoted his head around at this mountain of a man and swallowed and said in a sheepish voice "but you're on holidays ....aren't you??"

Dad: That depends if you tell me where you caught the fish.

The Bloke proceeded to blab directions whilst gaining his composure.

We left him to it and I was very excited that I might finally catch a fish.

I remember I was using a grass hopper for bait and this poor grass hopper was on my hook all night exposed to the elements and after we packed up the car, we placed the rod on top and we were going to this magic spot.

We left Omeo and proceeded goodness knows where and after a short time arrived at the Mitta Mitta River, where dad parked the car. I grabbed the rod and set off with dad across a bridge and walked upstream to a huge pool with a giant waterfall at the top of the pool and threw in the poor grass hopper and let it sink. I slowly reeled in the line and couldn't see anything due to the sun glare on the water until my shadow cut the glare and into view came the grass hopper being slowly dragged along the bottom hotly followed by a Trout. Upon seeing the Trout I yanked the line straight out of the water and my rather startled dad bellowing out "what did you do that for??" to which I replied, remember I was about 6, "there was a snake after my line" "Pigs bottom" or words to that affect. Dad said, "That was a Trout...Throw it back in" which I did for you never argued with Dad and no sooner had it hit the water when it was smashed by a Trout. I tried to pull in the fish but it was too much and threw the rod to Dad. Dad pulled in the fish and not having a net just lifted the Trout straight out of the

water over our heads and onto the ground. I was as proud as punch. I kept it frozen for ages and kept bringing it out to show people and the stats were 14 inches and 17 ounces. It was a monster through my eyes.

When I went back to the spot about 15 years later, I found that section of the Mitta Mitta River. The pool was actually about 3 m wide, about 300mm deep and the huge waterfall would be about 500mm high. Funny how things seem so big when you are so little.

- Mum and Dad loved going to Queensland and so did I but since I was such a late in life baby for my parents, I got dragged along (Dad was 48 when he had me). One trip my Brother Adrian, who hated fishing like my Dad, was given baby sitting duties to sit on a Jetty at South Port with a fishing line, keeping an eye on me while Dad went to the pub. Adrian would have been 15 or 16 and I was about 6. So here we are fishing away when I got a snag. When I looked over, Adrian had the biggest bird nest you could ever imagine cursing and carrying on. Along came Dad after a couple of sherbets and proceeded to untangle Adrian's line while cursing and low and behold, when he wound in his line, he had a silver Bream which I think was size and me, when Dad got to my line, I remember I had caught a fish about 3 inches long and dragged it between a old beer can and a scallop. The one who hated fishing caught the bigger fish and he never let me forget it.

## **BEMM RIVER 2010**

What a contrast. 2009 the lake the lowest we have ever seen it and 2010 the mouth closed and water levels very high.

Once again the club made Cosy Nook their base. A good location, very nice accommodation, big fridges, all you need for a very comfortable stay.

The weather on Saturday was very fishable with very little wind and a few light showers.

On Sunday in the afternoon the wind got up very strong and the lake became the familiar sight we have often seen. In fact one small finnie attempting a foolhardy run across the lake to the ramp was overturned by the waves. I believe they were rescued without serious consequences.

On Monday a meeting at the ramp before fishing saw the boats launched. The weather stayed very fishable and so the E. Hunt No 2 was able to go ahead.

### Fishing results

Saturday E2 – 12 members weighed in 61 fish consisting of 38 Bream, 1 Mullet, 4 Luderick, 1 Whiting, 4 Leather Jackets, and 13 Tailor. Competition and trophy winner was Ross Manning. Heaviest fish was a monster Poddy Mullet of 2.185kg caught by Ean Moser.

Sunday E3 – 10 members fished for 50 fish, consisting of 21 Bream, 4 Luderick, 3 Whiting, 2 Trevally, 16 Tailor, 1 Leather Jacket and 3 Salmon. Ross again had the heaviest bag with the trophy going to the Runner-up Vince Gardiner. Heaviest fish was Ross with a Salmon of 1.785kg.

Monday E. Hunt No.2 Bream only - 12 members fished. 40 fish caught with the heaviest bag being caught by Ross Manning with 10 fish weighing 6.545kg with Harry a bag of 4.995kg and Trevor a bag of 4.300kg.

It was very disappointing for George and Judy with George having to return home on Saturday morning due to severe bout of Bronchitis. David had his usual share of boat and motor problems but all issues were sorted out with a smile. I myself could not fish on Monday (too many birthdays).

Once again we came up with another fish species namely a Leather Jacket, which takes the species caught at this location by our club to 12.

I understand by now the lake is open.

Once again our members had a very successful and enjoyable trip to a very magic fishing spot.

John Lester

## Trolling results

OAC members have had good results recently on Trout in fresh water at Lake Bullen Merri and on Tailor in salt water at Bemm River in the lake and channel.

## TROLLING TIPS – Line twist

**Using swivels that do not swivel is a good method of building line-twist.**

But don't all swivels, swivel, you ask? Of course they do, I reply, but, and there always is a but - they will only swivel under the right conditions.

**Too many anglers use a swivel that is too big.** Swivels come in different sizes for the express purpose of matching fishing line-sizes. As a rough but good guide, the diameter of the wire used to make the swivel should match the diameter of the trace or leader you

are using, not the main line. If you use too big a swivel there is not enough torque in the trace line to swivel the swivel.

Some anglers attempt to use a swivel as a stopper, i.e. in a running rig. Theory is the swivel has to be big enough to stop the sinker jamming down on the swivel or passing over it and running down onto the hook. A much better idea is to place a plastic bead on the main line above the correct sized swivel.

Using the wrong-sized swivel really shows up when trolling. There can be very few methods of building a better line-twist problem than when trolling. I have seen line so badly twisted the only cure was to re-spool the reel.

Here is some news - line-twist from trolling is rarely caused by swivel failure. It is more often caused by incorrect trolling speed.

**Despite their name, most 'spinners' are not designed to spin.**

Most spinning lures should more correctly be called wobblers or shakers. They are designed to wobble from side to side, or move with a tight shimmy. If these lures are retrieved too fast, they will spin in a wide arc, too wide for the swivel to cope. To avoid this a lure should be dropped in the water where you can see it, and retrieved or trolled, till you can establish its correct trolling speed.

But what if a pattern of several lures is the aim? Well there really is no way around the problem, other than to run lures that all have a similar trolling speed.



Another cause of line-twist problems when towing lures is caused by the lure picking some weed or other watery dross. This weed or junk can cause the lure to spin out in a wide rotation pattern, too great for the swivel to handle. Careful observation is the only way to overcome this problem. Watching the rod tip will often reveal small changes in the way the way the lure is running, and so reveal a lure that is 'in trouble.' Fresh water anglers who troll ['Tasmanian Devil'](#) type lures know that if the rod tip stops making a regular 'nodding' movement and just stays static, weed is on the lure.

Here are 2 trolling tips to try out:

- try running line through the Tassie Devil to a single hook to eliminate line twist.

- if your motor doesn't allow you to slow down enough, turn the Tassie Devil around. I run mine like this most of the time now. It gives a more erratic action and allows you to troll a bit quicker without twisting.

## 2011-12 FISHING SYLLABUS

**It is always time to turn our minds to where we want to fish next year. Where are the locations you have liked? Where are the locations that you would like to try and where other members might like to fish? Please discuss with other members and pass on your individual thoughts to the Angling Committee.**

## JOKE CORNER

A bloke walks into a Fish and Chip shop and says:

"Can I have some fish please?"

"OK, it won't be long" says the man behind the counter.

The bloke replied "Well it better be fat then".

Here are some actual maintenance complaints submitted by US Air Force pilots and the replies from the maintenance crews.

Problem: "Left inside main tire almost needs replacement."

Solution: "Almost replaced left inside main tire."

Problem: "Test flight OK, except autoland very rough."

Solution: "Autoland not installed on this aircraft."

Problem: "The autopilot doesn't."

Signed off: "IT DOES NOW."

Problem: "Something loose in cockpit."

Solution: "Something tightened in cockpit."

Problem: "Evidence of hydraulic leak on right main landing gear."

Solution: "Evidence removed."

Problem: "DME volume unbelievably loud."

Solution: "Volume set to more believable level."

Problem: "Dead bugs on windshield."

Solution: "Live bugs on order."

Problem: "Autopilot in altitude hold mode produces a 200 fpm descent."

Solution: "Cannot reproduce problem on ground."

Problem: "IFF inoperative."

Solution: "IFF inoperative in OFF mode."

Problem: "Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick."

Solution: "That's what they're there for."

Problem: "Number three engine missing."

Solution: "Engine found on right wing after brief search."

And these ones are reputed to be from QANTAS.

Problem: "The problem logged by the pilot."

Solution: "The solution and action taken by the engineers."

Problem: "No.2 propeller seeping prop fluid."

Solution: "No. 2 propeller seepage normal. No 1, 3 & 4 propellers lack normal seepage."

Problem: "Suspected crack in windscreen."

Solution: "Suspect you're right."

Problem: "Aircraft handles funny."

Solution: "Aircraft warned to straighten up, fly right, and be serious."

Problem: "Target radar hums."

Solution: "Reprogrammed target radar with words."

### A funny story.

When I joined Telecom back in 1979, I got talking to a guy who loved snapper fishing. This guy would get up early every day during snapper season and go fishing for a couple of hours then go to work, come home then go back out till all hours. He went so much he never tied his boat to his trailer just held it there with the winch. Anyway he asked me to come out with him one morning so we went out from Black Rock and went to his spot and threw in the lines. I had 2 rods on the passenger side and he was fishing 2 rods on the driver's side. All of a sudden one of my rods took off and after being told how to set the hook by this bloke, I was on and what a beauty. He took off at a millions miles and hour and really buckled the rod. This was a big fish he kept telling me then one of his rods took off but it wasn't as big. After a little while he said look you're inexperienced and we don't want to lose the fish so let's swap rods. Being just grateful to going out, fishing I agreed and so we swapped and I pulled in a nice 2-3kg Snapper. He was playing this huge fish when all of a sudden the line started heading to the surface to reveal a giant stingray. He had given me the snapper and I

gave him a stingray. I laughed and I never let him forget that day.

Ian Morris

## Bemm River Poddy Mullet

Anyone that has been to Bemm River and been up the river, has witnessed these large fish jumping in the river. Sometimes the fish can be found out in the Lake or Inlet and the Channel. These fish very rarely will take a bait, no matter what is thrown their way. This year Ean caught one and the picture shows the typical size.



## Snapper 2010 season

**This year has seen some exciting Snapper fishing in both bays. The main points that need to be made are:**

**- You need to be on the water early well before the sun rises. The fish seem to turn off by 9am. Anglers have been reaching their bag limits over 3 fish over 40 cms in very quick time. Sometimes the fish are very timid and do not run initially. If the rod has moved and you think the fish might be sitting there, a strike may result in a fish. Whilst most anglers are fishing the early morning, late afternoon and into the evening is well worth a go.**

**- The main successful bait has been fresh squid followed by pilchards.**

## OUR O'SEAS TRAVELLERS

Well after some years of dreaming and several months of planning, Ian and I went on our dream holiday.

First stop was the U.K. for our first week. Whilst in London we jumped on the Hop on hop off bus which takes you to all the local sights, London Tower, London Bridge, Westminster Abbey, The Eye etc.

A highlight for Ian was when we caught an underground train to visit the recording studios of The Beatles. There is a famous pedestrian crossing out the front which die hard Beatles fans want to have their photo taken walking across. For some of you who aren't Beatles fans, this crossing is featured on one of the Beatles front cover of their album, so Ian stood on the crossing for his photo to be taken amongst all the busy London traffic. *It is also a spot where the most pedestrian accidents occur in London, I wonder why?*

We stayed in London for 4 nights then hired a car and drove through the Cotswold's for three days. We loved the U.K., London was amazing the architecture and age of their buildings just blew us away.

We then flew to Rome for a week. We of course did the usual sightseeing, the Vatican, Coliseum etc.

The highlight was a day trip to the Isle of Capri. We jumped into a small flat bottom boat and had to lay down flat for the guy to pull the boat through a small opening, by a rope, into the "Blue Grotto" cave. The cave does not have a floor so the first sight you see when you get into the cave is bright blue fluorescent water, just magnificent. Third week off to Paris. Paris is a beautiful city with amazing structures and history. The Eiffel Tower is

definitely bigger in real life and we enjoyed a beautiful dinner in the tower restaurant and topped it off with a night river cruise down the Seine River. We did a 4 hour cycle ride tour through the main sites of Paris, visited the Louvre, a day trip to the Champagne Region in France and the Loire Valley with all the magnificent Chateaus.

Finally we stopped off at Singapore in a 5 star hotel for 5 days, our room was overlooking the harbor and by coincidence the New Sands Hotel and Casino celebrated their opening whilst we were there. The hotel was built on the design of a pack of cards, on top of the three towers there is a huge feature in the shape of a boat. This is where a large horizon pool is situated with magnificent views over the Singapore city and harbor. We had 5 days of shopping and rest, I lost count of how many Singapore Slings I had at the hotel Happy Hour each day!

Gaynor



Gaynor at du musee du Louvre Paris.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS, SEASON'S GREETINGS AND A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.**