



## OAC Newsletter April 2010

### President's report

Dear Members,

*I would like to take this opportunity to remind you all the 2010/2011 angling season is fast approaching.*

*In order to make it an interesting one you should forward (as soon as possible) your competition and venue suggestions to the Angling Committee so they can consider them for inclusion in the syllabus for the next season.*

*The new permanent weekly hall hire is now providing a regular money stream, thus enabling the club to improve facilities for its members, e.g. the installation of a new electrical power box and associated air conditioning units, should make the clubrooms more comfortable during hot summer periods. As our funds gradually increase the Executive is to investigate other potential building improvements.*

*I would also like to thank each and every member who volunteered to serve on the various club committees during 2009/10. Their contribution should enable the club to be proactive throughout the season.*

*In some ways our club is at the crossroads and therefore I would now like to reflect on our club and what we expect of the club during the next few seasons.*

*Once again I would ask you to give some time to consider the following questions, bearing in mind your answers to these questions will be of great value in determining the direction of the club in future years.*

*1. Do you consider the club's administration activities to be too onerous and what would be your suggestions for streamlining these activities?*

*2. What do you want in the way of social activities and what would encourage you and your families to participate in these activities? Are you supportive of mixed diners with members and partners of sister angling clubs? Should we have more combined activities with other angling clubs?*

*3. Is the club's fishing program up to your expectations and how do you think the club could improve the fishing experience?*

*4. What are your thoughts about inter-club competitions? Should they be increased or decreased? Should we seek to have inter-club competitions against other non traditional angling clubs? Should we compete in AAA comps?*

*5. Do you consider our membership numbers are adequate? If not, how do you suggest we attract new members?*

6. Are there any other activities that the club should be involved in?

### **Angling Issues**

During the latter part of 2009 Fisheries Victoria conducted a number of public consultations on an East Gippsland Fishery Management Plan. Unfortunately these were conducted in the region and Melbourne based anglers did not get an opportunity to comment on their draft.

The MAA subsequently became aware of the situation and on behalf of Metropolitan based clubs put in a submission on proposals that emanated from the public consultations.

### **East Gippsland Fishery Management Plan – Submission from the MAA**

The MAA does not agree to or support a closed period for Bream fishing at Bemm River or any of the estuaries flowing into the Gippsland Lakes, because of the detrimental affect it would have on Melbourne based anglers  
We strongly support an all year open season with other appropriate bag and size measures to protect spawning Bream and better control of netting in the Gippsland Lakes.

### ***What do members of the MAA like about fishing in the region?***

- *The relative safety of the inlets and rivers in the region, for both boat and bank fishing.*

- *The reasonable accessibility of the Gippsland Rivers and inlets for aged or impaired anglers.*
- *The infrastructure provided by a number of developed towns or hamlets in the region.*

### ***What issues or problems do you think affect the quality of fishing in the inlets?***

### ***Boat Fishing***

- *Upgrading of the channel markers in the Bemm River system and inlets at Tamboon, Marlo and Lake Tyers to provide safer boating and fishing including better lighting for night fishing.*
- *Continued improvements to the boat ramps in the rivers and estuaries to make it safe to launch/ recover boats in most weather conditions, particularly when strong westerlies and south westerlies are blowing.*
- *Maintenance dredging to access lanes for all boat ramps.*
- *Better and more widespread warning signage at hazardous locations.*
- *Regular inspection of the navigation aids and up to date repair and maintenance wherever necessary.*
- *Provision of adequate boat /trailer parking areas at all boat ramps. Elimination of boat launching/parking fees as funding for construction and maintenance. This should be provided*

*from boat registration and fishing licence revenue funds.*

### **Bank Fishing**

- *Erection, where appropriate, of additional fishing platforms.*
- *Better and more widespread warning signage at hazardous locations.*
- *Provision of a suitable access tracks to all rivers and estuaries in the region particularly at Bemm River where access to bank fishing is very limited.*
- *Additional signage on bag & catch limits and size limits.*

### **How do you think fishing opportunities in the region could be improved?**

- *By pollution reduction in the feeder streams supplying the rivers and inlets.*
- *By extending the boundaries of the mouths the Gippsland Rivers, i.e. Mitchell, Nicholson and Tambo Rivers, out to 1 kilometre offshore to minimise and hopefully prevent mass netting of spawning fish as they are about to enter the rivers.*
- *By constant monitoring of bag, catch and size limits by enforcement officers.*
- *By apprehending and prosecuting perpetrators of illegal netting and illegal fishing methods particularly those exceeding bag limits.*

- *By regular surveys of recreational anglers on their success rates and views on fishing in the rivers and inlets.*

- *By excluding charter boat operations from all estuaries and inlets in the region.*

### **Regulatory Recommendations**

*By applying the following bag and size limits during the spawning period i.e. from September to November.*

- *Bag Limit 10 Bream*
- *Slot Limits to be introduced as follows: - 8 fish between 28 and 37 cms and only 2 fish above 37 cms.*

### **Social Issues**

*During the Jan-Mar 2010 period the club conducted the following successful social activities;*

- *A one day members and guests trip to the Point Nepean National Park. Regrettably the numbers were down however those that did attend had an enjoyable and interesting day. It is a pity that members don't actively support this type of social activity as it provides a great opportunity for members and their partners to fraternise in a non fishing environment. I commend you to consider this type of social activity in 2011.*
- *Also programmed was a Whiting charter trip on Western Port. Unfortunately due to unexpected*

*circumstances the trip had to be cancelled.*

*The club's Executive is always open to members' suggestions on how to improve the club and would be appreciative if suggestions are put in writing and addressed to the Secretary.*

*Best Regards, Yours Fraternally  
Don Ellis.*

## **INTER-CLUB EVENTS**

As the months of April and May arrive, it means the inter-club competitions are nearly here. These annual inter-club events against Elwood Angling Club are always closely contested. The results are normally very close and often the difference between the 2 clubs is only a few fish. But the 2 inter-club events, one held on the fresh water out from Alexandra and the second held on the Gippsland Rivers are most enjoyable from the point of view of the coming together of the 2 clubs over the BBQs that follow the first days fishing. The members that organize the BBQs do an outstanding job and their efforts are very much

appreciated by everyone that attends.

## **To any prospective member - Do you need a boat to enjoy angling with the OAC?**

Our club fishes over 4 categories of competition:

- "surf" fished from the beach,
- "freshwater" fished from the banks of rivers or lakes, or from boats out on the lakes,
- "estuary" fished from the banks of rivers, or from boats out on the lakes,
- "saltwater" normally fished from boats but this can be fished from the beach or piers.

Recently the results from the Bemm River, the "Holy Mecca" of estuary fishing, have revealed that anglers fishing from the banks can experience fabulous results, so much so, that those fishing from the bank can outfish the boat anglers.

The competitions do not have to be fished hard. You can start and finish your fishing anytime within the rules of the competition.

Apart from competitions, the club also organizes 2 social boat charters during the Snapper and Whiting seasons.

A good part of the week-end events is the social aspect after the fishing, the BBQs and the chit chat, remember boat ownership plays no part in the social aspect.

The year's Social calendar also is not at all related to boat ownership.

So the answer has to be a resounding "NO".

## How not to finish a perfect day

Whiting pref. comp. Hastings  
March 20 2010

We launched with the other members about 6.30am and went to our fishing spots. Each spot produced fish and so it was back to the ramp around 2.30pm.

We were happy as we both had Whiting plus a few Snapper so we had weighable fish for the competition plus some.

At the ramp there was just a small queue of boats, so it was not too long to wait. My fishing mate went to get the car and trailer and then backed it down the ramp when our turn came.

I was on the dock holding the boat. As the trailer came down the ramp I then moved the boat toward the trailer where I directed the bow of the boat to the 1<sup>st</sup> roller (we have this system you see!!!) where my mate would attach the winch cable and then wind the boat up the trailer. While doing this I was also talking to another member of our club. Out of the corner of my eye I noticed that the stern of the boat had drifted back towards the jetty, so as I have done many times before, I placed my foot on the boat and pushed it away, but as the stern of the boat moved over toward the trailer again so did I and I

can tell you that at full tide the water at the ramp is very deep and very wet.

### **Moral of this story.**

When offered help by a fellow club member do not say to him "no thanks we have a system that work well".

All names are withheld to protect the privacy rights of the author.

## **Fishing the Murray River**

The OAC has a trip to Mulwala coming up shortly. Here is a timely article that may assist.

Reports are starting to favour the Murray with the recent rains bringing the fish on the bite. Remember to fish downstream of a snag for if you fish upstream, the current will most certainly take your tackle into the snag which the fish will think its good but very likely you will get snagged.

Catching local bait is easy. Dog food is the best to start catching shrimp then once you catch a carp, use that for bait. Remember to put name tags on the shrimp traps, only one trap per person. Avoid throwing your traps into water with sun, throw traps into the shade and close to snags or reeds if you can.

A NSW fishing licence is required and size limits are; Cod, 60cm, Golden Perch 30cm and Redfin 25cm (club only). Bag limits are 2 cod per day - 4 in possession, 5 Golden Perch per day 10 in possession. All carcasses must be gilled and gutted but left whole until ready to eat. Remember that Trout Cod have a distinctive stripe through the eye and must be returned unharmed to the water for they are a protective species.

Trout Cod have spots rather than the mosaic pattern on their body.

One member used to go into a riverside take-away shop and ask to buy a cold dim sim. When asked why he wanted a cold dim sim, he would answer he was going Cod fishing. He did get more than the odd look from the shop owners. He would never answer that he was actually using the dim sim for catching shrimp that in turn would be used for bait.

Cubes of Coon cheese are also a top bait for Murray Cod.

Here is a recent report from [www.fishnet.com.au](http://www.fishnet.com.au)

Member: [fishhook](#)  
Location: Lake Mulwala, Mulwala, NSWACT  
Date Fished: 6 April, 2010  
Time Fished: 00:00 - 00:00  
Fished From: Boat  
Method: Fresh Water, Lure Fishing  
Action Was: Medium  
Report: Camped at Kyffins Reserve. Fished from 8am-11am for 3 mornings from 2 boats and caught 18 [Murray Cod](#) between 41-64 cm as well as 2 yellowbelly around 2kg. Successful lures were number 2 stumpjumpers, 5m+ Oar gee plow and medium AC invader. Caught most fish trolling out of the channel in 2-3.5 metres of water.

## OAC LADIES NIGHT



Fancy a night out at a good Chinese restaurant?

THURSDAY, 29TH APRIL, 2010  
KINGS 88 RESTAURANT  
BENTLEIGH EAST

7.00 p.m. (*bring a friend*)  
*hope to see you there !*

R.S.V.P asap Gaynor 0417 652 343  
or 9796 9694

### Bemm River November 2009

The Bemm River trip in November 2009 saw the club members comfortably settle in at the Cosy Nook Holiday Cabins. This place looks like being our accommodation for future trips to the Bemm over the Cup weekend.

Although we had some overnight rains the weather did not prevent us fishing on all 3 days. The water levels in the lake were the lowest in the memory of our visits over 30 years to this location. However it did not stop the smaller "tinnies" from getting into the river.

Three competitions were fished over the weekend.

First being E2 on the Saturday. 14 members fished weighing in 61 fish consisting of 56 Bream, 4 Luderick and 1 Trevally, including two Bream of 1.165 and 1.090kgs. and three Luderick of 1.250, 1.205 and 1.120kgs. Ross Manning was the Trophy Winner. Frank Hegazi took the Heaviest Fish Trophy.

E3 on Sunday. 13 Members fished weighing 51 fish consisting of 50 Bream and 1 Mullet. Two Bream of 1.145 and 1.215kgs were the standout fish weighed by R. Manning in a bag of 5 fish weighing a total of 5.105kgs. That's an average of 1.021kgs. per fish. Ross having won an Estuary Competition allows the Runner-up T. Thommers to take the Trophy with Ross the Heaviest fish.

15 Members on Monday fished the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leg of the Ernie Hunt Bream Only Trophy, with a chance of weighing the regulated bag limit of a max. 10 fish per angler. 83 Bream were landed including 4 fish over a kilo – 1.095, 1.135, 1.195, 1.210. George Green was the winner on the day with 10 Bream weighing 6.360kg. Then Peter Manning with 10 Bream weighing 6.115kg. followed by Ross Manning with 8 Bream weighing 5.790kg.

It was another great weekend and as usual the location's conditions were different to previous years, Most noticeable difference was the low water levels and the absence of fish species other than Bream and Luderick.

However there were plenty of these fish to be found and the weekend was another great trip to what would have to be the Club's favorite Estuary location.

(John Lester)

## Spencer Gulf South Australia

4 fishos decided it was time to look beyond the Victorian borders for a fish escape trip. Port Hughes on the East Coast of the Spencer Gulf in South Australia seemed the logical destination. Port Hughes was selected for a number of reasons. I had holidayed there on two previous occasions – 2003 and 2004 and had done fishing Charters with A1 and Copper Triangle. Being familiar with the area and the charter boat operators we booked A1 Charters, the Skipper and his deckie for three days being Friday, Saturday and Sunday in February 2010.

We had an early start from Melbourne on Wednesday morning 10 February 2010. By 6p.m. that evening and 980kms later we were comfortably settled into a very nice and well kept house that had everything we needed including BBQ, fish cleaning table, freezer, large fridge, and more.

After the long drive on the previous day, Thursday was a lay day and we got provisions at the Wallaroo supermarket. Then it was early to bed for a 5a.m. start the next morning.

Friday we meet up with our Skipper Greg and his deckie. After about 30 minutes travelling South we are into the Snapper. Fishing for Snapper in this part of the world is a lot different to Port Phillip. They drift with a terminal rig sinker on the bottom 600mm to a short leader No.5 hook, and bait up with Tommy Rough or Pilchard.

Within minutes I had hooked into a big fish, I got him halfway to the boat then lost it. 2mm had broken off the point of the hook. The fish must have been just hooked in one of his big back teeth. I could only guess how big he was.

While all this is going on, the other boys Ean, Jim and Ian are catching fish, many of which had to be returned. The minimum legal length in S.A. is 39cm. It was not long before we had two nice big fish in the

box, 72cm, and 60cm estimated weight 5.5kg. and 5kg. We had a great day catching about 60 fish with 12 being keepers.

Saturday – A couple of hours on the Snapper. There were lots of fish caught but only three keepers. We then moved and anchored up for Whiting. This was the most exciting Whiting fishing we had ever had. In 40 odd feet of water these fish refused to leave the bottom. It was necessary to lock the brake and hang on until the fish stopped struggling. The minimum legal length for Whiting here is 31cm. We finished with 17 and did not have to return one to the water.

Sunday's plan was to go straight out to the Whiting. However the weather turned foul and Sunday's fishing was aborted. This cancellation due to the weather was a great disappointment to us all, as we were looking forward to practicing what we had learned about South Australian Whiting fishing on the previous day. Despite missing one day's fishing it was a wonderful trip enjoyed by all and one that I could easily do again.

We spent Sunday doing the tourist thing, taking in all that was to be seen and done in the old town's long since abandoned copper mines. We returned home on Monday 15<sup>th</sup>. The 4 fishos were – Ean Moser, Ian Sandford (Sandy), Jim Cameron and yours truly.

(John Lester)



## 2010-11 FISHING SYLLABUS

**It is 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

Two Irishmen were walking down the street with two salmon each under their arms.

Two other Irishmen walking in the opposite direction see the two lucky fishermen and ask "How did you catch those?"

Well it's like this! Michael here holds my legs over the bridge, and I grab the salmon. We got four salmon. 'Twas a great days fishing!

So the fishless pair look at each other and agree to give it a try. They get to the bridge and Sean calls to his friend "hold my legs now Paddy".

Well he is hanging there upside down for thirty minutes when he suddenly cries.. "pull me up, pull me up!!!"

Paddy asks " do you have a fish Sean?".....

"No" replies Sean, "there's a bloody train coming!!!!!!!!!"