

THE BOBBIN

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January 2019

CHAIRMAN'S CHIRP

Compliments of the season to all our members. I hope you had a restful festive season and that in between family time you managed to get a line wet. It seems the promise of rain in the early part of the season didn't come through and the river dropped to alarming levels. I personally cancelled two berg river trips because of a lack of water and the high-water temperatures which would have led to certain death of my quarry.

I was wondering if any of you made any New Year's resolutions. Maybe one where you take some time to put back into your sport? Could we be so fortunate as to have some members decide to contribute to the Bobbin? I'm not sure why there is a general apathy about sending in articles. Maybe members are just intimidated to put words down on paper? If the shoe fits when let's do something about it. Please get hold of Stelios or myself and we help you work up an article for the Bobbin.

I got three days at Sterkies in January with five other lads. Jay Smit had been the week before and reported that he weather wasn't good, but they managed a few fish. Our trip was very overcast with the sun only coming out on the final day. This switch turned a 2 fish day into a 28 fish day! Dries were working but not as well as a small #20 black unweighted nymph and fish on a super slow figure of eight retrieve.

Till next time.

FROM THE EDITOR

Despite my continual whining and cajoling, we have needed up with a Bobbin with quite a few articles! Warren Prior tells us about his fly-fishing in Australia since he left us; Graeme Neary (fishing with Bruce Curry the 'Desert Warrior') writes about another trip to Rocky Bay; Andrew Gove describes his trip to Sterkies and catching his PB Largemouth Yellowfish – and Laurence Davies gives (those of us who eat rout) a recipe for smoked trout. Notably these are regular contributors to the Bobbin and we appreciate their efforts.

As Andrew has said above, other members should give back to their sport. A few cellphone pictures with a paragraph or two can always be made into an article that would be of interest to members. Anything will do...a fly that you tied, a fish that you caught, a place that you visited - let's share our knowledge and experiences, that's what being a member club is about!



Andrew Mather



Stelios Comninos



NEXT MEETING
Monday 3 February 2020/19,00h for 19.30h
Room G1 Westville Library
Andrew Mather will tie the Black Smut



MY FIRST TASTE OF AUSSIE FLY FISHING - WARREN PRIOR

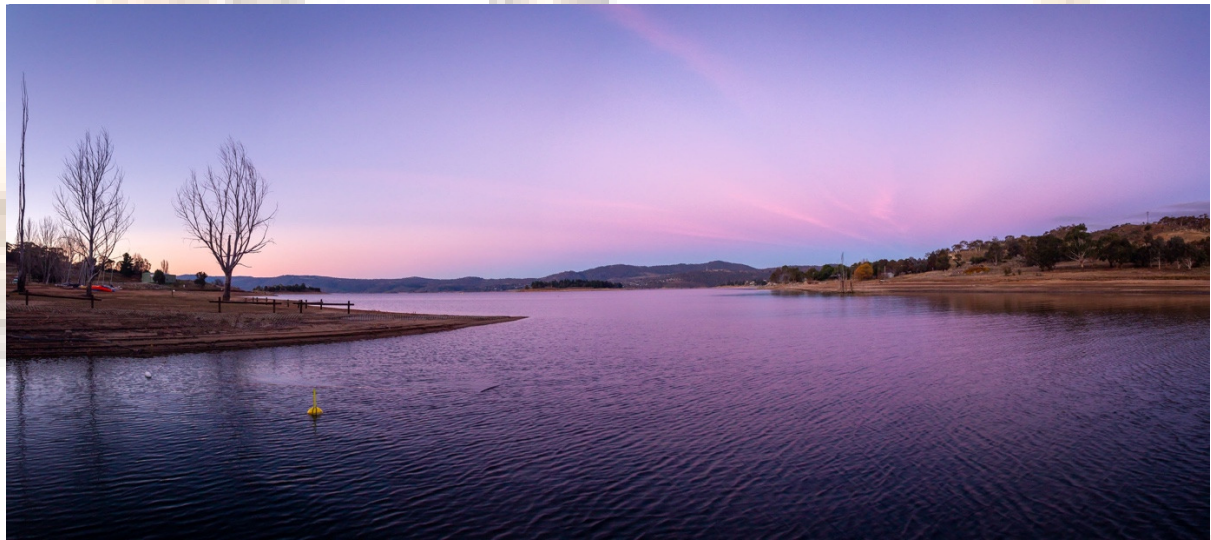
I'm fast approaching two years in 'Straya', and sadly haven't fished nearly as often as I would've liked to. That said, I have managed to cover a variety of both saltwater and freshwater venues, and have even landed a few new species.

My first few attempts were short sessions, throwing flies off of rocky points, and south of Sydney on family camping trips. Despite losing a fish on my first ever cast in Australia (on an orange Crazy Charlie), these trips were largely unsuccessful. It may have been my tactics? Or it could have been the poor conditions? Either way, I was off to a poor start.

Over Easter we headed north to Coffs Harbour, roughly halfway between Sydney and Brisbane, to camp with Nick and his family. This meant many afternoons spent throwing flies into the surf for dart (wave garrick), of which there were thankfully many, putting me on the board in Australia. We also found some small trevally off a rocky point in the area, where I managed to lose a decent fish which I'm assuming was a larger trevally. The usual flies worked, including salty buggers, Crazy Charlies, and Clousers.



After that salty beach holiday, we headed off on a family skiing trip to the Snowy Mountains, some 500km south of Sydney, and the middle of trout country. We stayed on the shores of Lake Jindabyne, so I made sure to sneak my rods into the car for the odd flick between ski sessions. The first of these flicks was in Lake Jindabyne itself, which is stocked with rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout, and Atlantic salmon. Lake Jindabyne is a large piece of water, with a surface area greater than 3000 hectares, at a max depth of 40 meters. This scale made it somewhat intimidating for an angler who's used to the small farm dams of Underberg. None the less, I walked the shore of a nearby bay, fishing around some visible structure. After an hour or so I had an explosive take on the surface, just as my fly hit the water. Sadly, it was not to be, and I lost the fish after a brief fight of no more than 10 seconds. All I can say is that the fish was large. Sadly, I had no more knocks, and eventually headed back to the cabin.



My next Snowy Mountain session was in the Thredbo River. I wasn't quite sure what to expect, as the rivers in the region vary from the higher alpine rivers, holding smaller trout, to the lower stretches, which can be fished from drift boats, and also contain the much sought after Murray Cod. The fish also swim upstream from the large dams like Eucumbene to breed, and it's not uncommon to land 10 pound browns in these stretches.

I opted for a thinner piece of water, hoping to avoid the crowds which flock to the more popular spots. Unfortunately, not knowing the area, I failed dismally and was forced to share a 2km beat with around 10 other anglers, many of whom were throwing spoons.



I saw some big fish, ranging from 5 - 8 pounds, but was unable to entice them to my glow-bug patterns (the most common winter fly here, which is essentially an egg pattern). On the up side, I finally managed to land a few Aussie trout in a more remote section of the river, which I waded to get away from the other anglers. And better yet, I caught my first ever trout by hand, tickling it out from beside a rock in the rapids.

Itching for more trout we snuck in a weekend away at Lake Oberon, which is a shorter 200km drive west of Sydney, just through the Blue Mountains. Lake Oberon is one of the regions water supplies, so no powered watercraft are allowed on the water. I'd

read mixed reports on the dam, which was once considered a great trout water, but appeared to have been taken over by redfin perch. Thankfully, the government is aware of the issue, and has several plans in place to rehabilitate the water, include stocking both more and larger trout, as well as introducing other native species like the Murray Cod.

I fished a single afternoon session, and thankfully got into some great fish on the usual seeking pattern - a black woolly bugger. I landed 2 rainbow trout, both of around 5 pounds, and in both great condition.

I was impressed to see one of them was tagged and, upon doing some research discovered it was part of the fisheries' program to resolve the redfin perch problem. I reported the tag and growth rate, as requested, and was astounded when a trout lure was sent to me by the fisheries as a thank you. It's truly great to see my fishing licenses money being put to good use.

With the winter trout fishing out of the way, I turned my focus to waters closer to home. Living meters from the vibrant waters of Sydney harbour, full of flathead, bream, kingfish, and Australian salmon, and having hardly ever fished them, was really starting to eat at me. So, I started doing some fishing down at the nearest bay, throwing flies between the moored yachts.

I've had some incredible sessions, landing mostly flathead and tailor (as well as losing some big fish). However, I'm yet to land the famous kingfish or Aussie salmon, or the competition bream.

To this end my Christmas present to myself was a Hobie Outback fishing kayak. Being a peddle drive, it keeps my hands free to fish, not unlike being on a less manoeuvrable, but much faster, float tube. It gives me options, from covering the large trout waters, to fishing for Aussie bass and Murray Cod, or targeting bigger fish in the estuaries/harbour (or sea if I get brave enough), and bream in the rivers.

So far I've only taken it out at the local dam, where I managed to land a few Aussie Bass (which are really a variety of perch), but I'm thrilled with the purchase. Let's hope my fishing ramps up from here.

Despite not fishing as much as I would've liked, I've landed a few decent fish in some incredibly beautiful locations. And I can't wait to get out on the yak and land some more Aussie icons. Expect further articles in the future. And drop me a line if you're ever in Sydney (or are heading over to New Zealand) and we can go for a fish.

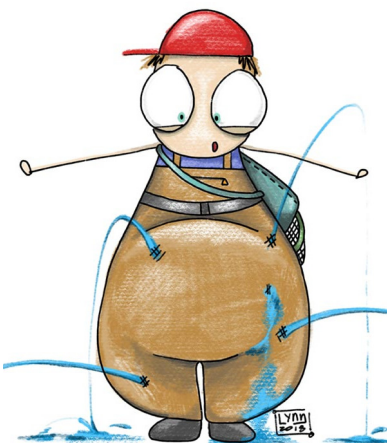


ROCKY BAY AGAIN.....GRAEME NEARY

Rocky Bay has proved very productive over the last few months. I have been fishing here for a while with Bruce Black, as well as in a few other spots in the area. On Sunday 12th Jan we invited Duncan Steyn to join and he was very successful although not a stranger to this area. This past Sunday 26th Bruce Curry accepted a call to join us and had a ball as he hadn't fished for quite a while and was rewarded quite well. On both days the weather and the sea played their parts. Very light winds and clean water. It was a day after springs so lots of fishing water.

This venue allows small bay sections with gullies and gutters with a few good size rock pools. The most common fish we have been getting are Rainbow and Ladder Wrasse, Stone Bream, Black Tails, Barred Flagtails, Wave Garrick, Cape Moonies Big Eye Kingies and Shad. Two weeks back Duncan caught a Dusky Sweeper which is a very unusual catch and a Blue Fin Kingie. On average we can get up to twenty fish each on a good outing.

We will soon be re visiting the Scottburgh back beach area as well as Park Rynie. The area around Pennington and Kelso also warrants a look sometime.



Bob had full confidence in his wader repair – until he stepped out of the water

YELLOWFISH ARE GENTLEMEN:

THE ANNUAL GOVE STERKFORTEIN TREK 2019 - BY ANDREW GOVE

"Yellowfish are gentlemen, they don't like to get up TOO early" was the excuse I received as my dad climbed out of his car to greet me. He was late and claimed he this was due to "load shedding", I still believe he was late due to "excessive Christmas cheer", but luckily his assessment of our quarry turned out to be correct and the fish only started moving after lunch time, long past when even the most disgraceful gentleman would dare rise!

We had the honour of being guided on this trip by Mark Yelland which is almost more exciting than the fishing is! It is most definitely worth the guiding fee to have someone of his calibre next to you on the boat, his knowledge is immense and the techniques and tips he gives are invaluable. The most important lesson I learnt was to not false cast at all but rather get your line out in one movement. The water is so ridiculously clear that the flash from your tippet or fly will spook the fish you're trying to catch.

Happily, the fishing gods smiled on me this day and I was rewarded with some beautiful Small Mouth Yellowfish and one Large Mouth Yellow of which I was very chuffed! It was a lot smaller than Stelios' Largemouth that he caught earlier in the year, but I do believe that mine was prettier and of a higher quality than the one he boastfully sent me photographs of!

All of the fish were caught on The Good Dr's Beetle as tied by Dr Hans Van Zyl. This beetle is a mamba and deserves a place in every respectable fly box. Hans has tied for DFT before, have a look on the DFT webpage for the recipe; durbanflytyers.co.za/index.php/the-good-docs-beetle/. Rubber legs and a coloured varnish finish (purple or copper) seems to have been added to the fly design since then but for you, excellent member, adding that to the tie should not be a problem.

I would like to organise a trip in February or March to Sterkfontein. We could take between 6 and 8 rods and this would include one session fishing off the boat (guided) and the rest of the time fishing off the bank. If anyone is interested please let me know and I will calculate a cost for the trip, we would stay at Af Saal, Denis De Klerk's place, which is on its own is worth the trip up! Arrival on Saturday morning (not too early!) and depart Sunday afternoon (also not too early!), the cost would include accommodation, guiding and food. I can't guarantee fish but I will guarantee a great time!



My father, my largemouth and I!



Gotchya!

HOT SMOKED TROUT - LAURENCE DAVIES

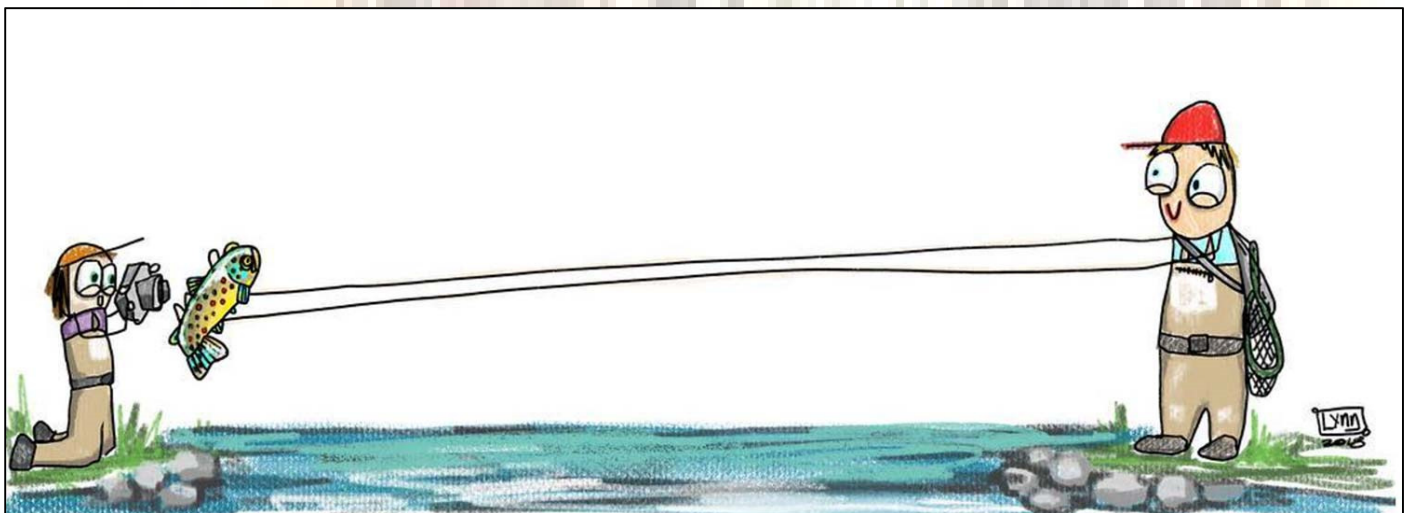


Tea-smoked trout on potato rosti with chive and horseradish cream (Picture: Food & Home Entertaining)

I have written before about hot smoked trout and how it is my family's favourite way of eating trout. I have a stainless steel Coleman smoker which must be over 20 years old, and use sawdust from wine barrel staves. I have also explained that you can also use standard pots and pans for smoking trout, or any fish for that matter, for those that don't wish to invest in a smoker.

I came across this recipe on Facebook, from *Food & Home Entertaining* which shows you how to smoke trout using a wok, foil, and tea, sugar and rice to generate the smoke. At the end, and within the recipe I will give some of my recommendations or hints. I should add that potato rosti is another favourite of mine, but you could use any base, like English Muffins or pancakes, much like you would for Eggs Benedict. In fact, saying that, it gives me another alternative, poached egg with hollandaise sauce on top of the trout (my mouth is watering at the thought)

Give it a try.



DURBAN FLY TYERS COMMITTEE (*Portfolios subject to change*)

Chairman	Andrew Mather	083 3090233	andrewmather@telkomsa.net
Vice Chairman	Stelios Comninos	083 255 3334	stelios.comninos@gmail.com
Treasurer	Dave Smith	083 251 1629	smiffam@absamail.co.za
Secretarial and entertainment	Bruce Curry	082 774 5514	Bruce.curry.too@gmail.com
Additional member	Tanya Giles	082 336 4489	tanjagiles@icloud.com
The Bobbin	Stelios Comninos	082 574 3722	stelios.comninos@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 2018 are now due and payable. At the AGM the subscription was raised marginally. Subscriptions are now as follows

Joining Fee	R250 senior R140 Junior
Senior Member	R250
Junior Member	R150
Family Member	R250 plus R50% of fee for each subsequent family member

Cash will only be accepted by Dave Smith at meetings of the DFT. All other payment to be made by EFT into the club bank account. No direct cash deposits.

Bank details

Bank: Standard Bank, Westville

Branch Code: 045 426. Account #: 053 189 647

Note: If you pay by EFT, please e-mail Dave Smith

smiffam@absamail.co.za with your proof of payment stating the type of members and the member(s) names.

QUICK LINKS

DURBAN SHOPS THAT STOCK FLY TYING MATERIAL

The Complete Angler	Shop 1 6 Village Rd Kloof, 3610, Tel 031 764 1488
Kingfisher	http://www.kingfisher.co.za/shopphp
The Fish Eagle	105 Victoria Rd, Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal https://www.facebook.com/THEFISHEAGLE
Explorer	Unit 4 Marseilles Park, 25 Marseilles Crescent, Briardene www.xplorerflyfishing.co.za

SOUTH AFRICAN ONLINE SHOPS

Frontier Fly Fishing	http://www.frontierflyfishing.co.za
Netbooks	http://www.netbooks.co.za The Home of Craig Thom
Stream X	http://www.streamxflyfishing.co.za
Xplorer	www.xplorerflyfishing.co.za
The African Fly Fisher	http://www.theafricanflyangler.co.za

KZN FLY FISHING GUIDES/CASTING INSTRUCTORS

Jan Korrubel	083 99 33 870 jkorrubel@gmail.com jan@wildfly.co.za Small streams and custom fly tying, casting
Grevin Price	082 896 3688 grevin@wildfly.co.za River and still water (including yellowfish)
Juan-Pierre Rossouw	076 208 5602 juan@wildfly.co.za River and still water (including yellowfish)
Leon Vermeulen	082 442 4846 / leon@wildbrowns.co.za River fishing
Graham McCall	793 033 735 Casting Instructor
David Weaver	083 303 4230 / eff@ohs.dorea.co.za All things about Sterkfontein
Jeremy Rochester	083 607 6109 Guide and casting Instructor

KZN FLY FISHING AND FLY TYING CLUBS & ASSOCIATIONS

The Fly Fishers Association (FFA)	flyfishersassociation@gmail.com
The KZN Fly Fishing Association (KZNFFA)	http://www.kznffa.org/public/index.asp?pageid=847
The Natal Fly Fishing Club	http://www.nffc.co.za
FOSAF	http://www.fosaf.org.za
The Underberg and Himeville Trout Club	http://www.uhtfc.co.za
Wildfly	http://www.wildflytravel.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=282&Itemid=451

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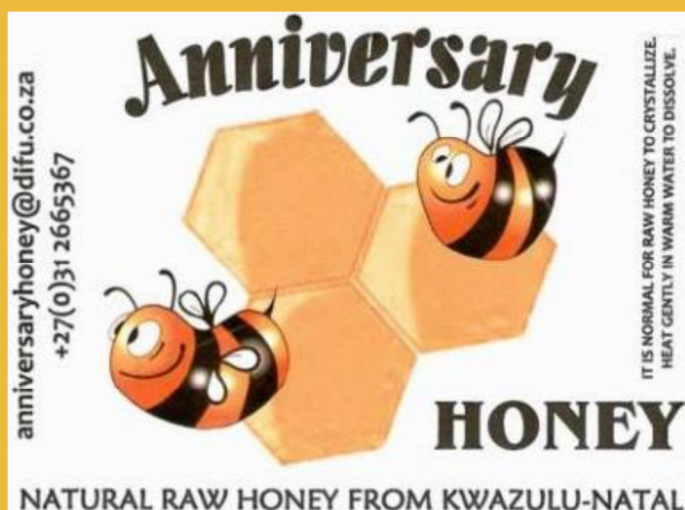
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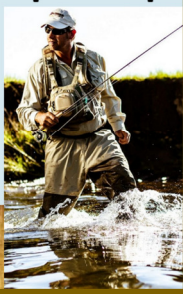
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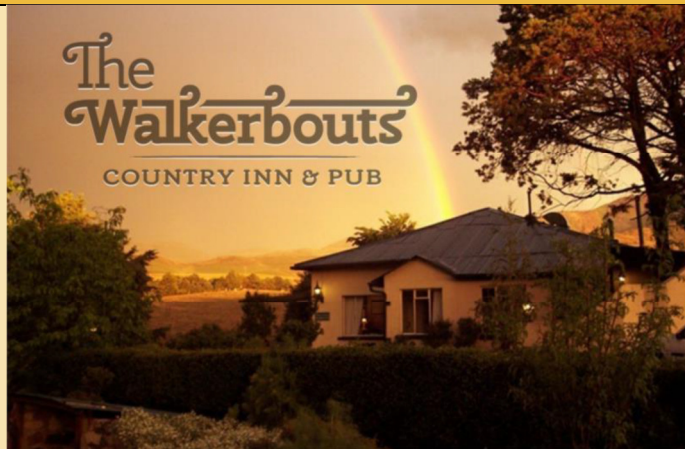
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The Walkerbouts

COUNTRY INN & PUB



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