

FISH 'N' TIPS



Important Reminders
Annual General Meeting

Election of a New
Committee

11th January 7:00pm

Weigh In
Saturday, 30th January 6pm

Fishing Club Web Site:
www.bribiersfishingclub.com

JANUARY

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2016

PRESIDENT:	Michael Phillips	0417 418 623
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Bryan Stenning	0421 446 295
SECRETARY:	Peter McGruddy	0428 107 486
TREASURER:	Carole Winnett	07 3410 0135
TREASURER'S ASSISTANT	Lyn Hunter	07 5497 7116
WEIGHMASTER:	Ron Winnett	0418 881 419
WEIGHMASTER'S ASSISTANT:	Richard Patterson	0400 994 878
CATERING CO-ORDINATOR:	Margaret Phillips	0425 648 623
CATERING ASSISTANT:	Margaret Steptoe	0412 746 441
PUBLICITY OFFICER:	Frank Oostenbroek	0401 694 111
MERCHANDISERS:	Joe & Wendy Knight	07 3410 8573
WEBMASTER:	Frank Oostenbroek	0401 694 111

Correspondence to:

**The Secretary
Bribie Island R.S.L. Fishing Club
PO Box 297 Bribie Island QLD 4507**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The AGM on the 11th January 2016

Election of a New Committee

President's Report

January 2016

I hope that everyone had a very enjoyable Christmas and New Year and I hope it will be a good year for everyone both financially and more importantly their health.

Another Fishing Club year comes to a close and it is very pleasing to see that we have volunteers for the various positions on the committee. I have enjoyed the last 6 years as your president and wish the new president and committee members well for the future.

I would like to thank all those on the committee for their tireless work over the last year and I am sure that those who are retiring this year will be happy to continue to assist the club.

The club is in a pretty good financial position, and this is thanks to the raffles which we run from June to January every year. The roster system has worked reasonably well for the last couple of years and as it is all members who benefit from the subsidies for the monthly BBQ's weekends away etc. It is only fair that everyone possible has ago at the raffles. Our takings for December were very good, particularly for New Years Eve.

Hopefully, we will have some good weather to enable us to get out amongst the fish. I know that there are Dolphin Fish and Mackerel being caught offshore as well as bream, Sweetlip, Flathead and Grunter being caught in the Passage. I don't think I can remember a year I have been on the island where so many good bream have been weighed in. It is nice to see so many members out fishing.

Mind you I wish I knew where all the crabs had gone. I have heard that even the professionals have much poorer catches than usual.

If there is anything you think the club could be doing, then please see one of the committee members and let them know. The committee are always looking for new ideas.

A happy birthday to all those with birthdays in January.

Tight Lines,

Mike Phillips

Weighmaster's Report

The competition for December and January was going to be combined but we have decided to post the results for December and our new Weigh Master can take over from January 2016.

The results for December are as follows:



Men's Inshore Winner: Trevor Plant

Men's Inshore Runner-up: Ron Winnett

Ladies Inshore Winner: Tina Patterson

Ladies Inshore Runner-up: N/A

Men's Offshore Winner: Frank Oostenbroek

Men's Inshore Runner-up: Peter McGruddy

Lucky Draw: Stephen Cochrane

Number of fish weighed inshore: 95

Number of fish weighed Offshore: 27

Biggest Fish Inshore:	Flathead	1.39kg	Ron Winnett
	Bream	.93	Trevor Plant
	Whiting	.21	Michael Phillips
	Snapper	.702	Steve Cochrane
	Sweetlip	.81	Trevor Plant
	Jew	5.63	Ron Russell

Biggest Fish Offshore:	Dolphin Fish	10.8kg	Frank Oostenbroek
	Wahoo	8.5kg	Frank Oostenbroek
	Cod	2.64Kg	Peter McGruddy

I would like to thank everyone for their support over the last few years and I really do wish our new Weigh Master all the very best during his term.

Fishing News



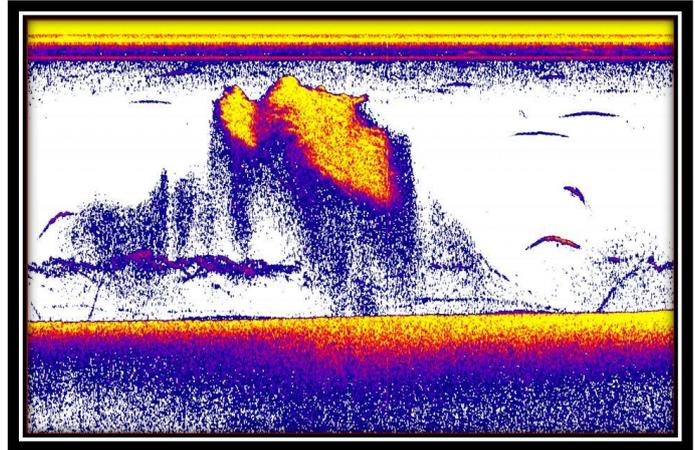
Michael Phillips is well known for catching just about every fish in the Australian waters but amazingly he had never before caught a Dolphin Fish. Over the years Michael could be seen towing small lures behind the boat for hours on end without success. This year was going to be different. Other members of the club had been successful and although Michael was in the same place at the same time, he only ever saw the illusive dolphin fish being pulled aboard other boats.

It was very early one morning when Frank "O" quietly parked his car in front of Michael's home; grabbed his trolling rods and his trusty camera and made his way down to Michael's boat. With a turn of the key the motor burst into action and they were off. 3:30am was a great time to get started. It was still dark but you could see a faint glimmer of light over towards the east. It seemed to take forever but finally Michael was able to push the throttle forward as they left the canal system.

Michael reduced his speed just before he continued under the bridge, being careful not to run over any small boats without lights as well as the mine field of crab pots further towards the main channel until they eventually left the safety of Bribie Island and raced off towards Comboyuro Point. The waves were a bit untidy but not enough to slow our heroes down.

The boys had studied all the information and were very confident of catching a fish. Earlier reports stated that there was a small amount of bait near Brennan's Shoal so that was the boys started their trolling session.

If you were to ask what the most important point of catching any fish was the answer would always be to find the bait. Bait is generally referred to as a large school of small fish. As a general rule; if you find the bait, you will find the fish.



A photo of a bait ball that has been herded up by bigger fish and how it may appear on a fish finder.

Some of the other important things to look for can include: perfectly clean water at a temperature of at least 25 degrees, flotsam or any objects, branches, seaweed or other rubbish floating on the top of the water. Current lines will collect all forms of flotsam and can be identified as smooth corridors of water. You may also find instances where there is a clear dividing line between dirty/ green water and clean water. These are also areas where you will find pelagic fish. There will be many of you who have never seen clean water. We refer to green water or dirty water as water where you can still see the bottom at ten of fifteen meters below the surface but it has a faint green tinge where the salt water mixes with fresh water. Clean water is magnificent. It almost has a dark blue or purple colour but you will rarely find it in water less than 150 meters deep.

One of last bits of information that the boys studied before leaving was the sea surface temperature. This is just another one of the many important features to keep in mind when looking for fish. Bait fish are brought down to us by the warm ocean currents so if you know where these currents lie, you will hopefully have a much better chance of finding the bait.

Michael and Frank decide to troll just three lures as any more lines without being able to spread them out would increase the chance of tangling the lines. The lures were positioned just outside the main white water. The theory behind this is that the noise of the motor combines with the churning white water will appear as a big bait school for any fish looking up from below the surface. Predatory fish like Marlin, Sailfish, Wahoo, Tuna, and Dolphin fish will race towards the bait school and select the weaker fish first. When threatened by larger fish, all of the bait will form into a round ball and try to stay in the safest place; the centre of the ball. Any fish that strays towards will be easy prey for the larger fish. It is for this reason that it is important to place your lures as close as possible to the outskirts of the main white water. With that in mind, the two boys placed the first lure just six or seven meters behind the boat, the next about fifteen and the last about twenty meters in a staggered formation so that if the boat was to turn sharply the lures would not tangle.

Everything was set so Frank poured the first cup of coffee and waited whilst all the time looking for something different. Well it didn't take long. As Frank looked back he could see a Black Marlin jumping out of the water approximately four times. Michael turned the boat around and headed in the general

direction and proceeded to troll in large circles. Well we often know where the fish are and can even see them but if they are not interested it is hard to make them take the lures.

Michael continued on for the next two or three hours until the boys were trolling in perfectly clean water about 120 meters deep. Michael saw a splash and then another. As he drove the boat closer it was obvious that they were only Dolphins; in fact there were about thirty of them. Frank started to get excited and explained that a pod of thirty Dolphins must be there for a reason. Again, Michael started trolling in large circles hoping for that beautiful sound the ratchet makes when a big fish takes the lure, but no such luck.

The boys could see small patches of bait fish on the very top of the water but against their better judgement, they decided to keep heading north. The water temperature had reached 26 degrees and things were looking good. Frank looked back at the Dolphins when he saw approximately three or four birds milling around the one small spot and suggested to Mike that they should go back to the Dolphins.

As they drew nearer they could see the birds diving amongst the Dolphins so Mike headed straight for them. Suddenly one of the closer lures went off. The ratchet was screaming. Frank raced to get the other rods back into the boat as well as the teaser while Mike grabbed the rod with the fish. It was extremely important to keep the boat moving forward to ensure that the line didn't go slack but with Mike on the rod there was no chance of that happening.

You could see a large Dolphin Fish jumping wildly about two hundred meters back when Frank took the controls and slowed the boat down to an idling speed. It is important to keep the boat moving forward so that the fish remains on the top of the water and not near the motor or propeller. Finally the fish lay beside the boat when the gaff found its mark. It had ben a long time coming but Mike could finally add another fish to his long list of captured species.



Richard Caldararo and Peter McGruddy also managed to catch their dinner.

Ron and Frank braved the 25knot winds and 2 meter swells to catch these two Dolphin Fish but could not have done it without the third member of the team Sandy Hose.



Mark Grubb is not a financial member of the club but I thought it was worth mentioning that Mark has been a faithful sponsor of the club, and does provide many of the lures that our members use for offshore trolling at a very attractive price.

This photo was taken two weeks ago while testing a brand new skirted lure called "Rio". I suggested "Mardi gras" or "Gay Boy" but Mark insisted that Rio may be a bit more acceptable.



There has been a lot of talk about trolling for big game fish, but there are still plenty of other members who have been successful in catching other species of quality fish. Gary Hunter and Trevor Bourke set course for Tangalooma recently where they managed to fish a beautiful specimen of the Venus Tusk Fish which measured 54cms long and weighed approximately 3kg.

A new year begins and the list of new members has grown by one. Margaret (Margie/ Marg) Gadd has decided to join the club after seeing the enjoyment her partner Ron Russell has got from being a member of the club. Marg has a long history in the Royal Australian Army and the Royal Australian Navy as well as working on her own business for many years, but those days have all but disappeared into the past.

The main attribute she brings to the club is her passion for fishing. I am sure that her time with us will teach her quite a lot about fishing in the passage. Since arriving on Bribie Marg has been settling into retirement but finds the quiet lifestyle challenging.

Ron has been taking Marg out in the passage as part of her training to her new lifestyle and is already achieving some major results. Look out ladies, the competition has started.

