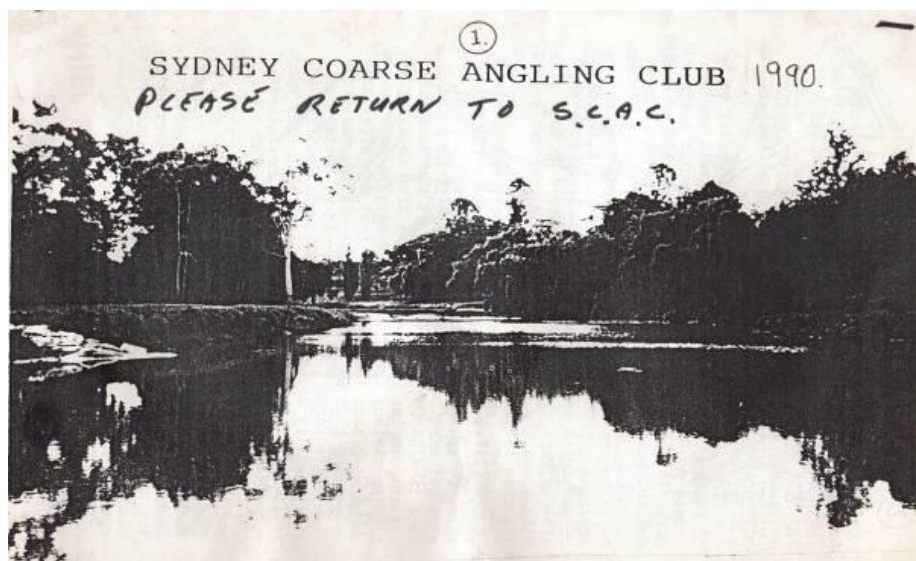


SYDNEY COARSE ANGLING CLUB INCORPORATED.

## MAGAZINE FROM 1990

Vol 1 from 1990



THIS IS A REPRODUCTION OF THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE FROM 1990, WHICH WAS THE FIRST MAGAZINE PRINTED PRIOR TO THE CLUBS FIRST OFFICIAL MATCH AT PARRAMATTA PARK.

## THE FOUNDING MEMBERS WERE

JOHN WILSON - PRESIDENT  
JAN WILSON - TREASURER  
STUART DEANS - SECRETARY  
BARRY EDMONSON  
RALPH CZICHON  
DAVE THOMAS  
COLIN McINTYRE

## **SYDNEY COARSE ANGLING CLUB**

1990 volume one

### **HELLO AND WELCOME**

Over the past six or seven months, I have been trying to get together enough people to form Sydney's first coarse angling club and finally, I am happy to say that enough names have been gathered to enable me to take what I hope will be the SYDNEY COARSE ANGLING CLUBS first steps on the road to becoming a great fun club.

At first, finding prospective members seemed to be a daunting task as the only method I could use to locate you all was to fish in very popular areas packed with people in the hope that the odd ex coarse angler would spot the coarse angling tackle and be drawn into conversation. I don't think that there can be an angler alive that has been asked, "Caught anything mate?" more times than myself, with the compulsory "can you eat it?" to follow. However, after a very slow start, things picked up to a slow middle and now that I have reached the reasonable part, its time to get things rolling.

Initially, I have decided that the best way to start things off is to hold a getting to know you day where we can meet and have a natter and possibly sort out enrolments etc, enjoy some fishing and take in a barbeque or (picnic) at the same time.

After spending some considerable time locating and fishing various fresh water venues, I have come to the conclusion that the best place that can offer us everything that we need for this meeting must be Parramatta Park. The fishing could be better but it is easily accessible and everyone can fish in comfort if they wish. It would seem that only carp and eels and the odd turtle will be caught there, but with the carp reaching a known size of over twelve pounds, the chance of a bit of sport is quite good. More importantly for this particular day, a shelter and toilet block is available and Parramatta is centrally located for almost everyone concerned. The map on the following page shows the meeting place and X marks the spot. I am looking forward to meeting you all on SUNDAY [Parramatta park top weir].picture deleted.

### **A PLACE TO PLAY •**

Finding a suitable venue to practice coarse angling in and around Sydney is not that easy. There are places but actually finding them tends to rely on word of mouth a lot. The easiest places have been bodies of water located by map and many of these are either salt water or fishing is not allowed. However, there would seem to be a few places that are ideally suited to our purpose and Parramatta Lake is one. Access is extremely easy although some of the places that you will want to fish will involve a bit of a walk. Amenities are available in the form of toilets, barbeques and even a small shop.

The fish are a little harder to come by than most places but I feel that after they have got used to a bit of ground bait and other hook baits that may seem foreign to them, it will shape up nicely. Having fished near the shop just after the floods around February time id had a poor day when the third last cast of the day hooked me a great surprise. The float just bobbed slightly, I wasn't quick enough to strike but it put me on the edge of my seat and I was more than ready for the second chance. When it came, the fish was hooked and its first move was to do a quick circle around my wife's line before making a break for deeper water. The next twenty minutes saw both my wife and I

getting our moneys worth from the one fish. Whilst I played the fish my wife had to go through the motions also to avoid putting extra pressure on my line. Cutting a long story short I finally played the fish to the surface where I saw it for what it was, a huge Koi carp. Having never caught a Koi before I was keen to land it but after placing the landing net in the water, the fish played its circling game again and left my line tied around the handle. Fortunately, the Koi was played out and just lay there whilst I pulled it with the landing net to a landing position, but as I approached it with the net it gave a flick of the tail, 'snapping my line like cotton which left me swearing and putting down my rod to salvage the float. Whilst I was doing this I noticed that the tip of my rod was twitching and realized that it was Janet's line that had parted. I made no mistake with my second chance and landed a beautiful black, silver and gold koi carp to just over nine pounds. That last fish of the day turned the poor day into one that I won't forget for a while. After a quick phonograph, it was released again so if you fancy your chances, it is still around and who knows, maybe its parents are also about. Mind you it might be just that bit wiser now. Since then, I have caught a few carp with the Koi markings as well as common carp and goldfish to in excess of four pound but no more Koi.

Fisheries have recently stocked this water with thousands of fingerling Bass and the lake must produce bigger fish as time goes by but even now, there are Bass of a decent size. My personal best has been close to the two pound mark so it's my guess that there must be a few bigger ones around. Judging by the shoals of small gambusia (mosquito fish) i think that the fingerlings won't be fingerlings for long. I have been assured that there are also redfin perch available but as yet I can't confirm that as I have not been able to catch one. Eel tailed catfish are another story though with my best catch standing at two and a quarter pounds.

This is a great place during the week where you can believe you are away from it all and get a bit of peaceful fishing. Weekends will probably see you seeking out less accessible areas to avoid the barbeque bunch. The coming winter should see that it is a good week round fishing spot.

## **EEL TAILED CATFISH      "tandanus"**

It is my intention to include an article on a different species of fresh water fish in each news letter. The first fish has been chosen mainly so that everyone is aware of a potentially dangerous fish, the eel tailed catfish.

This fish has been known to grow to a weight of fifteen pounds and a length of three feet but fish over four or five pounds should be highly regarded as fish over five pounds are either rare or very clever. The dorsal spine is serrated and the pelvic spines are very sharp and are well able to break the skin which will produce a painful wound so this fish must be handled with care.

It has a small flattened head with fleshy lips which are serviced by four pairs of barbels. These barbels are thought to be touch sensitive and are used for locating food. The body is elongated and is covered with a tough scale less skin. Colorations varies with the size of the fish, up to six inches long it will be from grey to brown on its back and sides and often it will be mottled with black blotches, its belly is from an off white to yellow. In larger fish the back and sides are brown to black and the belly is white. If you really want to know whether a fish is a male or a female, it is possible by checking

out the fleshy protuberance behind the vent, the males is triangular and the females is round as well as being longer.

The catfish is essentially a bottom feeder but im assured that one of the favored methods of fishing for it is to suspend a bait just above a weed bed. It favors deeper water by day but will come in to feed in shallower water as it gets darker.

Its natural food ranges from yabbies, shrimps and grubs to small fish. Funnily, it would seem that the younger catfish include small fish in their diet more than the adults. The main sources of food are shrimps in the summer and various insects during the winter. Most fish will be taken on worm bait but other baits will have their days. It has even been caught on a lure on odd occasions when it has been defending a nest. The breeding season is during spring and summer with the catfish will build a nest for the eggs out of pebbles, gravel and just about anything else it can find. The nest is circular and its size can be any thing between three and seven feet in diameter. Depending on the size of the fish, anywhere between two thousand and twenty one thousand eggs will be laid in the nest when the water temperature is between twenty and twenty four degrees Celsius and will be guarded and fanned by the male. Sometimes, the same nest will be used year after year. The catfish tends to prefer the calmer lakes and backwaters but will inhabit and spawn in flowing streams to a lesser degree. It can survive water temperatures from four degrees up to thirty-five. Their movements are limited and appear to be random and most individuals will only cover a stretch of water for about two or three miles. This means that a localized pollution can seriously affect this fish. Although it is generally described as being a poor fighting fish and sluggish, i think that this is usually a comment that goes with heavy tackle. It is a good scrapper on the lighter lines of the coarse angler.

## TACKLE

One of the biggest problems that coarse angling has to overcome is the availability of our particular type of equipment. As im sure you are aware, tackle shops just do not have what we need, (yet). The words "COARSE ANGLING" are popping up in fishing magazines more and more often and sooner or later our tackle must become commonplace. This will more than likely be when the average Australian angler finds out just how effective the coarse angling ledgering methods are. The use of a feeder rod or quiver tip rod in the salt water estuary or river is deadly to such an extent that I feel that when it does become popular, there will be a definite reduction in fish stocks. Fortunately, at the same time that coarse angling is being mentioned more often, the idea of catch and release is also becoming a bit of a catch phrase so maybe that will balance out the possibility of a mass slaughter of fish.

Until our tackle hits the shops we have to look to Victoria for assistance. Coarse angling has for the last two or three years been enjoying an ever increasing popularity to such an extent that our cousins down south can actually field an international team of match anglers to have a go in the world championships. Last year saw them take tenth place in Bulgaria which on the face of it might not look too good but when you consider that they beat the French team it looks a lot better.

This popularity has ensured that there is one outlet for coarse angling tackle. At the moment it would appear that it is the only outlet in Australia. Although the range of manufacturer's equipment is limited, just about any item of tackle can be obtained. The tackle shop is Rob Harrisons tackle supplies in Mount Waverly and the guy that we will be dealing with is a great -bloke called Tony (STRIKE) Fleming. The strike handle

is due to his landing more lips than fish with his savage strikes. A club discount is a possibility so ordering tackle through the club will benefit everyone concerned.

## ON A LIGHTER NOTE

The introduction of coarse angling into Australia is going to be the source of a few amusing stories. Offhand I only have a couple but as time goes by im sure there will be many more.

Having had a decent days fishing at Parramatta Lake one day, I was just entering my long series of "last casts" after emptying my keep net of fish and laying it out to dry. A couple of council employees stopped by to have a chat and after a few minutes one of them put on a serious voice and said, "You don't have to worry about us mate but if the warden comes round and sees that you will be in trouble."

After another bit of a chat it turns out that you are not allowed to catch fish here with a net. I think that these guys thought I was trawling with it and im pretty sure that they only half believed my explanation, especially when I came to the bit where I had put Bass back.

A bit of recruiting turned up this next one that I found quite amusing.

Waiting at the airport for my mother to arrive I struck up a conversation with a fellow angler from Blackpool in the UK.

Seems that he had settled himself down for a days fishing and was tossing in a few balls of ground bait when some guy walks up to him and asks what he thinks lies doing. After a brief explanation, this guy says, "Well pack it in, your scaring the fish." It seems that revenge was sweet because after about an hour, our coarse angler started to fill his net. Hope to see you at the meeting Gary.

This last one comes courtesy of Tony Fleming from Melbourne. Whilst being involved with one of the stalls at last years tackle show, he was drawn into a discussion about this "new" coarse angling gear and his attention was drawn to one of the quiver rods. It seems that after a while this guy was convinced that this type of rod really was a good idea but he still had just one more question that he must have felt he had to ask. "Tell me," he said, "exactly what kind of fish is a quiver."

I though a joke or two wouldn't go amiss so ringing round a few people I had the idea that I would pick out the best and finish off this newsletter with a laugh. As it turned out, there was only one joke that I heard that i could dare to put onto paper. I won't even take the responsibility for this one, it again comes from Tony.

The scene is two really old fishing fanatics spending the weekend fishing, (as usual). This is how it goes.

BOB; "I heard that you got married last week Bill, your getting a bit old for that kind of thing aren't you? she must be really good looking eh?."

BILL; "No she's not mate, she's got a face like a bucket full of cod heads,"

BOB; "Must have a terrific figure then."

BILL; "Not at all, in fact she's really fat and has only one leg."

BOB; "Well, she must be filthy rich then."

BILL; "Hasn't got a penny."

BOB; "I've got it; her parents are loaded and about to cark it."

BILL; "She hasn't got any relatives at all mate."

BOB; "Must be one hell of a cook then."

BILL; "Actually, I don't think that there could be a worse cook in the world, she even burns the water when she's making a cup of tea."

BOB; "I can't understand it then, what on earth compelled you to marry her?"

BILL; "Well it's like this mate, she's got worms."

PS - I think im going to regret putting that joke in,

## IN MELBOURNE

You could call this a stop press item. As I mentioned earlier, coarse angling has been on the go down there for a while now and the latest is that at the moment, there seems to be one or two professionally made coarse angling videos being produced. I have been promised a copy as soon as it or they are finished and will let you know what it or they are like when I have seen it or them.

## THE LAST WORD

This page was written some two months before our meeting date and two months after the rest of the newsletter. The main thing that I have to say is that just recently, the Parramatta River was polluted and fish were dying right left and centre. *I* discovered this on a days fishing and called-in the council to investigate. *I* guess that it doesn't make any difference if anything is resolved, the result is dead fish and we can only hope that it doesn't happen again. The floating fish gave an indication as to how the river was shaping up after the last pollution with many dead bass and a few catfish showing up, one of the catfish topping three pounds. It looks as though the carp and eels are having a hard time but knowing how hardy these fish are *I* think that they should get through it and the fishing will be ok when we get there, *I* will be checking it out beforehand and if the river dies the venue will be changed.

This newsletter is sent to every person that has shown interest in the club, however, any further letters will be sent to members only so if you are genuinely interested and can't get to the meeting; please contact me so that we can keep in touch. It isn't necessary but if you are coming, it would also be a great help if you could again contact me to confirm and give me an idea how many people to expect and if you know anyone else that is interested they will be more than welcome. I can be contacted on TEL 782820.