



# News from Uncle Billy's Retreat

Bill & Sue Atkin  
"Yoolimba"  
BEN LOMOND



## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the Atkin Family

December 2007

#3 Newsletter

### Weather.

Once again the weather has played a big part in our management this year. Reasonable rain fell during the first 3 months and below average rainfall was recorded up until August. We had several falls of snow during winter. Good Spring rain fell in October, replenishing all our dams.

### Fishing

We have had very positive feed back to our Fly Only fishing policy. Most anglers have welcomed the change and many new visitors are enjoying our Retreat.

Mainly smaller trout, up to 700gms were caught during the first few months, but as the year progressed the size of the fish increased and averaged about 900gms with the odd bigger trout (1.5 kg—4.4 kg) landed. With the wetter season there has been an incredible amount of insect activity. Lots of midge, white moth, flying ant, dragon fly and may fly. The flies that have had the most success were nymphs, caddis, midge, buzzers. During the winter months on bright sunny days, fishing from the dam wall with a sink-tip line and Olive Woolly Bugger worked well. English style wets had success when drifting from the rowboat. Fishermen also enjoyed superb midge hatches, with numerous fish moving into the shallows. Spring fishing proved exciting with trout taking almost any fly.

There is every indication that summer fishing should be the best we have seen for several years.



An angler from Canberra caught this 4.4kg healthy Rainbow Trout on a Number 7-9ft cane rod made by Nick Taransky



Brian from Brisbane caught this beautiful Rainbow trout in late September

### Events and Happenings, 2007

Bill & I witnessed Ron & Kerry (regular guests) renew their Wedding Vows in April at the Lodge.

Uncle Billy's received very good publicity from a program 'Saturday Afternoon' shown on Channel 9 in Queensland in April. This program will go to air again on Channel 9 on 12th January, 2008.

We also had good publicity from articles written in NSW Fishing Magazine. Our Website has been revamped, thanks to our capable IT man Nick.

A few changes have taken place during the year, including a new jetty and the foreshores nearby rocked. The Boat Shed has been made bird proof and hopefully warmer, with 2 glass sliding doors installed.

The Solar Power has been upgraded at The Retreat and The Lodge to allow guests to re-charge phones and computers. This will also enable people with medical conditions, eg Sleep Apnea to use CPAP machines.

### For our Bird Watching Enthusiasts

We are always amazed at the many species of birds that habitat the water and grounds at Uncle Billy's. Many different ducks and birds have been observed during the year including a cluster of Glossy Ibis. The Grey Strike-Thrush has once again nested in the car port at The Lodge. The Crested Pigeons hatched two babies in the pine trees near the log cabin and the Yellow Rumped Thornbill has a nest under the awning at the bathroom. The Blue-billed Ducks continue to make their home at the main lake.

Blue-billed Duck Photo courtesy of Ken Sheehan



### Telephone Service

For guests needing to use a mobile telephone, they will be pleased to know that the Next G mobiles are having fairly good service at Uncle Billy's.

Gift Vouchers—available . Phone—02 6779 4216



Ron & Kerry

### 2008 News

We plan to run Fly Fishing casting courses during 2008 with the first one to take place in early April. An introduction to Fly Fishing basic casting techniques. Please watch our Website for further details.

We would like to thank our clients for their loyal support this year and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

**For further information about our Retreat, please visit our website at [www.unclebillys.com.au](http://www.unclebillys.com.au)**

**or contact**

**Bill or Sue Atkin on (02) 6779 4216**