

**SEP**

**at a glance**

Averages Sep  
Day temp: 17  
Night temp: 14  
Rainfall: 19mm  
Fishing: getting better every day

**Oct | Nov planning**

Oct full moon:  
04 Oct 09  
Nov full moon:  
02 Nov 09  
Public holiday:  
none  
School Holidays:  
12 Dec 2009 -  
12 Jan 2010

Louis Day 10kg Kob 3/10/2009



Fishing is on the up at The Mudlark

September has come and gone, but the weather is still not playing ball. Our summer wind the South Easter started this week, which is a sure sign that summer and warmer temperatures are almost upon us.

Business during September has been surprisingly good, probably, thanks to the school holidays, and the first

long weekend of the summer season. Although the weather was a little unkind, with rain on the Saturday and wind on the Sunday, a couple of fish were caught and I think everyone left with a good feeling.

Let's look forward to October, with our first fishing party of the season here this weekend things are looking good. Peter Breitenbach caught a 15.5kg kob, this was caught in the early hours of the morning so Hilary was unable to get a photograph with the fish intact, but later in the day Louis Day caught a 10kg kob. These guys are very serious fishermen and should be able to give us a good indication of where the fish are.

**Horse fish, a first in the Breede River**



Horse fish (Congiopodus torvus)

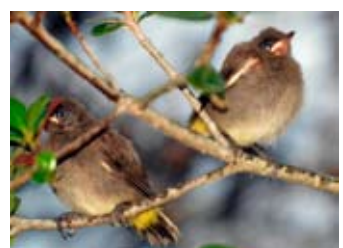
The first large kob (17.5kg) was caught last Saturday, the signs are excellent. After the water being a little chilly it is starting to warm up again. We also had one of our guests catching a weird fish, it has been identified as a horse fish (Congiopodus torvus)!! According to the scientists (Marine and Coastal Management Dr. Steve Lamberth) it is the first one recorded in the Breede River. MCM were busy last week doing their seasonal netting, it is always interesting to see the results, and check the health of the river.

There is a very informative article in the latest Africa Geographic about rivers and estuaries. In it the author states that the Breede River is one of the most valuable estuaries in South Africa, in terms of sensitive aquatic ecosystems, support for wetlands and tourism, its ecological integrity is threatened by upstream development.

Because of all the pressures on the estuary the Breede River Estuary Advisory Forum (BREAf), has been formed. It has government support and foreign sponsorship, to formulate a management plan for the river. The committee consists of all the major role players, municipal, government, and NGO's. If the plan is good and the river well managed we will be able to keep the river in the healthy state that it is in today. Jack Walsh of the Breede River Lodge is chairman and myself (Tim) of The Mudlark Riverfront Lodge is Vice Chairman. It does go to show that some businesses are seriously committed to the conservation of the estuary and not just the bottom line of the balance sheet.

On closing, beware our mad dog Bodger, (loved by all the clients who have met him) has developed a foot fetish, so take care of your feet on your next visit to the Mudlark.

*Tim & Hilary*



A large number of fledgling birds, lesser double collared sunbirds, bul-bul, cape robin and fiscal fly catchers are nesting right outside the bar window.