



2017 Jan Newsletter

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Newsletter Editor – Jeff Yates

Grants Officer – Lawrence Blackburn

Committee Members

Peter Sewell

Brent Blackwell

Jeff Yates

Noel King

Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at:-

Beresfield Bowling Club
Anderson Drive
Beresfield
At 6.30pm



Editor's comments

Jeff Yates



Welcome to 2017. No fishing events organised for this month, but the opportunity is there for members to go out and explore. I am sure a few of us got out to break away from the eating and sloth of Xmas.

A club fly tying day at Lawrence and Cherie's was a massive success, with salt water flies the flavour of the day. Justin has put a nice tribute together in his normal bent journalist way.

Mark Schmidt has sent a detailed report from his time as the recreational fisher's representative on the review of TSR's. Having just travelled through a TSR to gain access to one of my favourite fishing spots, I can vouch for Mark's efforts in keeping access open for all of us to enjoy. A few years ago I took a couple of mates to areas on the Fish, Duckmaloi and Cox's rivers that I used to fish as a teenager. Guess what.....all accesses have been swallowed up over the years by adjoining properties..... an irreversible tragedy!

Peter cooled his heels pre Xmas in Tassie, fishing in the snow and rain. A far cry from the weather that we are currently experiencing. Take note of the beautiful brown caught on a spent spinner fly, so good that it features twice! Thanks for your article Peter, new writers are always welcome.

"If I fished only to capture
fish, my fishing trips would
have ended long ago."

~Zane Grey



President's Report

Darren Foster

Welcome all to the club's first
I hope everyone enjoyed their
breaks regardless of how long or
as you all stayed safe.

The club held their first outing for
tying at Lawrence and Cherie's. It
turn-out for a non-fishing event.
it's always good to see some of

The food was simple but delicious and I am sure everyone enjoyed themselves with plenty of various
small saltwater flies tied to entice the Swansea salmon through to 5" (that's 125mm in the new
money) GT Specials tied by Glenn for his next Christmas Island trip.

I am looking forward to catching up with everyone at the next meeting on the 01st February at Bero
Bowlo, see you all there.

Enjoy the newsletter and remember if you have an interesting story, a tasty recipe for cooking your
catch or a fly recipe you wish to share please forward to the Newsletter Editor Jeff Yates.

Cheers

Darren Foster

President 2017



Newsletter for 2017.
Christmas and New Year
short you may have had as long

the New Year: saltwater fly
was good to see an exceptional
The company was great and
the Sydney members turn up.

Month	Date	Venue/Event	Trip Master	Contact Number
January	21 st	Fly Tying/Fishing with Lawrence & Cherie	Lawrence B.	0432989797
February	01 st	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
February	17 th – 19 th	Hawks Nest - Saltwater	Tom Jones	0406662713
February				
March	01 st	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
March	TBA	Fly Tying at Jim's - Trout	Darren/Jim	0413392774
March	10 th – 12 th	Lithgow	Rod Esdaile	
April	05 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
April	31 st M – 2 nd A	Swansea	Darren/Jim	0413392774
April				
May	03 rd	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
May				
May				
June	07 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
June	16 th – 18 th	Lake St Clair - Bass		
June				
July	05 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
July	15 th	Xmas in July at Bero Bowlo	Cherie	
July	29 th – 31 st	Possible Bass Classic - St Clair	Cherie	
August	02 nd	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
August	4-6 th or 11-13 th	Swansea – Saltwater - Salmon	Darren	0413392774
August				
September	06 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
September	15 th – 17 th	Hastings	Lawrence	0432989797
September				
October	4 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
October				
October				
November	3 rd or 10 th	Club AGM at Bero Bowlo	All	
November				
November				
December	6 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
December				
December				

Tassie Trip 2016
by Peter Sewell

I have the good fortune to have a friend who lives in Hobart and is also a fly fisherman. He happens to have a shack at Flintstone on Arthur's Lake in Tasmania and he too is a Peter. This story is about my annual visit which Peter kindly has been hosting since 2010. Before reading further I need to advise that visiting an area like the Tassie highlands is not just about the fish, at least not this time.



Pete and his Shack



Arthur's Shack Shore

I arrived in Hobart at 8.15am on Tuesday 13th December and after being picked up by Pete, and stopping for coffee at Bothwell we arrived at

Arthur's a bit after 10am. A quick unpack and lunch then down to Penstock lagoon for an afternoon fish in a howling sou-westerly. Pete landed a nice brown on a shaving brush but the biggest splash was me slipping and falling into the water. I fished on in one of the best fishing locations in the state but drew a blank.

The Eastern side along the tree line which you reach after walking along the dam wall is generally very productive and it's one of those places you tread cautiously along the shoreline not just in case there are any tiger snakes but because we have often caught fish right at the edge with just the leader in the water and the fly line on the bank. Generally best fished when the wind is a southerly and not too strong. We came back later in the week and I managed not to fall in the water and to catch a nice brown on "George's worm fly", tied by Jeff. The worm fly was a last resort hanging under an indicator with a nymph. I must admit that when the indicator took off it was a bit like bobby cork fishing.



George's Worm fly



Penstock Brown



Penstock Lagoon

The next days we fished Western Lakes (O'Dell's and Flora) which involved a 4km walk in, then walking while fishing, then walking out again, good exercise. Pete, his son Mike and I had a great day in the wind (did I mention it's windy in Tas??) spotting lots of wild life in this world heritage area and even a couple of good sized fish but we didn't catch any!



Just a stroll



Mike at Western Lakes

Over the next few days we fished in various areas, Bronte Lagoon, Great Lake, Arthur's lake and Penstock (again). We didn't get a lot of fish but we saw some great countryside. Oh and it was windy and rainy and even some snow thrown in for good measure. It was good that the corner shop at Flintstone had reopened and served great coffee (as long as Sue makes it), this became our daily ritual on the way out fishing, clearly, we were fishing gentleman's hours.



On the way to Woods Lake...but first a Coffee



The Peters Fishing Penstock in the COLD.....

We decided to fish Woods Lake on Saturday and then again on Sunday. This lake is a bit lower down so can be a bit warmer and often has mayfly action going on when the other locations don't. Pete has a great boat! So we pulled it down to Woods which is a very rough dirt road access for the last 10km or so, the road is almost as bad as the track into Josies at Eucumbene, for those who know it. We've fished Wood's a few times over the years and you really need a boat to get around to the better shorelines where I normally get out and walk or wade.

We caught a couple of nice fish at Woods but not as many or as large as on some previous trips. I waded in areas that had recently been inundated and had opportunity to sight fish to a number of fish in knee deep water, just couldn't get them onto the fly on this occasion.

I managed to see a brown as long as my arm in crystal clear knee deep water silhouetted against a short bright green weed in amongst some gum trees. Wow, where's a go-pro when you need one. I cast to it but it just ignored my meagre offering and swam into a location where I couldn't see it for the glare. I just stood there spellbound for a while waiting for it to come back. Then I heard a distinct "plop" at my feet and slowly looked down to see this fish had taken an insect against a log a metre to my left. It casually swam alongside the log

towards me and turned at the end about 50cm from my left knee. We greeted each other eye to eye but then it decided that I really didn't belong there and with a couple of fairly gentle tail flicks it sauntered away.

Then it was Tuesday and time to fly back to the sunny, not so windy, Hunter Valley. Not a lot of fish caught this week as sometimes happens but a great week away with good friends in paradise. I can't wait till next year.



A Penstock brown caught on a Spent Spinner

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An article in Newstreams #57 which I thought worth retransmitting compliments of Brad

Happy 20th Hexham!

Hexham Swamp is celebrating the benefits of its 20-year rehabilitation project and fish and prawn nurseries are thriving once again. 20 years ago, the area was suffering the effects of the installation of floodgates in the early 1970s. The restriction of salt water led to the deterioration of estuarine habitat and water quality and it became a freshwater swamp dominated by reeds and weeds. Fish and prawn populations declined dramatically. The reopening of the floodgates has restored 443 hectares of estuarine habitat so far, resulting in a substantial increase in the number of juvenile eastern king prawns and school prawns. Read more about this project:

<http://hunter.lis.nsw.gov.au/resource-hub/media-releases/2016/hexham-swamp-thriving-once-again,-thanks-to-20-year-rehabilitation-project>.



An area of Hexham Swamp post rehabilitation. Photo: NSW DPI.



The science of fishing can be had from books; the art is learned by the catching and losing of fish (W.H BLAKE)

Heatwave Cod

By Jeff Yates

It's mid-January with the predicted heatwave in full swing and the temperature soars. The previous few days have exceeded 40 degrees and the night time minimum not dropping below 30 degrees, making sleeping a challenge during the muggy weather.

I tossed and turned in bed all night and by 0330 hrs I decided that I had enough. Kandos in summer without air conditioning is no fun. Up I jump and on with the clothes, sunblock and copious bottles of water. The kayak and fishing gear has been packed since my departure from the coast.

It's a 5 minute trip down the road to the entry of the TSR. The track to the lake is an absolute goat track, severely gullied by spring rains, further exaggerated by my car's poor headlights. Low gear for the 2 km of dirt, but with the night still black, there was no need to hurry.



I pulled up under a large grey gum a short distance from the lakes edge. Off with the Hobie, wheels mounted and ready to be loaded with peddles, seats, camera, water and of course, fishing gear. The cabin lights must have attracted midges from all over the lake, they were in my eyes, up the trills, with a fair number inhaled.

Onto the water, I paddled up the lake a few kilometres by headlamp before there was light enough to see. The occasional boofs on the way up was an indicator of the action ahead.



I cast flies to the steep cliff line which marks the old river bed. I allowed a sink time, assisted by the bead eyed fly and a sink tip line, then I gently pulsed the fly back to the yak, occasionally a faster strip. My heart raced with two consecutive throws drawing boils. Then, just before the sun rose over the horizon, I was hammered by a good fish. The stamina and weight soon ruled out a yellow belly, and 10 minutes into the fight I got my first glimpse of the big head, mottled green body and white bordered fins, yes..... a cod! The kayak was towed around in ever diminishing circles until the big fish broke the surface and surrendered.

I netted the cod and took it to the bank for closer inspection. It was around 20 lb, and in prime condition. A quick photo and I sent it back into the inky depths to fight another day.

I wouldn't have moved 50m and another hook-up. This fish doubled the rod over and took me back to his lair of sunken timber and boulders. 12lb line is not too forgiving. Fearing the worst, I tried to cajole the fish out, by offering slack,

twanging the line before finally tickling the fish with the rod tip. It worked, released from the snag I had another epic battle from a 10lb cod. This fish glowed beautifully under the subdued early morning light.

It's now 6.30, the sun is sneaking over the trees, back lighting a massive sea eagle's

nest in a huge gum tree high above me on the cliff line, and it looks like we are in for another stinker of a day. I decide to rest on my laurels and head back to Kandos for breakfast.

A short but magic trip fishing in the middle of a heatwave.



There's a fly in there.....



*As a lead in to the
next article, the TSR
that I entered to
chase Heatwave Cod*

NSW Travelling Stock Reserves State Planning Framework 2016-2021 review by Mark Schmidt

“For those who don’t know, I have an interest in the travelling stock reserves of NSW, and angler access in general. Now a review took place in 2015 and I was named as the contact representing the recreational fishers. Most clubs and fishers will get this summary through the Council of Freshwater Anglers, but I have published my summary of the outcomes below”.

The NSW Travelling Stock Reserves State Planning Framework 2016-2021 review has been completed and I am pleased with the outcome. Whilst angling and water access were never part of the original review, we, as a community, managed to make our collective voice heard loudly. In fact, if we exclude the Nature Conservation Council who submitted hundreds of form letters, the fishing community was the most represented body.

The good news:

The review never set out to find ways of selling off the land. It was all about management. The Management Plan which will be in force until 2021 does not discuss sales, although we need to be vigilant in the future.

The wide range of responders, including Country Womens’ Association, beekeeping fraternity, Landcare, Aboriginal groups, ornithologists and environmental groups proved to LLS that the TSR network has [probably] more value as cultural land than farming land. As long as anglers are included in this group, the reserves are quite safe.

I knew that we couldn’t change the rules about fishing from the western division, but I wanted a reference to this in the review, and we achieved that.

The bad news:

Probably none at all.

As a summary:

The key themes from the stakeholder recommendations on the Draft NSW TSR State Planning Framework 2016- 21 include:

- The travelling stock route network must be retained in public ownership, and managed to maintain environment and cultural heritage values.
- The contribution made by recreational anglers to NSW is important.
- Recognition of the benefits of the TSR network to recreational users, including fishers is also important.

The outcomes of the review, their effect on us, and my personal view of them;

1. Planning Framework should have no impact on access to waterways. **My comment:** *“I don’t think the original review had factored in waterways access, and our collective voice has been heard and accepted”.*

2. Fishing stakeholders will be consulted as part of the regional planning process. **My comment:** *“Fishing is specifically stated in the regulation, so DPI Fisheries were recognised as a stakeholder, but the recreational fishers didn’t rate a mention in the original”*

document. The strength of responses from our community has forced a rethink and we've become a stakeholder in our own right".

3. The Review recognises the benefits of the TSR network to recreational users, including fishers. **My comment:** "Whilst now listed only as a 'dot point' in the final review, we ARE recognised, and this positions us for future work, provided we maintain contact with LLS"

4. The Review recommends that Regulation 62 Subclause 3 be reworded to say 'In this clause "excluded reserve" means a stock watering place occupied by stock'. By doing this, the Western Division TSRs become available for recreational activities and all TSRs are available to recreational users when stock is absent. **My comment:** "I specifically worded this, knowing full-well that it could not occur. The review was about management, not legislation, but I wanted the statement recorded in the review. The request will be referred to the Crown Lands Review for consideration but the regulation will never be changed. Recreational fishers

will never have access to the Western Division TSRs".

5. That recreational anglers have the capacity to provide "on the ground assessment" of the condition of TSRs and to provide this information to TSR managers. Respond - work with recreational fishers to receive reports, feedback and share data. **My comment:** "This is a good outcome because the review recognises the value of recreational fishers. The more value we are to the LLS, the more they will listen in the future. Local clubs need to actively communicate with the local LLS to remain 'on their radar'".

7. More defined mapping of TSR areas needs to be undertaken. **My comment:** "This is happening at a local level".

8. Public Access to TSRs is vitally important. In instances where gates are locked, for justifiable reasons, a key needs to be easily accessed from Local Land Services for approved activities. **Their response:** "Legislated provision and regional issue".

My final word:

"I've participated in many governmental reviews. Most, in my opinion, were window-dressing events. But this review was genuine, asking good questions and honestly listening to the public. The fact that it took so long to collate the responses proves that they never anticipated the level of concern the public has for the TSRs. The recreational fishing community has been heard and listened to, and as long as we maintain contact with LLS, we can protect the TSRs for decades to come. Thank you to everyone who submitted responses to the state government".

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Clousers and Wowzers

Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club 1st Fly Tying Session

JUSTIN SMITH

SOME TIME FLY TIER AND CRITIC

A new year for a fly fishing club doesn't start any better than with a well attended and successfully presented fly tying session. 17 members came together to express their art and love of fly tying, focusing on the theme of our next outing, a salt water club outing at Jimmy's Beach, Hawks Nest.

Whilst most members showed tremendous skill and creativity, and in some cases, an over optimistic demonstration of salt water fly tying, others, well just me, simply swayed amongst the tables of feverish fingers and feathered vices. Under the awning of Lawrence and Cherie's Coal Point home, a dozen and a half dedicated devotees of the fly tying art stared hopefully at a bare hook, willing an ultimate fish taking fly to come to life, I would, in my own special way, freely offer unwanted advice, or over critical appraisal. In some special and obviously hopeless cases, all I could do is stare in disbelief and like a doctor delivering that.....'you've got cancer' sort of speech... Suggest they keep their chin up and remind them it could be worse!

It is testimony to the wonderful graciousness of our many members, that in this, my usual attempt to raise the standard of the art of fly fishing amongst my peers, that I wasn't told to &I\$£% off, or worse...and for this I am very grateful...yet in my heart of heart, know...that I will never learn how not to be annoying.

On a more informative note, all our members produced a range of effective and eye catching salt water flies. I admit, I went weak at the knees when I saw Glenn's classic Lefties, big and black and worthy of a big kingfish or GT? Rod of course, ties like a professional, insisting his fish, those he

selectively targets, have standards and he refuses to let them down by presenting anything less than his best. Les, possibly the only member other than Darren, who actually looks up to me, insisted that he dropped his usual tying standard, just to make the others at his table feel better about themselves. Such generosity of heart, matched only by a lack of truthfulness, is a trait only offered by the best anglers.

Hopefully the photos that accompany this waffle will show what really happened. Clousers, lefties, eye's flies, candy's and various believable bait flies began to multiply from the vices, and line up along the benches, as if getting ready for a race. From time to time, I would look in on Lawrence, working like a production line in an Indian sweat shop...he alone escaped my usual banter, for he alone was tying flies not just for himself, but for US...for me...and therefore, he needed to remain focused on delivering a team of silicon headed bait flies in a variety of Salmon loving colours...which he did.

Despite my attempts to change the mood, all and sundry seemed to thoroughly enjoy this morning session, even more so knowing that a scrumptious lunch was on the way, thanks to Laurie and Cherie. So, as Peter, Brad, Jim, Rod, Darren, Les, Brent, Glenn, Lawrence, Rod, Jeff, Tom, Pat and Brad finished off their last half hitch or their last layer of clear body finish, we downed tools...and downed our feast of BBQ chicken and salad washed down with anything other than the home made beer that Brad had threatened us with (I quite liked it Brad, an acquired taste ♡).

Our day ended with an appraisal of each other's efforts and a wistful pondering as to what fish we

might tempt next month as we converge on Jimmy's beach. For those who participated I think I can safely say, it was great day, made better by

all those who were there. See you at Jimmy's, tight lines!







Fishy Pics



*A brown on a spent
spinner at Penstock
Lagoon
By Peter Sewell*



*A 20lb cod prior to
release
By Jeff Yates*



Scape Pics



Early morning over the lake
By Jeff Yates

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