



2017 Mar Newsletter

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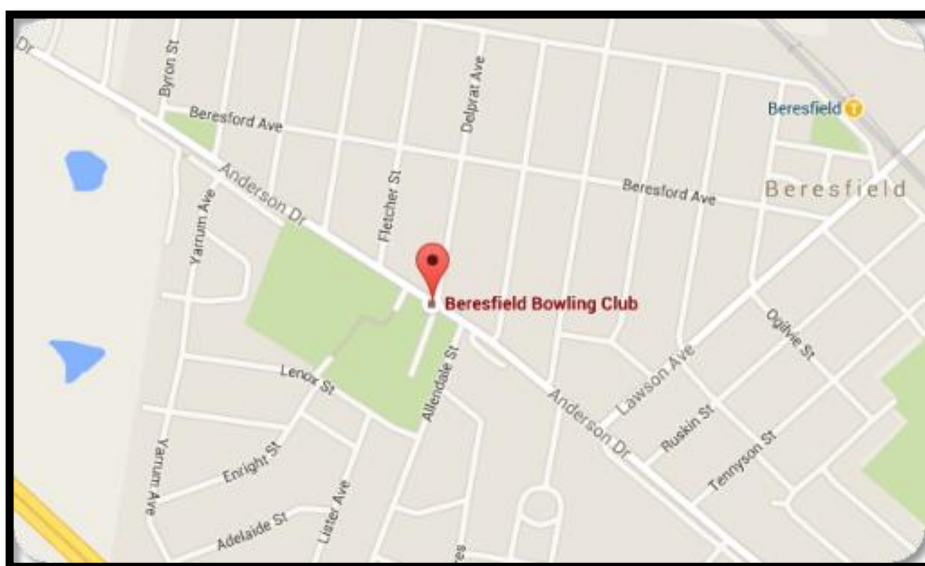
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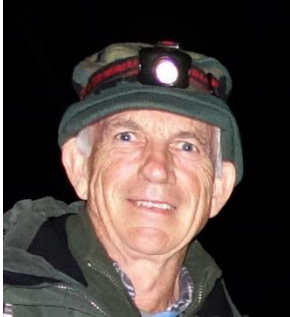
Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at:-

Beresfield Bowling Club
Anderson Drive
Bersefield
At 6.30pm



Editor's comments

Jeff Yates



As club trips go, the Lithgow trip was probably a little under represented, but those who attended had a terrific time. Three very nice fish were caught from Thompsons Creek Dam (see trip report by Wayne Salmon) Rod Esdaile did a great job as trip master, as a matter of fact his name is already on the board for next year. The mud eyes were hatching so the timing was right, but we have to look at the moon and not attempt another full moon trip; great for walking around at night but not quite right for fishing.

Rod Dillon has commenced a fly tying segment, ***“From my Tying Bench”***. Rod is passionate about his fly tying and this comes out in this segment with good common sense tips for both the novice and experienced tyers. I for one would like to see him as a regular contributor as he has a wealth of knowledge to offer our club members.

There are articles from Noel and Darren about their own private fishing sessions. This is what our club is all about, sharing experiences, information and skills.

I have included my favourite chilli chutney recipe which you may want to make over the coming colder months. A great addition to the nibbles on those club outings.

President's Report



G'day,

Welcome all to the March Newsletter. Thanks Jeff for the story on the 2016/17 Bass Release. Applications for the next round of \$4\$ Funding for 2017/18 is just around the corner. Thanks to those that braved the heat to help disperse the littlies. Glen from Searle Aquaculture did another sterling job on providing the fingerlings once again in prime condition and thanked the club for their continued

support, especially in lieu of recent bad times.

Don't forget Cherie is ordering new club shirts so don't miss out.

I have submitted a small report on my recent holiday to Crescent Head. Don't overlook this little jewel for a break of your own.

Thanks to those that are continuing to participate in Rod Dillon's Club Fly Swap. I for one am enjoying the swap and the quality and variety of flies submitted by members whom can tie an easy pattern or a hard one depending on tying skills. The important thing is to share the wealth of knowledge within the club to encourage all to have a go.

Also, look out for an article by Rod on essential tools for fly tying.

Please enjoy your newsletter and remember, if you have anything to share with the club send it through to Jeff for inclusion.

Happy fly flicking.

Darren Foster

2017 Calendar



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				
March	10 th – 12 th	Lithgow	Rod Esdaile	0418667949
April	05 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
April	31 st M – 2 nd A	Swansea	Darren	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	28 th – 30 th	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				

From My Tying Bench

By Rod Dillon

Following on from our Fly Tying day earlier this year it was suggested to me that maybe I could do an article on Tying that could possibly assist in improving our tying skills. As part of the club Fly Swapping Group there are several who are new to tying and presumably there are others in the club who are new to or would like to try tying. I have been tying since about 1990 and am still learning new techniques which arise with modern tying materials. We have certainly progressed from the days of Fur and Feather (apologies to Peter Leuver who wrote a

highly regarded trout pattern book of the same name).

Wondering where to start I guess it's logical to start with essential tools.

A vise (vice) is a necessity for most (Fred excluded) and there are a lot about. It is wise to buy a good quality vise and other tools and they will last a lifetime. What vise to buy? I would suggest if you are only going to buy 1 vise that you look at a rotary vise because as your skills improve the rotary will enable you to tie better flies. Good brands are Nor Vise (pictured below) Regal, Renzetti and Dyna King



I use a Nor Vise (tie better flies faster) for trout flies and wets for bass because of its speed in dubbing and wrapping hackles chenille etc. Because the hook spins and not the bobbin the materials can be accurately placed on the shank. I also

have a Regal Revolution on which I tie large flies and deer hair. I am in the process of learning hair stacking as opposed to Spinning and will do an article on this down the track.

What tools are essential? You only need a few tools to get started and they include:

- Hair Stacker
- Bodkin
- Thread Bobbin
- Scissors
- Hackle Pliers
- Whip Finisher

Add more tools only as you need them.

Ok, we're now ready to start. The first rule of Fly Tying is....Wash your hands! If using light coloured threads, floss etc, any oils, dirt, grease or otherwise on your hands will stain and spoil the fly. I find that when I am using Black Marabou my hands stain and require regular cleaning.

What flies are you going to tie? These days the internet is relied on and when you find a pattern you can do one of two things:

1. Print it out and put it in a binder or
2. Cut and paste the pattern into your word processor. You can reformat the wording to your liking if you so wish.

I might mention here that the bestselling fly in the world is the Copper John so tie up a few of those and have in your box. They represent mayfly and stonefly nymphs.

Having decided on what pattern to tie I suggest that you consider the following:

- Strive for perfection on all your flies. A poorly tied fly put into your fly box does not make you a better tier. Sure it may catch fish but having pride in what you do is also important.
- Because we are metric these days tie your flies in lots of 5, 10 or 20's. Most boxes of hooks are either 20 or 25. By

tying a pattern say 10 times you will be beginning to understand the intricacies of the fly and they will start to look the same. If tying several sizes of the same fly tie the largest first and work down the sizes.

- Learn not to crowd the hook eye. Start the thread on the front of the hook at least one width of the hook eye and when wrapping materials keep this space clear for making a thread head and whip finishing. It is very frustrating to run out of room and by doing this it helps with anger management!
- It is a good idea to start most flies with a good thread base along the hook shank. To get a tightly knit base hold the tag end at 45 degrees upwards away from the shank and wrap the thread which should fall directly behind the previous wrap. Cut or snap off the thread when the wraps are directly over the barb of the hook. By having this good thread base the materials you are going to tie on will not slip around the shank eg tying on tails or wings. Deer Hair is another story!
- It is a good idea to have a glass of water handy. Lightly dipping your finger into the water helps you get a better grip on materials or straightening a wayward feather. Lightly wetting the tips of materials such as marabou, schlappen and krystal flash before you tie them to the hook helps tame unruly materials.
- If you make a mistake it is probably better to strip the materials and start again although there are times when the fly can be fixed. It is a good idea to tie half hitches after tying on each material which will prevent the fly coming apart. Have a look at Norm Norlander tying on his Nor Vise and you will see him using this knot all the time. The other thing you can do for durability is put a drop of cement on the fly as you

complete each phase e.g. on threads holding tail, body etc.

- Tying flies that require glue drying e.g. closer eyes, tie the eyes onto the hook, tie off and glue and set aside doing the same with all the flies you are going to tie. I like to do this the day before if possible, you then only have to dress the fly with materials and don't have to stop for the drying process. This is referred to as Production Tying and works with 5 or 50 flies.
- It is best practice to tie with only a short amount of thread extending from the

bobbin which will enable better control and accuracy, not to mention speed.



- Finishing the fly using two whip finish Knots will ensure durability. Use head cement. Clear nail polish such as Sally Hansen's Hard as Nails is excellent. I managed to buy about 8 bottles at less than half price on ebay. A lot of tiers these days are using UV thin products which is excellent but a little more expensive however it does give the head a shiny finish. Giving the fly 3 or more coats of Sally's will give the same result.

Hopefully there is something in the above for both the novice and experienced tier. If there is sufficient interest I will do some more articles.



Blasts from the past

Hook Comparison Chart

Style	Type	Mustad	Tiemco	Daiichi	Dai-riki	Partridge	Talon	Orvis	Gamakatsu	Kamasan
Dry Fly	1XF TDE	94840	5210	1170 1180	305	L2A	D1310	J1878	P10	B401
						E1A (1XL)				
	1XF SE	94859	101	1110	310			J4841		
	1XF TUE	94842	500U (1XS)	1330 (1XS)		L3B			S10-U	
	1XF BL	94845	900BL	1190		L3AY	D1190	J1877	S10-B	
	1XF Wide Gape	80000BR	100	1100		L3A		J4884	S10	
	3XF TDE	94833	5230			L4A	D1130		S10-3F	
	1XF 1-2XS (Parachute)	94838	921	1640 1310		E6A	J1509			B410
	1XF 2XL (Hopper)	94831	5212	1280	300	H1A		J1638	P10-2L1H	
	1XF CC	80050BR	2312 200R	1270	270	K12ST	ST163C	J1510		B220
Wet Fly/ Nymph	Std-1XL TDE	3908 3908B	9300 3789	1550 1580	080 070	G3A	W1100 W1100X	J1641	L10-2H	B175
	2XL TDE	9671	5262	1710	730	H1A	ST142	J1524		B830
	3XL TDE	9672	5263	1720	710	D4A	ST163	J1528		
English Bait Hook	San Juan Worm	37160	205BL (BL)	1150			SH2200			
Egg Fly Streamer	3-5XS	9523	105	1510			E217			
	4XL TDE	 79580 9674  9395	9395	2220	700		ST2224X	JA0178	S11-4L2H	B820
	6XL TDE		300	2340		CS17	ST2346X	J1511		
	8XL TDE	94720				CS15				
Swimming Nymph Shrimp Scud Caddis	1XF 3XL	80150BR	400T	1770		K6ST	SN1770	J1512		
		80200BR 80250BR	2457 2487	1130 1140	135	K4A K2B	C1130	J1639	C12	B100

- XF: eXtra Fine - finer wire
- XL: eXtra Long - number indicates the hooks size that has a similar shank length
- XS: eXtra Strong - thicker wire
- TDE: Traditional Down Eye

Lake Lyell Club Outing

By Wayne Salmon

The venue for the March outing was Lake Lyell near Lithgow. Those members who attended were Rod E (Tripmaster), Rod F and wife, Jeff, Peter, Mik, Wayne H and Wayne S. Members arrived at various times during Friday with the camp fully set up for those who arrived in the afternoon.

Lake Lyell looked very good with the water level high but was greeted with a sign warning of an algal bloom. This was supposed to rule out any water borne activities but others continued to swim and ski.



Algae bloom on Lake Lyell

An early dinner saw Rod F, Peter, Jeff and Wayne S head up to Thompson Creek Dam (Thommos) whilst Rod F stayed around the camp with Narelle and checked Lyell out without a cast. Thommos water level was down to about 50% but still looked good. A hike up the back of the dam capably guided by Jeff saw us separated into 2 groups with Rod and Peter going around the bay whilst Jeff and Wayne stayed on the closest side to the wall. We started fishing around 5 pm hoping for an early rise but little moved until the sun went down. Wayne S caught 2 very small fish on a Mrs Simpson whilst on the other side of the bay Rod and

Peter caught 2 browns on Churchie flies going 3.5 and 4lb cleaned respectively.



Peter and Rod E with Thommo browns

The most interesting catch of the night was Wayne's bat hooked in flight on a back cast. With 11pm curfew at Thommos, fishing stopped at 10pm to give us time to walk back to the cars for a cuppa. Back at camp the others had arrived and were in bed so we stoked the fire and warmed the belly with a few reds.

On Saturday morning Mik, Rod F and Wayne H went around to Pensioners Bay for a fish but returned with a bag of apples. No fishing was undertaken due to a concentration of algae in the bay. The Thommos crew stayed in camp to rest up for the night ahead. All returned just in time for a BBQ lunch which was expertly prepared by Rod E.



Bonus apples

Saturday afternoon Mik and Rod F went to the Coxs River for a fish and C&R 2 nice browns and saw some larger fish. The remainder of the crew went back to Thommos and fished the far side of the bay where Peter and Rod scored the previous night. The session started slowly with nothing moving until sundown. A very good mudeye hatch started with them climbing the shore all around us and it wasn't long before the trout started to feed.



Mudeyes on the move

After starting on wets and missing a few bites it wasn't long before the floating mudeye patterns were tied on. Jeff lost a good fish on 4lb tippet (brave or crazy, the jury is still out). Rod E C&R a small one whilst Wayne S C&R several small ones also. Wayne S persisted with a small mudeye pattern looking exactly like the



real ones and was rewarded with a 3.25lb jack rainbow that performed like crazy until it wrap itself in the sticks where wading was required for the netting.

Mudeyes on every stick



Wayne with a well-conditioned rainbow

The night was windless and mild which is unusual for Thommos and with the full moon casting shadows like daylight the conditions were pretty tough. Maybe we should have gone to smaller leaders. With the bite shutting down at around 9.30pm it was time to start the march back to the car which was 4.8km away. Rod E saved us all with a shout of cold beers back at the carpark which went down nicely.

Back at camp with the others in bed we put a few large logs on the fire for another sampling of reds and ports. Sunday morning a few tired fishers slowly surfaced to a late breakfast before packing up for the trip home.

The timing of the outing was just right to take advantage of the mudeyes but maybe next time we hold it without so much moon. The Lake Lyell caravan park is a good venue but we should have a look at Wang Dam for next time as it is closer to Thommos and probably better fishing than Lyell.

Much thanks goes to Rod E for his great organising as tripmaster and Peter for bringing the trailer. With a few fish caught and good company a great weekend was had by all.



Spur of the Moment

By Noel King

After being called in to work Saturday morning and finishing early I decided to head for St Clair for a late afternoon /evening session as my wife was going out to the Daniel O'Donnell concert.

Arriving in the late afternoon I headed down to Murray's as the shadow's lengthened and was surprised at the absence of weed beds on the surface. The sound of an occasional boat heading back to camp did not bother me as I cast sub surface flies in the fading light all to no avail, not a hit was felt.

Changing over to the surface as it was nearly dark, I noticed a fish rising regularly in one small area. After several casts into that area a fish silently rose from the depths and sipped the surface fly from the surface. I was on after a spirited fight with a few runs taking line I landed the fish with it measuring 42cm . Alas it was the only hit I had for the rest of the evening and I was home before the wife arrived home from the concert.



Noel's Flea Flies



Crescent Head

By Darren Foster

The family trip to Crescent Head this year was scheduled for February and the forecast was rain, rain and rain. Oh, and just in case I forgot to mention, it rained. But in amongst that rain we still had fun. After all, a holiday is only what you make it to be, regardless of the weather. So, we ate, we drank, we toured (to Coff's where it rained even harder than at Crezzo), we swam (even in the rain) after all you're going to get wet anyway and we fished.

The sleepy little hamlet of Crescent Head is roughly 18km turning off from Kempsey and the main highway and about a three and half hour drive from Maitland. Other nearby fishing locations include South West Rocks and Port Macquarie. Creso boasts a club and a pub where fine meals and a cold ale can be enjoyed. The club also has a Chinese restaurant which is worthwhile a visit and the pub does pizzas

as well. There is a Foodworks, café/bakery, newsagent, chemist, butchers, café/fruit shop, post office, girly shops, a surf shop, bottle shop and a servo. Accommodation is either motels, the caravan park or holiday houses of which there are plenty to choose from.

Crezzo is also known for its surfing especially on the bou's and in June 2008, Crescent Head, home of the Dunghutti people, was declared a National Surfing Reserve, the fourth site in Australia to be recognised for its special significance to surfing.

Fishing: The Pacific Ocean rolls in on perfectly formed sets onto Killick Beach which in turn flows into Killick Creek that runs alongside the caravan park eventually filling up a large estuary which is home to a myriad of species.



Killick Creek Estuary on the left viewed from the lookout above the town.

When the estuary is full most of the fishing is more suited from a kayak. The creek can be fished from the park side but beware, back casts and caravans/tents do not mix so you can target the creek from the beach side. Another option is to fish the creek in its upper reaches towards the weir which is accessible from Loftus Road just out of town.

Fish available from within the creek are Bream, Luderick, Flathead, Whiting, Garfish and Mullet. At low tide, you can walk the flats and spot where flathead have been laying. Further up the creek from the road to the weir you can catch Mullet, Herring, Jewfish, Bream, and Tarpon (or Ox-Eye Herring). I have been told you can also catch Estuary Perch as well in the upper reaches of Killick Creek but I am yet to see one.

This Flathead was easily over 600mm just waiting for a clouser to swim past. Unfortunately I haven't invented an underwater fly rod as yet but I am working on it.



A couple of Belmore EP's destined for the bbq.

Further along Loftus Road towards South West Rocks, you come to a small bridge over the Belmore River which is a tributary of the Macleay River which runs out to South West Rocks. Now this river I know holds EP's as well as Bream, Mullet, Jewfish and I found out on this trip from a local, a healthy population of Bull Sharks.



The Bream will readily take a small bread fly. As a matter of fact a #14 rabbit fur bread fly is the only fly I have caught Bream on at Crezzo.

Along the Belmore you can find a spot or two where you can cast a line, basically anywhere there is a drain. Access along the river is via either the Belmore River Left Bank Road or the Belmore River Right Bank Road. Aside from the bridge, further along the Belmore you will come to

another river crossing where there are flood gates. This spot has a healthy population of Bully Mullet and some would almost be on a par with Swansea's Australian Salmon but are extremely fly shy.



***These mullet were not interested in any fly I cared to cast towards them. They would actually part around the fly and reform back behind it.
A tip I found out but inevitably too late is that mullet will also take nymphs (who'd a thought?).***

To the south towards Port Macquarie is Connection Creek which flows into the Maria River which, I am told is full of Bass and EP's but this is another area I have not had the chance to explore just yet. Maybe another trip!

Here's a few underwater shots of some other aquatic life (before my camera suffered permanent lack of oxygen and unfortunately drowned).



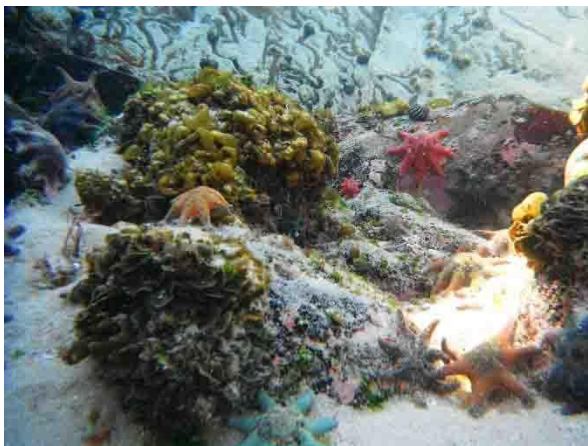
Rose Petal Bubble Shell



Sand-Circle Pleurobranch



Leach's Sea Hare



Starfish and a few Zebra-striped Perriwinkles



Concept balanced jig nymph.

www.facebook.com

Si's Flies (Oshawa Ontario Canada)



Tied medium weight: .7g

Hook: Size 4 Mustad

Head: 5/32" Cone with 10 wraps of .03" lead free round wire all mounted on a sewing pin (+dubbed head, I used MFC frog hair on this one)

Tail & Legs: Goose biots

Abdomen, Thorax and Wing pad: Primary turkey tail feather





Jeff's Organic Chilli Chutney

I have been totting out my chilli chutney at a number of outings and it has been consumed at an unhealthy rate, but still blokes are lining up for more. Due to popular demand I have decided to publish it so that others may be inclined to experiment.

- 1 cup chopped finger size red chillies (not birds eyes or any of the super hot chillies)
- 1 cup chopped Granny Smith apples
- 1 cup onions
- 1 cup chopped raisins
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 1 cup cider vinegar
- 1 tablespoon cornflour (for thickening)

Place all ingredients in a saucepan and cook until tender (maybe 60 mins or more)
Thicken with cornflour and simmer for another 5 minutes

Bottle while hot into preheated bottles from oven

Seeds may be left in for extra heat, but it may not be as visually appealing.

This chutney is fantastic with cheese and biscuits, or with say corn beef. If you ask Justin he will tell you that he even has it with his ice cream!



The following picture was one of the 40cm flatties we got at the Jimmys Beach outing.

Some low life stole my landing net while parked at the twin servos on the way up. We didn't notice it until we were on the water.

Needless to say I fooled a 60cm flattie which we got to the boat but with no net the line chafed through as we tried to flick it on board.

Lost a good fly but we were going to release it anyway.



Fishy Pics



A brown caught on a Churchie Fly
By Rod Esdaile



Scape Pics



Peter powering a cast under the full moon at Thommos
By Jeff Yates



Crescent Head Panoramic
By Darren Foster

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