



2017 June Newsletter

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Vice President – Cherie Blackburn

Secretary – Tony Ward

Treasurer – Wayne Hunt

Newsletter Editor – Jeff Yates

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Committee Members

Peter Sewell

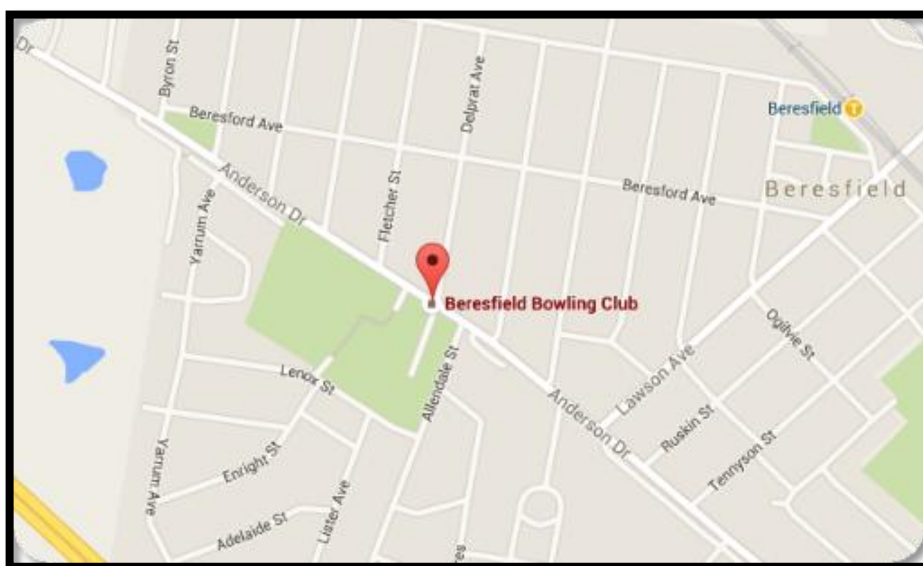
Brent Blackwell

Jeff Yates

Noel King

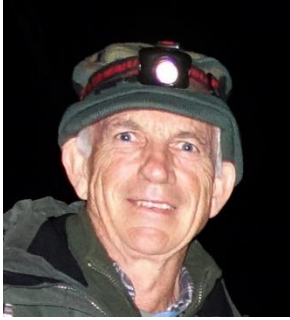
Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club meets on
the first Wednesday of each month at:-

Beresfield Bowling Club
Anderson Drive
Bersefield
At 6.30pm



Editor's comments

Jeff Yates



Firstly, I was picked up on a typo in the May edition. I had Noel Jetson passing away in 2006. My apologies, in actual fact he only passed away last year. RIP Noel you were a great fly tying innovator.

It is with some regret that the Xmas in July committee have had to call off the event due to lack of numbers. It has been decided that the AGM will be held on Nov 18th at 5pm and the Xmas function will occur immediately afterwards at 6.30pm. There will be more about it closer to the date so please put the date aside. This is our logies night, full of entertainment and fun for partners and members and friends, as well as a 3 course meal Xmas special. It is also when we acknowledge the hard work of our members, with announcements of 'Clubman of the Year', 'Rookie of the year', Lucky Door Prizes and the drawing of a prize of a beautifully engraved timber workstation/cabinet, proceeds of which will go back to the club as a fund raiser.

Our main outing this month is well reported by hard working club member, Peter Sewell, titled 'Big Bad Bass'. It outlines the camaraderie, the fun, the food and fishing success of our members during lovely weather over the weekend.

President's Report



G'day members,

Welcome all to the June Newsletter. Winter is settling in now and with the cooler months bringing exciting fly fishing opportunities.

The Bass are firing up at St Clair with walking the banks a fairly easy prospect, unless it's been raining and then you need to be careful as the banks will be greasy and slippery.

The Salmon are starting to show themselves in Swansea Channel and around the lake starting another year of frenzied fly tying, lines stretched, knuckles wrapped, hooks straightened or broken, and somewhere in the middle you might even land a few. The humble Blackfish are back nibbling, munching and scoffing anything greenish looking so tie a few weed flies and have a crack at these under-rated sport fish. They are quite tasty as well.

Another successful club outing has been and gone all too quick. With over twenty members turning up over the weekend at St Clair, it certainly made for an amazing weekend chasing Bass. It was good to catch up with new members Fiona and Ray Meredith and Shane Navin. These three new members had a ball meeting the members and even caught some Bass. Well done. Look for Pete's story on St Clair further in the newsletter.

It is sad we have had to cancel the Christmas in July this year. I would like to personally thank Cherie for her hard work and dedication towards making this event happen each year including decorating the tables and room, buying gifts for the wives and for raffle prizes. We will now be having our AGM in November followed by a dinner and club awards so check the club calendar, and mark down the date, looking forward to catching up with everyone for a social get-together.

Please enjoy your newsletter and remember, if you have anything to share with the club, such as an article to do with fly fishing, fly tying, product reviews, somewhere you have been recently fly fishing or even a recipe, please send it through to Jeff for inclusion in the next newsletter. Remember this is your newsletter so please contribute and share your experiences and knowledge.

Scruffy flies and big fish.

Darren Foster

President, HVFFC 2017

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	Red Esdaile	0418667949
April	31 st M — 2 nd A	Swansea	Darren	0413392774
April	05 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
April				
May	03 rd	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
May	Sat 20 th	Morpeth Day Trip	Darren	0413392774
May				
June	07 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
June	16 th — 18 th	Lake St Clair — Bass	Peter Sewell	0428685101
June				
July	05 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
July				
July	28 th — 30 th	Lake St Clair - Bass	Cherie	0410555019
August	02 nd	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
August	4-6 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	10 th — 12 th	Windamere	Chris Moloney	0422144382
November	18 TH	Club AGM Meeting @ 5.00pm	All	
November	18 th	Dinner/Awards @ 6.30pm	Cherie	0410555019
December	6 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
December				
December				



BIG BAD BASS

By Peter Sewell



Big bad bass

Well maybe they weren't that big or bad but they were definitely bass that were caught at Lake St Clair on our annual June outing....and two yellow belly (me) and a cat fish (Mark) and a smelt (Justin).



A trio of fine bass

It was interesting coordinating this trip, we had a potential 26 members "booked in" to fish but then the dreaded lurgi took hold and we were down to nineteen and then we got some more interest and were up to 21. Not bad for a local club outing at our home ground. It would be good to see if 15 years of stocking Lake St Clair would give results. Then we heard at the last minute that there was "Bass Nation" competition event scheduled for "our" weekend. Oh dear, how could we hold our favourite camping spot on the hill near the BBQs and amenities.

Undeterred we made a plan, we would fish an extra day and get there before the competition mob. What a difficult decision that was. So Jeff and Justin, towing my trailer full of wood from back yard choppings over the last year, myself towing the club trailer with gazebos and BBQ, Rod Dillon (Dillo) coming from the West towing his trusty camper, all converged on the Recreation Area park on Thursday morning. Jeff, Justin and I arrived at 10.30am but OH No! Someone was setting up their camper in "our" area. Rose Marie what can we do? Caretaker Rose Marie says settle down you guys, that's Dillo setting up, he beat you by about 10 minutes. Phew!!

So eventually all set up and ready to fish, off head the four of us, just to find if there are any fish on the chew just so that we can help the other club members when they arrive on Friday (well that's our story). We head to Lemon Tree where Justin and Jeff head south and Dillo and I head a bit South, then West, then North and a little East, (just to make sure we weren't being followed?), no, just because that's the way the shoreline took us. We had a great start with 11 or twelve fish being caught for the afternoon and a couple of good fish lost in the weeds. Just look how happy Justin is! Although that's not unusual he is always very happy when he catches a fish, just like the rest of us.



Justin's Australian Smelt on a Yeti



Peter and Rod peppering 'THE TREE'

Arriving back at camp after dark we found Mark Schmidt and his mate new member to be Brian Willet had arrived to support the advance party.

So that was the beginning of another great HVFFC adventure to St Clair. Gradually over the next two days more arrivals made it to camp until we had a merry old team of intrepid fly fishers new and old. New and old probably refers to the age mix as much as the fly fishing experience levels. The retiree contingent was well represented when Foxy and Narelle turned up in their caravan just adding our outing to caravanning expedition. Noel turned up in his caravan too, in case it got cold and wet...talk about glamping. We even had big wild dogs on hand, somewhere, to add a bit of excitement.



Wild dog prints the size of 8wt reels

Some fished Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. One fished Friday only (Lawrence), but it was good he could make it and share a red before it was time to head home. Others fished various days but all, as far as I could tell, enjoyed a fantastic environment even if finding the fish was sometimes a bit problematic. I even caught a yellow belly on Thursday and again on Saturday which I hadn't done for a couple of years.



One of 2 yellows that Peter caught

The weekend rolled along as did some people after the wine at night. Saturday night's club provided meal went off without a hitch thanks to Fred (cooking meat), Narelle (preparation) and Foxy (damper patrol). Great campfires of an evening thanks to Pyro Patrick's fire management skills and Mark's coaching from the sidelines. Plenty of fish were caught and Dillo, expert fly tyer and generous to a fault had been handing out (spider) flies and was beaming at the results they produced, almost

as much as those that caught them. A few fish were kept but naturally the vast majority were gently returned to fight another day. I caught plenty on Rod's secret spider fly and Jeff's secret black and purple Woolly Bugger, well they're not secret now. Shane, ably coached by Jeff scored his first bass on fly from the Lemon Tree area.



Pyro Patrick's camp fire

Some of us wandered down to the boat ramp after dinner and added more fish to the tally. On Friday night Mark managed a catfish on fly, first cast from the boat ramp. On Saturday night new members Ray and Fiona snuck away and Fiona scored her first ever bass on fly!!.. and Ray almost did too! After hearing a late night run down on the fun they had with rising bass, I couldn't resist and wandered down after 12 to catch two more bass, getting back at 1.30 a.m. just before the rain came.



Sunday came all too quickly. Kingy, Ray and Fiona had an early fish with good results. Then many hands made light work with

packing up camp ready for a mid-morning get-away. Except for Darren, Jim, Chris, Ray and Fiona who stayed on for just one more fish. Not to forget someone who had to stay a little longer than he planned, to get changed, after being drenched when someone (JM?) lowered the gazebo a little and the roof-stored deluge erupted from the heavens right on top of Shane. Welcome to the club initiation Shane. Thanks all for a great outing, there were 21 fishers and 49 fish caught over the period..... or was that 50?



Fred sits on a log contemplating while Shane grins with first success

It was great to see the camaraderie and sharing of knowledge and flies, and new members catching fish as well as some of the old hands. Now we can't wait for Lawrence and Cherie to host next month's St Clair outing on 28th, 29th and 30th July.

Footnote to the Big Bad Bass article above

By Rod Meredith

'Fiona and I left the St Clair camp ground to go home feeling a little disappointed with the Lake St Clair weekend. The reason for this being the realisation that we could have been doing this sort of thing for years. We had such a great time and the fly fishing for bass was a real eye-opener. The highlight though was the nature of the club. Friendly, generous and helpful come to mind, such a relaxed environment where talking things fishing was the norm. Rod Fox has our thanks for letting us in on the club and its activities when we visited Sydney Fly Outfitters to get some gear. He gave me a 'Foxie's Horror' too, but then Rod D and Jeff gave us some flies to get us started as well. I will have to learn to tie some bass flies now and start erasing that disappointment with some more trips.

Fiona caught a nice fish Saturday evening and I lost one in some weed. Early to rise on Sunday and we caught one each. Lots of fun'.



Fiona with a lovely early morning bass



*Patrick and
Mick*

*Tony zipping
out a fine cast*



Whitebait fly

by Jeff Yates

One of the great frustrations when salt water fishing, not unlike freshwater fishing is matching the hatch. Sometimes the fish will be on Whitebait, then other times on Eyes, or maybe larger baitfish like Anchovies. So it is extremely important when chasing Frigates, Bonito or Salmon to

match your fly size to the prey they are chasing.

We can use flies like surf candies as a go to fly (Anchovy pattern), then if that fails drop down in size to a whitebait pattern, and maybe even try a small clear silicon fly.

So let's get started on a whitebait pattern



Get a meter of fake angora fur from Spotlight for \$10, guaranteed coming from humanly killed fake rabbits.

Use #4 or #6 Daiichi or Gamakatsu hooks and clear fine nylon thread from Spotlight again 200m for \$2, but don't skimp on the hooks. John Marshall sells the good ones.

Tie in some pearl braid.

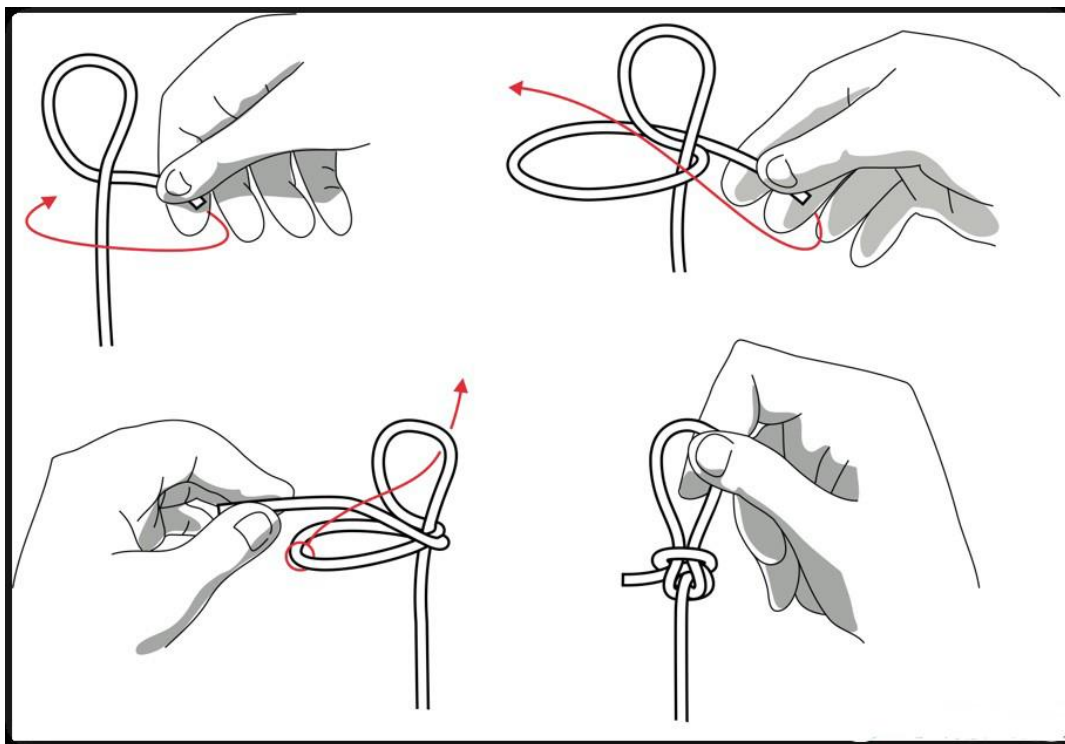
Pinch a matchstick sized bunch of hair, hold by tips and remove fine hair. Tie in first bunch at the hook bend.

Repeat with several small bunches up the hook shank and tie off. Use a couple of threads of crystal flash as highlight. Lightly wet hair and stroke up to keep it out of the resin.

Add some eyes and use uv resin to set eyes, form head and run under belly.

Now you have a superb little whitebait pattern and proven catcher.

The Perfection Loop



This is arguably the best loop knot around, and certainly the neatest. It is that lovely neat and simple knot on bought leaders and is the ideal for the loop to loop connection to your fly line. The knot is strong, but minimal and the tag end can be cut quite close, thereby avoiding those tangles when the fly or tippet gets caught and you stuff up a cast. Get out some heavy gauge nylon line and practice for perfection.....



Fly Cabinet Raffle

Cherie says ... we are running a special raffle of a beautiful fly tying cabinet for the club. We will be drawing the raffle at the AGM in Nov this year. Tickets are \$5.00 each. If you are interested just advise me of how many tickets you would like and deposit funds into the club account. I will then email you back with your ticket numbers. As we do not have the Bass Classic this year, this is a great opportunity for the club to raise some revenue, so get behind this initiative, and score yourself a bargain. Tickets will also be available at the monthly meetings until it is drawn.

This pine fly tying cabinet is hand engraved and crafted by a former (now deceased) Lithgow fly fishing identity, Dan Engel. It is mounted on castors and has storage for materials as well as a fold down work top. It has been beautifully restored by Darren, Tallis and Patrick, also donating tool and material holders. I'm not sure what it is worth, but I do know there is many months of hand engraving on the cabinet.

Bank Acct details:

Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club

BSB: 637 000

Acct: 780 089 059

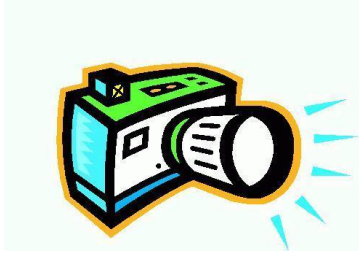




Fishy Pics



Justin happy with a coker bass on dusk during our June Bass outing at St Clair
By Jeff Yates



Scape Pics



Lake St Clair at Lemon Tree on a magic day
By Justin Smith

For Sale



Shakespeare delux travel rod & case

2.7m 6 piece 6/7wt

\$60

Phone Jeff

0427002766



Korker Wading boots to suit size 9 or 10 foot

Used and worn in, ok as a spare pair

Free to a good home, too small for me

Jeff

0427002766

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