



Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club.com.au

2017 Aug Newsletter

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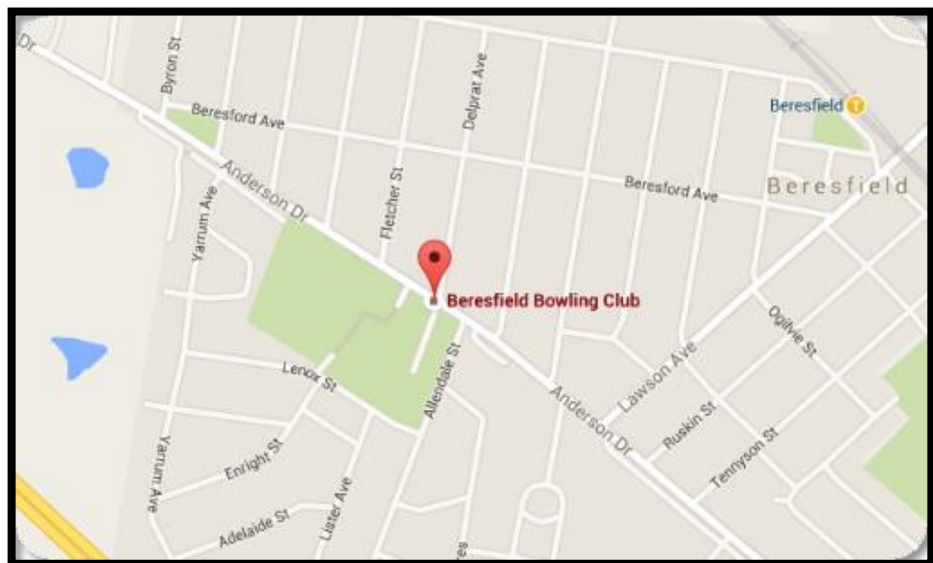
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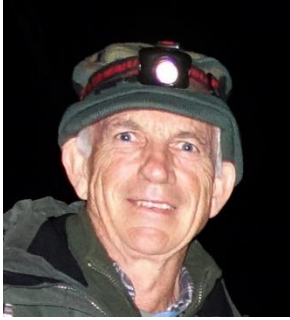
Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at:-

Beresfield Bowling Club
Anderson Drive
Bersefield
At 6.30pm



Editor's comments

Jeff Yates



The August issue is a little late, having had my computer crash and having to put it in for repairs. The good news is that I was able to rescue all of my data, and have had a solid state drive installed, no moving parts, so hope it lasts.

Another big month on Australian Salmon. Those that pre-fished our club outing at Swansea had a brilliant time, with many fish landed, but they got the jitters over the weekend and closed down, with only a hand full coming to the boats.

Talking of Salmon, this time the northern species, Wayne has just returned from what looks like a hell of a trip to the Alagnak River in Alaska. The variety of fish he caught is amazing, and regardless of my taunts prior to him leaving of being beware or else he will turn into bear shi*, he has returned safe and enlightened from the great adventure. He has written a comprehensive article, together with fascinating photos, which would make an excellent reference for anyone contemplating a future trip.

Our hard working president organized the Rise Film Festival which was well patronized by members and others. A good showing enjoyed by all and well done Darren.

Dillo is a strong advocate for the Tube Fly. He has written an informative article for all to contemplate.

I need to send a rally call out to all members to get behind our fund raising raffle of a fly tying cabinet. Without the carp classic, we will have to dig deeper into our bank balance, and future bass stocking for Lake St Clair, which has been an integral part of our club, may have to be reviewed. I asked for an update on tickets sold and was disappointed with the response, and somewhat embarrassed when informed that Hastings had purchased \$100 worth of tickets. So the message is, dig deep and support our club and bass stocking into the future. See Cherie's note at the end of the newsletter for details on how to purchase tickets.

President's Report



Welcome all to the August issue of the Hunter Valley Fishing Club's Newsletter. The excellent turnout to club outings continues with a good show of hands at the recent RISE Film Festival and further beyond the Swansea outing. Look further into the newsletter for articles on both outings.

The next outing coming up will be the Hastings outing hosted by the Hastings Fly Fishing Club. Trip Master is Lawrence and for those that have not been before, ask one of the guys that have and they will tell you it's worth the trip.

The next step in our \$4\$ Bass Stocking has been completed with the Fish Stocking Order Form being sent through to Fisheries with Searle Aquaculture nominated as our supplier of fingerlings. The release date is yet to be decided upon and I will be talking to Glen from Aqua Searle soon. Don't forget the raffle tickets to help support this club initiative.

On a more solemn note, Sydney Fly Outfitters and Guiding officially closed doors (hopefully not for the last time) on Saturday 26th August. The on-line shop will continue to run as normal though. I am sure I can speak for the club when I say we all wish John the best of luck and health during his next phase of rehabilitation and hope to see John back out doing what he loves the most with his guiding and fly fishing. To the Sydney chapter of the club, a very huge "*well done guys*" for stepping up to the mark to help a friend in need. Glenn, Rod F, Rod E and Mark: you guys have set a new benchmark for mate-ship and you need to be congratulated on all your hard work put in at the shop to help John out. Congratulations guys.

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

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
March	01 st	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
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	
May	03 rd	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
May	Sat 20 th	Morpeth Day Trip	Darren	0413392774
June	07 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
June	16 th — 18 th	Lake St Clair — Bass	Peter Sewell	0428685101
July	05 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
July	28 th — 30 th	Lake St Clair — Bass	Cherie	0410555019
August	02 nd	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
August	11-13 th	Swansea — Saltwater — Salmon	Darren	0413392774
August	24 th	RISE Film festival — Bero Bowlo	Darren	0413392774
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				
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				



Swansea Salmon Slam

Darren Foster

Another season of flinging flies at Salmon has almost come to an end. As the interest in catching Salmon on fly (and other methods such as trolling through the school with metal slugs) increases, I think the Salmon are becoming fast learners and are shying off, particularly as the boat/angler numbers increase.

However, they are there and they can be enticed to take a fly with the right technique. The recent club outing to Swansea saw 15 members turn up including some of the Sydney members travelling up for a well-deserved break from the fly shop. Friday evening saw everyone catch the courtesy bus to the Swansea Workers Club for an enjoyable meal and a catch-up, then back to the Swansea Gardens Caravan Park for drinks and a good 'ole catch-up.

Saturday dawned with bountiful sunshine and the ever-optimistic flinger of flies preparing boats, checking leaders, tying on the winning fly (we all have one of those, I even have a box full). Boats were launched in to relevantly calm waters, until you swing out in to the channel. Straight into the dreaded wind. But true to nature we



find ways to adapt to most situations. The Salmon were there in their usual numbers and the best plan of attack was to anchor near the deeper drop-offs coming up onto the flats. Now if you cannot position



yourself to cast with the wind behind you I found that casting in some sort of manner into the wind (usually with the fly line in a clump beside the boat), the next step was to just feed the fly line out letting the incoming tide take your fly and line further away until you reached your chosen distance before stripping back to the boat.

Don't pull your line out to re-cast, just start feeding the line back out with the tidal movement. I found I could get more distance drift casting in intense winds than conventional fly casting methods. And I know it helped Tallis whom was struggling against the wind and battling three people all vying for optimal casting space on the one boat.

I am not sure why, maybe it's because there are not as many boats on the water (two club boats shared the water with around three other boats all day) but Friday was the most successful day. I know everyone did not catch a Salmon but I am sure everyone enjoyed themselves

and are keen to tackle the Salmon next year.

With a total of 26 Salmon, 1 Tailor and an undersized Flathead caught, the weekend tally was respectful and the outing was most enjoyable. The most successful flies were the ever-reliable Surf Candies fished with long leaders in the twelve to fifteen pound breaking strain range. It seemed that more action was available if you could get your fly down deep which was a bit difficult with the strong running tidal flow.



I can't wait for next year's Salmon run to try new flies and different techniques. See you there.

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Structure fishing bass

By Jeff Yates

My legs ache, the bionic knees are red hot and grinding like half seized car axles, begging for a squirt of grease. I have walked for the last 3 hours, looking at the glassy water on a warm mid-winter clear day. I cast at anything that might hold bass or goldens; drop offs, weed beds, timber or colour left in the water from last night's wind. But not a touch. Several fly changes, and I am back to my original proven pattern, a brown rabbit fur Zeti.

Put on the thinking cap. What other features might a bass use to hide in ambush? The walk so far has been through open paddocks and undulating hills, but up ahead the angle of the bank is changing, with a hill at 25 degrees and trees going down to the water's edge. These trees are throwing a shadow arc of about 25m, and this is just what is needed. It is different from the surrounding water with weed beds toward the south and a deep drop off in front. I can hardly contain my excitement.



Several casts over the drop off were unchallenged, however, a cast to the South between two large weed clumps produced that unmistakable solid take. The fish dived deep to bury itself into the weed. I held on to the limit of the 12lb line, but the fish would not budge. I slackened the line hoping for it to swim out the

way it come in. After a minute or two the fight was back on, but a little more sluggish. The reason was soon obvious, with a large clump of weed hanging from the line. I landed the fish, took a photo and released it back into its shady domain.

I fished on, and came to another area similar to the first. I cast at dead saplings some 10m from the bank. The 2nd cast was scoffed by another bass.

I thought about what had happened, and this mirrored the day before while fishing further up the lake. Yesterday I had no luck until I started to fish shaded structure. At a rocky outcrop I caught a nice bass and had a follow. Further around I hooked and dropped another fish. Different day but similar outcome.

The moral of the story is to think outside the square, don't just do what everyone else is doing, but try something different, you might be surprised!

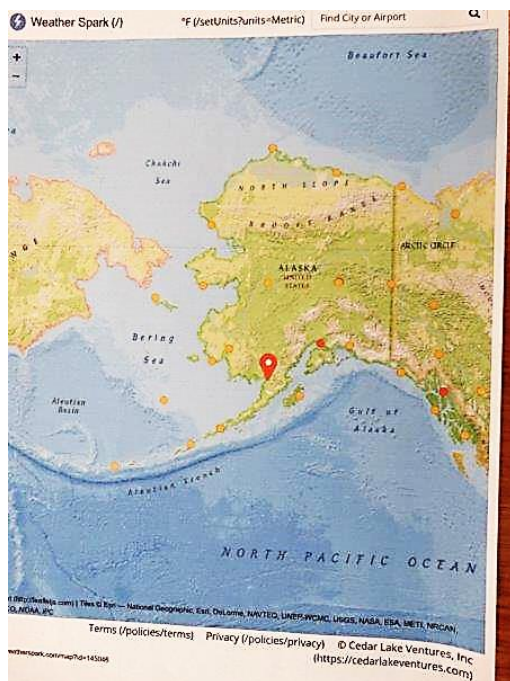
But all was not wasted, lessons learnt and time for a cuppa to contemplate another great day in paradise.....



Salmon Fishing in Alaska

By Wayne Salmon

The location for this trip is the Alaska Trophy Adventure Lodge on the bank of the Alagnak River. The river starts in the McNeil River Range of mountains in the Katmai National Park where snow melt feeds two lakes that run into the river and ends in Bristol Bay on the western side of the Alaska Peninsula.



The Alagnak is a wide and shallow river mostly wadeable, where the current is not too strong. Access to the fishing spots is by flat bottomed punts with Yamaha outboards. The prop section is removed and replaced with a jet conversion. This allowed the boats to traverse very shallow water of only inches deep.

Getting to the lodge is a long haul of four flights over two days with the last plane, a small four seater that picked us up at King Salmon (which used to be an American Air Force base). This plane took us to the

lodge landing on a very small rough strip on top of a hill with a pilot that used to fly choppers in Vietnam. The way he landed I think he thought he was still in choppers as he had a reputation of being a bit of a thrill seeker I found out later.

As I was last to arrive at the lodge I noticed several people already on the jetty catching Chum Salmon so I quickly joined them catching some myself.



This was a good start to what turned out to be a special week of fishing. The last week of July is regarded as the best week of fishing on the Salmon calendar. The Salmon species available were Kings, Chum (Dog) and Sockeye. Other species at this time were Rainbow trout, Arctic Grayling, Arctic Char (also known as Dolly Varden Trout which is the same family as the Brook Trout).

Each of us was paired up with a guide in each boat who was equipped with a shotgun and pepper spray for bear repellent. Every day we spotted several bears with a mother and three half- grown cubs making regular shows near the lodge.



Day 1 - The river we fished dry fly to start and caught nice Grayling on size 14 Caddis pattern.



The Grayling method of attacking the fly is to leap out of the water and landing on the fly on re-enter making a very visual display. The takes were easy to connect with not like trout where timing is more critical. We then moved to a spot where Chum Salmon were plentiful and caught several fish up to about 12 lbs. The Chum were to become a nuisance during the week as they were everywhere and readily took flies even when not wanted. On moving I caught an Arctic Char and saw many bright red King Salmon.



Day 2 – We joined others in a 40 mile jet boat trip downstream to almost the tidal reach of the river to fish for fresh sea run Chum Salmon.



These fish are silver as they leave the salt and head upstream where they quickly change to the yellow and red colouring and the jaw becomes extended. This change occurs rapidly over a few days once the upstream migration starts.



These fish are really tough fighters when silver and I lost one on the 9 wt rod after taking out 150m of

backing before the hook pulled. All fish were released as they are not any good to eat. Tried my hand at Spey casting and as it is only really any good in flowing streams due to the commotion when casting I decided to stick to the single hander. The flies used on this species is a 'special' the guide tied after many years experience, but the size of the heavy cone head made casting very hard.



Day 3 – The day started with a session on Sockeye as my partner wanted to take fish back to England and some were required by the lodge. The run was in full swing with fish on both sides of the river. Interestingly, fish stay on same side of the river that they entered it and will stay there all the way upstream hugging the bank and taking the streams that split to the upper spawning grounds above the lakes.

The guide selected a braid of the river where the fish were running through shallow rapids. Using the guides 8wt rods we positioned ourselves at the top of the rapids where we short cast a size 8 fly with a bit of tinsel and split shot across the front of the fish. Once hooked these were really tough fighters and took some landing. We took 15 fish in an hour as the limit was 5 each

per day and then moved onto other species.



Using the 7wt rod we waded a section called the flats and using my pink woolly bugger caught many small trout, Grayling, Chum and Char showing what a versatile fly the bugger is.

I was advised that at this time of year the trout generally disappear once the salmon arrive and return after they run. The best time for rainbows is in June when the river is dominated by trout and fish at 30 inches is common.

Our guide was cleaning the Sockeyes mid river and attracted a bear from downstream that came up to investigate. As it came closer we made lots of noise and the bear stood up to see and would have been 8ft tall. A scary sight and was glad to see it turn away.

Day 4 - Foggy morning and made for a warm day ahead. Dry fly was not much good so we went to other species and landed Chum and Char. Searched for Kings as that was the target now that all the other species had been caught. Found many Kings spread throughout the river but one spot showed potential for a shot the next day.

Day 5 – This was King Salmon day, as we headed back to the spot from the day before. Fishing for Kings requires stealth so we beached the boat on a nearby island and waded to the fish using my 9wt with sink tip line, 25lb leader and popsickle fly which I tied. The first fish hit and the guide had to bring the boat midstream to pick me up with the fish running out on the backing 500 meters downstream where we C/R a small King.



Back to the spot and hooked into a better fish where the process was repeated except this fish decided to turn upstream half way into the fight. I frantically retrieved line before we came along-side a fish of about 25lb when my excited offsider took a net shot at the still green fish which caused it to go under the boat with my Sage wrapped around and under the boat nearly snapping and the fish wrapped me around the motor and got off.

Returning to the same spot I hooked into a monster King that the guide estimated at 30lb plus after seeing it summersault twice before spitting the fly.

Day 6 - We returned to the Kings from the previous day which was

now sunny and not conducive to good sight fishing for Kings. I hooked a very good fish that took off downstream and broke the 25lb leader at the knot. Tried too hard to slow the run with my palm on the reel with max drag. This was the only take from this spot until late morning so we spent the rest of the final day catching trout and grayling.

I took 3 rods with me, all Sage XP's in 6, 7 and 9wt. The 6wt was used for dry fly and the 7 and 9 wt's were used with sink tip floating lines. As the current was very strong the use of split shot was required when fishing in deeper channels which made casting difficult and not very enjoyable. Unfortunately, if you weren't on the bottom there were no bites.

I took many flies and a lot were not used as the guides had some favourites. The lodge has a very extensive supply of fly tying material and equipment so tying a few in the evening was handy once the best flies were known. Caddies and stimulators were the best dries whilst the woolly buggie in pink and purple were good as were the *Popsickle* flies (all pink, purple, orange marabou) were good for trout and salmon. The main salmon fly was a black egg sucking leech which hooked all 4 king salmon.

Further info on the lodge and fishing can be looked up on line by going in at Alaska Trophy Adventures.



The Tube Fly

by Rod Dillon

“If it ain’t broke don’t fix it” seems to be the catch cry when something different to the norm is contemplated and results in whatever is put on the back burner or shelved never to be looked at again. Whether it was the right or wrong thing to do is probably never known. On the other side of the coin is ***“It is better to have tried and failed then to have never tried at all”***.

Some years ago I looked at tying tube flies, particularly with Bass in mind. I tied a few but never got around to giving them a



chance by giving them a swim. I even purchased a book on tubes which went through the process of explaining what constituted a tube and how you went about tying them. I used ear cotton buds by cutting off the buds. The tubing is hollow and served the purpose.

Recently I started thinking of the number of flies I was tying or more particularly how many I was giving away. There had to be a way that I could cut costs but still hand over a few. Tube flies came to mind. After all, if I give you a tube fly all you need to do is tie on a suitable hook. I went to the net to look at what was happening and was impressed with where tube tying was

at. There are several companies that make tubing to suit all flies including articulated. Tube flies suitable for Trout through to Marlin can be tied. Whilst *tubes* has a small following in Australia it is huge in Europe and the US. I can see it being big in the Dillon tying room.

Why bother? I know of fly shops here in Australia who tell enquirers that it’s a waste of time and do not stock tube tying gear. Accordingly it is necessary to purchase from overseas and with the exchange rate being what it is, makes this a little more expensive.

So what are the advantages of tube flies? There are several:

1. Tube flies simplify things by enabling you to carry around a large selection of flies in a small space which doesn’t include razor sharp hooks which can be carried separately. Tubes flies for a day’s fishing can be carried in your shirt pocket. Zip lock sandwich bags are ideal
2. You can adjust quickly to changing conditions. A single tube fly can, by changing hook sizes, be suitable for various fish either fresh or saltwater. You can add weight to the tube by placing bead heads, cones and the like to the line in front of the tube. Turn a subsurface fly into a popper by adding a foam head.
3. Tube flies slip up the line after a fish strikes thus prolonging their life. It has been estimated that a tube fly has double the life of a conventional fly. So you don’t need to tie as many and can use good materials and spend a little longer tying a better fly.

4. Catch and release is made easier with a deeply hooked fish. It is a simple matter to slide the fly out of the way and cut the hook off. Tie on another hook and you are back in business.

5. Tube flies offer a more realistic baitfish profile being sleek and translucent like a real one. Since the shanks on most tubes are much larger than hooks the wing and body material flows back from a broad head and shoulder to a natural point at the tail. More bulk without added weight.

6. When tying you are not subject to a barb accidentally sticking into your finger. We have all done this either by stroking back materials without thinking or when wrapping materials. And who hasn't cut the thread by hitting the hook barb.

So without purchasing overseas, what is available here? As I previously mentioned cotton buds make good tubes by cutting off the buds. The tubing is hollow. Also Spotlight has Pop Cake Sticks which are suitable (Ironically I tied a fly called a

Popsicle on the PopCake). The difficulty is in obtaining suitable Junction Tubing. This is used at the rear of the tube fly to put the eye of the hook in when the fly is rigged.

So what flies can be tied on tubes? The simple answer is almost any. Pictured below are some of the tube flies I have tied including some of my Spiders. Some have been tested, some have not, all will be! To date I have caught Bass and Flathead on a Tube Clousers and Salmon on Tube Baitfish so they do work

What do you need to tie tubes? Your current vice will do. You can hold the tubes in a number of ways from an adaptor which fits into the jaws to a simple specially made needle which is held in the jaws without an adaptor. You then only require tube and junction tube however this can be got around if you can find 2 tubes of different sizes that will slot into one another.

Why not give them a go. You might be surprised at the benefits and ease of tubes.





The Rise Film Festival

By Darren Foster

The RISE Film Festival returned to the Hunter Valley on 2th August 2017, hosted once again by The Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club at Bero Bowlo. The Rise Film Festival in its twelfth year, managed once again to blow our minds with stunning scenery and fish of all nature and manner, showcasing some of the finest fly fishing films from Australia, New Zealand and around the world. The show tours from around Australia to New Zealand and around the globe screening across 15 countries playing over 70 shows.



This year Nick decided to stay at home and do the New Zealand tour whilst Silvio whom has done the New Zealand tour for the last seven years came over to do the Oz tour. Silvio contacted me the day before the Hunter Show to catch up and told how after driving all the way from Brisbane hassel free with only 100 metres to go to the Port Macquarie turn-off, a huge Kangaroo jumped into the side

of his car. Bugger. Anyhow with minor damage to the car and a quick google to check he hadn't taken out a rare or last of its kind species, Silvio made it to Port Macquarie and then eventually to Beresfield the next day for the Hunter Valley Show.

After a quick set-up, it was off to the Bistro for a meal and a catch-up with Silvio and Andrew Fuller from The Flyfisher, Melbourne. Once the doors opened, there was a steady trickle of people coming through the door leading to one of the best attendances yet, 44 plus Silvio and Andrew. Hopefully we might gain a few more new members.

The show started with Nick Reygaert's film on the Tiwi Islands (80km North of Darwin). This film is about the loss of cultural identity, drugs and alcohol and how a small group of people are teaching some of the locals how to fly fish and guide in order to make a living and a viable fly fishing destination chasing Saratoga and Barramundi.

Then we flew to Yakutia, Siberia fishing in the Lena River for Taimen, Pike and Nelma (a species never targeted before on fly). It certainly was edge of seat stuff watching a huge Taimen follow a fly right to the edge, skip past the fly and then turn and take it in a no nonsense hit. All by drone footage. Absolutely spectacular.



Corazon was about a remarkable Mexican fishing guide, Sandflea. The movie showcases Sandflea's love of fly fishing for Tarpon and Permit but also shows how friends and others can rally to help out a true friend in need as Sandflea is in desperate need of emergency heart surgery.





Providence is a film recounting the first trip back to Providence Atoll, Seychelles since the waters were closed to all boat access in 2010 due to the threat of pirates. Only hours after eleven clients and three guides had left the mother ship, pirates took control of the mother ship holding the captain and crew for eighty-eight days before releasing them after sinking the ship. The team returned in October 2015 spending three insane weeks exploring and fishing for giant fish in a pristine flats environment. Some of the fish featured were GT's, Trigger Fish, Big Eye Trevally, Marble Grouper, Saddle-Back Grouper, Camouflage Grouper, Permit and the absolute behemoth and spectacular Bump Head Parrot Fish.





The TV series of Pure Fly NZ originally set a new benchmark in fly fishing entertainment and Series 2 has raised that bar with the premiere of an episode from Series 2 featuring a myriad of fly fishing opportunities along NZ's West Coast.

The night was a tremendous success and certainly inspiring although the downside is each year after these events I am sure someone's bucket list grows to around 44-gallon drum size. Thanks to all those that came along on the night and thanks to the RISE crew for another awesome night of fly fishing entertainment. Thanks also to Andrew from The Flyfisher for bringing along a huge array of fly fishing candy available for purchase.

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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

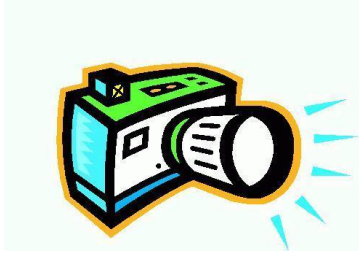
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Fishy Pics



Peter and Fred with stud Salmon



Scape Pics



Bear polroiding salmon without glasses on Alaskan River
By Wayne Salmon

*HVFFC members wish to “thank you”
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<http://www.flynguide.com.au>

Email sales@flynguide.com.au 0427904518 (John) 0417402540 (Glenn)

Ring your orders through and ask about your club discount and support our sponsor

A note from Glen Olney regarding our sponsor John:-

As most of you will know John Marshall has cancer and the outcome going forward is at best unknown.

Subject to a suitable match being found a bone marrow transplant is planned for September and the recovery period for this is 12-18 months.

As hard as taking this decision has been we have no choice but to close the shop down.

We plan for Sydney Fly Outfitters and Guiding to continue as an on line store only and will still run the annual trip to Christmas Island which is scheduled for early June 2018.

To assist John we are having a **CLOSING DOWN** sale commencing 19 August and finishing 26 August following which the doors will close for the last time as we must be out of the building by 2 September.

All stock must go and we have heaps of it.

A minimum discount of 25% will apply on what stock is in the shop.

It doesn't matter what you need, now is the time to bag a bargain and help John out.

Please call the shop on 9898 1899, me on 0417402540 or drop me an email.

Rod, Rod, Mark and me will be running the shop, usual hours.

Hope to be knocked over with orders.

Please all keep John in your thoughts and prayers.

and

Flies by Fedeles



<http://flytyerman.blogspot.com>

*Tie flyer extraordinaire, check out **Paul's** website
for your favourite fly*