



2017 Sept Newsletter

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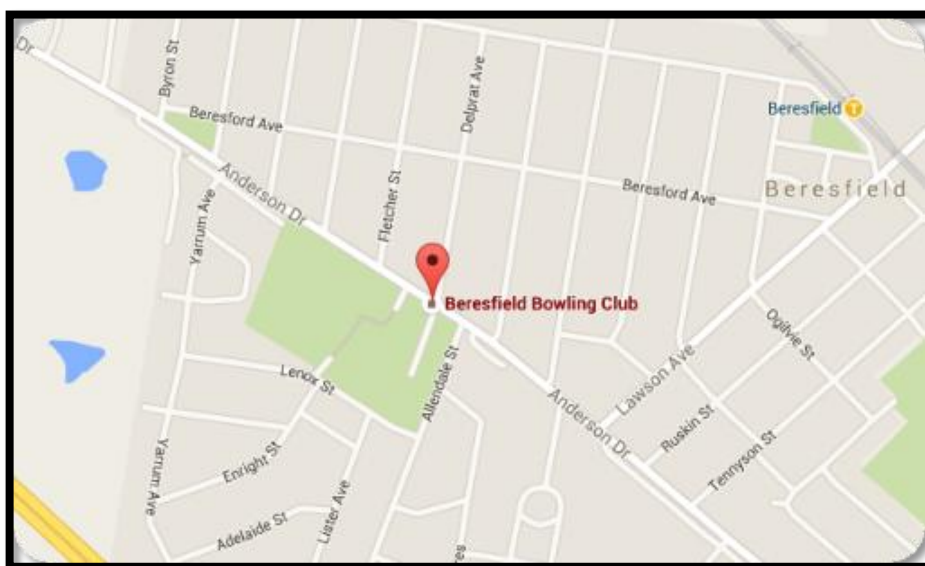
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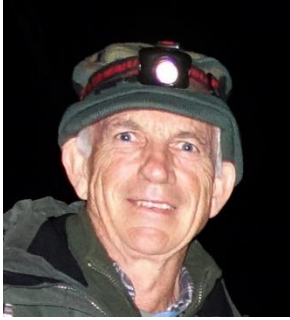
Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club meets on
the first Wednesday of each month at:-

Beresfield Bowling Club
Anderson Drive
Bersefield
At 6.30pm



Editor's comments

Jeff Yates



August and September are our windy months and this year is no exception. A recent trip with two Coffs Fly Fishing members, Dave and Allan, chasing salmon at Swansea proved that wind is no barrier to catching fish. In fact wind is your savior at time; it ripples the water surface to camouflage you, it also pushes food up onto windward shores, which creates feeding activities and fishing opportunities; but this particular day the wind was a nuisance. Not that we didn't catch fish, we caught heaps, but it did cause a bit of ducking and one penetration injury. Still, what a trip, and the rookies scored like

seasoned salmon hunters.

Glen Olney, has just returned from Christmas Island. Glen is a regular goer, and has an interesting article where he shares the trip with all to read. Last month we had Wayne's trip to Alaska, now Glen's, and that's what our club is all about. You may not be able to afford to go yourself or have the time, but the next best thing is reading about one of your mates doing it. Thanks for your input fellers, it enriches the newsletter with places that are on most of our bucket lists.

Chris is drumming up support for the Windamere trip, which should be a ripper. Great time of the year as the yellies are just starting to get active, but don't forget to release any cod caught, as it's their spawning time and we mustn't disturb their breeding. Dillo is also supporting the event with a fly swap with flies targeting yellowbelly. Thanks fellas, things don't happen by accident, it takes people to step up, and let's face it, that's what our club is all about.

Darren has written an interesting article on fly size, good food for thought.

Another reminder that the fly fishing cabinet raffle is still ongoing, if you haven't bought any tickets, buy some as the money goes into our club account for stocking and club activities. If you have bought some, buy some more and you will have a better chance of winning this attractive fly tying cabinet. It would make a great Xmas present.....

President's Report



Welcome all to the September issue of the Hunter Valley Fishing Club's Newsletter. Firstly, I would like to welcome our two new members Kurt Thomson and Adam Edwards. Welcome to the club and all the best on future outings. I look forward to having a fish with you both.

With the warm weather upon us, now would be a timely reminder to keep an eye out for snakes especially as the males will be out and about looking for a mate. Around this time of the year they will be extremely aggressive. Make sure you have a snake bite kit with you or at the very least a couple of wide, elastic bandages stored in your fly kit. Sturdy foot wear, thick trousers or waders would be an advantage as well.

The inter-club outing with Hastings Fly Rodders on again this month, I look forward to hearing the trip report from Lawrence. As such there is no formal outing planned for October. At the September meeting it was mentioned about a day trip. The possibilities put forward were Swansea with a last flick at the Salmon before they head south for cooler waters or St Clair flicking for Bass or some feisty Yellowbelly. Is anyone available to act as Trip Master?

In the latest issue of Fish Habitat Network there were a couple of links to interesting articles regarding research on carp scales and how they may be used to power such things as Pace Makers. Go to the links below and have a read.

<http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/news/national/carp-scales-could-be-used-to-generate-energy/news-story/8f86ccf0d14c6d44a6a9f3fcac85bf84>
<https://publishing.aip.org/publishing/journal-highlights/fish-biowaste-converted-piezoelectric-energy-harvesters>

Lake Lyell and Lake Wallace received an input of Bass from the local Acclimatisation Society, adding 20,000 Bass into Lake Lyell and 7500 Bass in Lake Wallace. Don't forget memberships are due by the end of September and you must be financial to vote at the AGM in November.

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	Rod 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	4—6 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
October	4 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
October	?	Possible Day Trip – Swansea – Salmon	?	
October	?	Possible Day Trip – St Clair - Bass	?	
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				



Boobies, Bones and Geets

By Glen Olney

Ok, I just used the word boobies in the title to get everyone's attention but in truth, there is a huge population of the birds on Christmas Island. For some unknown reason they have a habit of trying to land on your rod tip when you are looking for bonefish or flying in close proximity when you are casting. Lovely birds but when you hit one on the back cast it really doesn't help get a tight loop.

Still most people landed 50-70 fish for the week so even on a bad day the fishing on the island is sensational.

On one afternoon the bonefish were proving really difficult. They were hard to see and spooky beyond believe.

To give myself a fighting chance I added some 12 pound fluro to my 15 pound tippet and select my smallest bonefish fly. A lightly weighted size 8.



This year's trip was a bit tougher than usual as most days had cloud and winds between 30kph and 50kph. The flats silted up and making fish hard to see and cast hard to land where you wanted them. To make things harder still the booby birds kept flying over the bonefish spooking them.

A few minutes later a big black shadow approached. A good geet rather than the bonefish I expected in about 2 foot of water.

Famous last words were spoken to the guide. "I'll have a shot at this one but he won't want something so small"

(Most of my geet flies are 5 or 6 inches long).

The fly landed perfectly and much to my surprise the fish took it like it hadn't eaten in a week.

The first run was about 100 meters into the backing and then the fish turned sideways. Once a trevally does this it is nearly impossible to move, even on heavy gear. The only way to move them is to walk forward and get a better angle and keep doing this until the fish tires.

About 30 minutes later the fish gave up and the guide grabbed him bare

handed. Not good for the hand but one very happy guide.

I can't be sure about the weight but he went 28 inches. The guide thought about 15 pounds.

No matter how often I go the Christmas Island I never cease to be amazed at the fishing and the overall experience.

I'm going back there with a group in June next year.

If you want to join me just let me know.

Glenn



Coffs Salmon Hunters

By Jeff Yates



The Coffs crew on 'Potsy' both hooked up under a loaded rod on Peter's boat.

It was early August when I got an email from David Moppett of Coffs Fly Fishing Club wanting the good oil on Salmon fishing at Swansea. He had read several articles in our HVFFC newsletters which are shared between Hastings and Coffs, and wanted to get a part of the action. Now, I had not met David before this contact, but he seemed genuine, and as fly fishermen, we have a common bond that few other fishing groups can relate to.

We continued to correspond and decided on a date that suited us both for a mid-week quest. Unbeknown to us at the time, this Wednesday was to be a bit of a shocker, with strong winds whipping up the early morning seas.

Arriving at the boat ramp early, I had a cuppa while I waited for the lads to arrive, hoping that the foul weather had not scared them off. But as if on-queue, a boat arrived and 2 gentlemen jumped out apologising for being late. It seems that the caravan park had locked the boom gate and they were

held captive. They thought of pushing over bollards with their 4x4 but common-sense prevailed when they woke the caretaker at 0515 to open the gate to allow them to go fishing.

Dave introduced me to Allan, whom I recalled meeting at a Hastings interclub event last year. The lads started to get the boat ready to launch as Peter turned up with his 4.6m Topender. We quickly dropped the boats in at the ramp, somewhat apprehensive about the possible outcome with such intense winds. Still, glass half full, we also cheered that we had no competition at the ramp, as we were the only boats out.

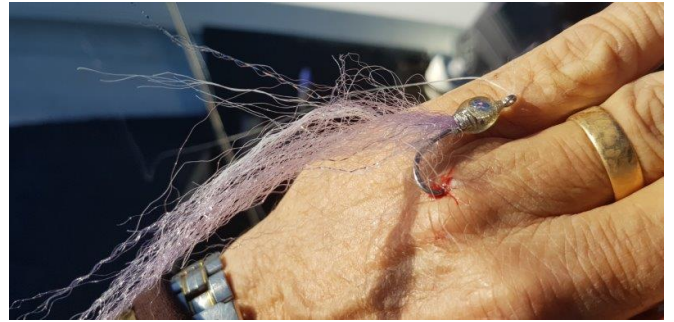
Dave and Allan tagged along behind us as we motored to the bridge while ever vigilant for tell-tale finning and nervous water. The light was not yet strong enough to see any obvious water colour change to indicate where the schools might be hiding. The bridge showed fish on the sounder, but no salmon. A run down the southern shore, past the spur wall and the

sunken breakwater come up with a blank, but up ahead, rippled water at Lucies gave the heart a flutter.

The wind blowing at around 50kph made the approach a little difficult, but without time to spare, we positioned the wind at our back and sent Surf Candies and other creations over the school of marauding salmon. I soon hooked up, followed by Peter. The Coffs guys were flogging the water to froth, and were soon rewarded with Dave on to his first Australian Salmon. What a buzz. His 8wt rod buckled under the load of the initial strong runs. This went on for some time before it was finally brought to the net. Photos were taken and they were back into the action, and action it was; twice we had quadruple hook-ups, and excitement reigned.



The school would occasionally get lost in the inky, wind-blown sea, and the waves lashed at the boat if we went broadside to the wind. Getting a cast out had its risks, as a few wind swept casts bounced flies off our heads and back, until the inevitable happened, a yell and Peter was wearing a piercing in his left hand. Like a good patient, he gritted his teeth while I extracted it with a pair of pliers.



What a session and what an introduction to Salmon fishing for the Coffs pair. By 0830 we had caught around 20 fish, and with the wind now howling stronger than ever, staying in contact with the school was difficult. Time for a break, so we left the salmon behind as we made a beeline for a coffee shop just upstream of the bridge. The boats were safely moored at the wharf as we walked the 50m to the Tides Coffee shop for a well-earned drink and a natter about the session.

The 2nd session did not fare well. We located the salmon at a well-known spot for an outgoing tide. The fish were flighty and spooked as the line was aerialised over them. When it hit the water it created a cleared area in the school similar to that created by a white pointer. We were not going to get fish under these circumstances. We downsized flies and lines but they just weren't feeding.



Peter and myself left Swansea mid-afternoon and the Coffs boys fished on but were unable to land any more that day. However, I got an email off Dave later to say that they fished the next day, had some screaming fights and lost a few and caught plenty. The fish were found finning in the shallows. They also saw a number of sharks and lately they have been the Bronze

Whalers, with one old boy as long as their boat.

Dave and Allan stayed for 2 exhilarating days and they were having such a good time they even failed to stop for lunch on the last day. Now that's dedication or addiction?

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

Upcoming Windamere Trip

Chris Maloney

Spring has arrived and we are now only a couple of months away from the Windamere Trip. There already has been quite a bit of interest in this one and due to the long drive I want to get the details out quickly (confirmation can wait until closer to the date).



Official dates: 10-12 November

Un-official dates: 10-13 November (I will arrive early on Friday and stay an extra night, I suspect others may do something similar)

Location: Lake Windamere (South of Mudgee)

Target Species: Golden Perch, Yellowbelly or Yella's

Other Species: There is a chance of catching a Murray Cod or Australian Bass.

Although the keeper has told since the bass stocking he has heard of very few being caught.

Accommodation: Cudgegong Waters Park (camping)

Site costs: \$8.00 per adult per night, \$4.00 per child per night and a \$6.00 per vehicle gate fee (each time you enter)

Onsite facilities: Well maintained shower and toilet block and vintage swing set for the young at heart.

Saturday feast: BBQ dinner, sausages and bread. May get fancy and have some sauce too.

Note: There will be a competition on the same weekend. A Masters Fishing comp with around 40-50 competitors. It is a large lake so there will be room for everyone.

Flies: Personally I have no experience with this species but we do have members that do and have shared some tips.

The summary of what I have been told is hook size 2-8, wooly buggers (current fly swap will come in handy) and streamer patterns.

Rods: Whatever you need to cast this size fly. I have been told an eight weight is about right.

Rod Dillon runs his regular fly swap and has requested an expression of interest in a fly swap geared around our upcoming Windamere trip. The criteria for the fly swap is:-

1. Hook size from #4 to 2/0. Flies need to be big.
2. Rabbit to form part (or all) of the fly
3. Colour should be a natural colour (black, brown, olive, grey) however beards, thorax cover, tags or head can be red, yellow , orange or whatever colour you think will provoke a strike. The fly guru of Windamere Peter Hanrahan recommends natural colours.

If you think the above will restrict what you tie remember the bunny could be stripped from the hide and dubbed etc so there are many options available. Suggest you don't go overboard with flash but then again you may want to make the tail out of flash, that is if you are going to put a tail on the fly. It will be up to you what and how you tie. You never know your fly could become as famous as the Clouser Minnow. Just remember that even taking the best bits from a couple of flies could produce a winner such as the Half and Half.

Let me know if you are in. We will look at last week in October to finish the swap so that the flies are available for the trip. I can't give you numbers until I know who is in.



Rods Fly Swap just gone.....

The flavour of the month was purple.

Thanks to the tiers in the swap. Tallis gets my nod for something different in a bugger. He tied in beads which will turn the hook upwards and possibly make it less prone to snagging.

Brad's fishing song that he is practicing for the AGM.....

Brad Paisley - I'm Gonna Miss Her (The Fishin' Song) Lyrics

Listen to it while you read Click this link its not the artists site but you should laugh...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1dcruPSs80>

Well, I love her
But I love to fish
I spend all day out on this lake
And Hell is all I catch

But today she met me at the door
Said, I would have to choose
If I hit that fishin' hole today
She'd be packin' all her things and she'd be gone by noon

Well, I'm gonna miss her
When I get home
But right now I'm on this lakeshore
And I'm sittin' in the sun

I'm sure it'll hit me
When I walk through that door tonight
Yeah, I'm gonna miss her
Oh, lookie there, I've got a bite

Now there's a chance that if I hurry
I could beg her to stay
That water's right and the weather's perfect
No tellin' what I might catch today

So I'm gonna miss her
When I get home
But right now I'm on this lakeshore
And I'm sittin' in the sun

I'm sure it'll hit me
When I walk through that door tonight
Yeah, I'm gonna miss her
Oh, lookie there, another bite
Yeah, I'm gonna miss her
Oh, lookie there and I've got a bite

Big Flies...Are they necessary to catch big fish?

By Darren Foster

How big is too big for a fly to use on any given species? Let's talk about Bass for example.

What size fly do you choose to target bass? Small? Medium? Large? How big (or small) is small or how big is large?

Most fly patterns like the good 'ole Woolly Bugger for example would usually be tied on a #4 hook, maybe down to a #6 even. What about a Woolly Bugger tied on a #1 hook with a total length of around 80mm long. I can hear some people straight away saying how ridiculous, you don't need to go that big. Or is it? I say anything is possible if you are willing to give it a go.

Now I have caught Bass on a #10 trout fly and I know others that have caught them using similar fly patterns in small sizes. I have also caught them regularly on flies tied on either #6 or #4 hooks and just recently caught a lovely, well-conditioned Bass on a Fish Skull Bugger tied on a #1 hook.



This fish wanted that fly right or wrong. It hit the fly first up as I was retrieving it past the edge of a weed bed right against the bank. As the fish turned into the weed the hook pulled free and the last I saw of the fish was a muddy swirl through said weed. Several

casts later the fish struck again with all the violent intent of a big fish chasing down a big meal. I even got to see the take-down; violent, aggressive, fast and a serious hook-up. This was one meal this Bass was not going to miss out on.

This particular fly was actually tied to target Windamere Golden Perch but was being trialled on the St Clair goldens, not discounting the Bass.



Big flies do attract big fish. Let's face it, a big, hungry fish is looking for a big meal. A Big Mac rather than a Quarter Pounder if you like. Now occasionally the fish won't bite and you may have to go through a range of factors like down-sizing your fly as well as your leader. But remember, most fish are opportunistic feeders and it makes sense that a fish will go for a larger more sustaining meal (when the conditions are right) than have to chase after several smaller meals at the expense of using up valuable energy.

Optimal Foraging Strategy

Big fish will eat bigger prey when available. Feeding activity includes searching, deciding whether to eat now and rest a little and how long before they start to search again or keep searching in the first place for a bigger meal. The theory (put forward by fisheries scientists) is: 'the net energy gained per feeding event is measured over the course of time, either by minimising

energy loss or maximising net gain per item'.

Big fish don't get to a larger size or to the top of the food chain by accident. They are the clever ones, wary and opportunistic. Different factors affect what size fly to use. The time of day/night; are the fish deep or in the shallows; water temperature (too cold and the fish become lethargic); and presentation. You may need to slow down your retrieve pausing often, giving the fish a reason to want to attack and eat the fly.



In heavily fished waters, fish learn to ignore the bigger flies which may require a down-sized approach instead. Big flies may also work better when there is a bit of rough on the surface or coloured water from wind/wave action against the shoreline. Flat, calm, mirrored conditions may also warrant the use of a smaller fly.



Large trout can also be targeted with large flies, especially when they are spawning, especially the aggressive browns. Target banks on the opposite side but remember to get your fly right up against the bank in order to trigger an aggressive attack. Or target the head of pools allowing your fly to wash down into the pool.



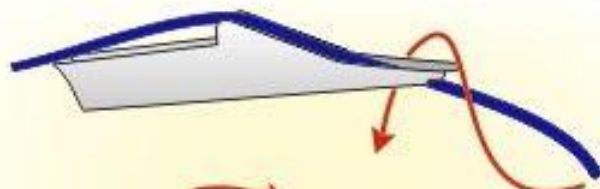
Big flies are not the only answer to catching big fish but they can certainly contribute to the catch. Don't be afraid to give them a go.



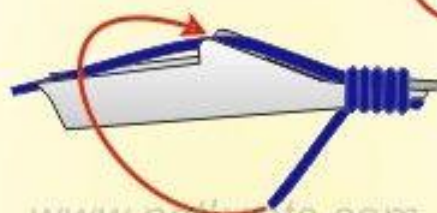
A selection of flies larger flies, some of which have already been tried and proven on St Clair Bass.

TIE-FAST KNOT TYER™ NAIL KNOT

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www.netknots.com

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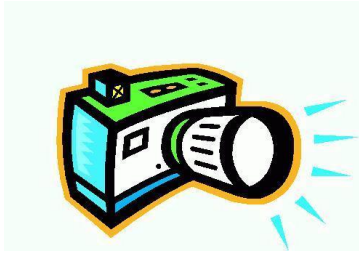
www.netknots.com



Fishy Pics



Peter and Jeff fishing Swansea bridge on dawn



Scape Pics



*Early morning at Mays Bend on the Darling River at Bourke
Wayne Salmon*

*HVFFC members wish to “thank you”
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Flies by Fedeles



<http://flytyerman.blogspot.com>

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