



Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club.com.au

2017 Oct Newsletter

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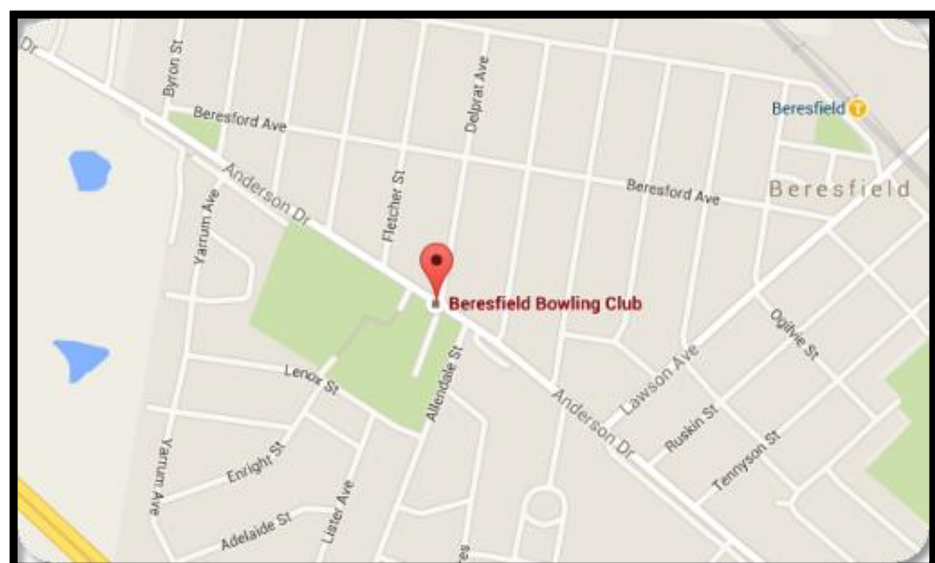
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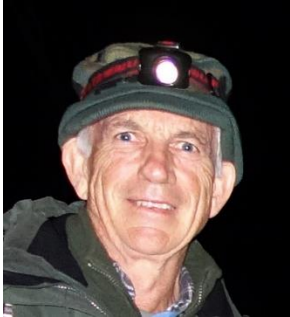
Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at:-

Beresfield Bowling Club
Anderson Drive
Bersefield
At 6.30pm



Editor's comments

Jeff Yates



October has been a club event free month, but reading the newsletter its obvious that there is still plenty happening. Justin having a last hooray on the carp, Chris Maloney chasing bass at Lake St Clair and The Meridiths on the Tongariro landing some quality rainbows. Darren continually throws up interesting fly tying articles and his input in this issue is once again inspiring. These people are writing some interesting articles, motivating us to get out there and give it a go.

Next month's trip is Windermere organized by Chris Maloney. If you are thinking of going, throw in a camera and get some memorable shots. Take your time and look about the area; Dunns Swamp, Rylstone Weir and of course Windemere. These all hold fish, some more than others. Dunns Swamp is pretty and well worth a paddle in your yak. I have caught fish there but they are hard to come by as it's a popular tourist spot. Rylstone Weir is my favourite fishing location, but the drive in on the TSR is only for serious vehicles, being gouged out, rutted and ordinary due to lack of any maintenance on the track. Windermere speaks for itself and holds a big head of both Yellowbelly and cod. Just remember that the cod are out of season and need to be returned to the water.

Next month is also the AGM, and it would be great to see a big turnout and support our club. Positions will be up for grabs, so if you think you may be able to make a difference by taking on an executive role, you will be welcome. Likewise if you can string a sentence together you may like to become the new newsletter editor.

President's Report



G'day members,

Welcome all to the October Newsletter.

Now is the time to head up to St Clair for an evening flick for Bass. The Salmon are well and truly winding down now with a few schools still persistently hanging around. You can still pick off a few Luderick on weed flies off the rock walls or platforms.

The Wallerawang branch of the Central Acclimatisation Society last month released 20,000 Australian Bass fingerlings in to Lake Lyall and 10,000 in to Lake Wallace, aka "The Wang". The Mudgee branch released 12,000 Brown Trout fry and 10,000 Rainbow Trout fry into the Cudgegong River this month.

The Central Acclimatisation Society plan to release more trout fry in the near future into: Lake Lyall – 7500; Lake Wallace – 10,000; Thompsons Creek Dam – 6500; Lake Lyall/Lake Pillans (Lithgows historic steel works dam) – 8000; Rylstone Dam – 5000.

November's club outing is at Windamere Dam with Chris Moloney as Trip Master. Please let Chris know if you are going so he can cater for the club meal on Saturday night. The dates are 10th, 11th, 12th November. Hope to see you there.

The club's AGM is coming up in November on the 18th at 5.00pm followed by a dinner upstairs afterwards. So don't forget, there is no general meeting on the first Wednesday (1st) of November. I hope to see the Sydney chapter come up for a catch-up.

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
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 fly tying		
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				



Lament for Liddell

Justin Smith



Sight fishing in the good old days

We know carp are a pest and over the years, I've hit my fair share over the head and sent them to a better place, but not this time. This time, all I wanted was the chance to sight fish once again, this spirited robust and flighty fish and this time, killing something for reasons not its fault, just seemed out of place, something that would spoil the zen. This time, all I desired was to be in the moment, to see and stalk the dark shapes lurking in the shallows, to cast a fly and land it on the fish's nose, to be in the zone and feel it when it all comes together, the line goes tight, the rod buckles and the fight is on!



Lake Liddell is a power station reservoir in the upper Hunter and it has a special

place for me and many of my fly fishing mates. It was here that I developed much of my sight fishing craft, learning how to spot and stalk a cunning but plentiful adversary, the common European carp.



Unlike many other waters, this artificial lake is a closed system, fed by pipe, from water pumped from the Hunter River. Its water levels remain regulated and steady and are relatively unaffected by run off from its limited catchment. Over the years, carp having made their way into lake, multiplied as a single dominant fish species providing food for the abundant bird life and a distraction for bait anglers seeking the more useful freshwater eel.

As they say, beauty is in the eye of the beholder and this applies not just to a dirty old carp, which is in its own right, a striking fish, but to the lake itself, which from certain angles is a very attractive water, but is unfortunately, aesthetically scarred by a towering chimneyed power station, perched on its western shore. So as they say, one must take the good with the bad, and despite the pervasive rumbling of steam driven giga watts, one can find much pleasure in casting a fly and more when it connects with a worthy quarry.

Since it's construction in the 70's, the lake of Liddell has covered a multitude of industrial and mining sins, having been a dump site for mine tailings and other refuse for decades. The detritus of the lake bed has added to the rich mineral texture of the water quality. Still as part of the plan for creating a water source for power generating, the lake was always earmarked for recreational use and a campsite and boat ramp were constructed on the eastern shore. This proved popular especially for water skiing and sailing enthusiasts until the proliferation of water weed growth became intrusive. Similarly fishing, though permitted was accompanied with warnings that regular consumption should be avoided particularly by pregnant women.

Notwithstanding the occasional algal bloom brought on by inflated high nutrient levels and warm water temperatures produced as a byproduct of hot condensation outflows from the power station, local fly anglers like myself returned again and again to enjoy the thrill of catching big fish on fly and the fact that the word pristine is not part of the Liddell descriptive vocabulary, satisfying and challenging are. Despite the bottom feeding nature of carp, and their propensity to muddy up and discolour the water, Liddell seemed to be able to remain relatively clear. This meant that sight

fishing, that most enjoyable of all angling opportunities was available almost 24/7 and I for one loved Liddell for this reason alone.



But in 2016, the new owners of the power station prohibited all access onto and in the waters of the lake. In this day of risk management and liability, the 'discovery' of a particular kind of microscopic organism, which can, in certain circumstances cause life threatening illness led to the decision to close the lake. Despite the fact that in the 40 plus years of the lakes unfettered use by water skiers, swimmers and anglers, not one person has recorded this kind of illness, the incumbent management decided the risk was unacceptable and that as they say is that.

So I lament the passing of Lake Liddell. Memories of big fish and lots of them, of introducing new fly anglers to gain confidence in catching perhaps their first fish! Of the many friends and fellow enthusiasts well met on the inter-club outings and fund raisers, all by these very shores and under the shadow of industry, concrete and steam. But in my lamination, I was compelled, perhaps in one last gesture of thanks, perhaps in defiance of a regulation imposed without my consent, to cast a fly, one last time to the carp of Lake Liddell.



Persistence

Chris Maloney

Fair to say, 2017 has been a challenging year for me when it comes to fishing for Bass at St Clair. I have only had the time to get out a few times, and each effort has been tough with no results beyond a strike or two and one fish on a lure. But since my passion is for fly fishing, a fish caught on a lure cannot count.

I can't complain that there hasn't been any fish, as everyone I have fished with has caught fish and on one trip by myself I had never seen so many fish feeding on the surface at one time. I concluded something was hatching that the fish were focused on and therefore they were uncatchable. Then Darren posted some pictures of fish he caught in the same week. There goes that theory!

All my fishing for Bass has previously been with a five weight rod, and while you can cast heavier and larger flies with a lighter rod it is far from ideal. If your concentration lapses then your casts get pretty messy and distance becomes an issue. So, after three years of procrastination I finally committed to purchasing an eight weight rod.

Keen to get back out and try again I started reconsidering my approach. Thinking back to what some of the people I had been fishing with were doing different, I couldn't go past Peter's effort at the last club trip. In the morning I fished with him, I think he caught five to my naught. One more and I was going to start calling him the 'Fish Whisperer'. One tip Peter had given me was to get an intermediate line, unfortunately after buying a new rod I didn't have the budget or brownie points for a line.

With a new line out of the question but a goal of getting lighter/less weighted flies deeper, I decided to take inspiration from some deep water nymphing techniques I had learnt about earlier in the year. Since I could cast heavier flies easier with the bigger rod, I extended my leader to 10 feet and tied on a two fly rig. The first fly was a Bass Bunny pattern with extra large dumbbell eyes followed by a Mrs Simpson. With a longer leader and heavy lead fly dragging down the point fly I was confident this would put the lighter fly into the strike zone.

The plan was solid. Leave work early, go straight to St Clair and give the new rig run for the afternoon. So I arrived at St Clair at little after 6.30pm wearing a neat shirt, work pants and office shoes, cursing the last minute deadlines thinking my grand plan had come unstuck. I quickly changed and jogged down to the water to try and catch as much daylight as I could before the sunset. It took a few casts to find my rhythm and get the flies out to the snag I was targeting. Once I did the fish responded immediately, a nice 20cm Bass. After quickly taking the 'proof of fish' photo I released him and continued fishing. I caught one more fish and a couple of strikes on this rig before I tangled it in a snag and had to break it off. With the sun down and the last light dimming I tied on an orange bead head wooly bugger (my contribution to the last fly swap) and started fishing again.

Another tip Peter gave me was to slow down my retrieve. While I didn't consider my usual retrieve very quick I adopted an extremely slow retrieve. I'm not sure if it was the change of

technique or the fish were in a better mood, but I had best session on Bass yet. With seven fish to hand and

multiple strikes, this one was my best session targeting bass yet.



Hunter Native Fish's – Gone Fishing Day

Chris Maloney

At the last meeting Les mentioned the Hunter Native Fishing Club were holding a Carp fishing comp. While I struggled with the concept of targeting Carp, I thought this would be a good day out with the kids.

I have never targeted Carp before and had no idea where to begin, but the president sent out a welcome email to all the registrants with some tips on catching Carp. With these details on hand we proceeded to the registration where the kids were each given a rod for entering.

With the new rods we went to Telarah Lagoon and fished with corn as advised. The kids had a great morning catching six Carp with three +40cm.

Thanks to the Hunter Native Fishing Club for putting on a great day.



Chris's children
being hooked for
life on a carp
fishing session,
and having fun.

Luderick Fly

Jeff Yates



This year the Luderick (Blackfish) season has been really kind to me. A thrice weekly trip to my favourite fishing spot has produced enough fish to enable me to experiment with flies that I have tied over the years. I have battled to catch a fish on the fly rod with my flies, so I decided to experiment and see why Ice Dubbing is so good as a blackfish fly.

Fishing with my regular crew, on some occasions I was able to catch as many fish on the Ice Dubbing fly as they did on cabbage. No need to change baits, just remove the fish and back into business.

Now, I had to work out why this particular fly worked and my others from various materials failed. Using my wife's clear rectangular designer label rose vase, I attached a line and observed the fly action underwater. I soon discovered that my reject flies, although looking good in the vise, tended to hold their cigar shape in the water and not look natural, but the Ice Dubbing fly flared out and moved enticingly with a slight movement of the line.

Next step is to compare the fly to the real thing. A quick trip to the weed patch, and tied on a clump of weed a similar size to the fly and dropped them both into the vase.

Conclusion:- The weed fly looked almost more realistic than the real DEAL.....



Materials:

Hook: Daiichi Model #2171-B #6
or Gamakatsu Panfish #8
Thread: Spotlight nylon thread
Body: Tiewell Ice Dubbing flouro green

C



Tie in small clumps of dubbing to form a cigar shape.
Trim tail to a taper to suit length of fly needed



Check out the way the fly acts in the water. Flaring and drifts very enticingly

The proof of an effective fly is if it looks real and catches fish, and this fly ticks both boxes. See the real wire weed in the fore ground with a greater than life fly in the background.

Bass bonanza during the club's winter Lake St Clair outing





Fiona and Ray in NZ



Looks like our fly fishing mates are taming the Tongariro River. Fiona caught her fish on a dry pattern and Ray got this nice Jack rainbow on a glo bug



WEED GUARDS *by Darren Foster*

At some time in the past we have all fished an area where it was too weedy. The weed is spread out over the surface like a mat. Or the weed has grown in beds along the bank like vertical curtains effectively stopping any fly from getting to the fish in a presentably manner. Saltwater environments are prone to weedy areas as well, be it eel grass across the sand flats or loose drifting weed that inevitably snags around the hook. Regardless of location or weed type, once you fly has even the tiniest bit of weed on it the fish will shy away.

You may even be fishing in an area full of snags for example fishing for bass that are sitting way back under the cover of overhanging branches and other foliage, or fishing sunken timber such as log jams or spindly trees or shrubs where Golden Perch like to hang out.

Now not everyone is a fan of weed guards and some people will even cut them off a store-bought fly. Some people will refuse to fish in areas mentioned above just so they don't have to deal with the weed issue. Hopefully with this article I can convince you to try fishing with a fly fitted with a weed guard or tie one yourself. For the few extra steps and little extra time spent incorporating a weed guard into the fly pattern you will be pleased you did. Weed guards. What are they? Why do we need them? How do we tie one and with what?

There are many forms of weed guards that each has their own use in various

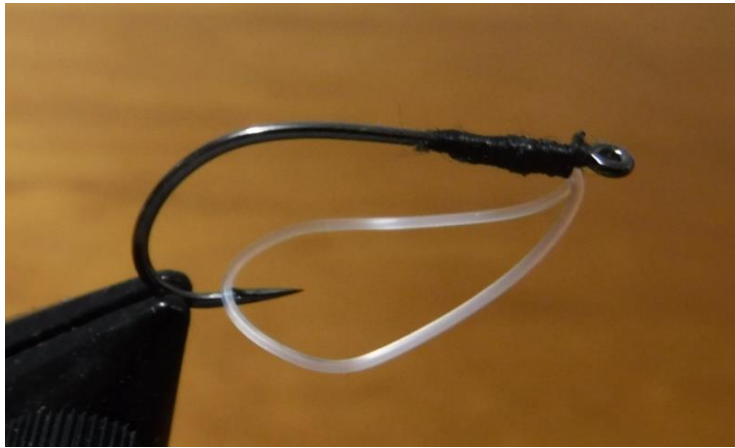
circumstances. The aim of a weed guard is to help the fly skip, bounce, slide or walk over and through snags and weed. Fish love cover and sometimes that is the only place you will find them, especially when they are not going to be convinced in any way shape or form to leave the comfort and safety of their snag just to take your fly. The only other way is to get your fly in to where the fish are sitting deep in cover.

Materials used can be monofilament, fluorocarbon or wire. Mono and fluoro are suitable for small to medium flies but need to be reasonably stiff to do the job at hand and is less easily seen when submerged, fluoro becomes practically invisible when below the surface. Wire on the other hand is more easily seen, yet holds its shape better and is stronger than mono or fluoro. Wire is also good for larger flies.

Brad Lowman (former contributor to Fly Life Magazine's Tips and Tactics column) came up with a solution suitable to use on-site when a weed guard is essential. Using at least 40lb mono or leader material, tie a Duncan Loop Knot on the eye of the hook, cinching down tight. After cutting the tags off add a touch of glue.

Flies such as Clousers or Bendbacks are tied incorporating the tying materials to act as a weed guard.

Weed guards need to be stiff enough to hold their shape but flexible enough to collapse upon a bite. A guard that is too stiff will simply reduce hook-ups.

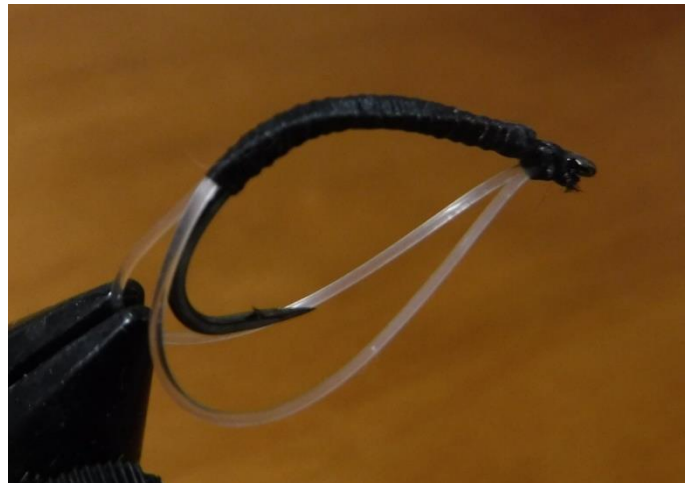


Gape Loop – these guards can be made from stiff mono or light gauge wire such as guitar strings (high E) or steel wire trace. The downfall with this guard is it can often become dislodged and rendering the fly prone to snagging.

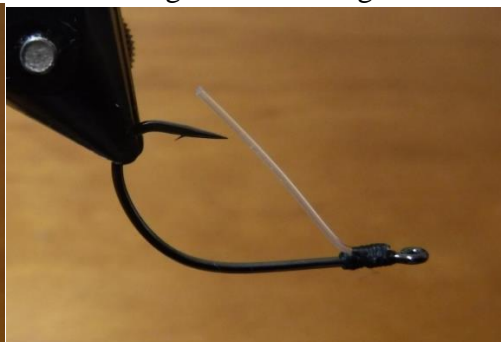
Freshwater Loop: usually made from stiff mono for medium to heavy cover – freshwater bass poppers, frog patterns, streamers such as Woolly Buggers.



The Double Loop: made from mono - use in circumstances where there is heavy cover and structure. Flies such as mouse patterns can be cast onto the bank and easily skittered back into the water without snagging. This guard is also good for skipping frog patterns over Lilly pads as the double loops prevent the hook tip from fouling even if the fly lays over on its side.



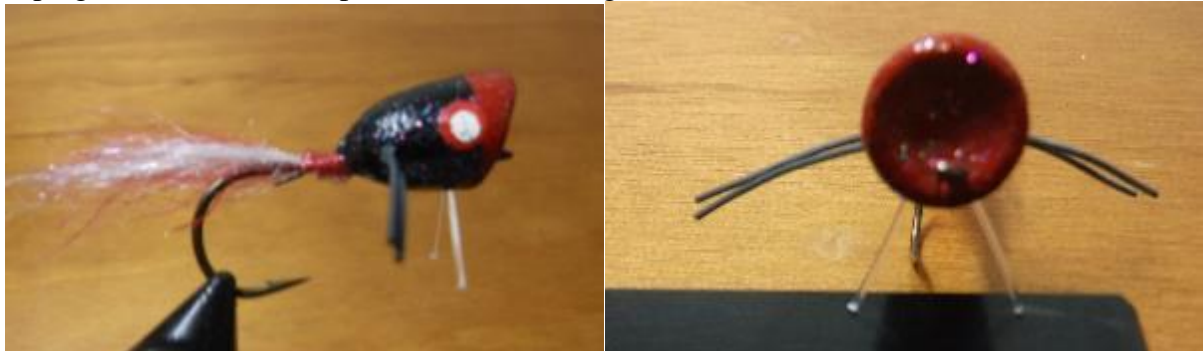
Single Mono – can be light gauge wire or stiff mono and suits small saltwater flies fished in light cover on the bottom such as sea grass or floating seaweed strands.



Double Mono - is a variation of the single mono weed guard used in light to medium salt or fresh water environments. The 'V' shape is a popular guard used on flies that are fished hook up. Also, a lot of Carp anglers are using this style of guard on their Carp flies. I believe the one on the left works well in dense snags when fishing areas such as mangroves where you need to get your fly way back in the snags and then walk your fly back out through the snag.



Single mono weed guard on a popper. Just drill small holes and insert the mono with a bit of superglue to hold them in place and trim to length.



Forward Loop – this guard is similar to the double mono guard with a loop formed behind the eye of the hook which forms a guard or barrier allowing the fly to bump over or skate across snags or weed. I particularly find this one works well in heavily weeded areas.



The picture below shows a forward loop as a weed guard and also a tail loop which is used to help prevent long, flowing tails (essential to some fly patterns for added movement – before someone says '*trim the tail, it's too long*'). I tie these loops using one full length of mono starting from behind where the forward loop will be tied, along the shank, form the tail loop and back along the shank towards the eye and then form the forward loop. This way keeps the body uniform in diameter so you don't end up with an uneven body.



The idea of fishing with flies with guards is to get the fly in amongst the snags where the fish are. The whole idea of a guard on the fly is to move the fly through the snag, not to move the snag. Too much pressure on the fly against the snag will act as the same as if a fish is biting down on the fly compressing the guard, possibly causing the fly catch on the snag.

Weed guards may add a bit of extra tying time but if you want to fish heavy, snag-ridden areas you should cut down the loss of flies. And if you find yourself in a situation where you have flies with weed guards and you don't need them, then simply cut the guard off.

Hopefully this insight into weed guards will inspire you to try some out for yourself and start fishing flies into the thickest cover you can find and land a few (or a lot).



SYDNEY OPERA MOUSE

By Darren Foster



Here is an interesting pattern I found the other day that may inspire you to tie a few up and feed them to a hungry Bass. I think the Eucumbene and Jindabyne trout would have a crack at these too. Aside from being one of the founders of The Global Flyfisher, Martin Joergensen is a main contributor of articles, fly patterns, editor and developer of the site.

The link between the Sydney Opera House and Martin stems from the fact that the designer of the Opera House was Danish architect Jørn Utzon

and Martin also is from Denmark. The layered foam is meant to represent the layered shells that form the rooves of the Opera House

The pic on the left shows my attempt at the Sydney Opera Mouse at the top of the pic as per Martin's tying steps and the one below it is my version using a tail made from natural rabbit fur and then palmered forward before folding over the foam wings.

I tied these on #2 Mustad Aberdeen hooks. These hooks are what I tie most of my Bass flies on nowadays. Martin's recipe uses a 1/0 to 4/0 hook. A bit big for Bass but maybe worthwhile tying a few bigger ones for Murray Cod.

Check out Martin's "Sydney Opera Mouse" on the Global Flyfisher website :

<http://globalflyfisher.com/patterns/sydney-opera-mouse>

The main site is: <http://globalflyfisher.com>

If you haven't seen this site before, it's well worth the look with fly patterns, tips and articles galore.



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

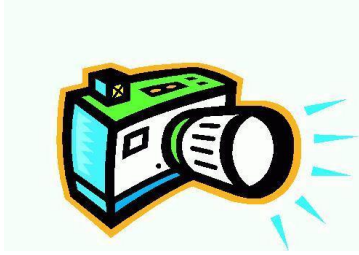
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Fishy Pics



A few old shots to wind you up for the up-coming Windermere trip. These fish were from Rylstone weir just upstream from Windermere and Rylstone.



Scape Pics



*Early morning on Dunns Swamp for those who want to
throw the yak in and check it out during the Windermere
trip*

*HVFFC members wish to “thank you”
SPONSORS*

Check out Sydney Fly Outfitters and Guiding on-line shop



Flies by Fedeles



<http://flytyerman.blogspot.com>

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