



## 2018 Feb Newsletter

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Brent Blackwell

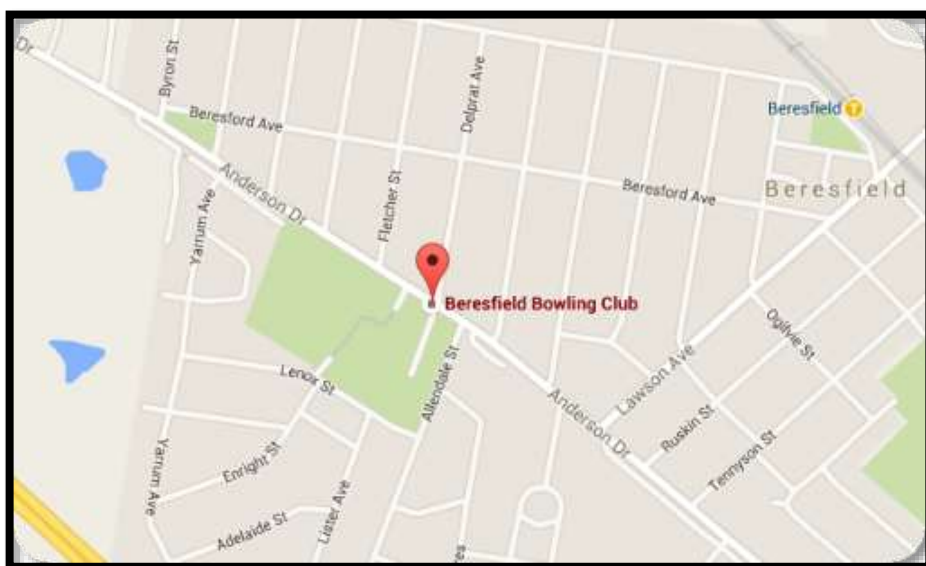
Jeff Yates

Noel King

Rob Probert

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



This month is the official start of our organised fishing year, and it has gone off with a bang. We started with a late January fly tying day at the Blackburns, where we showed our diversity with 2 champion tyers, Rosemary and Fiona. Fiona used one of her Clouser ties to catch fish at the Jimmy's Beach outing including a nice Tailor. Rosemary was tying superb fur flies, ideal for cod or yellow belly or barra for that matter. More about Jimmy's beach club outing next month's issue.

Brad, our man from the Warrabrook swamp, has an article on carp. Maybe Warrabrook with a little more scouting around could be a worthwhile venue for a future club outing?

Thanks to Darren's selflessness and dedication to the club, he organized our dollar for dollar purchase of bass, picked them up from the hatchery, and transported them through to Lake St Clair. He was met by several members who assisted in the dispersal of the fingerlings into weed beds at both ends of the lake. The effort taken will ensure a high survival rate for the little and not so little fish, and I'm sure we will be catching some of these fellows next year.

Glen has shared a trip on the Nepean with our readers, chasing bass. It was great to see our sponsor, John Marshall out on the boat with Glen and Rod E.

Brent was chasing flathead around his end of the woods. I have only been up to Lemon Tree Passage where he lives a couple of time, and then only in the back of a fire truck, but I would love to explore the area more from the yak. Tilligerry creek enters Port Stephens near his house and my sources tell me that there are good flathead and whiting to be had. Maybe a club event up there in the future Brent?

Anyway, enjoy the read, and if you have anything to contribute, please send it through to me.

## *President's Report*



G'day members,

Welcome all to the February Newsletter for 2018. It's been a busy start to the year with the Bass Fingerlings being sourced from a different supplier and released just recently. Cherie has sent out the invitation for the Salmon Classic in August on the weekend of the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> so don't forget to register your spot.

Tom has run another successful Hawks Nest outing with the Hawaiian shirt theme a hit, the weather was absolutely fantastic and the company and comradery as usual was exceptional. There will be a full report in the March Newsletter.

Matt Jordan has recently moved back to Oz. Matt and his partner are expecting their first newborn. Congratulations guys.

The Club Calendar is filling up, there is still a spot vacant for July if anyone has an idea and wants to put their hand up for the Trip Master job.



Scruffy flies and big fish.  
Darren Foster  
President, HVFFC 2018

# 2018 calendar



Month	Date	Venue/Event	Trip Master	Contact Number
January	20 <sup>th</sup>	<del>Saltwater Fly Tying with Lawrence &amp; Cherie</del>	Lawrence B.	0432989797
February	07 <sup>th</sup>	<del>Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo</del>	All	
February	16 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>	<del>Hawks Nest – Saltwater</del>	Tom Jones	0406662713
February	20 <sup>th</sup>	\$4\$ Bass fingerlings release at St Clair	Darren	0413392774
March	07 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
March	TBA	Forster Fly Muster – Day Trip	Darren	0413392774
March				
April	04 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
April	13 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup>	Wallerawang – Lake Wallace	Rod Fox	0407195508
April				
May	02 <sup>nd</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
May	12 <sup>th</sup>	Hunter River – Morpeth (Day Trip)	Darren	0413392774
May				
June	06 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
June	TBA	Lake St Clair - Bass	Peter Sewell	0428685101
June				
July	04 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
July	TBA	Lake St Clair - Bass		
July				
August	01 <sup>st</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
August	10 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	Swansea Salmon Slam		
August	TBA	RISE Film Festival – Bero Bowlo	Darren	0413392774
September	05 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
September	TBA	Hastings	Lawrence	0432989797
October	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
October	5 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup>	Windamere Dam	Chris Moloney	0422144382
November	18 <sup>th</sup>	Club AGM Meeting @ 5.30pm	All	
November				
December	5 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
December	TBA	Christmas Dinner	Lawrence/Cherie	

## *Warabrook Swamp Trout*

Brad Kershaw

I had a visit from Ben from Pt Macquarie club, and we were allowed out for male bonding while our wives and kids did the same, or was that just to talk about us?

Score was zero the first night from our Kayaks, not even a ripple on the surface from Carp. Notably that night was very hot and the Bats thought so too. That was the first time I have witnessed bats flying low over the dam and dipping their chests in the water. Maybe they then took to the trees upside down and drank the water off their chest hairs.

Check out this youtube clip

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Bl3Qhygfp8>

Second day and the swamp trout were rising, but not taking bread off the surface or any other bait we could see. But they were in pairs and very amorous at that.

You guessed it even with the best of over the shoulder breezes, perfect casting from Ben, even my casts were on the money.

The best we could do was catch a few scales as we passed over the big carp.

No picture to show so here is a picture I took in Europe of the magazines they have dedicated to Carp.



I wish that was me holding the fish

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## ***\$4\$ 2017/18 Bass Stocking Program***

by Darren Foster

This stocking season started off quite shaky due to our regular supplier having a severe shortage of Bass fingerlings ready for the \$4\$ stocking program. Zero Bass fingerlings to be precise. By the time I found out, the stocking season for 2017/18 was just about completed and we had the Glencorp Grant to use as well. After contacting the Fisheries and talking over options it was decided to still go hunting for fingerlings. I

contacted Neil from Aquablue Seafoods Hatchery and we were in luck, Neil still had fingerlings left over from the stocking program. With a new Fish Stocking Order Form, Fish Stocking Verification Form, Fish Stocking Permit Acceptance Form and a new Fish Stocking Permit all that was left was to wait for the fingerlings to be tested again for the nodavirus and given the all clear.



**Neil harvesting the fingerlings ready for transport.**

Neil was straight on the ball checking the weather on google to find the best day to suit the fingerlings to maximise their survival and coming up with Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February. So, on this coolish, wet day 8081 Bass fingerlings



were liberated into St Clair. Because the season was nearly over, these fingerlings were larger than what we would normally get. On average they were around 30 – 45mm in length with a few at least 75mm long. They are cannibalistic even at this stage of their lives greedily and readily preying on their smaller brothers and sisters.



Assisting myself with the release was Jeff, Pete, Wayne H. and Ray and Fiona. We released around 3500 fingerlings at the Twin Soaks after a boggy walk down to the water's edge (at the time of writing St Clair was at 69%). There were some nice weed beds in close for the fingerlings to scoot into.

**Ray and Fiona releasing their first fingerlings**

From there we moved on to Adam Point where the remaining fingerlings were sent swimming into their brand new bigger, better (more dangerous) home where hopefully in a couple of years' time someone will have the

pleasure of catching one of these feisty little fish. Here, the water was deep and the weed is thick thus giving them the best chance of survival, especially from predators.



**Pete and Wayne releasing the fingerlings into prime weed beds.**



**An idea of just how low the water is at St Clair.**

**Straddling the barbed wire fence with 500 fingerlings preso Darren and Jeff**





## *Big City Bass*

Glen Olney

Many reading this would say that the best part of metropolitan Sydney is seeing it in the rear view mirror.

To a degree this would be correct but in spite of the crowds, pollution and the buildings there are still some beautiful patches of water with awesome scenery and wildlife to be found not far from suburbia and even better is that bass are there to take a fly.

For many club members our local water is the Nepean River upstream from Penrith.

A canoe or boat is a must but the good news is that this part of the river holds a healthy population of bass.

An added bonus is that once you enter the gorge which is only a short distance from a good double lane ramp you could easily believe you are hundreds of kilometres away from suburbia.

Huge rock formations, wedgetails, ospreys, kingfishers, lizards of all sizes and lyrebirds are all in the area at times.



The sad part is that the best fishing is on work days when you will often have the river to yourself except for the Australian rowing teams who train mostly between the ramp and the gorge. The noise from the megaphone

calling instructions disturbs the serenity but not the bass.

On Saturdays and even worse Sundays the river is full of skiers, doof doof boats and jet skis. No skiing is



allowed before 9.30am but many have the view that they are exempt from this rule.

There is an 8 knot zone further up but again you will have company most weekends.

We mostly fish between 6.30am and 10.00am as sadly I have to work but catches in excess of 20 bass are common.

Most are small but for about every seven small bass you will get one of 30cm and from time to time a trophy over 40cm.



For some reason which I can't explain first light is not the best time. For years we used to start in the dark but most times now the fishing starts to get better around 7.30am.

We rarely use anything except dry flies and gurglers seem to work well.

John Marshall, Rod Fox, and I all have our own variation and all work.

Most of mine are tied on a Gamekatsu B10s hook in size 6 or 4.



A few years ago John and I had one of those mornings where we had dozens of hits but only hooked about one in three.

After much coffee and brainstorming we moved the body forward and used a zonker tail rather than marabou which made the fly sit down at the back.

Straight away our hook up rate improved.

The other thing John tried with success was using large cactus hackle chenille for the body. Just tie it on as normal but stroke it back as you wrap it forward. Maybe the fly looks like it has a hundred legs or possibly air bubbles get stuck somewhere. All I know is it seems to work.



The other important part is casting in close to the bank.

Usually the fish will be tight up against the bank and close enough is not good enough.

Expect to lose a few flies but that is the price you pay.

The retrieve I use is to let the fly land and wait as long as your nerves allow.

A short strip of maybe 10cm then wait and repeat.

The bass normally come on in October once the water hits twenty degrees and hang around until March or when the first heavy rains come after Christmas.





In so many ways I am fortunate that our club has several members close to home.

It is never too difficult to find someone up for a fish for a few hours.

The hard part is going to work after I get home.

Yes it's not St Clair or Glenbawn and certainly not Kiribati but its 30 minutes from home and lets me have a fish on a day when I should be at work.

Not too shabby at all.





## *Fly Tying at Coal Point*

Jeff Yates

We had an excellent turnout fly tying, at Cherie and Lawrence's house on Lake Macquarie. It was well attended with 16 members travelling from Muswellbrook (Dillo), Nelson Bay (Fiona and Ray) and of course our Sydney chapter of Jon, Glenn, Mark, Rosemary and Alex. Locals Peter, Jeff, Brent, Kevin, Janice and Brad made up the number.

Under the cool of their car port we all tied flies ranging from small trout, to salt water flies for our next outing to Hawks Nest, and larger flies for Cod.

The congenial atmosphere created, allowed for an exchange of ideas, skills and banter, and all present had a terrific time. Cherie and Lawrence again showed their value to the club, not only supplying the venue but providing a banquet fit for royalty.

It was great to catch up with Jon Marshall again, and the strong contingent from Sydney. Close to a quarter of our club members hail from the big smoke, which shows a fair commitment to attend club outings. The other welcome fact is the increasing number of female members both tying flies and actively fly fishing.







A Fiona caught tailor on a Clouser from the tying day

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## *Fruits of Our Labour*

Brent Blackwell

We all had a good day at Laurie and Cherie's place, tying flies. I tied chartreuse Clousers on number 4, 6 and 8 hooks. They are a bit rough.



I was intending to fish that evening, on the low tide. Arriving home, the wind was up, so too windy to fish. Setting the alarm for an early Sunday morning fish it was off to sleep. Who slept through the alarm? Waking a bit later than I intended, I grabbed the fishing gear and headed out.

For this trip, I was using my first fly rod, 20 years old with its original reel; a floating line and only took the flies I had tied on Saturday. Arrived at the Point at 6-35am, I had missed the bottom of the tide so it was running in.

Starting at the water's edge, I used a searching pattern, casting throughout 180° arc. I moved out, working the water, there was a slight easterly breeze which put a nice ruffle on the surface. The fly stopped, then gave a kick, onto a fish. After a short tussle a plate size flathead was beached. Well, I had dinner and it still was only 7-00am. Deciding to fish for a few minutes longer, I went back into the water and kept fishing. A sharp tug on the line, followed by head shakes, another flathead, lovely, two meals. It was 7-06am so, I gave up fishing.

Down to the boat ramp's cleaning table to clean the fish and feed the pelicans.

Home by 7-35am for breakfast. A nice pleasant mornings fishing.

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**Rod's Fly Swap**



**Juvenile bass ready for release shot by Wayne Hunt**





## *Fishy Pics*



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*Rosemary curing a resin head on  
another fly from her vyce*

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*Bass ready to be rehoused  
into Lake St Clair*

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# *Scape Pics*



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*Five islands – Fullerton Cove looking towards  
Stockton Bridge, great flathead fishing from the  
Hobie*

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*HVFFC members wish to “thank you”*  
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