



2018 May Newsletter

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Peter Sewell

Brent Blackwell

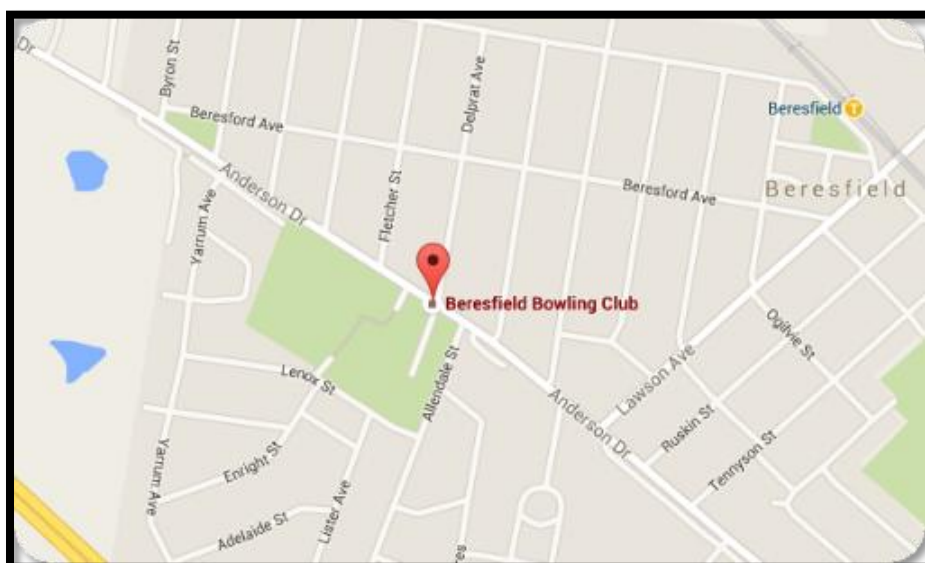
Jeff Yates

Noel King

Rob Probert

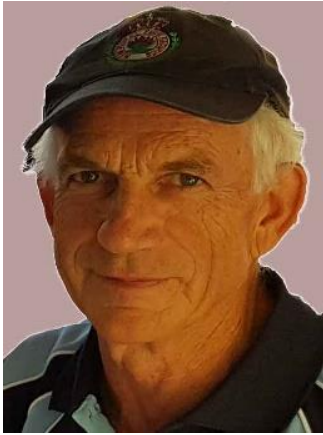
Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at:-

Beresfield Bowling Club
Anderson Drive
Beresfield
At 7.00 pm



Editor's comments

Jeff Yates



The month of May has been a month of anticipation and waiting. All our home waters are primed and ready for action. The consistency is not quite there but next month is looking like it will be a real winner. Having said that a few of our members are starting to get a few fish. See the reports further on in the newsletter.

I put a mercy call out to the club for newsworthy articles as I was running a little lean, and ever reliable Darren come up with the goods as usual. We are lucky to have such a hard working

President, and his shoes will be hard to follow if he ever relinquishes the post.

Talking of being a hard working club member, Rod D has been holding fly swaps for over 12 months now and it has encouraged and developed the skills of many of our members. This latest swap has 13 participants, including myself and I am looking forward to receiving beetle patterns from the other 12 members. I have been knocking up Tassie Gum Beetles mainly out of self-interest as I will be going there later this year, but the basic tie can be adapted to Fiery Red Eucalypt beetles or Black beetles, by the use of a marker pen.

Noel has added a few photos of a trip up north some time ago.

Anyway, don't wait for club outings, get out there and test the waters and give us a report on any activity.



President's Report

G'day members,

Welcome all to the May Newsletter.

The May outing was changed from Morpeth to St Clair for several reasons (as per the email sent out prior to the day-trip) and despite the trying conditions, the day-trip was declared a success for the four members that turned up to test their skill and mettle, fishing into cutting, gale force winds.

The next club fly swap is focusing on beetle patterns, those interested should have let Rod Dillon know by now that they are participating.

The Kangaroo Carp (Facebook group) carp fly swap is progressing nicely with some very nice patterns coming in. Now that the carp are slowing down with the cooler weather, the time is right for discussing tactics and swapping fly patterns and ideas on targeting carp on fly. If you are on Facebook and like catching carp on fly, check out the Kangaroo Carp group.

The next trip on the calendar is to St Clair where we will get to sample our new club gazebos (after the other two were destroyed by the wind at Lyell). Trip Master Peter will no doubt turn on another sumptuous Saturday night meal. Given the success at St Clair at several recent outings, the fishing should be very rewarding. It will also be interesting to see how many Yellowbelly are caught this time around as last year yielded quite a few Yellowbelly falling for fluff and feather.

I have been contacted by Gus Lapin who is the organiser and host for this year's Rise Fly Fishing Film Festival. Check the Club Calendar for the date.

The next club meeting is on Wednesday 6th June at Bero Bowlo, see you all there for the start at 7.00pm.



The Punk Rocker – tied by Stuart Hardy

“Hardy ties lavish flies made with colorful feathers from pre-1947 taxidermy specimens, Japanese thread made from real gold, and ethically sourced butterfly wings”

Scruffy flies and big fish.

Darren Foster

President, HVFFC 2018

2018 Calendar



Month	Date	Venue/Event	Trip Master	Contact Number
January	20 th	Saltwater Fly Tying with Lawrence & Cherie	Lawrence B.	0432989797
February	07 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
February	16 th —18 th	Hawks Nest – Saltwater	Tom Jones	0406662713
February	20 th	\$4\$ Bass fingerlings release at St Clair	Darren	0413392774
March	07 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
March	TBA	Forster Fly Muster – Day Trip	Darren	0413392774
March				
April	04 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
April	13 th –15 th	Lake Lyell	Rod Fox	0407195508
April				
May	02 nd	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
May	12 th	Lake St Clair – Bass, Yellowbelly	Darren	0413392774
May				
June	06 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
June	15 th , 16 th , 17 th	Lake St Clair – Bass, Yellowbelly	Peter Sewell	0428685101
June				
July	04 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
July	14 th	Christmas in July	Cherie	0410555019
July	15 th	Swansea Day Trip (self-cater)	Jeff	0427002766
August	01 st	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
August	10 th , 11 th , 12 th	Swansea Salmon Classic	Cherie	0410555019
August	24 th	RISE Film Festival – Bero Bowlo	Darren	0413392774
September	05 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
September	TBA	Hastings	Lawrence	0432989797
October	3 rd	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
October	5 th – 7 th	Windamere Dam	Chris M.	0422144382
November	18 th	Club AGM Meeting @ 5.30pm	All	
November	12 th – 19 th	Elm Grove Mountain Retreat - Trout	Rod Fox	0407195508
December	5 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
December	TBA	Christmas Dinner	Lawrence/Cherie	0410555019

St Clair club outing

Jeff Yates



Darren sent the following message out a few days prior to our club outing:-

"The May outing was scheduled for a day trip to Morpeth on Saturday 12th May. However, it was decided to change the trip to St Clair due to the recent good catches and not the restrictions that rivers have during winter. Additionally, the venue change would reflect the club's ethics for "doing the right thing". While fishing the rivers requires a boat, canoe or kayak, St Clair gets best results from walking the bank."

This was a good call by the President as the predicted strong winds would have swept us off the river, and would have been somewhat hazardous in our yaks.

The St Clair day trip was a self-catered outing with a packed thermos the greatest asset on a frigid, windy day. As Les Simshauser would later comment "it was a great day's fishing in trying conditions"

Four brave souls met at the stockyards at 0700hrs. We waited a little while for Tony, but later found out that he was home just in time for breakfast after fighting a bushfire from the previous evening.

Peter, Darren, Les and myself decided to bypass our normal tried and proven haunts and test a bit of new ground. The Lake is currently at 70%, which is as low as it's been for many years. More bank is exposed, and we noted some great structure for when the lake level rises.

We went as far as we could up the Carrowbrook arm and trudged through the mud to fish over the ever present weed beds. These weed beds are a blessing, holding bait fish and aquatic insects, and a great ambushing place for the bass. Once hooked it is then a battle to get the fish on the surface, otherwise they bury in the weed. Many a time rocks were thrown into the weed or a stick was used to free up a buried fish. This is the reason for using fairly heavy tippets, though most of us seldom use a fly larger than a #8.

Talking of flies, the Craigs, Horrors, Yetis and Darren's latest invention all worked well. By 1100hrs we were knackered, windswept, sunburnt and hungry, so we headed back to the cars for a cuppa and well-earned rest. At this point we had managed 11 fish. Our car park is obviously well known to the local car thieves as we investigated the burnt remains of their Friday night rampage.

Over a cuppa we talked tactics. Fishing the wind at St Clair, generates some of our best catches. Casting to the dirty water margins and windswept shores with a sink tip line seems to get a result. But, after the rugged morning, we opted for a bit of protection from the 30 knot nor-westerly. We walked over the hill and into the stockyard bay, and fished in its lee. The weed was really thick at the bank, and if you could get a fly through the occasional channel in it, a bass was sure to hit.

This next session of about 2 hours was again productive with a further 11 fish caught. That gave us a total of 22 good bass on a fairly dismal day. It was nice to see Les again on a club trip as his mild nature and expertise are welcome attributes for any outing.



All rugged up on a cold and windy St Clair day



Fur flies are proven catchers



Les with the results of good action



Craigs nighttime a most consistant fly



Exposed culvert from the original road.

Anchors away?



Foot Note from the President:

Casting into strong, 30 knot nor-westerly winds, standing in mud up to your ankles, hooking, fighting and then trying to land a fish whilst "stuck in the mud" all makes for interesting and testing fishing conditions. Waders were essential on the day not only to assist with trekking through mud-soaked bogs to get near enough to the water to present a snaking, winding, recoiled cast into the wind-swept water, but also to keep you dry from the wind generated waves crashing

along the shore-lines. Great company; trying conditions; fantastic fishing and I for one would like to think we all came away better casters in trying, windy, conditions.

Noel's Barra trip

I had a trip to Townsville a couple of years ago to visit my son. He asked me to bring a fly rod as he was going to take me to a friend's property with a dam which had been stocked with Barra. The property

owner had never seen barra caught on fly and was quite amazed when I managed to land a few in a short time, and here are the photos.



Fishing Roundup

Jeff Yates/Darren Foster

Lake St Clair – the lake has been fishing well this season, with good catches both day and evening. The weed is still heavy around the edges and as it starts to break up the fishing will get better. Try to concentrate on channels between the weed beds and be ready to put good pressure on the fish to get it up on the surface. Most fish are well conditioned. See a fishing report in this newsletter as well as other recent newsletters.

Thompsons Creek Dam – I have made several trips since Christmas with the first 4 resulting in fish to 6lb. Last week I visited again hoping to get onto early spawning fish. Large fish patrol the lake's edges during winter and can be caught on Nymphs, Glo bugs, small wets, or Wolly Buggers. However, I was probably a week or two too early. The browns start first, followed by rainbows a month or so later. It is a must do but be aware of extremely cold temperatures both day and night, and be prepared to walk around the lake polroiding fish. It is not uncommon to cover 20km during the day circumnavigating the lake.

Lake Macquarie – There was a report on the fisheries site about a huge tailor over 1mtr long caught a while back which was donated to Fisheries; they determined it was 13 years old from the growth rings in the otoliths. Peter and myself chased some oversize tailor off Pulbah Island. These fish were monsters (though not to the extent of the 1mtr fish) but were extremely flighty. The fish fled at the sound of approaching boats within a 100m of the feeding frenzy. Frustrating, but that's fly fishing.

You may have heard in the news recently about an unusual discovery in Lake Macquarie! The Morbakka is a rare species of Irukandji jellyfish more commonly found in the Moreton Bay area. They have also been found as far south as Sydney. The jellyfish found in Lake Macquarie was discovered among mangroves in Mannering Bay by two marine researchers from the Australian Museum who were conducting a study on an unrelated jellyfish when the Morbakka was discovered in amongst mangroves near the borderline of the Lake Macquarie and Central Coast Local Government Areas.



Morbakka fenneri has a transparent box-shaped bell with one tentacle in each corner. The bell can be six to 18 centimetres wide with four ribbon-shaped tentacles up to one metre long. They tend to swim near the waterway bottom but can be attracted to lights at night.

A Morbakka sting can cause symptoms of Irukandji syndrome, which may include nausea, vomiting, severe lower back pain, breathing difficulties, profuse sweating, severe cramps and spasms. The incidence of stings is rare, and symptoms are typically mild, but some cases have required hospitalisation.

If you think you have been stung by a Morbakka and are displaying any of the symptoms mentioned above, call for an ambulance immediately. Apply a liberal dose of vinegar to help neutralise the sting and prevent any further envenomation. Do not use hot or cold water or rub the sting area as this may cause further irritation.

<https://www.lakemac.com.au/news/2018/05/24/rare-jellyfish-found-in-lake-macquarie>

Swansea channel – Salmon have started to make an appearance but at this stage it is hit and miss. Both my trips recently have resulted in no salmon sighted, however, Brett and Cherie have scored as can be seen from the lovely snaps. So it's time to dust off the heavy gear and get yourself onto the channel!





Fishy Pics



*Peter with a
Stockyard
bass*



Scape Pics



*St Clair on a cold and
windy morning*

*HVFFC members wish to “thank you”
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