



2018 August Newsletter

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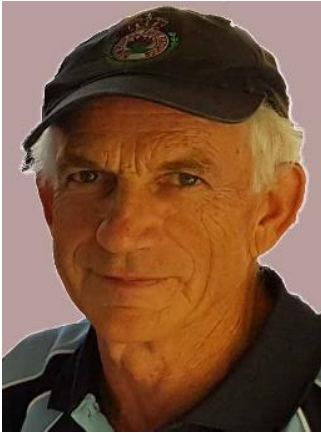
Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at:-

Beresfield Bowling Club
Anderson Drive
Beresfield
At 7.00 pm



Editor's comments

Jeff Yates



It's that time again when I must push the newsletter out to eager members.

There are still Salmon about, but having said that, Lawrence was out on day break this morning and missed out.

Looking forward to a report from Port Macquarie. For those that haven't fished this invitational, it is a great venue, even better hospitality, and the fishing can be pretty good as well. Dawn and Ron are brilliant hosts and it is always nice to catch up with them and the other members of the Hastings club.

Two patients limp into two different medical clinics with the same complaint. Both have trouble walking and appear to require a hip replacement.

The **FIRST** patient is examined within the hour, is x-rayed the same day and has a time booked for surgery the following week.

The **SECOND** sees his family doctor after waiting 3 weeks for an appointment, then waits 8 weeks to see a specialist, then gets an x-ray, which isn't reviewed for another week and finally has his surgery scheduled for 6 months from then.

Why the different treatment for the two patients?

..... the **FIRST** is a Golden Retriever.

..... the **SECOND** is a Senior Citizen.

Next time take me to a vet!

President's Report

G'day members,



Welcome all to what looks like a bumper September Newsletter. I would like to start off by welcoming our newest member Brian Willett to the club, Brian is from Sydney and I think a few of you have already met Brian.

The Fly Tying Day with Brett (BWC Flies) was another hit with 14 members travelling from near and far to attend. Thanks a lot to Brett for taking the time to travel up and share his knowledge of fly tying with the club. No matter what your level of experience is, you always come away from these days learning something new, whether it's a whole new fly pattern or a few fly tying tips you didn't previously know.

The bass season is kicking off fairly well with some nice Bass coming out of the local rivers and St Clair. I am slowly gleaning info on the silver perch of St Clair as in where to look for them around the dam and what flies to use other than the trusty #14 white rabbit fur bread fly (nnnoooo.....this fly could never be replaced, never I say, never).

The Hastings trip was this month, I look forward to hearing about the trip as it always seems to be enjoyed by all that attend.

The next club outing is Chris's trip to St Clair with a casting clinic by Peter Morse on the side. Thanks to Chris for organising what I know will be another great weekend at St Clair.

The next club meeting is on Wednesday 3rd October at Bero Bowlo, see you all there for the start at 7.00pm or earlier for a meal.

Scruffy flies and big fish.

Darren Foster
President, HVFFC 2018



Beautifully patterned Silver

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	21 st , 22 nd , 23 rd	Hastings	Lawrence	0432989797
October	3 rd	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
October	6 th – 7 th	St Clair – casting day with Peter Morse	Chris M.	0422144382
October	12 th – 19 th	Elm Grove Mountain Retreat - Trout	Rod Fox	0407195508
November	18 th	Club AGM Meeting @ 5.30pm	All	
November				
December	5 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
December	TBA	Christmas Dinner	Lawrence/Cherie	0410555019

Swansea update

Jeff Yates



It's getting towards the tail end of the salmon season, but there's still plenty to find in Swansea channel. We arrived for a cracker of a morning with virtually no wind and a beautiful pascal sun rising through the sea mist. These were good signs for anticipated salmon action.

The schools were sparse, so we travelled out past Moon Island for a look, but no action out there. A seal laying on its back, overindulged on fresh salmon after an early morning of gorging, now soaking up the first rays of sunlight.

Back in the channel, we had a brief encounter with a school for 1 fish, and shared a wonderful sight as a 3m Bronze Whaler followed close to a couple of wayward salmon, travelling right up to the boat. No more action so back to the Tides coffee shop for a morning pick-me-up and a review of tactics.

Invigorated by the coffees, we headed off in search again. Things were getting desperate, as the fish were just not showing up. There's always plan "B", so we anchored above a healthy weed bed, where we spotted several large Luderick feeding. I removed the clear

intermediate and put on a floating line with a naturalistic weed fly. One cast and we were surrounded by fish; but not Luderick, but salmon! How fortunes change, as we nervously fumbled with lines and flies to revert back to salmon tackle, a glance over our shoulders revealed acres of salmon travelling past.

After taking a breath, we chased the salmon around for some time picking off stragglers hanging around the edge of the school. The fights were pretty good, and the fish were well conditioned, with one fat fish sampled to reveal 3 large yellow tail in its gut; such vacuum cleaners.

Getting towards mid-day, the NE wind had kicked in making casting an occupational hazard so we decided to call it a day, but not before having a chat to Brett from BWC Flies, telling us how he enjoyed the recent fly tying day with the club.

We finished with 6 fish and lost as many, however, while loading the boat at Blacksmiths ramp we noticed birds working everywhere in the distance, but we have had enough fun for one day, we'll leave it to others.



Gramps

Rod Dillon

Positioning the Kayak 5 metres out from the rock wall in the bend of the river, the two youths were in a good position to see the bream 'walling'. Their grandfather had told them years ago when he was alive how this particular stretch of river had yielded him hours of pleasure and many epic captures of big bream on fly. He had passed away 7 years ago without fulfilling his dream of fishing this water with them both but had left them his 2 man kayak and his fishing gear. They were both proficient with the fly, he having made sure they had this skill. They were now on a family holiday and full of anticipation.

"Remember" he said, *"to use a small popper and plenty of perseverance"* the elder said to his brother, he reckoned that sometimes you needed to move it past a feeding group up to 15 times before enticing a strike. *"Yeah, I remember"* came the reply. *"Well you have first shot"* said the elder, noticing that his brother had already attached a small white popper to his #4wt line.



The line cleanly cut the stillness of the late afternoon, hissing as it was pulled off the water, skillfully cast back and projected along the rock wall until it made its home settling on top of the water, 15 metres from the kayak and 1/2 metre from the wall. *"Great cast"* said his brother. Several bream were disturbed as the fly had softly fallen to the surface but they quickly reappeared and began to feed as the fly sat quietly on the water.

Gently the fly was twitched and then allowed to sit again. Some 15 seconds later the fly began to make its way back towards the kayak, blooping and stopping occasionally. Bream could be seen following the fly's progress but making no attempt to attack the intruder on the surface. This was repeated many times until the elder brother in exasperation said *"let me have a go for a bit"*.

The fly rod was passed to the rear of the Kayak and it was repositioned to enable a cast to be made. Moving the kayak gently forward so as to cover new water, the line again snaked

out but was a little too close to the wall, scaring off a large bream that was busy feeding with its back out. Allowing the disturbance to subside the fly was twitched and left to sit for a short time. *"I think I'll use gentle hands and not create as big a disturbance"* the elder boy said, as he commenced to draw the popper through the water with just enough force to put it under the water and then allow it to surface. This was repeated half a dozen times and then a fish struck, knocking the popper forward.

Calmly the boy stopped stripping the line, allowing the fly to sit at rest on the surface. A little twitch was met with a solid hit and the line was pulled surprisingly quick and hard under and towards the rocks. Pedaling the kayak towards mid-stream and applying sideways pressure, a feisty bream of 36cm was soon in the net, much to the delight of the boys.

That afternoon both boys caught and released a number of bream and were thrilled by the sight fishing legacy that had been left to them by their grandfather, who had encouraged them by stating that you cannot get into trouble if you fish.

Their grandfather, looking down on them, quietly said to himself, ***'You have learnt well boys, well done'***.



Rod's Yella

Recovering wetland supports School Prawns



Researchers have found high numbers of School Prawn within Hexham wetland in the Hunter River, New South Wales. Hexham wetland is a recovering wetland system, and several large rehabilitation projects have included reinstatement of tidal flows. The highest abundance of School Prawn in Hexham recorded was 1017 prawns per 100m², with an average density of 244 prawns per 100m². All areas of the wetland, except for the area closest to the wetland mouth, supported the full range of size classes. Prawns either directly use saltmarsh habitat or use saltmarsh-derived food. These results show that the recovering wetland is supporting a high abundance of School Prawn. Read more of this study by Hart and others in *Wetlands Ecology and Management*:
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11273-018-9599-6>



Fly Tying Traumas

Jeff Yates

Last month I wrote an article about my fly tying space under the house, which must have resonated with a few of our members, as can be seen in the photos. Work areas are like fingerprints, there are no two alike, and we fine tune each to our own particular needs and wants.



**Left – Alex
Right - Ray
Below left – Rod D
Below right - Jeff**



As you can imagine, as fly tyers, we have a large investment in fur and feather. I would have, conservatively speaking, about \$1000 worth of commercial natural fur and feather products, another \$1000 of road kill, at least 5,000 trout, salt and bass flies. Multiply this by the likes of the guys above who would also have a large collection and the risk to that investment by insect attack, both mites and moths is huge. If I come under an insect attack, I would have to bin the lot.

But as we all know, you need to mitigate those risks by due diligence (almost sounds like I'm back at work!). Firstly, isolate and individually bag capes and pelts in zip lock bags. Secondly, keep an ample supply of moth balls or urinal deodorizers with your feathers. Insects can be killed by both microwave or freezing, but keep the infected item quarantined until you can be sure that it is safe.

Moth balls and toilet deodorant cakes contain a substance called naphthalene. Naphthalene is a solid, white material with a distinctive odour, and it is found naturally in fossil fuels like coal and oil. You know, it smells like grannie's clothes drawer. It is also toxic in large amounts, so read up about its health risks.

Anyway, moving on, I came into a collection of lovely flies and materials, which I intended to divvy up for club events, prizes and my own collection, but unknown to both myself and my mate, the entire collection has active insect damage. Unfortunately, the owner has been ill for some time and damage has occurred. What do I do?

My initial and safest action was to bin the lot. I mulled over it for some days, before emptying the wiz bin to retrieve the flies. I read once that to beat the cycle you need to freeze the fur and feathers. Now, her indoors owns the freezer, so I had to sneak a shoe box of flies into the freezer without being too obvious about contents. How do you camouflage the contents? Pilchard bait bag is the answer. Lyn hates fish bait, though I do insist on keeping it at the ready, in case I need to pop down to the beach. So, out with the pillies and in with the flies. It is then recommended, after a couple of days to remove the items, let thaw and put them back in the next day, to repeat the process. My biggest fear is being served up a dish of clousers as payback for contaminating the freezer space if found out!



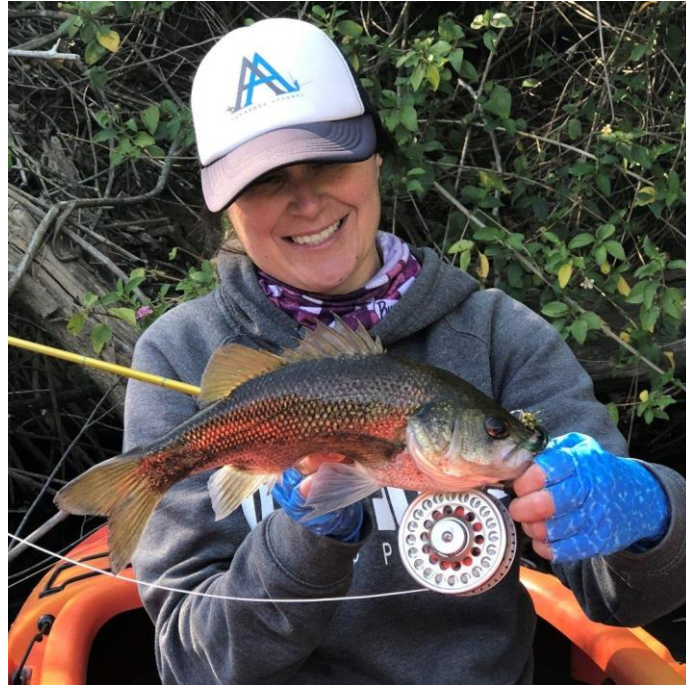
Just some of the affected fly materials and flies retrieved from the bin

Just throwing it out there, what do you use to keep your feathers in top condition? I have read of cedar balls, soap flakes, lemon grass, tom cat's piss and many other home remedies, so let's share ideas so that we are all better informed.

I think the moral of the story is though, be vigilant, check fly boxes and materials regularly, and keep a good supply of zip lock bags and moth balls at hand, but always thoroughly check new supplies and treat as necessary.

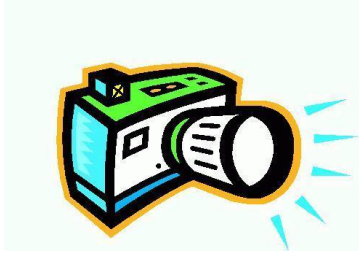


Fishy Pics





Cherie and Brett do it again



Scape Pics



*Fantastic silhouette of
Tangus chasing Tigers on
the Zambezi River*

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



<http://flytyerman.blogspot.com>