



**Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club.com.au**

## 2019 January Newsletter

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**Vice President** – Patrick Tobin

**Secretary** – Jim Manley

**Treasurer** – Wayne Hunt

**Newsletter Editor** – Jeff Yates

**Grants Officer** – Lawrence Blackburn

**Special Events** – Cherie Blackburn

**Raffles** – Brent Blackwell

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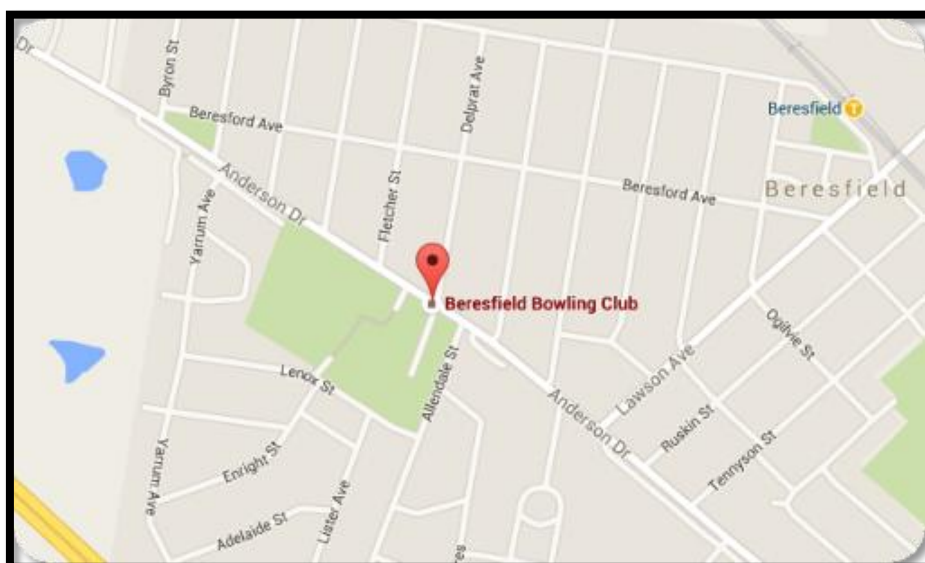
Jeff Yates

Noel King

Robert Probert

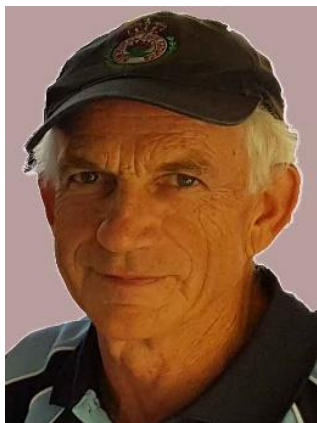
Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club meets on  
the first Wednesday of each month at:-

Beresfield Bowling Club  
Anderson Drive  
Beresfield  
At 7.00 pm



### *Editor's comments*

Jeff Yates



I trust everyone's Xmas and New Year was special and you have come out the other side healthier and more prosperous. But what about those New Year resolutions; I hope there's more fishing trips on the list!

I have just returned from a wonderful trip to India, having gone over for a large Indian wedding. The experience was out of this world. I made contact with a fellow over there, son of a missionary, who chases Mahseer, a large fish looking like a cross between a tarpon and a catfish (check them out on the internet). He also catches fish called Snake head, which I was

lucky enough to see in a fish market which specialised in carp. Maybe there's a connection there for some future fly fishing trip?

Darren has given us a great article on his cod experience at Bens Falls Retreat. Darren is a terrific contributor to this newsletter, and it would be sparse without his regular jottings.

Once again Brett has sent me through some great fishy shots as fillers for the newsletter. These are always welcome, and they must encourage people to get out there and give it a go. Brett and Cherie will be demonstrating fly tying this Saturday at Maitland. Give Darren a call if you would like to see a professional tyer and an active club sponsor in action.



Do I look out of place? I had those Mahseer on my mind....

## *President's Report*



G'day members,

Welcome all to the first Newsletter for 2019. I hope everyone has enjoyed their Christmas and New Year breaks and all is going well for the beginning of 2019.

Congratulations to the club's founding members for taking the initiative all those years ago to form a fly-fishing club that has evolved over the years to become what it is today, a well respected and much loved fly fishing club. This year the club is celebrating a huge milestone: its 20<sup>th</sup> year, so look out in the coming months for more info regarding up-coming celebrations.

The first event of the year has been and gone with a fly-tying day at the Blackburn's residence, with Lawrence and Cherie hosting the traditional start of the fly-fishing New Year.

Tom's trip to Bombah Point (Myall Lakes) is at the end of February with several members already booking their sites. There are still a few sites available so don't waste too much time getting in to book a spot at the park.

I am hosting a fly-tying day on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February at Mai-Wel with Brett and Cherie (BWC Flies). Brett will be demonstrating several shrimp patterns that will be of benefit for those going on Tom's outing. No matter what your level of experience is with fly tying, you always come away from these fly-tying days learning something new, whether it's a whole new fly pattern or a few fly tying tips you didn't previously know that Brett shares along the way.

The cicadas have been in strong voice this season so the bass should be firing out of the local rivers and St Clair. What's your favourite Cicada pattern?

The next club meeting is on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January at Bero Bowlo: see you all there for the 7.00pm start or earlier for a meal.



The Light Horseman  
3/0 Hook with clear Fish-Skull Mask and red eyes  
with deer hair, grizzly hackle and emu feathers.

Scruffy flies and big fish.

Darren Foster

President, HVFFC 2018/19

Month	Date	Venue/Event	Trip Master	Contact Number
January	19 <sup>th</sup>	Fly Tying with Lawrence & Cherie	Lawrence B.	0432989797
February	06 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
February	02 <sup>nd</sup>	Estuary Fly Tying with Brett Clarke	Darren	0413392774
February	22 <sup>nd</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup>	Bombah Point - Saltwater	Tom Jones	0406662713
March	06 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
March	8 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup>	Lithgow	Rod Fox	0407195508
March				
April	03 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
April				
April				
May	01 <sup>st</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
May	12 <sup>th</sup>	Lake St Clair – Bass, Yellowbelly		
May				
June	05 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
June	15 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup>	Lake St Clair – Bass, Yellowbelly		
June				
July	03 <sup>rd</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
July	20 <sup>th</sup>	Xmas in July & Club Awards Night	Cherie	0410555019
July				
August	07 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
August	23 <sup>rd</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> , 25 <sup>th</sup>	Swansea Salmon Classic	Cherie	0410555019
August		RISE Film Festival – Bero Bowlo	Darren	0413392774
September	04 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
September	21 <sup>st</sup>	Fly Club 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	Cherie	0410555019
September				
October	02 <sup>nd</sup>	AGM/General Club Meetings at Bero Bowlo	All	
October				
November	06 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
November				
November				
December	04 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
December				
December				



## *Fly Tying at Coal Point*

Jeff Yates

Q. When is a fly tying session, just, not a fly tying session?

A. Of course, when it's at Lawrence and Cherie's

Its quite interesting looking at the dynamics of the members and partners who attended. Most, like myself, were happy to chat and watch the more accomplished tiers demonstrate their skills. Meanwhile, in the kitchen our hosts, Lawrence and Cherie were busy cooking up another beautiful banquet, for which they have become quite legends. Ask Cherie and she says that she relishes the cooking and seeing others enjoy the toils of her labour.



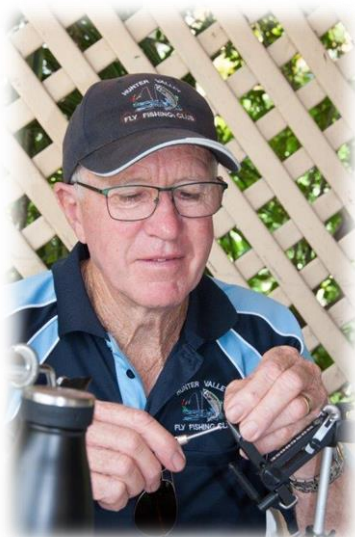
Twenty odd members and family turned up for our first official event for the year and we all learnt a bit, talked a bit and ate lots. Peter and Ingrid were minding their granddaughter, Emity, who was soon trying her hand at fly tying, but I think her greatest moment was when Cherie brought out the chocolate fountain, and I think we will let the pictures tell the story!



Rod Dillion, a strong advocate of the tube fly, explained and demonstrated the virtues of tying tubes. Alex, Rod E and Glen travelled up from Sydney for the day, and it's always welcome to see our Sydney contingent, who now make up at least 10% of the club members. Alex, the 2018 Fly Tier of the Year, also turned his hand at tying tubes.

Matt tied a keel fly which he wet later in the day and christened it on a small squire.

Kev tied up fur flies for his next trip to Eucumbene, which also looked as though they would be deadly for Tassie. Ray quietly tied while relishing in his retirement.







A great fly tying day enjoyed by all who attended. This, I think is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year that we have had this event and it is always a keenly anticipated part of our yearly calendar. By the look of it we have a budding new recruit keen to test her 5yo skills!

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***Brett  
encouraging  
us again  
with another  
great photo  
of a flathead***

## Goodoo Calling

By Darren Foster

On the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018, three intrepid club members: Chris Moloney, Shane Navin and Darren Foster headed off for the long haul north. Destination: Bens Falls Retreat (approximately 8<sup>1/2</sup> hours from Maitland). Bens Falls Retreat is roughly situated halfway between Glenn Innes and Emmaville, on the magical Severn River located in the gorge area east of the Severn River Nature Reserve.

We wasted no time in settling into our rustic accommodation, the Cod Cabin (right on the bank of the Severn River), bunks were claimed and sleeping bags unrolled, eskies were unpacked and anticipations were high. After a brief (30 metres) walk from the cabin to the water for analysis: Rods were extracted from their protective cases, reels were attached and lines threaded through the runners. Leaders were discussed and attached to lines. Fly patterns were selected, analyzed, scrutinized, procrastinated, but eventually made the final journey to be tied to the end of the leader. Extra flies were selected as back-ups, spare leaders, and water were packed into back-packs and by 6.00pm we were ready to hit the water.



With the river quite low, it made traversing along the granite river bed quite easy as we picked our ways along the river looking for likely holes to put a cast into. The only real hazard was walking across the volcanic rock which was strewn throughout the granite with wet boots. Those black rocks were like walking on ice, very slippery indeed. Tense moments were filled with every cast, every strip of the fly; always anticipating the sudden, violent strike from one of Australia's most admired apex predators of the inland waterways: *Maccullochella peelii* – the Mighty Murray Cod.

By 10.00pm that night, all three of us had managed to catch our first Murray Cod on fly. Not a bad effort for three fly fishermen that have never targeted Murray Cod on fly until this very trip. We were flying high as we traversed back through the river bed heading back to the cabin. During our very late evening meal, the night's efforts were discussed and a plan was made for the next day which was rapidly approaching. Time to hit the sack.







After a hearty breakfast of bacon and eggs, we checked leaders, re-tied flies, packed more water and headed off on a trek downstream that saw us cover nearly two and a half kilometres of the Severn, meandering through stunning gorge country over dramatic granite formations, black volcanic rock and scrubby vegetation, fishing from hole to hole. Some too deep to see the bottom and others shallow enough to make out every intricate design and make-up of the granite bottom. Casting into pool that was deep enough to wet a fly as long as there was a rock with a gap underneath big enough to conceal a wary, hungry little cod.

And indeed, they were there.

Not every cast was a hook-up with plenty of hits, misses and good old follow the leader going on. Every cast was a lesson learnt, a new advantage gained, another technique filed away for future reference. Once the decision was made to head back, we slowly and wearily made our way back to the cabin for a re-fuel, rest and discuss the days high-lights. After lunch we headed off to check out the area below the restaurant which quickly revealed a whole new exciting area to explore. Plans were quickly made for the next day. Later on, Chris and myself headed off downstream from the cabin for an hour or so whilst Shane tended to that night's meal, camp oven lamb and vegies. I swear we could smell it cooking from 500 metres away.



Our hour or so on the river was soon cut short with a sudden downpour that had us soaked through before we could wind our lines in. Back to the cabin for a sumptuous meal and re-hash the plan for the next day whilst the rain poured down, not looking like stopping any time soon.

We awoke on Friday morning to sunshine and steaming heat. A lot of the surface weed on the river had been dispersed by the deluge from the night before making some of the pools that were before un-fishable very enticing. The tracks looked decidedly different with all the top soil and dust washed off as we made our way to the car park above the restaurant. Little time was wasted setting up and departing on the steep decent down to the river. We fished our way downstream for around one kilometre before heading back with tales to tell and pics galore.



On the last evening of the trip, we found a short-cut to the first hole we fished on the first night which held more than a stolen promise. Shane launched the kayak in front

of the cabin and enticed a few fellows whilst Chris went one-on-one with an encounter with a red-belly black snake. Both were arguing right-of-way before Chris bailed out in a spectacular backward swan dive giving the red-belly right of way. Damn, too slow with the camera, but the excitement didn't stop there. Whilst we were fishing, there was plenty of distant thunder and the odd flash of lightening, and then the hail. With no immediate shelter available we dug in and fished the downpour. Meanwhile the thunder was getting louder and closer. No sooner did I mention to Chris that we should probably not be fishing with nine-foot graphite rods in a thunder storm when there was a massive thunderclap overhead and a brilliant, almost blinding flash of lightning followed by the distinct smell of ozone.

Shortly afterwards, the storm abated and a pleasant evening unfolded full of promise. Several more cod were landed before we finally called it quits. So, with the sounds of late-night cod boofing on the surface fading behind us we made our way back for one more night in the Cod Cabin.

With everything packed away ready for the trip home, we stopped above the restaurant to pump up the tyres before heading off. Whilst the tyres were pumping up, I noticed a small goat curled up beneath a tree that appeared to have died very recently. Shane noticed shredded/splintered timber all over the area, scattered as far away as thirty metres from the tree. The top of the tree showed a distinct lightning strike at least three to four metres long coursing downwards. Poor goat.



The tyres were finally pumped up and we were ready to head home. Fresh with memories of landing not only their first cod on fly but landing 17 cod from around 300mm to 700mm in size between them over two and a half days of fishing, the three intrepid fly fishermen finally headed home.

#### Equipment used:

- Rods/reels were 7# to 9#
- Floating lines
- 20 and 30 pound leaders

#### Successful flies:

- Light Horseman
- Pink Thing
- Timber Toad Goldfish
- Cod Candy
- Game Changer
- Redhead Black Bunny
- Black Zonker Fly
- Cod Gobbler











# *Fishy Pics*



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*Cherie with an armful of hoodlum  
and still managing a relaxed  
smile but I bet you're hurting!*

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## *Scape Pics*



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*The only  
fish I saw  
during my  
recent trip  
to India  
were  
these carp  
being  
prepared  
for the  
table*

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