

SINGLETON FLY FISHING CLUB INC. 2002

PROMOTING THE ART OF FLY FISHING IN THE HUNTER VALLEY NSW



YOUR 2015 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Lawrence Blackburn

Vice-President: Darren Foster

Secretary: Tony Ward

Treasurer: Cherie Blackburn

General Committee: Brent Blackwell
Peter Sewell
Jeff Yates
Justin Smith

Email: singletonflyfishingclub@googlegroups.com



Autumn- 2015



Where did summer go? It seems like only yesterday I was excited about the bass coming on in the Nepean and now they have gone for the next six months or so.

I am typing this on a computer that too many would be out of date. Emails are no longer the only way to let people know about your business. Many companies now use social media like Facebook and even facebook is old hat. How do I keep up?

The fly fishing world is also in a constant state of change. New models of rods and reels arrive every day. When I started using fur and feather there were only three types of line. Floating, intermediate and sinking. Now just in the Jim Teeny range there are over twenty.

Even the type of fish we chase has changed. When I started it was trout only but now it's more a question of what species you can't catch (whiting is mine).

Even the despised carp is becoming popular down here. There is an underground movement down here chasing mud marlin in the 10-15 pound range in skinny creeks and believe me it is becoming trendy. No doubt the Carp Bash was ahead of its time.

Don't stress over change. Embrace it and enjoy the rocky ride.

Glenn

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

Beresfield Bowling Club
Anderson Drive
Bersefield
At 6.30pm



Singleton Fly Fishing Club Presidents Ramblings April 2015

Well here I am looking out the cabin window of the Qantas Link Dash 8 and I see skies of blue, trees of green and I think to myself why am I not going to Tassie or NZ on a fishing trip!

But no I am heading to Moranbah in central Queensland for inductions this week then work next week, I've just finished a zucchini and corn loaf washed down with instant coffee. Excitement plus, I think not.

Sadly the last time I went fly-fishing was down at Eucumbene with Pete and the boys and there I had moderate success catching a brown in one of the streams and a rainbow while sitting in the back of Pete's boat at the end of an evening session. My time was limited to four days and much of that was taken up with travel, but as usual it was a great trip. Apart from the fact that I managed to land face down in the river while returning to my car with Darren it was good to work a new stream down near Jindabyne.

Aprils meeting saw Clinton Isaac give a presentation on flats fishing at Hinchinbrook Island. I have been organising this presentation with Clinton since September last year and was certainly looking forward to it but as it happened I had a local mine with problems and spent the day underground and floated to the surface late in the day and exhausted, missing the nights events. Jeff managed to provide an overview of the presentation which appears later in the newsletter. Thanks. Jeff.

We are now halfway through April and the weather is starting to cool. Last year Lake St Clair fished very well with many bass caught and released so I'm hoping this year will be just as good if not better.

The club outing for St Clair in June is definitely one to put on your calendar and it has always been well attended with many of the Sydney based crew making the arduous trip up the M1 just for the pleasure of our company (and we look forward to seeing them too), I look forward to another great weekend camping and catching up with everyone.

Christmas in July is but three months away so soon the committee will be getting together to start organising the event. Please start thinking about clubman and rookie of the year contenders and of course the memorable moment complete with photos.

Darren's trivia questions and Tania's porn stars are likely to get another run and rumour has it that Justin may be presenting a new award this year for those with a special skill (you'll have to be there on the night to learn more).

That's all for now. See you on the water and/or at the next club meeting. Until then have fun chasing those piscatorial predators of the deep.

Cheers

Lawrence

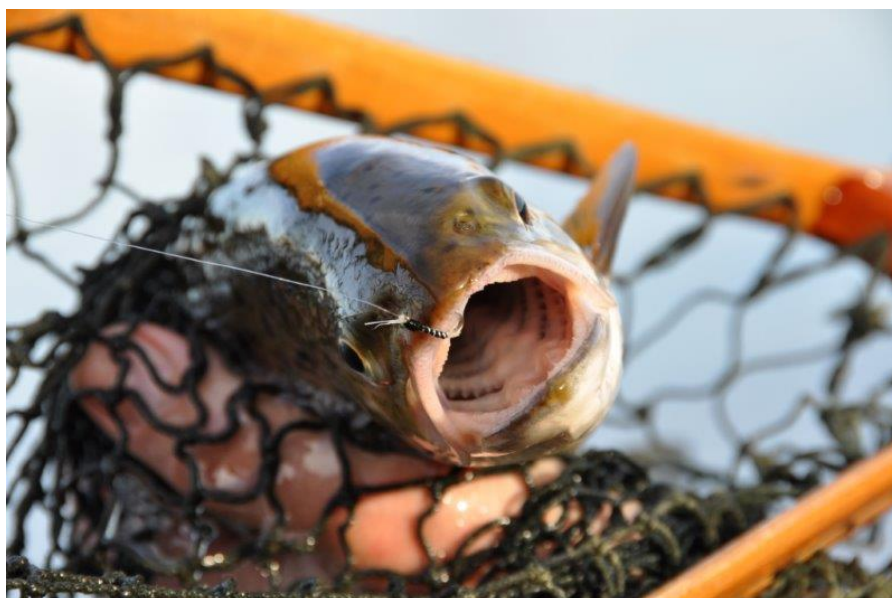
Singleton Fly Fishing Club 2015 Calendar					
Month	Date	Region	Location	Tripmaster	Contact number
January	23rd-26th	Clarencetown	Caravan Park	Brad Kershaw	0428 683 186
February	4th	Beresfield	Club Meeting	All	
February	15th	Thornton	Jim's House, Fly tying afternoon	Jim Manley	
March	4th	Beresfield	Club Meeting	All	
March	20th-21st	Bulahdelah	Smiths Lake Caravan Park	Tony Ward	0408 408 189
April	1st	Beresfield	Club Meeting & Fly Fishing Presentation	Clinton Isaac	0415 990 270
April	11th - 12th	Singleton	Lake St Clair proposed change of venue	Darren/Patrick	0413 392 774
May	6th	Beresfield	Club Meeting	All	
May	16th - 17th	Lithgow	Lake Lyell Camping Ground	Rod Fox	0407 195 508
June	3rd	Beresfield	Club Meeting	All	
June	13th - 14th	St Clair	Camping Ground	Peter Sewell	0428 685 101
July	1st	Beresfield	Club Meeting	All	
July	18th	Beresfield	Christmas in July, Beresfield Bowling Club	Lawrence Blackburn	0432 989 797
August	5th	Beresfield	Club Meeting	All	
August	22nd - 23rd	Swansea	Swansea Caravan Park - Animal on Spit	Darren/Justin	0413 392 774
September	2nd	Beresfield	Club Meeting	All	
September	TBC	TBC	Hasting Combined Meeting Proposal	Lawrence Blackburn	0432 989 797
October	2nd - 4th	Eucumbene	Trout season Opens - Providence Portal	Information only	
October	7th	Beresfield	Club Meeting	All	
October	16th - 18th	Muswellbrook	Liddell Power Station - Carp Classic Event	Lawrence Blackburn	0432 989 797
November	4th	Beresfield	Club Meeting	All	
November	21st - 22nd	Gloucester	Barrington River	Brent Blackwell	02 4982 3069
November	13th	Beresfield	AGM, Beresfield Bowling Club	Lawrence Blackburn	0432 989 797
December	2nd	Beresfield	Club Meeting	All	

A Trip To Eucumbene

By Jeff Yates

This is not a club event, but an annual fly fishing trip to Eucumbene that I have been doing for several years. This year Peter, Justin and Wayne joined me in a week long fly fishing holiday below the 1866m peak of Mt Cobrabald overlooking the northwest end of Lake Eucumbene.

The accommodation on the 10,000ha property was basic but comfortable, more than good enough for four grotty fly fishermen.



Eucumbene has been rising over new ground to a credible 57% thanks to a good winter snow melt, and it's at the highest level for a number of years.

This has encouraged good riparian vegetation and therefore massive insect hatches.

At this time of the year under favourable conditions, the midge hatches are the main daytime target. This calls for effective patterns and light gear. The pattern that caught most fish was a midge emerger, and when fished on a greased line, caused the downfall of good sized browns and rainbows.



As the afternoon progressed to nightfall, the smaller patterns give way to larger flies and heavier tackle. Early in the week the Craigs scored several large browns while later in the week the Rabbit and Ostrich was the go to fly. A contradiction occurred when Justin cast a line from the same rock he caught a brown from last year, with the

same fly (Mrs Simpson) on the first cast on both occasions he caught 6lb browns. The chance of that happening is slim.

Though, to prove it wasn't a fluke, he managed another couple of fine browns on Craigs later in the week. Justin also contributed to the camp kitchen with his superb smoked trout, not once, but on two occasions, and what a moreish dish.

Our group was quite successful in locating the fish, and everyone had their stories to tell along with prizes to show off at the end of each night. Peter had the best story, when he advised us that he had lost his box of flies. Well, as fly tyers he had our sympathetic appeal, and we lost valuable time in the dark on hands and knees trying to locate the box. An early morning boat trip back up to the spot, which was the size of a family car, could not locate the box. We even seconded the services of other fishing groups to keep an eye out. After a while we smelt a rat, and a thorough interrogation of Peter, had him empty his vest only to spill the said box onto the ground, intact.....



A fishing trip is not just about fish, it is more than that. It is about the company, the scenery and good food. We had it all. A trip up Mt Cobrabald to try out Justins's new Hyundai and to look at the views from the top gave us more than we bargained for. A flat just before the peak had us changing a tyre in a beautiful, if not precarious position on the side of the hill. After the fix, the scenery took away any pains that the flat caused. We were given an excited, indepth description of the nearby trig station and adjacent survey marks by our Surveyor companion, only to have Peter desecrate the site by climbing to the top of the tower. I don't know how we would have explained a humpty dumpty fall to his wife!



Now back to the fishing. Many flies were tied during the week and used to catch the majority of the fish. The flies below were the main killers with around 40 fish taken or released during the week. The midge pattern is #14, the Craigs #6 and the Rabbit and Ostrich #8.

We are all looking forward to another trip next year and catching up with acquaintances we have made in the camp over many years.



Sometimes one Snowies article is just not enough so here's one from Darren !

Eucumbene at Josie's 2015

By Darren Foster

Where do I start? Two weeks before the trip is spent tying boxes of buzzers (emergers) of all sorts but mostly black buzzers with the white gills. By the way, did I mention tying buzzers, lots of buzzers?

Two nights before we leave, the latest gossip is Mudeyes. They're feeding on Mudeyes!

Mudeyes? I've just packed everything away. I managed to tie some Loco Foam Mudeyes and tied a few Mudeye patterns of my own design – the Muddy.

The trip down with Peter was very comfortable in “the jeep” and I even got to drive “the jeep”. A stop-off at Cooma for lunch and meet up with Lawrence and Ian, a quick shop and off we went with a quick mandatory stop at Alpine angler.

Once at Josie's, we called dibs on bunks and quickly unloaded. Then even quicker we got our rods set up, waders out and ready to go.



After an even quick bite we headed off to the aptly named Virgin's Bay where after a decent walk and umpteenth casts I managed to catch my first Eucumbene Rainbow on the Muddy.

Surprise, surprise (go on, say it in the best Gomer Pile voice) it was full of Mudeyes.

To cut a weeks' worth of goss short, the days were hard fishing with a few rises seen but nothing, nil, nada, zip. Although on a day trip to fish the Mowamba, Lawrence landed a very feisty (I suppose it did have a hook in its lip) brown that was a lovely golden color belying the dirty water it came from.



Evenings were more productive with a few good fish being brought to the bank just on dusk but the most productive fishing was after dark. Well after dark.

How much fun did we have spot-lighting our way back to camp each night. It was always a bonus when we could see the lights at Josie's to hone in on until the generator timer said lights out.

And the fog? Who could forget the fog with Pete slowly turning in circles and tapping the compass and Ian and I keeping an eye out for hidden obstacles. We need not have worried though as a brief hole in the fog revealed we were only about 800 metres from where we

had left.



Well, every one caught trout with Ian and Pete connecting to the most fish on Mudeye patterns. Lawrence also caught a nice Rainbow on the Muddy and Fred caught some good Browns off the bank with his honed nymphing techniques and I finally managed to nail my first Brown on fly on a black buzzer.

Good company, good location, good times = priceless.

Cheers

Darren

Now we move to the Eastern Island !

Darcy's New Zealand Odyssey

By Darcy Geale

I just returned from a seven day trip to New Zealand with Brian Henderson (the casting coach we had at Elizabeth Lake) and four others.

It was my first extended fishing trip with guides etc and my first off shore - it certainly was a learning experience for me. After just getting the formal sign off from my shoulder surgeon I remained a little apprehensive, but there was no reason to be as the casting actually significantly improved my shoulder.

The fishing was great, the weather so so (good and bad), the guides when we had them very good and the jet boat fishing fantastic. We fished the Waiau River out of Te Anau by jet boat, the Orauea River (from a private farm access), Lake Thomson and Oreti River. Lunch on the jet boat consisted of lobster, venison, and cod on the BBQ - see photo of lunch in the rain on the Waiau. Life can be hard.



Many big, very big and huge trout were sighted but none landed. The biggest was around 3.5 and the overall count for the week very low. The picture below is my best. Not great but for me it was my first trout in a long time and my biggest brown ever (caught on the Oreuea River). The rest were pan size. Interestingly in the rivers like the Oreti, there were either 2 foot brown trout or 1 inch trout, nothing sighted or caught in between.



So in summary it was a great week for me, I improved my casting technique (from a low base) using my 5wt Loomis IMX and also my new 6wt Epic, learnt to cast with two flies on the line and longer leaders. We used nearly all 12 - 16 size flies. A dry with a nymph dropper was the daily recipe. Mainly small caddis patterns.

We did visit the legendary Stu's Fly Shop. Not the cheapest place in town but well worth the visit.

Would I go fishing in New Zealand, again, yes, but maybe earlier in the season before the locals get into the fish.

Local knowledge

By Justin Smith

Micks a work mate of mine who lives up Forster way these days, not far from Boomerang Beach. He's lived there almost all his life and the ocean has been his playground for almost as long. He loves his fishing, diving and surfing, and uses the seasons and the weather to decide what does from one day to the next.

Sounds OK to me, so when he rang me up to announce that the Dollies are on, I couldn't wait to get up there!

The swell and been up during the week, and given that we were beach launching Mick's old Fiberglass 18 footer, well, it was never going to be easy. His old boat pushed over the 2 tonne mark and had more patches than a dog named patches but the motor was new...all we had to do was get the bloody thing in the water through a 4 foot beach break.

The short version to this part of the story is that we got the boat launched and out past the breakers, but minus his number one crew, whose job it was to hold the jolly thing facing the swell, while Mick got in, got it started and out past the breakers out of danger. Good plan except for the part where I was left behind in the urgency and I had to swim past the breakers to rendezvous with the boat...wish I had remembered my phone was in my top pocket, but then, I hadn't quite planned the 100m swim before the fishing had actually started.

Mick loves his fishing, but he's no fancy pants fly tosser like me. He'll use whatever method fills the freezer fastest, be it live bait or lures or a gun (spear). He's a true 10 per center (10% of fisherman that catch 90% of the fish) but is probably closer to a 5 per center. None the less, he invited me to bring my fly rod, and there I was with my trusty 8wt.

After the obligatory bait catching (don't those little bait jigs look like a team of wet flies), we headed off shore to some fish traps, which work beautifully as F.A.D's, and it was then, almost immediately that the fun started and didn't cease for as long as we wanted to stay.

On the first run, a live bait trolled past some structure brought a 10 kg Dolly to the boat after a 40 minute fight on heavy gear. This was real struggle. I was exhausted, breathless and sore. Wait till you get a big says Mick!

It was then that I looked at my 'little' 8 wt had thought, 'oh ****'! (bother ?)

After the first two fish were hauled in on livies, I couldn't wait any longer to bring the 8wt out and have a crack on fly. My first dilemma is what fly! They all suddenly looked too small, especially since the slimy mackerel live bait we were using were all in the 30cm size range. So the decision was to get the biggest bait fish fly in the box and chuck it out there.

I could say I was sight fishing as I was actually casting to visible fish but who am I kidding!

It was frenzy of competing predators, and my little fly didn't have a chance as it was smashed from every side.

Strip strike and ON!

Woohoo! Woohooohooooo!



My first Dolly on fly, one of 20 plus during the session!

I have a nice Airflo reel set up, interchangeable cartridges, and a nice smooth drag. The clear intermediate line connected to a short 30lb leader and a no-nonsense loop knot to my fly on a #2 hook. I didn't change the set up all morning.

I didn't need too. It got slimy and ratty, but reformed into the profile I needed once it was put back into the drink, and the dolly's loved it.

Guest speaker at SFFC Meeting April 1, 2015

by Jeff Yates

Directly after a sit down Asian meal at the Beresfield Bowling Club, a few beers and a hurried monthly meeting, the SFFC members welcomed Clint Isaac from Australian Fly Fishing Outfitters as a guest speaker. He spoke on tactics and gear for chasing fish in and around Hinchinbrook Island, located between Cairns and Townsville.

Clint Issac



Clint's layback and informative style made him an instantaneous hit with the members present. He showed footage of clients catching stud fish in the shallows around Hinchinbrook. He broke the fishing down to three distinct styles:-

- Structure fishing for Barra and Mangrove Jack.
- Flats fishing for Golden Trevally, Giant Trevally, Permit and Queenfish.
- Outside fishing for Northern Long Tail Tuna.

It was the flats and structure fishing that Clint was most informed about. Clint also guides overseas as you can see from the rooster fish that he is holding.

Clint operates out of Cardwell, on the mainland opposite the Northern tip of Hinchinbrook.

Fishing can be just minutes away depending on the prevailing conditions. Neap tides are a must for successful trips. When you hook a fish, forget the trout strikes, strip strike to ensure a positive hookup.

Structure fishing:- Use 8 or 9wt rods, a good quality reel with floating lines and braid backing. Cast 3m parallel 50lb leaders with 1/0 or 2/0 flies to shallow structure. Long casts are not necessary, and repeated casts torment fish that may not take the first cast. Usually the take will be on the pause, and a firm strip strike will engage you with Barra or Mangrove Jack.

Flats fishing:- 10wt rods, good quality reel, clear intermediate lines with at least 150m of backing are a necessity. The flats are fished during neap tides and sight fishing is the go. Use amber lens polaroid's for best sighting.

There are good flats on the top and bottom side of the Island, depending on prevailing weather. Once again the casts will not be long and Belgian style casts will get you quickly to the quarry and hopefully without bouncing a tungsten fly off the rod tip. Flies can be 2/0 shrimp patterns for most fishing or 4/0 crab flies for the wary Permit. You may also have to drop down to 14lb leaders for the Permit.

Talking of leaders, most of the flats will be fished with a 3m leader made up of equal parts 60, 40 and 20lb lines with the heavier in nylon and the tippet of 20lb fluorocarbon.

If you would like more information about Clint or his guiding go to <http://www.australianflyfishingoutfitters.com.au/> or give John or Glenn a call at Sydney Fly Outfitters and Guiding who can assist with bookings for Clint and advice on how to put a trip together. [<sales@flynguide.com.au>](mailto:sales@flynguide.com.au). Phone 0427904518.

Just A Thought From Your Humble Scribe

Life can be stressful at times. A combination of work, bills, family, bad casting and difficult fish can lead to all kinds of psychological and medical drama so here's something to ponder.

In the USA most of the population live on the East coast but the country's allegedly favorite table fish, the cod, is mainly caught on the West coast.

The problem was that whether the cod was killed and frozen or transported in live tanks to the East it lost its fantastic flavor.

After lots of money was spent trying to work out why a true genius had an idea.

In the wild the cod's only real predator is the pike.

In an inspired moment they loaded the cod into the live tanks and added a few smallish pike.

Usually during transport the cod just lay on the bottom of the tank but with a few pike around they were a bit agitated and constantly on the move.

Amazingly when unloaded and cooked the cod tasted perfect. Problem solved.

I'm not sure what the point of this ramble is but although stress and worry are not nice maybe a little might not be as bad as we think.

Keep smiling.

Glenn



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<http://www.flynguide.com.au>

If you need help with presents give John or I a call. (Prices disguised and hints given to family and friends if required). PS Just joking (maybe).

Mothers Day a Specialty !

Email sales@flynguide.com.au 0427904518 (John) 0417402540
(Glenn)

Newsletter Wrap Up

That's all from me for this blurb.

Firstly a huge thank you to everyone who contributed articles.

The story about the cod is a bit of fun and true but please do all you can to look after yourselves and those around you.

Only a few days ago a good fishing mate of mine passed away suddenly as a result of a heart attack. 47 years old is too young. He had a few health issues but the main thing that I think of now is how he was nearly always worried about something. If it's not a major issue let it go!

On a happier note hopefully the fish will be kind. It's that in between time of year for me. The Nepean bass are finished although hopefully St Clair will fire up in 2105.

I really want to have a crack at the Lake Macquarie salmon in a few months time and Foxy's Blue Mountains trip will be a cracker, with or without the trout playing.

If all else fails a week in Kirabati will ease the winter chills. (New rod and reel ready and all flies tied !)

Cheers

Glenn



