

# 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](mailto:singletonflyfishingclub@googlegroups.com)



Spring 2015



Hi fellow fur throwers,

It is with a heavy heart that I prepare what will be my final newsletter.

Ok- Please stop the tears and whipping yourselves with limp celery as I promise you life will go on.

Bearing this in mind forgive me if I am a little indulgent this time.

So much has happened on the fishing front since the last newsletter.

A great, if somewhat fishless trip to the Blue Mountains. The bass have been playing at St Clair, Christmas in July and a top weekend at Lake Macquarie.

Even Christmas island was on fire with bonefish !

If you haven't started tying carp flies for The Carp Classic it's time to start.

For so long carp were treated as a rubbish fish but this is changing rapidly. In both the USA and here carp are becoming a hot sight fishing target and many young guns, including my good friend Jacob Parmigiani are spending lots of time inventing new flies and working out new techniques to catch them even during winter. In this newsletter he shares a few thoughts.

Enjoy the read.

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 for the Last Time

### September 2015

#### Snapshots



Much has happened since I last put finger to keyboard, and I now know that some unkind souls do not read what I write so it doesn't matter what I say in this my last rambling for the newsletter but I'm going to write something anyway.

Christmas in July has come and gone and with many people coming up from Sydney the event was well attended.

From all reports a great night was had by all. There were many humble winners on the night with Cherie taking out Club-Person of the year and Fred taking out Rookie of the year, both giving very heartfelt thankful speeches.

Unexpectedly Cherie and I received a beautifully decorated cake for our work on the committee over the last few years which we very much appreciated. Darren provided another unexpected gift in the form of a delicately handmade fly from a bygone era made from among other things – horsehair.

Peter and Jeff did an excellent job presenting the awards and Darren provided the trivia questions that kept us all guessing (although my table did win, just saying).

Justin presented the memorable moment of the year to Brad (again) for his creative ideas on how to launch a boat from a boat trailer perched on a car trailer.

Conducting the whole affair was the MC himself, Tony.

We also had Brent raffling anything he could get his hands on.

Once again many people stepped up to help run the event for which I am very thankful.

it was a great success, complete with a DJ to provide music to dance the night away.

August provided another first with a whole pig on a spit cooked by Justin at the Swansea Caravan Park. Baked veggies were provided by Cherie after an all-night session in the kitchen the night before pre-baking everything. Once again this was another well attended event. After feeding around 26 people, there was nothing left of the pig.

This month sees a combined outing with Hastings FFC which will take place camping at Dawn's property with the sheep to keep us company at night (it gets cold, Ok).

October sees the big one, the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Carp Classic Event held on the grounds of Lake Liddell Power Station. This year looks to be the biggest yet with the numbers from all clubs booked out and once again I look forward to seeing you all there.

As most of you know both Cherie and I will be stepping down from our respective positions this November, but we will be there to help out as required in the future. As a founding member of the club which is now in its 16<sup>th</sup> year I am very proud of the fact that I have believe I have held every position there is in the club, some successfully, some not so much, and to be finishing my tenure as the president is the icing on the cake.

I would like to finish by thanking everyone in the club for all their assistance throughout the 16 years. Old members and new have made the journey very entertaining and interesting to say the least.

I would also like to thank another founding member, Justin who has also been through the good times and the not so good times.

Above all the club has prospered and become bigger and more organized. What other club does a leg of lamb and chicken on a spit in the Barrington Tops for a club outing for six people?

Throughout this period there have been some fish caught on fly as well so we must not forget to mention that little subplot, it is what the club is about after all.

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 shallows and the deep. **DON'T FORGET THE AGM FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER, BE THERE OR GET VOTED IN.**

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	



I Caught a Fish

# Catching Carp on the Fly

*By Jacob Parmigiani*

Mud marlin, bronze bonefish, swamp donkeys whatever you want to call them, carp are here to stay so why not target them?

Over the last couple of years I have become obsessed with chasing these fresh water beasts on fly. Every time I'm on the water targeting these fish I am learning something new and sharpening my fly fishing skills. There are not many other fish out there that you can sight fish to in your own backyard, ranging from 5-20lb that pull like freight trains.

Let's have a look at some gear and basic tactics for targeting carp.

## The Gear

A good 6wt rod and large arbor reel with a weight forward floating line is a good place to start but let's really think about it. How many rods do you use for trout? You can have many different tools for carp also.

Leaders can be very personal. I normally keep it very simple with my carp rigs. A 15lb tapered leader cut down to about 7 foot with a perfection loop and a loop to loop connection to 10lb of fluorocarbon tippet making the leader a total leader length from 9-11 foot.

Flies can vary from streamers right through to nymphs and dries. A good fly to start with is something with a slow sink rate. A good old faithful woolly bugger in natural colours will catch carp in most waters. Think about food sources and what they may be feeding on and match the hatch. Carp can be very fussy with flies. What works in one waterway might send a carp running in another. A perfect example is on the Turon River where carp will chase down a good crayfish pattern, but in my local water in western Sydney they will spook at the sight of one. Carp are very versatile fish and can live in just about any fresh waterway, so their diets have to be just as versatile.



Polarized glasses- I can't stress this enough. A good set of glasses will make the difference in being successful in sight fishing. It's really simple how do we sight fish? With our eyes! So why handicap yourself.

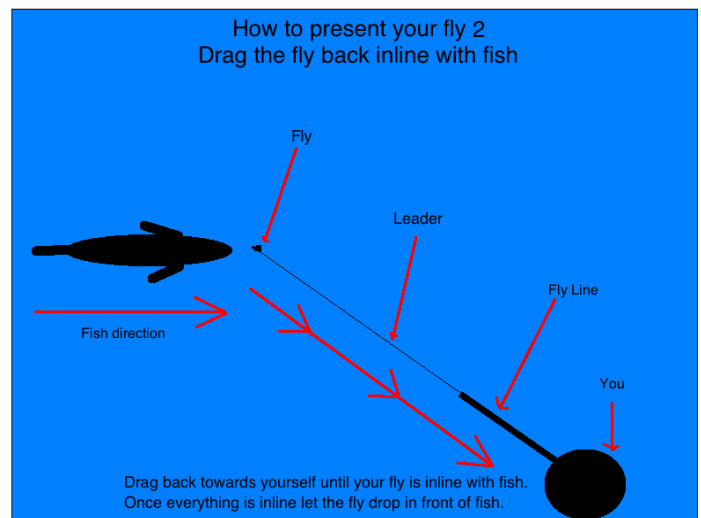
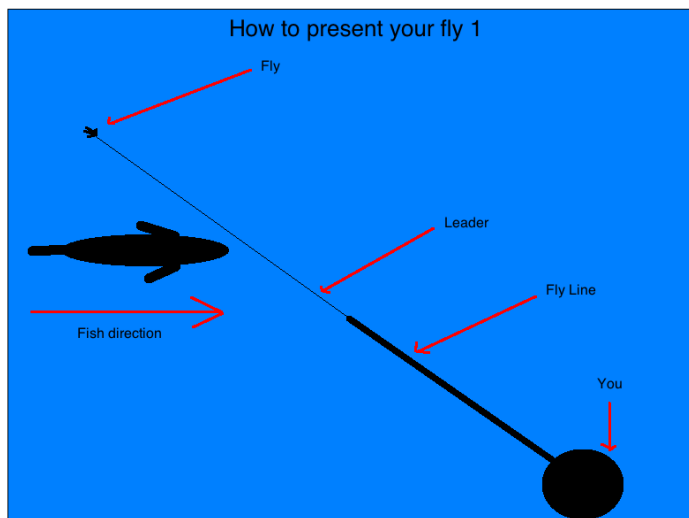
### Some basic tactics for targeting carp

Forget everything you know about trout although you may be targeting carp in the same water but if you fish for them in the same way you will lose them every time.

Sight fishing for carp is more like bonefishing on the flats rather than traditional trout fly fishing. Downstream presentations or in still water head on presentations are the key to being successful in catching carp on the fly.

Carp are a very spooky fish and are lined very easily. The perfect situation is to cast down, across and in front of the fish landing your fly past the fish so as not to spook it. Land your fly line before the fish so you do not line it.

Then you use the drag and drop technique. This is where you strip or lift your rod tip to drag the fly slowly just under the surface in line with the fishes path. When everything is lined up, lower your rod tip or stop stripping so that the fly drops right in front of the fish's face. When you get all these steps right it's very hard for the carp to resist an easy meal. This is just one of the many ways to present a fly to carp but is my most successful technique



The drag and drop presentation above



Presentation- I can't stress this enough.

Carp are an extremely spooky fish, so a sloppy presentation will almost always put the fish down. That's why casting your fly as explained above, away from the fish and positioning it to the fish will give you the best chances of success.

As with the presentation in casting, how you present the fly to the fish is also very important. SLOW everything down, do not strip you fly fast if at all or you will send Mr carp running.

I only ever put action into my fly to get the fishes attention. Once they have spotted it I don't put any further action on the fly. Another fun way to present you fly is to tea bag the carp. You need to be very stealthy and sneak up on them holding on the bank to place your fly right in front of them.

Click on the attached link to see what happens when you do it right !

<https://www.facebook.com/1620717058140056/videos/1620732748138487/?l=1310377074279916802>

While waiting for the take a lot of people strike too early pulling the fly right of the fishes mouth. Wait for the tell tail signs of an eat, a lunge, gill flare or the fish tilting up or down then wait a split second to start your hook set.

### Setting the Hook and the Fun Begins

Your traditional trout hook set will pull the fly right out of the fishes mouth so a salt water style strip set is a much better way to get successful hook ups.

When you think you have got a take make a slow strip to feel the weight, just hold the strip and the fish will hook itself. Only hold for a second until you feel the fish start to run. Carp have a soft mouth and hold a hook very well. If you hold on any longer you will snap the line .

Once the fish is hooked it will want to make a big first run.

Learning early that the carp is in control of this initial run will save you many break offs. Carp rarely fight dirty and most times will just run for deeper water. Letting the fish make this run with mild drag pressure also wears them out quickly. Don't high stick your rod, play the fish using a low rod tip putting side pressure on the fish.

You will know when you are ready to net the fish as it will lift its head out of the water and go limp. Remember carp are extremely powerful and if they want to run during the fight let them but control the direction if they try to get dirty.



Above a nice colored fish caught in urban waterways.

Carp have an amazing sense of vibration and will pick up on you making noise and stomping around more so than any trout so get your ninja skills on and be stealthy.

Also while being stealthy you will be moving slow giving you more time to scan for fish. Don't get in the water, I know we all love being in the water as fly fisherman but Mr carp doesn't like it and will run for the hills.

Many anglers see carp as a nothing fish.

Well I can tell you once you start targeting these guys on fly you will soon appreciate how much of a challenge they can be. Sight casting to big spooky tailing fish in shallow water is not common in Australia. The skills you will gain from targeting these fish will make you a much better angler so get out and give it a go.



Above a nice Carp caught in some beautiful gorge country.

Carp are a noxious pest in Australia but they did not choose to be introduced to our waters so treat them with respect like you would any other fish.

If you are going to dispose of the fish make sure you do so in a humane way and don't leave them on the side of the bank. Check your local state fishing regulations in regards to returning carp to the water or disposing of them as it varies from state to state.

I hope this gives you enough information to get out on the water and have some fun successfully targeting carp on the fly.

**Jacob is on the Temple Fork Outfitters Pro Team and if you want to follow his adventures check him out on facebook. "Urban Fly Operator (UFO)"**



# Lochlorian, Land of Trout and Dreams

*By Darren Foster*

Back in May, 2015 I thought it was time to re-visit my favorite trout haunt, Lochlorian.

Lochlorian is owned and run by Dale & Gail Brazel and is situated on Topdale Road, Walcha.

The water has been stocked with Rainbow Trout for more than twenty years.



Pete and Fred accompanied me on this trip, and what a trip.

The weather was wet and windy, the meals and drinks varied wildly (to be expected with two carnivores and a grass muncher) but were enjoyed by all.

Even though the weather was less than perfect we still geared up for an enjoyable morning/day/evening of flinging all manner of fur, feather and other materials but were always able to

still stay warm and toasty back inside the cabin thanks to the gas heater (not the wine, whiskey or port. Although, the last three certainly aided and abetted in the endeavor to keep warm).



Nymph fishing became the order of the day with Peter taking this trout on a black nymph.

Fred passed on some useful information on his nymphing techniques including always fish nymphs with a strike indicator *"otherwise, all your doing is educating the fish"*.

The majority of the trout taken were on nymphs or emergers with several being taken on small wets.

I tied some old style patterns to try which proved successful. A Hamill's Killer pattern tied flatwing style with a yellow body for daytime and a red body for late evenings or dull overcast days (the red body worked during the dull, drizzle of the day);

I also tried a wet pattern from the 1930's to 40's called Jack Sutton's Ducky Darling (this pattern worked as well); and another small wet.....which worked well also.

The nymphs were varied from black to brown with no distinct feature or design.....just a simple nymph pattern.

I also took a nice yearling rainbow on a size 18 bloodworm.

A highlight of the weekend was when Pete was cleaning one of his trout and it still had a live chironomid in its stomach which was promptly rescued and released back into the water.....in a wine glass full of water that is!

We then got to see it go through the emerging stage into a tiny midge.



A good weekend was had by all which just goes to show, regardless of the weather it's what you make of your time. If you want to sit in the cabin because it's raining or a bit blowy don't complain about not catching any fish, gear up and go and have some fun.

## Funny Fotos





# Jurassic Bones

*By Glenn Olney*

It's safe to say that I class Christmas Island (Kiribati) as the best fishing spot I have ever seen.

On this year's trip we had a few fishermen who had hardly any fly experience and most landed over 30 bonefish.

The accommodation is good and the food excellent.

An added bonus is that it costs less than most Australian and New Zealand guided trips plus you won't get eaten by crocs or sand flies.



I could go on about the whole trip but today I'm going to focus on what was the best day's fishing I have ever experienced in my 59 years.

The day started like most on the island. Sleep in until around 6.30am then enjoy a cooked breakfast overlooking one of the best water views on the planet.

No thermals needed as average winter temperature is 29 degrees and summer 30 degrees.

7.30am is fishing time.

There are no bad guides on the island but there is a bit of a pecking order.

I was fishing with Ray who is a young guide with only a few years experience. Having said that he is one of my favorites. Great company, lots of enthusiasm and we always seem to catch heaps of fish together.

The morning started off well after a short trip from the lodge. Our first flat is known as Smoking Flat . It didn't take long to find a few good size bones in the 3 to 4 pound range and after half a dozen or so we moved on to 9 mile flat which strangely enough is 9 miles long.

In the session leading to lunch we landed another 9 or so. These were a bit spooky in the ankle deep clear water so I added a meter of 12 pound tippet to the 15 pound leader. No worries.

After a nice lunch on the boat watching the manta rays and black tip reef sharks go by we moved further up the flat.

This area was good looking with two flats separated by a 20 meter wide channel which was about 60cm deep.

Ray was confident the fish would turn up even nominating the time and which direction they would appear from and his theory was spot on.

Initially it was only one or two at a time but they were all good size fish with hardly any under 3 pounds.



As time went on in an area about half the size of a football field there were probably a few hundred bones of a consistently good size.

You know the fishing is hot when the guide says not to waste a cast at a 3 pound bonefish but to chase the big ones. It was not a fish per cast but pretty close to it.

Then we saw two huge bones tailing in about 30cm of water on the far edge of the channel.

If ever I hoped for an influx of ability this was it as I had never seen bonefish that big.

I must have said my prayers that day as the cast was perfect and one of them engulfed the fly.

Initially Ray was disappointed as it was the smaller of the two but then all hell broke loose as we realized that the smaller fish was over 70cm long.

The initial run was estimated at well over a hundred meters into the backing and six more like it followed.

During one of these Ray asked if I still had the light tippet on. When I said yes he went very quiet.

There was only one danger in the channel. A lump of coral about one meter round. One touch of the line on this and it was all over.

With more luck than skill and Ray flinging himself between the fish and the rock my luck held out and after over thirty minutes of fighting we slid the fish up on the sand much to the relief of one exhausted fisherman and a very happy guide who rated it the best bonefish he had ever seen.

Hugs and manic laughter-I'm sure you get the scene.



It was still only 3.30pm so by rights we still had lots of fishing time but to be honest I was exhausted and a cold drink at the lodge seemed a great idea but Ray was having none of it.

I had stopped counting fish a long while back but he hadn't. He let me know I had 56 landed and that another four would make a nice round sixty. Half an hour later we hit sixty and I declared my innings closed.

On a normal day I expect to catch around ten fish so this was not your normal day but what was unbelievable is that we hardly saw even an average sized fish all afternoon.

I honestly don't expect another day like this but who knows. It can be hard at times like on the last morning when I didn't see a fish before lunch.

The afternoon made up for it with seven good fish landed and four in a row finding the coral.

Many don't believe my description of this marvelous place but until you try it yourself you will never know.

I recently caught my best ever salmon at the Lake Macquarie trip. It also took thirty minutes or so to land and was a great battle but it was never more than 20 meters away and was like a mack truck speedwise compared to a formula 1 bonefish.

I am counting down the sleeps until 12 April 2016 when we go again.

Yes it costs money but it really is a unique experience that I can never get enough of.



## Sponsors 2015



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

John will be bringing up a range of stuff to the Carp Classic. If you need anything in particular please let us know.

Email [sales@flynguide.com.au](mailto:sales@flynguide.com.au) 0427904518 (John) 0417402540 (Glenn)



## Newsletter Wrap Up

Well that's it from me and so ends my editing career although I will still be a regular contributor.

I would like to recognize the contributions made by past presidents Mik and Lawrence for providing their reports without me needing to resort to physical violence and to all those amazing contributors who sent me great stories and photos that show more than words could.

When Mik asked me to do the newsletter I had limited computer skills and this has been a great opportunity to learn.

To be honest I have enjoyed doing it greatly but have become involved in a project that has grown beyond all expectations and I truly need a year or so to run with this.

I still plan to be at as many trips as possible so don't think you have got rid of me yet.

See you at Gentlemen's Rock next month. I can't give too much away in case our pink neighbours read this but leave a few minutes around 10.30am free on Saturday morning to join us for something special. Both sexes are invited assuming that there are only two attending.

A first for the carp classic.

Cheers

Glenn

