

HUNTER VALLEY FLY FISHING CLUB



2016 May Newsletter

President – Darren Foster

Vice President – Cherie Blackburn

Secretary – Tony Ward

Treasurer – Justin Smith

Newsletter Editor – Jeff Yates

Committee Members

Peter Sewell

Brent Blackwell

Jeff Yates

Lawrence Blackburn

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

Beresfield Bowling Club
Anderson Drive
Beresfield
At 7.00pm

Members are welcome to arrive early and enjoy a nice meal upstairs before the meeting starts.



President/ Apprentice Editor's Report



G'day and welcome to the club's May Newsletter. Well it's official; we are now the Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club (HVFFC). I would like to take this time to thank all those involved with the change process, especially our special Vice-President Cherie for all her hard work and dedication not only towards this project but everything she does for the club. I for one am excited to see the club heading into the future as we become bigger, bolder and better.



Two of our beloved members have ventured over the big briny to a country of emerald, four leaf clovers, pots of gold and dare I say Guinness and little people running around everywhere....oh sorry, that's just Fred. Happy hunting Jeff and Fred we all look forward to hearing about your ventures upon returning to Oz.



I have added my two cents worth on the freshwater jellyfish with a short story of my encounter with *Craspedacusta sowerbyi*. Look out for the recipe and tying steps for my High Plains Hopper which was literally a hopping success on the Gungahlin (no really, I literally hopped into a wombats hole trying to get to the water).

Glenn has an epic read on his recent trip to Christmas Island pulling the trigger whilst chasing bones. Rod's trip to Glenroy Crossing was a hit with members. Good to see quite a few trout landed and it sounds like the meal was to die for.....lucky buggers.

On behalf of the club I would like to extend commiserations and best wishes for a speedy recovery to Maureen (Tony's better half) for her knee replacement. Congratulations to Rosemary and Alex Hartsuyker on their pending status as grandparents in November. All the best.

Enjoy the newsletter and remember if you have an interesting story, a tasty recipe for cooking your catch or a fly recipe you wish to share please forward to the Newsletter Editor Jeff Yates (jeffandlynnyates@bigpond.com)

Cheers
Darren Foster
President 2016

Month	Date	Venue/Event	Trip Master	Contact Number
January	TBA	Fly Tying/Fishing with Lawrence & Cherie	Lawrence B.	0432989797
February	03 rd	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
February	13 th – 14 th	Hawks Nest – Saltwater	Tom Jones	0406662713
February				
March	02 nd	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
March	13 th	Casting Day at St Clair with Peter Morse	Darren Foster	0413392774
March	19 th – 20 th	Clarence Town, Williams River – Bass	Mik Ewin	0407898317
April	03 rd	Fly Tying for Barrington – Trout Patterns	Darren/Jim	0413392774
April	06 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
April	16 th – 17 th	Barrington Tops – Little Manning – Trout	Justin Smith	0417478138
May	04 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
May	20 th – 22 nd	Lithgow – Glenroy Crossing, Coxes River	Rod Fox	0407195508
May				
June	01 st	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
June	18 th – 19 th	Lake St Clair - Bass	Peter Sewell	0428685101
June				
July	06 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
July	16 th	Xmas in July at Bero Bowlo	Cherie	041555019
July				
August	03 rd	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
August	6 th – 7 th	Swansea – Saltwater - Salmon	Darren	0413392774
August				
September	07 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
September		Hastings ?	Lawrence	0432989797
September				
October	5 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
October	14 th – 16 th	Lake Liddell - Carp Classic	Lawrence/Cherie	0432989797
October				
November	11 th	Club AGM at Bero Bowlo	All	
November		Barrington - Local Rivers	Brent	
November				
December	7 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
December				
December				

Freshwater Jellyfish

Darren Foster

Further to Jeff's pic of the freshwater jellyfish in the April newsletter that he found and photographed at Rylstone Weir, I first encountered *Craspedacusta sowerbyi* at Lake St Clair, Singleton in 2010. I was fishing along the bank adjacent to the eagle's nest in the upper arm of Falbrook Reach on Saturday 20th March, 2010.

I collected a few samples to take home to observe for a while in a small tank. These unique jellyfish belong to the phylum Cnidaria and classified as a hydrozoan.

Research tells us they originated in China in the Yangtze basin but are now known as an invasive species and are found worldwide. The only continent they are not found is Antarctica (probably a tad too cold for the little blighters). They can lay dormant in cold or unsuitable conditions (always only freshwater, never salt) for years until the conditions are just right (they like very warm water). It is believed that whilst they are in this dormant state (podocysts) they are most likely to be transported from one body of water to another by birds, plant life, animals and boats.



They feed by stinging their prey with their tentacles which are covered with



thousands of stinging cells called cnidocytes (nematocysts) much like the stinging cells of the Portuguese Man-of-War (aka Bluebottles). The captured preys are then passed into the mouth to be digested. Their food consists mainly of zooplankton (microscopic plankton), daphnia (water fleas) and copepods (small crustaceans).

The specimens in these photos are approximately 20mm in diameter.

I spoke to Marie (Caretaker at St Clair) and she had never seen nor heard of them before, neither had anyone else I spoke to. Then the owner of the now long closed tackle shop at Aberdeen told me he had seen them 20 years prior in Glenbawn. So if you see them in your local waterway, take notes and pictures, they are not as common as one would suspect. And believe me, not everyone wants to believe you! Freshwater jellyfish? C'mon!!!

Trigger Happy

Glenn Olney



As most of you will know I have a passion about fishing Christmas Island (the northern hemisphere one) and sight fishing to its amazing bonefish.

Once again the opportunity to fish the island arose and accompanied by fellow club members Rod Esdaile and Mark Schmidt plus 17 other fly fishers of varying experience we undertook the journey to paradise.

I won't bore you all again by describing how good the fishing is other than to say between the three of us we caught and released about 300 bonefish supported by a mixture of trevallies of various types plus other species as well. Rod even caught a ladyfish. Think leaping tarpon on steroids.

The best I could do was a couple of 7 pounders but I did see Mark absolutely destroyed by a ten pounder.

All was going well until the big bone swam over a coral reef about 140 meters offshore and that was the end of the game.



In the past one target that had proved to be an enigma to me however was the giant trigger fish. The best way to describe them is a leatherjacket crossed with a mach truck. A good specimen will weigh 8-10 pounds.



There are several species of trigger fish on the island and I had hooked 3 in the past but lost all of them in the coral. While walking the flats you will spot these fish on most days. Most times they are either on the move or attempting to breed. When breeding they swim together in tight circles and have no interest in anything else.

They usually live near rocks and coral and using their unbelievably strong and sharp teeth eat out a tunnel. Never put your hand in a triggers home as they have been known to bite the tips of fingers entirely off.

Just occasionally you get lucky and catch them feeding with their heads down and tails up. When this happens you get a chance to cast to them but usually they are incredibly spooky.

Land the fly a meter from them and they don't see it. Place it a fraction closer and they bolt. Eventually one gets careless but as soon as you strip strike they are straight down their hole and all is lost.

If they deem to take your fly a tan or orange Christmas Island Special or a crab /shrimp pattern are as good as any. Good hooks are a must as they will bite a cheap hook in two without any difficulty.



After losing another two triggers earlier in the trip (one back in its home and one where the line wrapped around my wrist I was beginning to despair of ever landing one but sometimes a huge dose of luck comes your way.

Rod and I were searching for bonefish on a promising looking flat. Rod was with the guide and I was about 50 meters away on my own.

Much to my surprise I came across a good trigger head down, tail up a good 200 meters from the nearest reef.

I have a theory (I have many fishing theories) that the best approach is to cast the fly slightly behind and to the side of the fish leaving the fly line well in front.

Using slow short strips I positioned the fly near the triggers nose and then all hell broke loose.



Luckily the drag was tight and the reef so far away as a few seconds later the fish was some 150 meters closer to the reef. Thankfully he ran out of steam at this point and even more fortunately Rod and the guide came to help as landing these things single handed is a recipe for a broken rod.

It's a weird feeling when you have so much backing out that you have no idea where your fly line starts. You also begin to wonder how well the backing was connected to your fly line although on the island you see your backing at least a few times each day so I was happy the knot was OK.

Eventually we got the fish in and the guide (bravely) plucked it out of the water.

Happy snaps all round with the guide reminding me to take a firm grip and keep fingers away from the dangerous end.



After this things got better with Rod landing not one but two excellent triggers in the same area with the same powerful runs and coral a fair way in the distance.



By this stage the two of us were rather pleased with our efforts but just to liven things up not long after a giant trevally of around 50 pounds decided to swim by in less than a meter of water.

It's the closest thing to a submarine with the tower up I have seen. No chance of casting to it but that is probably not a bad thing.

Triggers remain a challenging target but I think I'm starting to work them out and caught 2 more later in the week.

I have raved on about Christmas Island many times in the past but all I can say that in my opinion it offers the best fishing I have ever seen and costs less than New Zealand, Northern Queensland or the territory if like is compared to like.

It's not yet confirmed but I just may be going back in September and Ray, the guide, reckons that now I have my triggers sorted out a little that we should have a shot at some big GTs.

I suspect the 7 weight TFO Mangrove may be a little underdone so a 12 weight is under investigation.

You only live once and this is as good as it gets.

Glenroy Crossing

Rod Fox



Rod Esdaile, Peter Sewell and I arrived at the Crossing at around 9.30am and set up camp within 10 - 20 metres of the Cox's River, adjacent to a large pool in the river. It wasn't long before a number of fish started to rise in the pool. After lunch the majority of the attendees started to arrive and continued on into the early evening. A total of 14 club members attended the weekend.

Soon after their arrival the guys started to traverse various sections of the river.

Rod and I fished our way upstream for about 2.5 km. During this time I had a number of hits, with one fish breaking my line. About 2km up river Rod and I came across some falls which looked very fishable, however we were unsuccessful.

Prior to setting out we had made arrangements for Peter to pick us up at about 4.30pm. Peter and Tony were successful by catching a trout each upstream of the McKaynes Bridge on the Cox's river.

On returning to camp, Peter was a great pyromaniac by a getting a raging fire going, which we sat around eating dinner and consuming copious amounts of red wine.



The next day there was a discussion about what fly to use. Rod and I passed on the recommendations by Ray Tang - a local guide, that small caddis or parachute adams flies were the way to go. I shared a caddis fly with Wayne, a new member and later that day he caught his first trout on fly, which was great.

The guys went to various fishing locations in the area with varying degrees of success. Later on Saturday afternoon Ray met with Rod and I on

the Cox's river downstream of McKaynes Bridge. I landed one fish and lost another in the weed. Ray

returned with Rod and I to camp to meet the guys. Ray apologised that he could not stay with the group because of other commitments.



We returned early Saturday afternoon to prepare roast dinner that was enjoyed by all. The dinner included a Guinness roast and an red wine roast with jacket potatoes, sour cream and vegetables with gravy and herb bread. Followed by apple pie and custard.

That night it was great sitting around the fire laughing and chatting.



Sunday morning some of the guys went fishing and others packed up to go home. Rod and I went fishing upstream again and caught a trout each.

We arrived home around 6pm Sunday night.

Overall the weekend went well.

High Plains Hopper

Designed and tied by Darren Foster

Hook: #14, 12 dry hook (pick one – I have no favorites)

Thread: Black 6/0

Body: Hends Hare Dubbing Plus – Orange #6

Legs: Knotted Pheasant Tail Fibres (two per leg)

Thorax: Hends Hare Dubbing Plus – Black #15

Hackle: Cock's Hackle – Dark Brown



1. Secure hook in vice and lay down a bed of thread along the shank stopping level with the bend of the hook.

2. Form dubbing noodle on thread with Orange (#6) Hare Dubbing Plus. Wind dubbing noodle towards the eye to form the body stopping a third length from the eye. When finished add a few more turns on top of each other to widen or fatten the body. This will help make the legs stick out a bit to the side.

Tip: Always twist dubbing in one direction around the thread. *Don't* twist backwards and forwards with thumb and forefinger. Also a little dubbing wax on the thread helps hold the dubbing neat.

3. Tie in the pre-knotted legs, one on either side of the front of the body and trim the waste.

Tip: To make the legs more durable, wrap the forward waste section of the legs towards the eye, then fold the waste section back towards the rear. Secure with a few more wraps and trim the waste.

4. Form another dubbing noodle with Black (#15) Hare Dubbing Plus. Wind dubbing noodle to form the thorax building a slightly larger profile than the body.

5. Tie in a dark brown cock hackle and take three to four wraps in front of the thorax and tie off. Trim the waste.

6. Form a small neat head, whip finish and add a drop of glue to secure. Trim the thread.

Tip: To make the hopper super buoyant treat with Silicon Mucilin (I strongly recommend TFT Dry Fly silicon Mucilin from Redditch, England) and put aside to dry. Fish on a floating line in the riffles or static across pools and hang on. The Gungarlin trout went hopping mad over them. Originally designed and tied for the Gungarlin River but *will* work on any high plains (or low plains) rivers, streams or creeks where there are hoppers (or hungry fish).



Fishy Pics



Location: Killick Creek, Crescent Head
Fly: #14 Rabbit Fur Bread Fly
Species: Herring; Black Bream

Fred with a healthy St Clair Bass





Scape Pics

Sunset at Lake St Clair



Lake Eucumbene



Lochlodian Trout Farm

Payment for XMAS in JULY is required by the 24th of June
\$45 per head

Don't forget to bring family and friends, all are welcome

XMAS in JULY



2016



LUCKEY DOOR PRIZE

TRIVIA

CHRIS CRINGLE

RAFFLE, 1ST, 2ND, 3RD PRIZES

CLUB AWARDS



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