

# HUNTER VALLEY FLY FISHING CLUB



## 2016 July Newsletter

**President** – Darren Foster

**Vice President** – Cherie Blackburn

**Secretary** – Tony Ward

**Treasurer** – Justin Smith

**Newsletter Editor** – Jeff Yates

### Committee Members

Peter Sewell

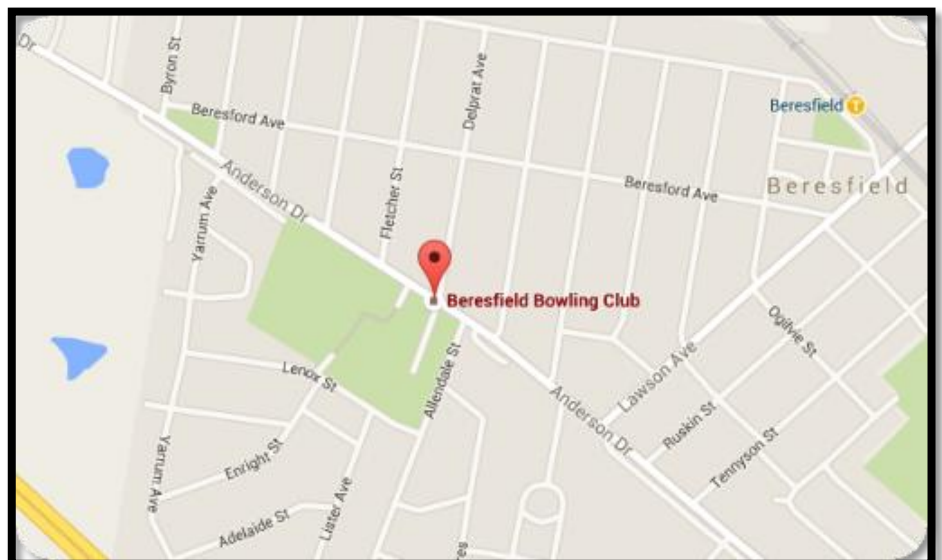
Brent Blackwell

Jeff Yates

Lawrence Blackburn

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

Beresfield Bowling Club  
Anderson Drive  
Bersefield  
At 6.30pm



## *Editor's comments*

Jeff Yates



Back home after a magic holiday in Europe, Ireland and the UK, and would like to extend my sincere thanks to Darren for producing the May and June copies of our newsletter. In what was a seamless exchange, Darren carried on our traditions with his usual passion, even though his job as President takes a lot of his time and effort.

The highlight of this month was the highly successful Xmas in July dinner, which was well attended by our local members and those travelling from further away. This event deserves to be the cover story in our newsletter.

Congratulations to Rod and Jo Esdaile on their retirement. I rang Rod tonight on his first official day of retirement and asked how he felt, and he said that it hasn't yet sunk in. Just wait Rod, plenty of child minding, love jobs, working bees, community work and just a little bit of fishing throw in. If you need any hints on how to fill in your day, just give me a ring.

Following on from our Xmas dinner a few of our members met at Raymond Terrace for a coffee and have a crack at the local carp pond. Brent organised the event and has written a note about their success.

Rod Dillon needs a special mention, being a long time member of our club, has become a very active member of late, tying some of his magic flies as prizes and has included a great monochrome photo of Lake St Clair (yes, he is also an accomplished photographer) for this issue, and it appears at the back in the **scape pics**.

I have included a pre-fish that Peter Sewell and I had at Swansea. This successful trip shows that the salmon are about and hopefully will play ball during our club outing there early August.

Also included is a trip I had on Ballin Lough, in Co Mayo, Ireland. This was a magic day on the water which I would like to share with the club. I had several other outings in Wales and England, which will appear in later editions.

## *President's Report*



Welcome all to the club's July Newsletter and welcome back Jeff and Fred, we all look forward to being regaled with tales tall and true of your adventures.

The club recently held Xmas in July for 2016 at Bero Bowlo. Another big night was enjoyed by all. It was good to see the "Sydney Chapter" of the Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club put in a good turn-up and good to see Rod and Lorraine Dillon make the sojourn from Muswellbrook to join us for the night. Huge thanks to Cherie for organizing the ladies gifts as well as organizing the whole event. I am sure all whom attended would agree on what a marvelous job Cherie does not only on the night but all the lead up work as well. Congratulations to the following recipients of the club's awards: Memorable Moment – Rod Esdaile for his unforgettable performance in "Fly in the Hand"; Rookie of the Year – Wayne Hunt for showing vast

improvement in the sport and; Clubman of the Year – Jeff Yates for sharing info on all things fly fishing and always helping out. Well done guys, congratulations.

The club's next out is Swansea chasing all things salty especially those sometimes exasperating but definitely fun to catch Salmon.

A very warm welcome to the club to our new members: John Reay, Chris McDonald, Seung Soo Kim and Royce Kim.

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.

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 <sup>rd</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
February	13 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup>	Hawks Nest – Saltwater	Tom Jones	0406662713
February				
March	02 <sup>nd</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
March	13 <sup>th</sup>	Casting Day at St Clair with Peter Morse	Darren Foster	0413392774
March	19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup>	Clarence Town, Williams River – Bass	Mik Ewin	0407898317
April	03 <sup>rd</sup>	Fly Tying for Barrington – Trout Patterns	Darren/Jim	0413392774
April	06 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
April	16 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup>	Barrington Tops – Little Manning – Trout	Justin Smith	0417478138
May	04 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
May	20 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Lithgow – Glenroy Crossing, Coxes River	Rod Fox	0407195508
May				
June	01 <sup>st</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
June	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	Lake St Clair – Bass	Peter Sewell	0428685101
June				
July	06 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
July	16 <sup>th</sup>	Xmas in July at Bero Bowlo	Cherie	041555019
July				
August	03 <sup>rd</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
August	5 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup>	Swansea – Saltwater - Salmon	Darren	0413392774
August	11 <sup>th</sup>	Rise Film Festival at Bero Bowlo	Darren	0413392774
September	07 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
September	16 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>	Hastings	Lawrence	0432989797
September				
October	5 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
October	14 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup>	Lake Liddell - Carp Classic	Lawrence/Cherie	0432989797
October				
November	11 <sup>th</sup>	Club AGM at Bero Bowlo	All	
November	18 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup>	Hawksbury/Colo Rivers	Rod Fox	0407195508
November				
December	7 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
December				
December				

## *Xmas in July*

By Jeff Yates

Another smashing night with great food, drinks and entertainment (Justin) plus music. This annual event, the first under the new banner of Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club, **Xmas in July**, is a social evening where the spouses, partners, friends, families and members get together away from the water to celebrate and have a laugh.

The participants this year were a similar number to last year with mainly repeat attendees. Those who were unable to attend for one reason or another don't know what they were missing out on. It's a must do event on our annual calendar, so mark it in for next year. Brad's wife Ruth, discharged from hospital earlier in the day, and was at her radiant best on the evening, but I'm sure she suffered for the effort.

Primarily organised by Cherie, Lawrence and Jenna, it was hosted at the Beresfield Bowling Club. Men threw a Chris Cringle present into a pillow case for later handouts by Santa (Brent) and Santa's helper (Jenna).

Presents were selected by the men for the girls from a beautiful range organised by Cherie, this year teapots of all varieties were a real hit.

Lucky Door prize men – Mick Tobin  
Lucky Door prize women – Loraine Dillon

Raffle 1<sup>st</sup> prize – Patrick

Raffle 2<sup>nd</sup> prize – Peter

Raffle 3<sup>rd</sup> prize – Lyn

Memorable moment – Rod Esdaile

Rookie of the year – Wayne Hunt

Clubman of the year – Jeff Yates

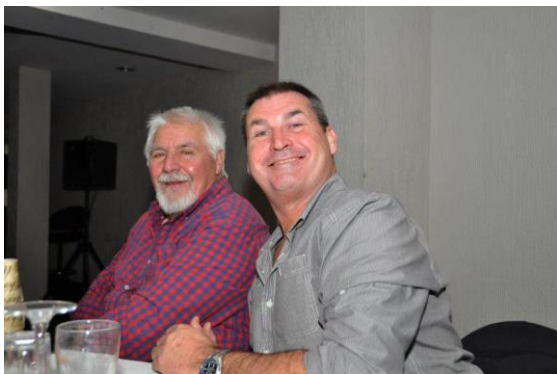
I would like to single out one person in particular, Wayne Hunt as Rookie of the year. This was a popular win, Wayne has attended most club events and was mentioned at the Peter Morse casting clinic as a person who showed a heap of improvement over the weekend.

Another popular, though painful win was the Most Memorable Moment, Rod Esdaile being the recipient. Rod took us back to the moments that saw a large fly lodge into his arm and in the process penetrating the tendon to his index finger. We all laughed at the video of Rod, wagging his finger and the fly in his arm wriggling in response. The end result was a trip to Maitland hospital for clinical removal, of course, under the guidance of Rod.....

A few mentions as plaudits are handed out. Firstly, Lawrence and Cherie particularly for their tireless devotion to the organisation of the club and in particular, this Xmas event. Santa (Brent) and his helper Jenna, who have handed out the Xmas presents for the members year after year. Rod Dillon for his marvellous flies that he tied for the night. Rod also runs the fly swap for members, encouraging better fly tying amongst participants. Tony for his excellent work as MC, and Justin for being a clown.

Last but not least, Darren for his efforts in running the quiz each year and the discussion and fun that it generates. He also made beautiful timber fly boxes to hold Rods flies, which were awarded as prizes throughout the night. Maybe we should let the pictures tell the story, apologies for those photos the photographer failed to take (blame me....)















## *An Outing at Raymond Terrace*

by Brent Blackwell

After Christmas in July, a little morning's entertainment had been planned. So a few of us met at McDonalds for a coffee. Tallis, Patrick, Darren, Bill and myself met up, then adjourned to the park across the road to investigate its fishing potential.

Parking in the carpark on Newline Road, we geared up and walked onto the north side of the park. There is a small series of ponds, with plenty of bird life. The water is fairly shallow, there are good spots to fish from. We positioned ourselves along an open bank, spread bread upon the waters and began to fish. There was a small rise upstream from us, and that was the only activity we saw.

Darren gave Bill a casting lesson, and he benefitted from this. We also discussed other aspects of fly fishing, expanding and confusing Bill.

A local came over for a while and we found out there are some reasonably large carp in the ponds. It would seem that it was a bit cold for the carp at the moment.

I think the location would be ideal for a casting afternoon. There are areas of open grass with good access. There is water adjacent for practising on water, and when the water warms the possibility of some sport with the carp. McDonalds is a 5 minute walk away. We visited on a Sunday during school holidays and there was very little activity in the park. The main shopping centre in Raymond Terrace is 500 metres down the road.

I think another visit when the weather warms will be in order.

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Salts Bays from Blacksmiths boat ramp

## *Pre-fish at Swansea*

by Jeff Yates

Just a few weeks left before our club weekend at Swansea, so Pete and I tested the waters in Salts bay, for the Australian Salmon. An early morning start and on the water by daybreak, coffee in hand, we slowly cruised the bay and adjoining rock walls scanning the water for shapes, jumping fish or nervous water. The first sighter was a large boil some distance away, indicating a shark lifting a school of fish to the surface. Approaching on the electric from upstream, we were soon mixing it with the salmon. The school was obvious with their surface finning and the odd flash as the first light lit up their flanks. The morning was full of action, on a number of occasions we had double hook ups as rods were passed under and over to limit the subsequent tangles. Most fish falling to the Surf Candy.



Australian Salmon are one of the best sporting fish to target on medium gear. Their hard takes, aeronautical leaps and the occasional knuckle rapping line stripping runs makes them my favourite salt water target species.

Rods from 8 – 10wt are idea, preferable using a reel with a decent drag. If you value your rod, do what Pete and myself do, go for an inexpensive rod a weight heavier than the line, and in case of an accidental high stick or other misadventure you aren't out of pocket too much.

We caught a number of fish by mid-morning, including a by-catch of a 2kg Tailor, hooked in the scissors of the jaws. These fish engulf the fly, usually giving a 20 second fight before the razor teeth cut the 20lb fluorocarbon to shreds, so he was welcomed on board with the landing net, and put safely away in the live fish box.



The fish were beginning to get line shy as we shepherded them about the bay, by now only picking up an infrequent fish. The school, in 2m of clear water, would part as the 8wt clear line shot out over the water surface. It was time to rest them and have a copper back on shore. The tailor and a few salmon for fish cakes now on ice, our thirst quenched, and hunger sated, we headed back to the water.

We were welcomed back on the water by a large bull fur seal, sun baking on the water surface and chewing on a blackfish. A few close up pictures and it was time to find the school again.

They hadn't moved far, and were able to land 3 in quick time, but like a switch the tide changed and the fish changed their feeding habits. Our flies were all sinkers, and the fish started to crash the surface, and we were left short. A word of warning, take a box of surface flies for the outing, as well as the

standard Surf Candies, Clousers, Profile flies and Decievers.

Now that's the heads up for the outing, and for me and Pete tails down as we tie a few more flies for the Swansea trip.



*X marks the spot.....*





## **Surf Candy**

**Hook:** Gamakatsu SL12S hook, sizes 2-4

**Thread:** Clear monofilament

**Belly:** White or Polar Bear Ultra Hair, Super Hair or Unique hair

**Flash Stripe:** Pearl Flashabou or similar, depending on effect and colour desired

**Back:** Ultra Hair, Super Hair or Unique Hair in darker colour to imitate back of baitfish. I use light grey but you can use chartreuse, tan, light blue

**Resin Head:** UV-cured clear resin

**Eyes:** Flat stick-on eyes

**Gill Slash:** Line made with red waterproof marker if needed.

Tie in materials behind eye, starting with white, just a few strands of flash, then grey Unique hair, about half the size of the white. Apply eyes after the first coat of uv resin, then apply a second coat. Entire fly should be around a thin pencil size. The hair can be rolled above the hook to make a rounded shape. On completion, clean resin head with metho, then apply clear nail polish.

**Good luck, it's our go to fly.....**



## *Ballin Lough Co Mayo, Ireland*

by Jeff Yates



This trip to Ireland falls on the 100th year anniversary of the Irish rebellion, when the Irish republicans fought the colonist British in Dublin and paid dearly with their lives. 14 of their leaders were rounded up and given the death sentence by firing squad. The public outrage finally led to Irish independence in 1922. I'm heading over to the home town of Major McBride, one of the condemned leaders.

Westport on Ireland's wild NW Atlantic coast in the shadow of its highest mountain, Croagh Patrick, is situated in Clew Bay with its 365 islands dotted around the horizon, and voted the most liveable town in Ireland. It is truly beautiful. I will be staying on the port for the next week with charming Irish friend Polly, and of course Lyn.



While walking in the grounds of Westport House, owned by the 11th Marquis of Sligo, and built on the original site of a dwelling occupied by the legendary 16th century female pirate Maud O'Malley, I ran into a young bloke fly fishing for mullet in a tidal creek. Unlike our mullet, these things hated bread, wouldn't touch bread flies and looked like they were chasing shrimp. A few alterations to a Mallard and Claret fly soon had the bones of a shrimp pattern, but not quite. One take and a million refusals.

But, not all bad. My new pal Mike, a recently graduated marine biologist, gave me the name of his favourite local water, Ballin Lough. This is a fly fishing, boat only lough, and the wild Irish weather has had me frustrated, as a 16ft timber rowboat in 50 knot winds is not my idea of a pleasant evening on the water.

Time to chase mackerel instead and wait for a lull in the weather. A beautiful walk to a headland gave me an opportunity to try for mackerel, but after a 2 hour session, and one small Pollack, time to head back to the warmth of our unit. It's a lot warmer in our winter than it is over here at the moment in their summer.

The next morning was sunny and a balmy 15 degrees, much better than the predicted squalls and cold front. Grab this precious window in the weather, my inner mind was shouting. A quick phone call to the Water Bailiff and I teed up a half day permit and row boat.

Ballin Lough is a beautiful limestone lake less than a kilometre from the sea, nestled in a natural crater surrounded by rich farmland, with flocks of sheep dotting the lush green hills and is a fly fisherman's dream. About a kilometre in diameter, with a wooded island at its centre and edged with bull rushes and water weed, a beautiful habitat for water loving insects, birdlife and hopefully trout.



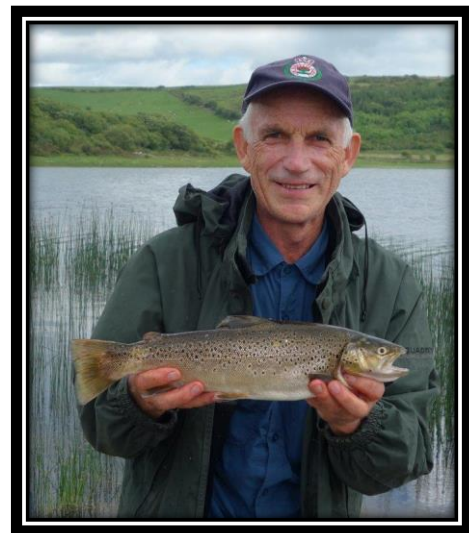
A quick scan of the lough showed several likely fish haunts. I rowed out and fished a shower of midge carcasses caught up in a wind lane in the lee of the island. This spot looked promising, however a fair session saw a few isolated rises but no takes, time to move.

The next spot was on a windward bank sheltered by bull rushes. Damsel nymphs were swimming freely in the meniscus trying to get to the safety of the rushes to moult. Other adult damsels, some green others blue, in droves could be seen

dancing over the water and many coupled starting a new generation.

My intuition paid off when an athletic Brown trout leaped high to take a damsel on the wing within a rod length of the row boat. I put on a Tom Jones, and on the second cast the 4lb tippet zipped through the water with a lovely 3lb Brown slicing along the surface, then lugging deep for a prolonged fight in the frigid water.

After several strong runs, the fish gradually tired and I brought the prize to hand and took the obligatory shots. Glistening dark brown back, powerful tail, silver belly and chocolate spots, a classic wild fish!



The damsel rise become more consistent and frantic; trying to pick out the next riser turned me in circles. To hell with the wets, on with a dry, an olive Haystack (Mayfly pattern) which should look somewhat like an emerging damsel nymph. First throw, a boil, a count, the fly rod loaded and an exceptional run; another magic wild, colourful and chunky Ballin Lough Brown.

My half day permit was nearly up and the fish were rising all about the timber clinker row boat, but stuff the time, out with the fly,



covered several rises before the fly disappeared in a mini implosion. The fish didn't share my time schedule and played me until she was spent. I was now stretching the friendship as I had a 20 minute row back to the dock, and I was already an hour over time. To the heck with it, a few more casts, allowing the fly to settle on the water surface, and recast after a 30 second drift, helped by a smear of floatant to the wings to keep it buoyant and the body laying below the water surface. I connected to another fish, my ego now satisfied, I strip down my 7piece travel rod and push into a steady headwind back to the dock.

The Water Bailiff was happy to see me and was chuffed that an Australian visitor had managed to catch fish, not just fish but wild Ballin Browns. After handing in my return's card I clicked my heels and jaunted down the winding hedge rowed track to meet my lift back to Westport in Polly's Mercedes convertible.

What a brilliant day's fishing and a shame that I couldn't share it with my fishing mates, but I now have the knowledge, so

see me if you are thinking of a visit to the Emerald isle.

On a lighter note, my arrangements with the guy I had fished with on several occasions on previous trips fell through the day before I left Oz. I was totally shattered as my Irish plans had centred on fishing Lough Mask, Carra and Corib in Co Mayo, but after the initial let down, I decided to do my own thing, as I had enough knowledge of the region to make something happen; and I did....

To book your boat and fishing permit contact Tom Gill at Ballin Lough, Westport, Co Mayo, Ireland on 0866096514. Tom is a great bloke and you will revel in the waters that he manages.

If you want to fish Lough Mask try the western side at Srah or Tourmakeady Pier and get your hire boat. You don't need a ghillie from this side as there isn't the reefs and rocks of the eastern side. Also this Lough is free fishing whereas Ballin is a private fishery, at around \$35/half day including boat.



A chunky 4lb Ballin brown



## *Fishy Pics*



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*How much hurt  
can Pete inflict  
on his 10wt rod  
without a snap?  
I'm not sure  
who's in control,  
but the smile is a  
dead giveaway!  
by Jeff Yates*

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# *Scape Pics*



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*Spectacular  
monochrome  
view of Lake  
St Clair  
by Rod Dillon*

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