



## 2017 Apr Newsletter

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Peter Sewell

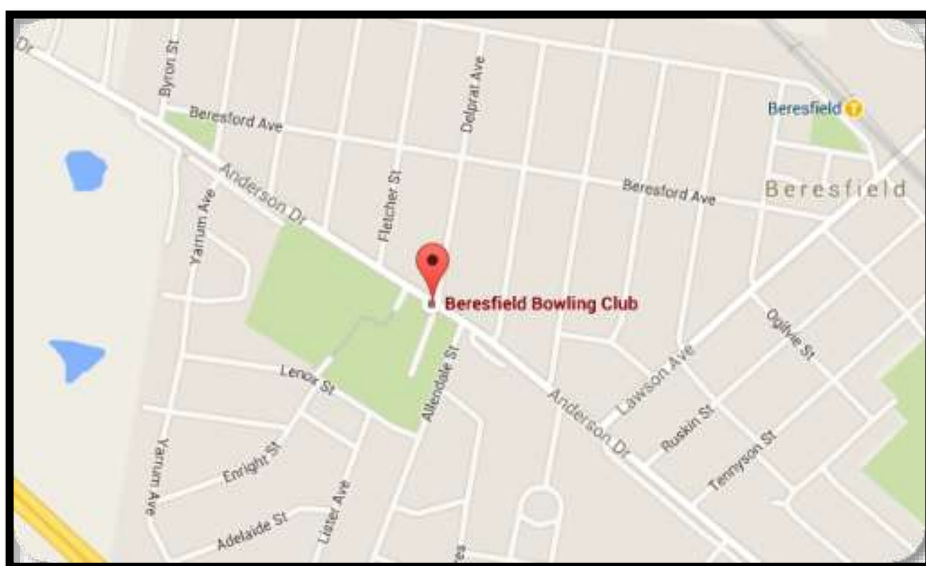
Brent Blackwell

Jeff Yates

Noel King

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



This month's outing was a salt water event at Swansea. A small number of keen souls turned out on the day to witness the only clear weather we have had in a fortnight of showers. One skipper who shall remain nameless, was so keen to get out on the water that he didn't check the fuel level in his boat; just made it back with a teaspoon full of fuel against an incoming tide. Lawrence and Cherie nearly had a couple of borders for the night on the Lake's western shore.

The Bass Classic is quickly coming upon us, and Cherie has been organizing the protocols associated with our premier event. It is a massive workload and we all need to knuckle down and offer our assistance where required, as this is our major fund raiser for the year. We put in \$4K worth of bass fingerlings mostly from the proceeds of the weekend. See the note Cherie emailed out just recently, which I have added to the newsletter.

Rod has included the second installment of '*From my Tying Bench*'. Fly tying tips have been well received by the members who are keen to hone their tying skills.

Patrick has become our latest recruit, with a superb step by step instruction for tying his "Chernobyl Glow Ant". Patrick has been tying flies for the club fly swap and is learning to tie Bass flies ready for St Clair. Darren has tutored Patrick in the finer art of tying prior to starting work of a morning, and should be commended for his patience and generosity of time. I'm sure Patrick eats his Wheatbix, because the concentration required to start tying well-proportioned and functional flies takes some effort.

I have put in a recipe for my Churchie fly, which has been my main 'goto' fly during the summer months. There are several ties for it, but this is the original and arguably the best. Rod Esdaile has caught some of his best trout on this fly during the season, and on flies that he has tied himself.

An impromptu bass trip to Lake St Clair was a real success. Look out for Lawrence's report in the May edition of the HVFFC newsletter. All looks good for our June club trip and the July Bass Classic. ***Don't forget to get your name down for the Classic and share in what I believe will be a bumper bass season.***

Look at the photo of beautiful first ever trout landed by Narelle, towards the end of the newsletter.

Brian Quinn has a few of his water toys up for sale. Health issues have taken their toll on his ability to get out on the water so it's time to give someone else the opportunity to indulge themselves. Wish you well mate during your convalescence.

## *President's Report*



G'day members,

Welcome to the April Newsletter. The application form for the next round of \$4\$ Funding for 2017/18 has been completed and submitted. I recently helped the Narrandera Fisheries to release Golden Perch fingerlings into St Clair with a release of Silver Perch fingerlings just around the corner. See further in the newsletter for a full report.

Peter has a story on the Swansea day trip at the beginning of the month.

Look out for Patrick's fly tying steps for his take on the Chernobyl Ant. It's good to see a novice embracing and participating in the club fly swap run by Rod Dillon. And whilst on the topic of the club fly swap can participants ensure they stick to Rod's guidelines and time frames please. Just to keep things running smoothly.

Please enjoy your newsletter and remember, if you have anything to share with the club, such as an article to do with fly fishing, fly tying, product reviews, somewhere you have been recently fly fishing or even a recipe, please send it through to Jeff for inclusion in the next newsletter. Remember this is your newsletter so please contribute and share your experiences and knowledge.

Happy flicking of fur, feather and fluff.

Darren Foster  
President, HVFFC 2017

# 2017 Calendar



Month	Date	Venue/Event	Trip Master	Contact Number
January	21 <sup>st</sup>	Fly Tying/Fishing with Lawrence & Cherie	Lawrence B.	0432989797
February	01 <sup>st</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
February	17 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	Hawks Nest – Saltwater	Tom Jones	0406662713
February				
March	01 <sup>st</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
March				
March	10 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	Lithgow	Red Esdaile	0418667949
April	31 <sup>st</sup> M – 2 <sup>nd</sup> A	Swansea	Darren	0413392774
April	05 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
April				
May	03 <sup>rd</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
May	Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	Morpeth Day Trip	Darren	0413392774
May				
June	07 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
June	16 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>	Lake St Clair - Bass	Peter Sewell	0428685101
June				
July	05 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
July	15 <sup>th</sup>	Xmas in July at Bero Bowlo	Cherie	0410555019
July	28 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup>	Bass Classic - St Clair	Cherie	0410555019
August	02 <sup>nd</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
August	4-6 <sup>th</sup> or 11-13 <sup>th</sup>	Swansea – Saltwater - Salmon	Darren	0413392774
August				
September	06 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
September	15 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup>	Hastings	Lawrence	0432989797
September				
October	4 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
October				
October				
November	3 <sup>rd</sup> or 10 <sup>th</sup>	Club AGM at Bero Bowlo	All	
November				
November				
December	6 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
December				
December				

## *2017 Bass Classic*

by Cherie Blackburn

***The Bass Classic is moving ahead at this stage. We are looking forward to another fantastic weekend of fishing and it is a great time of the year for Bass at Lake St Clair.***

This year we are hiring portable refrigeration and also a large marquee to accommodate our needs.

The council is requesting that we camp in groups of 4, normally a site is considered to be 2 adults and 2 children, however for this event they are allowing 4 adults to a site. I suggest that we do our best to follow this, but understand that it may not always be possible. So when I take your booking, could you also please let me know who you are camping with on your site. For Hastings and Sydney if you can please provide this information when making your booking with me that would be greatly appreciated.

**VENUE: Lake St Clair**

**DATE: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2pm – through to Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July 12pm.**

### ***WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.....***

**1/** You will need to bring all camping and sleeping gear. Showers are on site.

**2/** All sites booked for this event are un-powered.

**3/** All food will be provided by Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club including a take-a-way Sunday lunch.

**4/** If you wish to bring a boat, that's fine, however you can walk the banks and most people seem to do this during the winter months.

**5/** The cost for the event is \$110.00 per person and \$55.00 for children under the age of 18yrs.

**6/** For Sydney and Hastings clubs please note the date for confirmation of bookings and the final date for payment this year is Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2017. Bookings and payments for all attending will need to be made and paid for by that date. After that, however, we will not be in a position to refund as all food, refrigeration and other associated costs will have been paid by this date. Please check the attached "Booking and Cancellation Policy" document.

**7/** Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club members, your cut-off date is also Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2017 and after that payments will not be refunded, due to the reasons in **point 6**. Please check the attached "Bookings and Cancellation Policy" document.

**8/** As the event gets closer we will provide additional details as to the type of gear required and fly patterns.

**9/** Please ensure that you have adequate clothing as it can get very cold.

**10/** HVFFC members, we will be looking for volunteers for certain tasks pertaining to getting equipment and groceries to the event. I will work out a complete list shortly and then send out to our members and request help for these tasks.

**11/** Don't forget your raffle prizes for Saturday, this will still be going ahead.

***That's it for now, looking forward to seeing you there for another great weekend.***

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## *From My Tying Bench - Part Two*

By Rod Dillon

It occurred to me that a lot of tiers, new and old, may not be aware of the proportions of standard nymphs and dry flies and how to measure them. How long should the tail of a nymph be or how long the abdomen or how large the hackle of a dry fly?

Many regard flies to be incorrectly tied unless the proportions are followed. The proportions for some flies are fairly fixed and others are subjective. Some flies are tied intentionally breaking tradition. The following are the proportions of the two most commonly tied flies :

**A Standard Nymph** (Pheasant Tail, Gold Ribbed Hares Ear etc)

Tail: 1/2 to 2/3 shank (same for legs)

Abdomen: Slightly more than 1/2 shank

Thorax and Wing Case: Slightly less than 1/2 shank

***Don't forget that you need to leave space behind the eyes to finish the fly.***

**A Standard Dry** (Adams, Royal Woulf etc)

Tail: Full Hook length

Abdomen: Slightly more than 1/2 shank

Hackle collar width: Slightly less than half shank leaving space to tie off

Hackle length: 1 1/2 to 2 times hook gape.

***Skip Morris was the source of the above information. Skip is a long time professional fly tier and author of many fly books.***

I am not saying that we need to tie our flies in these proportions, I am just bringing to your attention what is considered to be the standards. They make sense if you want to tie flies that are consistent in size, shape etc.

***Following are some tool tips that you may find handy:***

- A few years ago I attended a Fly Fishing weekend in SE Queensland and the late Muz Wilson was one of the tying demonstrators. He had a telescopic magnet that can be purchased at hardware stores, the handle is similar to a car aerial but a bit smaller. When Muz dropped a hook onto the floor (don't we all) he used the magnet to pick it up. If you don't use one of these please don't tie flies in bare feet !!!
- Make or have someone make you a tying workstation. This will enable you to place your tools in an assigned place. When you finish with the tool return it to its spot and this will enable you to quickly know where it is when next required. This was one of the reasons I learnt to whip finish as I got sick of trying to find the tool under materials. A Renzetti tool caddy is another alternative to a workstation or it can compliment the workstation.
- Do your Hackle Pliers clip the tip of a feather off as some do? The solution is to wrap masking tape around each jaw so the hackle doesn't make contact with the metal.
- Do you use clear fingernail polish as cement head? If so try clipping the brush prior to using it thereby reducing the amount of polish the brush will hold and enabling a more accurate application.



Remember to clean your scissors immediately after clipping the brush. You can of course put a drop on your Bodkin to apply small amounts

- If you don't have a brush to rough up dubbing on nymphs etc a cheap one can be made. Get a popsicle stick and glue velcro to it. You will be surprised how often you will use it which is why mine is so dirty. Sorry!



- Don't want to see a whip finisher and happy to finish a fly with half hitches? When you get to tying off the fly you have in your hand the perfect tool for making half hitches, the bobbin. Tie 3 or 4 half hitches to the eye of the hook, clip the thread and apply cement. Job done.
- The Rite Bobbin (pictured adjacent) eliminates the need of owning a whip

finisher as you can use the shank to tie a Half Hitch or whip finish knot. They are designed to do this. The thread can also be trapped in the O rings for storage.



- Don't leave a hook in your vise overnight. When the tension is removed from the jaws damage is avoided.
- Having trouble keeping moulded eyes on the head of a fly (say a Salmon fly) whilst they are drying? Try using a clothes peg.
- Fingernail clippers are excellent for trimming wire, tinsel and other hard materials. Save your scissors for threads.
- Want a cheap waste material container for your vise? Use a plastic margarine tub placed under the vise.

***Well that's it for now. In Part 3 I will look at some easier ways to handle material***



## *Swansea April 2017 Outing*

By Peter Sewell

A bunch of fly fishing stalwarts turned up to our outing at Swansea after days of rain and surviving the east coast low and large swells from Tropical Cyclone Debbie. We were all rugged up for the first cold morning in months and ready for a downpour and lots of cooperative fish. There was trip master Darren, Jeff, Fred, Lawrence, Wayne Salmon and yours truly. Lawrence had ventured out into the southerly chop, in tinny, from across the waves at Coal Point and he didn't even have his anti-glare hat on. We all met up at the launching ramp in the channel near Swansea caravan park and wow hasn't that been improved. Not just floating jetty and capacity to launch/retrieve three boats simultaneously but new traffic management area heaps of parking, sensor activated lighting (for those who arrive in the dark), concrete kerbs.

Fred teamed up with Darren in his boat, Jeff and I in mine, Lawrence in his and Wayne decided to stalk

the shores, having failed to get his boat trailer wheel bearings changed in time for the outing. We arrived at six but reckoned it was cold, windy and dark so by around seven we trundled out into the various channels, across flats and around islands, we practiced avoiding stranding our boats in the shallows, we practiced casting to all those great looking drop offs, holes and along weed beds. We used salmon flies (not Wayne's), Crazy Charlies, weed flies, bread flies and crab flies and whatever else we had.

Lawrence was the king of Lake Macquarie with 2 pike and a squire (maybe a cockney bream?), Darren drew a blank as did Fred and Wayne. I drew a blank too, if you don't count the micro bream I caught by squeezing a little bread onto a bread fly (Oh Dear I have confessed).



**Lawrence's -Yellow finned Pike (*Dinoletes Lewini*)**





**Lawrence's- Squire, Cockney Bream, Snapper (*Pagrus auratus*)**

The old master- Jeff, was all prepared with weed burley and beautifully tied weed flies, today was the day for all things black or should I say Luderick. We anchored over a weed bed next to a drop off and channel. Great looking water, great conditions perfect tide and then finally the hook up. The fish

was on and put up a feisty fight. Luderick don't normally flash silver when they are coming through the water, do they Jeff? It looks like this bream must have thought he was an ugly duckling and went off to join his darker cousins.



**Jeff- Hooked Up on a luderick-like bream.**



**Jeff's Bream- Yellowfin Bream (*Acanthopagrus australis*)**

All in all not that successful on the fish count side of things but another great outing just the same with like-minded individuals having fun in the sun (and wind). Thanks to Darren for volunteering to be last minute trip master and getting us organised



## *Chernobyl Glow Ant*

By Patrick Tobin



### **Materials:**

Hook: Tiemco Model #8089B #6  
Thread: Danville 0.006 Mono  
Underbody: Flashabou – White Glow-in-the-dark Tinsel Flash  
Body: Craft foam  
Legs: Rubber legs or Sili-legs  
Post: Flashabou – Glow-in-the-dark Tinsel Flash



Start the thread just before the bend of the hook (approximately above the hook point) and tie in three to four strands of the glow-in-the-dark Flashabou.



Wrap the Flashabou forward to just behind the eye and then back to the tie-in point. Tie off and trim excess Flashabou.



This next step is your choice. You can glue strips of foam together to create two-toned bodies or just double up of the one color. Or you can tie in two separate strips of foam, one on top of the other. For this tie, I am using pre-glued strips.



Trim both ends of the foam to points.



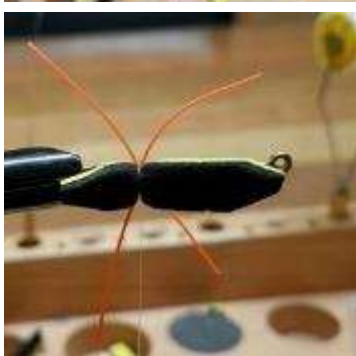
Position foam body on top of hook with the forward point level with the eye of hook. Pull down tight on your wraps to make sure the body stays where you want it to be.



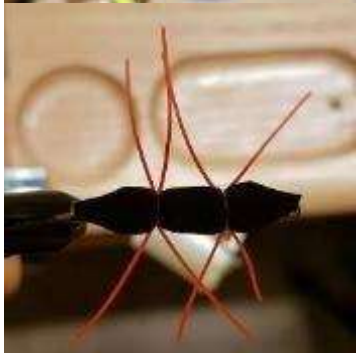
Cut the rubber legs to the size you want. Remember, the longer the legs the more movement so don't cut them too short. Wrap a rubber leg around the thread and even up the ends. Holding the leg by the ends and keeping tension between the leg and the thread you can then easily position the leg where you want it.



Ensure the leg is positioned correctly at a level of half the thickness of the foam.



Repeat the last two steps to position the leg on the other side of the body. This is where a rotating vice comes in handy.



Position the front legs in the same manner as for the rear legs. This what your fly should be looking like at this stage.



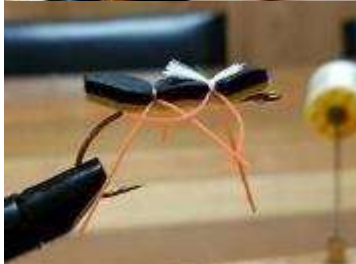
Prepare the indicator post by folding and cutting in half 5 strands of glow-in-the-dark Flashabou, then repeating this process until you have a bundle roughly about 30mm long. Fold this bundle around the thread in a similar manner to preparing the legs and tie in on top of the body in line with the front legs.



Dab a tiny amount of glue on the thread and then make additional wraps over the post.



Rotate the fly over and place a few dabs of glue over the tie-off points to help hold the materials in place. There is your Chernobyl Glowly Ant.



Finished Fly: Side View



Finished Fly: Top View



*My "Mardi Gras Glowly Ant"*

Remember you can mix and match any color foam to suit your own desires.

The Chernobyl Glowly Ant is my contribution to the latest club fly swap: "My *Go-To-Fly*". I have been learning to tie flies with Darren Foster of a morning before I start work, learning new tying skills and useful patterns that will hopefully catch me (and you also) a fish. I hope you enjoy tying my version of the Chernobyl Ant.



*Further creations from Patrick's vice*



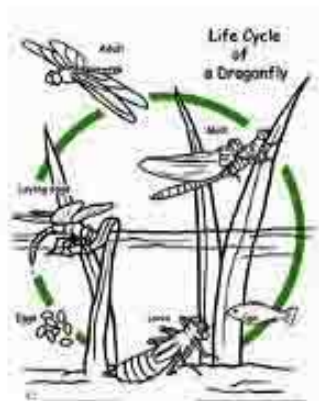
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*The fly directly above is for Cod or Barra. The yabby patterns would take trout, bass or yellowbelly.*

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## *Mudeyes* by Jeff Yates

What in the hell are mudeyes? Such an undignified name. Why bother? Mainly because they are trout's most popular food source, easy to catch and in abundance on a late summer's night. One mudeye would have the same protein as 1000 midges. Well, this article will be a layman's guide to mudeyes and my most effective fly to mimic them.



There are 2 types of mudeyes that we are interested in. The smaller one (spider), which can be tied on a size 8 or 10 hook and the larger (couta) which is tied on a size 6 hook. Mudeyes swim for the shores after dark and can be seen crawling along the bottom, swimming midwater or in the meniscus on the water surface, and on a good night they will crawl up your waders, or be frantically tossed from the back of your neck or your ears.

How do we know there is a mudeye hatch on? Listen for the trout gulping and swirling and without spooking the

fish switch on your headlight and you will see them coming ashore. On dark nights throw to the gulping sound and generally you will hook up, then again on bright moon lit nights, even though you can see them rising, the trout are difficult to catch.

Mudeye fly patterns are wet flies like the Fur Fly or Craig's Nighttime or dry flies like the Muddler or my favourite the Churchie. You can get the other patterns off the web, so I will concentrate my efforts on the Churchie. This fly was first introduced to me by a mate and astute fly fisherman, Peter Haley some 25 years ago. I have not seen it commercially tied, but in the last few years I have noticed a few flies that have similarities to the original in fly shops.

Why is it called a Churchie? The name came about from the use of Pheasant Church Window feather used on the back of the fly. These days I have substituted the pheasant feather for black duck feathers, which have similar feathers but have the added advantage of being oily and water resistant.



***Black Duck skin showing the patterned chest feathers***

How do you fish the Churchie? Everyone to their own. I have seen it successful on a fast action, but it is more commonly retrieved using a slow pulsing action. The spider size Churchie is an identical size, shape and colour as Bogon Moths and can

be used when they are about as an added bonus.

As a general rule, if using a tandem rig at night, the Churchie is used on a small dropper and the tip fly is usually a slow sinking fly, like a Corduliid, Craigs or Fur Fly. Don't be tempted

into using too heavy a fly, like a Wollybugger, as the weight will sink the Churchie and it will no longer be effective. Also, if you get plenty of short takes, it may mean that your hook gape is not deep enough on the Churchie.



Use dry fly hooks in size 6 - 10



Tie in a poly yarn strip which is later run under the claret dubbing as a twisted narrow rib parallel with the hook shank. The dubbing material is best if water repellent, like seal fur or Antron in port wine or claret colour.



Tie in 4 black duck breast feathers over the top and add a drop of cement to ensure they don't spin when the deer hair is spun on.



Tie in a bunch of coarse deer hair with tips extending over the top of the duck feathers and don't allow the deer hair to spin.



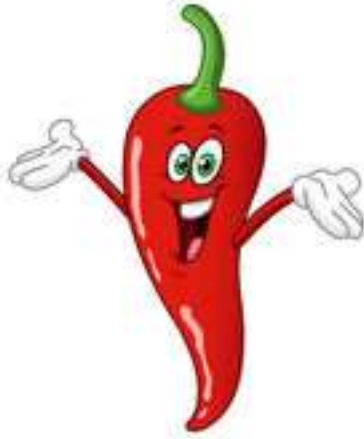
Tie in and spin as many bunches as necessary to form a chunky head.



Trim hair from bottom of fly and shape head with sharp scissors

Now go out and catch some of those big fish in Thommos and Eucumbene and experience the fun that the Churchie can bring to the night.





### *Jeff's Chilli Sauce*

250g Chillies

2 red capsicums

2 cloves garlic

¼ cup sugar

2 teaspoons salt

1 teaspoon cumin

1 teaspoon coriander

1x 400g tin tomatoes

¼ cup white vinegar

1 tablespoon cider vinegar

De-skin capsicum, de-seed chillies, chop, and add to large pot together with other ingredients. Simmer for 20 minutes then blend. Bottle and refrigerate.

This sauce is great for the barbie, an addition to pasta sauces or on your favourite ice cream.

***Hint:- vary the chilli/capsicum ratio to change the degree of heat***



## ***Narrandera Fisheries Golden Perch Release 2016/17***

By Darren Foster

I received a call from Matt from the Narrandera Fisheries Centre inviting me up to help them release 20,000 Golden Perch fingerlings into Lake St Clair on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2017. What a stinker of a day (not quite as hot as when we released our Bass fingerlings though). I launched the boat and went out for a quick spin before returning to help the guys, Matt and Duncan from the fisheries to release the fingerlings.



I released several thousand over on the steep banks to the left of the boat ramp where the weed grows up to the surface and the depth is around 3 – 4 metres just off the bank.



All the little fishies swimming for their lives in the big, deep dam. Heading straight down to where the thick, heavy weed beds offered shelter from predators and give them a chance to re-group and take stock of their new home.



***Golden Perch fingerling around 28 – 30mm long bred at Narrandera Fisheries Centre.***

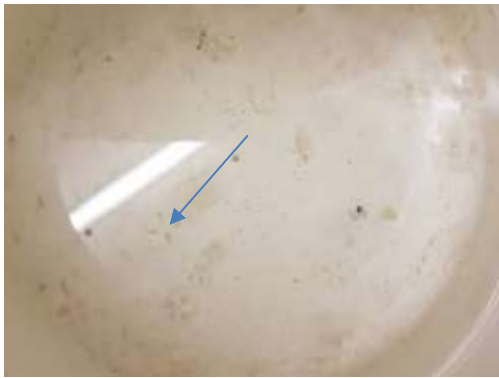
At this size they weigh about 3 grams and will eat up to 10% of their body weight depending on the water temperature. So, the warmer the water, the more they eat, the more they eat the faster they grow.



***Matt and Duncan from Narrandera Fisheries Centre preparing the fingerlings for release.***

Straight after the fingerlings were released at St Clair, Matt and Duncan headed off to Glenbawn for the next delivery of 80,000 Golden Perch fingerlings.





When I released my last bucket of fingerlings I went for a flick of feather and fur but to no avail. I did however find another interesting creature of the water world: ***Craspedacusta sowerbyi***; otherwise known as **Freshwater Jellyfish**.

Once I returned to the ramp and had the boat out I went for a walk along the bank and noticed small fish swimming in around close to the shore. I got the rod and flicked a small fly at what I thought was small Bass but turned out to be small Silver Perch around 150mm long and smaller other ones as well. After a phone call to Matt from Narrandera Fisheries Centre, he informed me that they released 20,000 Silver Perch fingerlings last February. So it is safe to assume these small Silvers are from that last release.



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*Narelle with her first and most magnificent Rainbow Trout*

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## *Fishy Pics*



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*Lawrence surprised with a stud twilight bass from Lake St Clair*  
*By Jeff Yates*

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# *Scape Pics*



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*Sunlight hitting autumn trees under a stormy sky on  
Jinderbyne  
By Peter Sewell*

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## **For Sale**

### **Quintrex 3.9m Hornet**

25hp Yamaha 2 stroke. Flushing Muffs.  
Very few hours, mostly fresh water, ideal Bass Boat.  
Minn Kota Riptide Salt Water Bow Mount Electric.  
X75 Lowrance Fish Finder on swivel mounts that can be positioned at helm seat or forward for fishing.  
Pedestal fishing seat with 2 height adjustment.  
Sun Awning.  
Drogue and all ground tackle.  
4 Life Jackets.  
Side Rails with Navigation Lights.  
Full electrics, spot light & switch panel  
Live Fish Tank with recirculating water.  
Fuel Tank, Ice box, battery box and storage compartments under floor level.  
Fully carpeted floor and front and rear casting decks.  
Set up for rod storage (will take 9' fly rods) with carpeted side panels. 2 X Swivel Rod holders.  
Marlin Trailer with Jockey Wheel, Spare Tyre, Launching Walkway and Winch.  
Trailer and Boat Registered until December 2017.  
Fully maintained and always kept garaged.  
Excellent condition.



**Contact Brian Quinn      0429 029 384**

*Looking for about \$6500  
But open to all genuine offers.*

## For Sale

### Coleman RAM-X Plastic Canadian Canoe

Excellent condition

Minn Kota 40lb Electric on professional mount.

Coleman removable back supports.

Paddles

Flotation Vest...2 X Adult...1 X Child.

(Also available Rhino 3 Bar Sports Roof Rack for  
Toyota 100 Series Landcruiser...ideal for this unit.)

**Contact Brian Quinn      0429 029 384**

\$1250 ono.



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