



2018 June Newsletter

President – Darren Foster

Vice President – Patrick Tobin

Secretary – Tony Ward

Treasurer – Wayne Hunt

Newsletter Editor – Jeff Yates

Grants Officer – Lawrence Blackburn

Committee Members

Peter Sewell

Brent Blackwell

Jeff Yates

Noel King

Rob Probert

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

Beresfield Bowling Club
Anderson Drive
Beresfield
At 7.00 pm



Editor's comments

Jeff Yates



St Clair Bass - what a great event this has turned into. A large contingent of members including new members turned up for a great weekend of fishing. Those that are unable to attend missed out on a top event, everybody seemed to have caught fish and if you didn't I would be surprised. See Peter's report.

Xmas dinner update 14th July – Cherie says "Attendance is back up and we have 31 confirmed so it will be another great night. If you haven't already booked there is still time. Also can we try and get a few more votes this year for Club Member

of the Year, Rookie of the year and Memorable Moments. Just email your votes to Darren".

Salmon Classic 10th August

Here is some further information about the Swansea Salmon Classic supplied by Cherie, our hard working executive member. "It is shaping to be a great weekend, so far we have 29 attending and it is not too late to come along if you wish, just give me a call on 0410 555 019.

Please check spreadsheet and holiday park map as supplied by email on 27/6 for correct details.

Check in time 2:00 pm Friday 10th August 2018.

Don't forget to bring something along for the Saturday night raffle, chocolate crackles will be used as bribes again.

Lawrence and I are looking forward to seeing everyone for a great weekend."

Mark Schmidt has supplied a holiday guide to fishing Yellowstone National Park. A terrific job Mark, taking your life into your hands just to get a few happy snaps for our newsletter before a Grizzly and its cub flashed past. Read more in the newsletter.

I fished the winter solstice for Thompsons Creek trout and had a fantastic day, and have been back in the area a couple of times since but unable to wet a line. His is a must do if you want to tangle with xos trout during winter. I spotted many fish with a couple in the double figure range. Just have to work a little harder to get them to co-operate.



President's Report

G'day members,

Welcome all to the May Newsletter.

A very warm welcome to our newest members from the June meeting: Huon Oliver, Daniel Svozil and Tanguis Ness.

The June outing was recently held at St Clair with capable and ever reliable Trip Master Peter Sewell at the helm. Nice to see a couple of Catfish caught on fly, not the usual catch one hopes to hook up on at St Clair. A couple of the new members got onto a couple of Bass as well. Top effort guys, well done.

The club fly swap (Beetles) is coming to a close, I can't wait to see what the next pattern will be.

The Kangaroo Carp (Facebook group) carp fly swap is just about over, awaiting a few late ties to come in. Patrick and Tallis have completed their patterns. Once everyone has received their flies I will share a few pics. There were some very nice ties indeed.

Swansea is starting to fire with the Salmon playing well. Boaters are getting out making the most of the action.

The next club outing is the Christmas in July and Club Awards Night to be held at Bero Bowlo on Saturday the 14th July. Contact Cherie if you are keen to attend there is still time to book your spot for a fun night of trivia, raffles, fine food and finer company. The next day some members will be having a crack at the Salmon at Swansea on a self-catered day trip.

The next club meeting is on Wednesday 4th July at Bero Bowlo, see you all there for the start at 7.00pm.



Fish not biting? Tempt them with a nice fresh Taco Fly. (Not just for Mexican fish)

Scruffy flies and big fish.

Darren Foster
President, HVFFC 2018

2018 Calendar



Month	Date	Venue/Event	Trip Master	Contact Number
January	20 th	Saltwater Fly Tying with Lawrence & Cherie	Lawrence B.	0432989797
February	07 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
February	16 th —18 th	Hawks Nest – Saltwater	Tom Jones	0406662713
February	20 th	\$4\$ Bass fingerlings release at St Clair	Darren	0413392774
March	07 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
March	TBA	Forster Fly Muster – Day Trip	Darren	0413392774
March				
April	04 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
April	13 th –15 th	Lake Lyell	Rod Fox	0407195508
April				
May	02 nd	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
May	12 th	Lake St Clair – Bass, Yellowbelly	Darren	0413392774
May				
June	06 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
June	15 th , 16 th , 17 th	Lake St Clair – Bass, Yellowbelly	Peter Sewell	0428685101
June				
July	04 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
July	14 th	Christmas in July	Cherie	0410555019
July	15 th	Swansea Day Trip (self-cater)	Jeff	0427002766
August	01 st	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
August	10 th , 11 th , 12 th	Swansea Salmon Classic	Cherie	0410555019
August	24 th	RISE Film Festival – Bero Bowlo	Darren	0413392774
September	05 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
September	TBA	Hastings	Lawrence	0432989797
October	3 rd	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
October	5 th – 7 th	Windamere Dam	Chris M.	0422144382
November	18 th	Club AGM Meeting @ 5.30pm	All	
November	12 th – 19 th	Elm Grove Mountain Retreat - Trout	Rod Fox	0407195508
December	5 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
December	TBA	Christmas Dinner	Lawrence/Cherie	0410555019

Club outing St Clair

Peter Sewell



The Weather

What a mixed bag of a weekend. We tried to match Foxy's Lithgow outing windy weather with a big StClair blow and almost succeeded. This time the gazebos survived as did all of our members. It wasn't until Saturday afternoon that we took the plunge and erected the second gazebo and it wasn't until Sunday that the rain arrived.

The Fishing

Despite the weather a good time was had by all in trying conditions, it was very difficult for anyone to find fish within a kilometre or so of the camping area on Friday so on Saturday the plan was hatched to try further afield and with around fourteen of us we scattered from Twin Soaks in the South to the end of the lake in the North. That way we figured we had the fish surrounded, well surrounded within about 10km of water...

We struck gold with those at the Northern end pulling fish and only a couple at the southern end. So the word was passed

around that the fish weren't going to get away. After a lunch time chat and a regroup off they went up North. Success at last with most people returning with stories of fish caught, missed or long distance released. Well conditioned fish were caught - bass (Foxy, Dillo, Les, Trev, Wayne, Jeff, Tangus, Peter, Daniel, Shane, Brian (almost)) Yellow Belly (Peter) and Catfish (Matt). Sorry if I've missed anyone out who caught fish. If I did you'd better write to the editor.

Rookies (to the club) had memorable moments with Tangus and Daniel catching their first ever bass on fly, and rightfully so, you couldn't wipe the grins off their faces. Daniel only had a couple of hours to fish so, as you do, he caught his bag limit then left for home.

The Camp, The fire, The People, The Good Life

At Lake St Clair Rec Area we settled into our usual spot near the weather shed and amenities on the hill ...with full exposure to the wind (did I mention the wind?). We had a great camaraderie with club members and families all joining in. Rod and Narelle arrived early with their fancy

caravan (on Tuesday) and Rod (Dillo) joined in day trip visits to pre-fish hence there were more stories of bass and catfish caught. Rod came back on Friday and camped in Mr Squeaky the trusty old camper with wife Lorraine. They reckoned the squeaking was caused by the wind. My wife Ingrid dropped in for a surprise visit on Saturday and we shared the single mattress in the back of my Jeep for the night, it surprised me that we both fitted. Chris had daughter Annabel (5) with him and she had a great time feeding the possums. New member Mik had his wife and son along too. So for sleeping we had campers (you should see the flash camper Fiona and Ray have set up); Tents; Swags; Caravans; a Jeep and a Hyundai, what a flotilla. Tony with wife Maureen visited on Friday but left because Tony had to work or was it that it was too windy?

Narelle was going to have a chat with Tangus but she realised that with both of them standing she would need a megaphone for the sound to travel far enough.



On Friday night we socialised around Rod and Brian's "pigs" or fires on legs because we thought lighting an open fire might be a little risky. Brian being the artisan that he is had done a great job on his self contained camp kitchen as well as a wooden Kayak which he had recently built. Unfortunately the kayak didn't get launched into the waves this trip.

On Saturday night caution was thrown to the wind (sorry about the pun) and really only because we wanted to cook spuds and have good coals, Patrick was tasked with building a small fire for cooking. You might see the result in a picture somewhere hereabouts. We all declared that Patrick was no longer an Apprentice fire maker; he had graduated with a fireplace which was a work of art and a fire that was a beauty to behold. Those with red wine in hand all vouched for his success. One lady was also heard to complain that the smoke (and not the red wine) had given her a headache.

With a feast of steaks, sausages, soup and prawns not to mention the odd cleansing ale and vino the merriment continued and stories of the one that got away abounded. Sunday came too soon and with many helping hands the camp was speedily packed up to beat the looming rain and storms as another great trip drew to a close.

Another St Clair trip goes down in the annals of club history; we can only look forward to next year...and better weather.

Daniel says

"I'd also like to say that for my first trip with the club, I had a great time and was really impressed by the hospitality, great company and everyone's efforts to make the new members feel welcome. I am most definitely looking forward to the next outing. A big thank you to everyone! "

Tangus also enjoyed his first outing with the HVFFC and thanked the editor for showing him the ropes. He also landed his first St Clair bass.

It was a pleasure to see the number of new faces at the outing and their appreciation of being welcomed into the group and along to our premier fishery of St Clair (ed.)

Lawrence was unable to come to the club outing due to work commitments but looking at his workplace carpark I think I would have thrown a sickie.



But having said that he did have a prefish with Peter late the week before and they caught 12 nice bass. The day was calm and sunny unlike our club trip! And if you want to know where they fished see if you can work it out from Lawrence's track plotter (hint think lemon tree) and the dead timber in the background.



Les rugged up and still looking cold



Wayne with one of his 4 bass

Tangus with his first St Clair bass



A welcome back home to Matt who has just returned from living in Texas and looks pleased with his big catfish- not!



Daniel with one of his two morning session bass



Editor with trip master Peter below



Thompson's Creek winter solstice

Jeff Yates

What does one do on the shortest day of the year? What about heading to one of the coldest spots in the Central West, Thompson's Creek, perched on the Northern side of Mt Lambie.



The 4 hour trip up from Fern Bay was uneventful, but staying overnight in Lithgow gave me a taste of what to expect, with -4 the next morning and frost glistening white and as high as the tops of the nearby gum trees. My old diesel truck rumbled and spewed exhaust fumes until it finally warmed up, but the ice on the windscreen took a while longer.

I was soon on my way with a piping hot coffee in hand and headlights on as I headed through the fog towards my goal, Thompson's Creek dam.

The car park was all but empty, which surprised me, but as the fog lifted it revealed a beautiful clear day with rich blue sky, however still with an icy chill in the air.

My intention was to circumnavigate the dam at a leisurely pace while polroiding the shallows for brooding fish.

I walked up over the eastern side of the wall and headed to the first bay immediately below the 504 trig point. The still water revealed several small rainbows feeding in the wake of a raft of sooty coots feeding on water weed. I worked a small nymph past them but they showed little interest. Not to worry I'm after bigger quarry. I walked up over the hill and headed for the back of the dam. Nearing a drowned thicket of acacia trees a huge fish casually floated into view



totally unaware of my presence. I watched the magnificent brown jack for what seemed to be an eternity, mesmerised by his size and grace before hatching a plan to intercept him further up the shore near a submerged log. I sucked on the brown mink nymph to make it less buoyant and cast the fly out across his anticipated path, the nymph sank slowly, and I held my breath, but the fish saw the fly and spooked; bugger... calls for a change of flies.

A little further up the shoreline a raft of 3 reasonably sized rainbows finned slowly away from the shallows toward deeper water, still within casting distance, I placed an olive Wolly Bugger across their path, but once again they rejected the offering, stirring up the muddy bottom while making a speedy departure.

Time to change flies again. I tied on a Woolly Worm with a #14 Glo Bug trailing on a 6lb 300mm dropper. I traversed the small creek at the rear of the dam and was walking along the western shoreline. I spotted several more fish but most in impossible lies, though there was a common theme; a brightly coloured male was keeping a bevy of 3 or 4 females in tow and protectively chasing away other fish, obviously competing males.

This was my chance, I had finally found a spot that I could cast to, at the edge of abandoned quarry, where a fish in double figures was holding court over 4 females. I worked my way 10m down the wall of the quarry and positioned myself to make a cast in front of the fish. After several casts and rejections as well as another fly change, I decided that the brooding fish had other things on their mind rather than eating. Finally I decided to call it a day, but while walking back along the 2km rock dam wall I counted in excess of 50 big fish cruising the edges, safe in their knowledge of a ban on fishing from the wall.



After walking 16,617 steps or 11.8 km on a beautiful winter's day, I was quite philosophical about the outcome; no takes but a pleasant day out spotting numerous large fish. I can hardly wait for a few weeks when the brooding fish will eventually become hungry enough to want my offerings. Today I have tried a dozen different patterns without turning a scale, but my turn will come and each trip is one trip closer to success. Success is not measured in fish caught, but rather in being placed in a place of beauty amongst stud fish.

Yellowstone Adventures

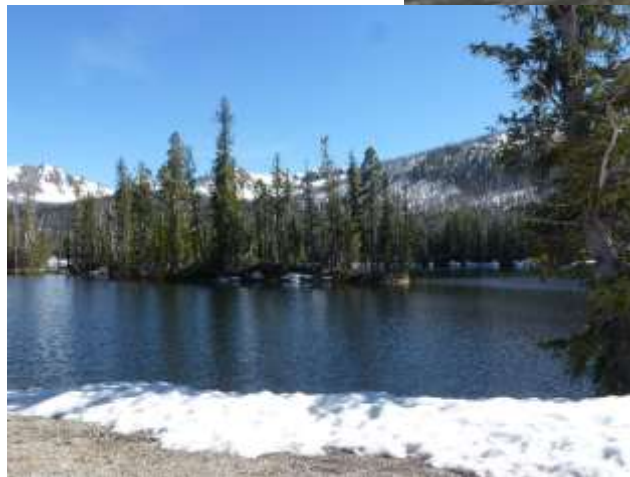
Mark Schmidt

(or how I realised that fishing was great but staying alive was greater)

I've just returned from a few weeks in the US being a tourist. Now no self-respecting flyboy goes all the way to Yellowstone National Park without taking his fly rod, so included in my overstuffed suitcase was a six-weight, a floating line and three leaders. No waders, no tools, no floatant nor sinkant.

May is not a fishing season in Yellowstone. Typical spring weather where one day is snow, sleet, hail and rain in zero degrees and the next day has blue sky and 19. This looks magnificent, but snowdrifts 12 feet high were mostly gone in a few days, so the rivers were all raging in flood, and ice-cold of course.

This is the fabled Snake River.





Not every river is fishable (above is the Yellowstone River) and not every good water holds fish, but the aptly named Firehole River is fed by both snowmelt and thermal vents which makes it remarkably tolerable to both man and beast.

I wouldn't wet-wade the Hawkesbury in summer, but without waders, and no dry ground to stand on near any river, I braved a pair of shorts and bare feet and waded out. It wasn't warm, probably 15, but that made it five degrees warmer than the air, so the pervasive smell of rotten eggs was a small price to pay. With only Parachute Adams and one streamer between two people we were a little handicapped, but there was an evening caddis rise which attracted both fisher and fish, and a good hour was had by all. They were small, well-educated trout (rainbow and cutthroat I am assured) and they tended to slap the fly rather than take. In fact the only take was after the Adams sank.

Warm rivers attract fish and fishers but they also attract others. And this is where I discovered that whilst many things in Australia will kill you, few things want to eat you, and I REALLY, REALLY prefer to be the top of the food chain. In Yellowstone this isn't the case.

Firstly the bison (buffalo if you prefer), slow, deliberate but fully capable of 50km/hour. They rule Yellowstone. They go where they want, they stop traffic (1000 cars in a two hour queue) but most of all, they love to lie on the riverbanks and await inattentive fishers. It's hard to concentrate on a rising trout with 2000 pounds of cantankerous gristle a few yards away.

Bison aren't going to eat a human (the reverse can't be said...they taste delicious) but they are the biggest threat to your safety.



Then there's the bears. And I met two. Black bears are numerous and not monitored, but the grizzlies are named and watched. Raspberry and Snow.

Raspberry the mother and Snow the four year old cub who stood about six feet tall. Mum was bigger. A huge crowd had gathered on the edge of Lake Yellowstone to watch these two celebrities, who were engaged in digging through the mud for freshwater clams on a sand spit. I don't know the grizzly word for 'a bit peeved' but it was clear that the 100 or more of us clicking away with all manner of photographic apparatus was starting to test their patience. I returned to the car to get another camera battery and then moved in a different



direction, keeping another photographer between the now unseen bears and myself. Apparently Raspberry and Snow, bored of both foraging and the attention, suddenly appeared back on the mainland, aimed at that photographer and broke into a gallop. I took one final snap of him, just in case it was one final snap of him. Then they came straight at me.



When first in Yellowstone you're given strict advice on how NOT to behave in front of a bear. Never run. Never run. They chase things that run. But bloody hell you can walk fast! And I'm hoofing it back towards my car, continually pressing the remote key saying to myself 'don't hit lock, don't hit lock, for God's sake don't hit lock'. I got to the car about ten seconds ahead of the bears, who passed the tailgate at full tilt and headed away. They weren't specifically interested in me. I just happened to be in their way. But being in the path of two agitated grizzly bears at full gallop...well let's just say that no photo was worth the risk of a side swipe from a dinner plate-sized paw as it passed by at speed.

There are other animals of note to fishers in this majestic park. The moose are big. I mean BIG. And they will stand their ground against any puny human less than nine feet tall. As for the elk, these shy creatures are rarely interfered with by humans (other than through the scope of a camera or rifle) and if you don't disturb them, they won't disturb you. But never, repeat NEVER do this to an elk! It's obviously illegal, but I'd say immoral too.



So now you know.

Yellowstone is good for fishing. If you ever go there to fish, don't go in May when the rivers are extreme, do go to a fly shop near Yellowstone and not blindly rely on Cabela's Parachute Adams, do treat every riverbank rock as if it's a snoozing bison in the dim light of dusk and please, give my regards to Raspberry and Snow.

Swansea daytrip 15 July



There is a prefish for the Swansea Salmon Classic in August if anyone is interested on July 15th. Suggest people meet up at the Blacksmiths boat ramp at 6am. This will be a self catering day, so bring your tucker and drinks, but if you want to slum it, the Tides coffee shop on the lake side of Swansea bridge serves up a pretty good coffee and eats. Just tie the boat up at the wharf and walk over the road to the shop.

This will be quite an informal trip, but if people could indicate if they are going, bringing a boat or can take on a passenger, it may be a good starting point.

Peter has kindly taken on the tripmaster's role

The salmon are in, its just a matter of knocking up a few flies and finding them.



Did I say the Salmon are in? Here's the proof with Brett holding a typical Swansea channel fish



Cherie with a classic carp

Stop Press Stop Press Stop Press Stop Press Stop Press Stop Press Stop Press

Xmas in July – Cherie Blackburn says:- Preparations are now underway for Christmas in July this year on 14th July 2018. Attendance is back up and we have 31 confirmed so it will be another great night. If you haven't already booked there is still time. Also can we try and get a few more votes this year for Club Member of the Year, Rookie of the year and Memorable Moments. Just email your votes to Darren.

Swansea Salmon Classic - Here is some further information about the Swansea Salmon Classic. It is shaping to be a great weekend, so far we have 29 attending and it is not too late to come along if you wish, just give me a call on 0410 555 019. Can you please check all details properly including the number of cars and boats per site and let me know if there needs to be any changes. An email sent on 27/6 had an attached map of the holiday park so that you can see where you are staying plus a spreadsheet. Don't forget that they types of accommodation are colour coded so make sure you are looking at the right one.

Check in time 2:00 pm Friday 10th August 2018.

Don't forget to bring something along for the Saturday night raffle, chocolate crackles will be used as bribes again.

Lawrence and I are looking forward to seeing everyone for a great weekend.

Fundraising idea - Just a little note, perhaps for the newsletter about getting a few dollars for the club by collecting bottles, cans etc when we have an outing.

We gathered \$1.10 at Lake St Clair (woolies voucher) I thought we could get enough money eventually to spend on some groceries?

See link below.

We would be doing our bit for the environment and the club!

<https://returnandearn.org.au/>

Cheers

Fiona.



**Glen with a
Christmas Island
Trevally**

Fishy Pics



*Matt with a fly
chomping
catfish*



Scape Pics



*Jim having a prefish
at St Clair*

*HVFFC members wish to “thank you”
SPONSORS*

Check out Sydney Fly Outfitters and Guiding on-line shop

