



**Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club.com.au**

## 2019 Feb/March Newsletter

**President** – Darren Foster

**Vice President** – Patrick Tobin

**Secretary** – Jim Manley

**Treasurer** – Wayne Hunt

**Newsletter Editor** – Jeff Yates

**Grants Officer** – Lawrence Blackburn

**Special Events** – Cherie Blackburn

**Raffles** – Brent Blackwell

### Committee Members

Fiona Meredith

Jeff Yates

Noel King

Robert 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



I can't believe that we are now into March. Xmas and the New Year are behind us, so we can again refocus on our favorite sport, fly fishing.

Tom kicked the month off with a trip to the Myall Lakes at Bombah Point. This was a change from our traditional salt outing at Port Stephen's, Jimmys Beach. The Queensland cyclone season played havoc with the fishing, but trips away with the club is not so much about quantity, but about bonding and enjoying each others company, and maybe learning a few new tricks on the way. The new club trailer was used for the first time and was a real hit. Hats/somberos off to the Sydney connection for your hard work in pulling it together.

Foxy has a weekend planned for Lake Lyle this weekend. My fond memories of this freshwater system stemmed from fishing the Cox's River as a young bloke, learning how to cast a fly and catch trout with my fly fishing dad, then wandering the surrounding hills rabbiting, as most lads of my era did. The river was then dammed to form the cooling water top up pondage for Mt Piper and Wallerawang power stations. Things changed, but we can adapt. I started to catch larger fish, and more of them.

However, there was one change too many, when some ill-informed numbskull released Redfin into the waters. This change is not reversible. The Redfin prey on the juvenile trout and trout eggs, they eat the trout food, and will cause the demise of the Cocks River Gudgeon, a native fish species endemic to the river system. The Redfin will not stop there; they are already upstream in the Wallerawang dam, in Oberon Dam and the next big flood will have them spill over into the river system to populate the Warragamba dam, Sydney's water supply. The only haven left is Thompsons Creek dam, but for how long?

Sorry Foxy, good luck and hope you and the crew catch heaps of Redfin, and a few trout as well.

Keep a focus on fly tying. With the owners of BWC Flies, Brett and Cherie donating heaps of their time to tutoring members, and even giving away a few of their trade secrets, it's a great time to learn. Thanks to Darren's generosity in allowing us to use his work site, documenting fly patterns and putting on a spread as well, I couldn't think of a better place to be.

I'll be laying low over the next few months unless I can get an all-terrain vehicle to get me to the water's edge, so good luck with the fishing and see you soon.

## *President's Report*



G'day members,

Welcome all to HVFFC's February/March Newsletter for 2019, celebrating 20 years of fly fishing.

There was a good turnout (18 members) for the fly-tying day with Brett and Cherie from BWC Flies. We managed to cover 5 different shrimp patterns and a small simple bass popper on the day.

Tom's trip to Bombah Point (Myall Lakes) turned out to be a winner again despite cyclonic weather and a lack of fish (they were all hiding from the bad weather under the boats and kayaks). I can't wait to see pics of the new trailer in action and those that had to wear the "*Sombrero of Shame*".

Rod Fox's trip to Lithgow (Lake Lyall) is on this month, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> March. The Sydney guys have been brainin the Redfin lately at Lyall. Redfin or English Perch would have to be one of the tastiest freshwater fish around, damn shame I'll miss this trip too.

I am hosting another fly-tying day on the 30<sup>th</sup> March at Mai-Wel with Brett (BWC Flies). Brett will be demonstrating several cod patterns this time. No matter what your level of experience is with fly tying, you always come away from these fly-tying days learning something new, whether it's a whole new fly pattern or a few fly tying tips you didn't previously know that Brett shares along the way.

The cicadas have started to quieten down now so does that mean the bass are turning quiet as well?

The next club meeting is on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March at Bero Bowlo: see you all there for the 7.00pm start or earlier for a meal.



### **The Versatile Shrimp**

I am tying a heap of these to try on the Bass at St Clair.  
Just might throw a few off the Break-wall as well for the Stocko Bream.

Scruffy flies and big fish.  
Darren Foster  
President, HVFFC 2019

Month	Date	Venue/Event	Trip Master	Contact Number
January	19 <sup>th</sup>	Fly Tying with Lawrence & Cherie	Lawrence B.	0432989797
February	02 <sup>nd</sup>	Fly Tying @ Mai-Wel with BWC Flies	Darren	0413392774
February	06 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
February	22 <sup>nd</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup>	Bombah Point – Saltwater	Tom Jones	0406662713
March	06 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
March	8 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup>	Lithgow – Lake Lyall	Rod Fox	0407195508
March	16 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup>	Forster Fly Muster		
March	30 <sup>th</sup>	Fly Tying @ Mai-Wel with BWC Flies	Darren	0413392774
April	03 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
April	6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup>	Bunya – Silver Perch	Patrick	0458781675
April	6 <sup>th</sup>	Aust. Fly Fishing Festival		
May	01 <sup>st</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
May	11 <sup>th</sup>	Lake St Clair Day Trip – Bass, Yellowbelly		
June	05 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
June	15 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup>	Lake St Clair – Bass, Yellowbelly		
June				
July	03 <sup>rd</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
July	20 <sup>th</sup>	Xmas in July & Club Awards Night	Cherie	0410555019
August	07 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
August	23 <sup>rd</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> , 25 <sup>th</sup>	Swansea Salmon Classic	Cherie	0410555019
August		RISE Film Festival – Bero Bowlo	Darren	0413392774
September	04 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
September	21 <sup>st</sup>	Fly Club 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	Cherie	0410555019
September				
October	2 <sup>nd</sup>	AGM/General Club Meetings at Bero Bowlo	All	
October				
November	06 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
November				
December	4 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
December				

# Throw Another Shrimp on the Vice

By Darren Foster

On Saturday second of February, by 8.30am members were starting to dribble in, set up and start the usual club outing preamble of catching up and swapping stories. Brett and Cherie brought along materials suitable for tying the day's flies to purchase on the day if members required.



As always, Brett gave a good explanation of the materials he uses to tie his shrimp patterns and the importance of each material used in each fly. As an added bonus both Brett and Cherie describe how they fish with these flies including: rod/reel size; line and leader set-up.

Brett went through his tried and true techniques and methods for tying these effective shrimp patterns. From spacing, positioning and securing the material and positioning the eyes to utilising the uv resin to

hold the materials in place. Brett explained each step carefully and thoroughly. Nothing was left out and with each question put forward, Brett took the time to answer explicitly with nothing left out.

Cherie, also an accomplished tier, was ever present answering questions about tactics and equipment walking around the room helping out where she could, also sharing knowledge on the various materials used in tying the flies.

The first fly tied was Shannon's Whiting Fly (a variation on the Crazy Charlie). Designed by Shannon Kitchener and designed for targeting the whiting on the flats at Forster/Tuncurry, this is one effective fly and tied with only a couple of materials makes for an easy tie.



The first shrimp on the vice was the Disco Shrimp. This is one of Drew Chicone's creations tied with Brett's modification of how the sequins are tied in. This fly is very effective as a surface fly for bream and estuary perch alike, even whiting. The Disco Shrimp can be tied with a stinger hook at the front of

the fly to help turn those short takes in to solid hook-ups.



Second fly to hit the vice was the Raw Prawn which is one of Brett's own designs. The Raw Prawn has evolved over the years since it's first original tie. Brett wanted something in light color to target the flathead around the weed edges in the clear waters of Forster/Tuncurry. The popularity/evolution of the Raw Prawn has seen it transform from catching the humble flattie to being a gun bream fly catching old *blue lips* from the mid north coast of NSW down along the coast to Victoria and even crossing the Bass Strait to Tasmania. Also, catching school jew in Victoria as well.



Next shrimp on the vice was another of Brett's own designs: The Versatile Shrimp: designed to catch bream in two and a half metres of water with a weedy bottom; not too heavy to bounce along just above or on the bottom. Living up to its name, the Versatile Shrimp, has proven very popular with the EP fraternity and even the dam bass find the Versatile Shrimp irresistible.



Once Brett had demonstrated a fly, it was back to everyone's own vice to have a go at tying their own unique version of the fly Brett had just tied.

Lunch was a simple affair (can't eat for too long, there's more flies to tie) with Patrick and Tallis manning the barb-b-que cooking up sausages, chicken kebabs and fried onion for everyone to make sandwiches with. This was also a Bunnings free site with patrons capable of deciding for their selves on just how and where their fried onion was positioned on their sandwiches.

After the BBQ lunch had been decimated to a few mere scraps, we were back at the main vice ready for Brett's next tie.



Not quite a shrimp but still a crustacean, Brett demonstrated how to tie a Turneffe Crab. The Turneffe Crab was originally designed by Craig Mathews for the permit and bonefish of Turneffe Flats of Turneffe Atoll, Belize. The Turneffe Crab is now renowned as a good all-round saltwater pattern for a variety of saltwater species.



Last but not least and never one to be left out (bloody bass always trying to steal the limelight), the Simple Bass Popper utilising the double barrel popper heads. Brett and Cherie have been having good success on this little winner.

With several members looking at a lengthy drive home and with six fly patterns tied for the day, it was time to call it quits by 2.00pm. A huge thanks to Brett and Cherie for travelling up to participate on our fly-tying day and to demonstrate tying several flies, also bringing along some materials to purchase. Thanks to Cherie for the chocy biscuits too, they went down a treat with a cuppa. Thanks to the members that turned up for the day especially the Sydney guys (always good to catch up with the club's southern chapter) and thanks to Patrick and Tallis for helping out on the BBQ too.



## *HVFFC CLUB TRAILER*

Mark Schmidt

Our anniversary present to ourselves is a shiny new catering trailer. After years of toing and froing about the current one, Foxy and I were authorised to start from scratch. Actually our original plan was to replace the canopy on the current one, but factoring in its sale, it was only a few hundred more to begin again and have everything the way we wanted it.

***And here it is...***



I am sure you would expect a product from the Fox Network to be engineered to 100% and then some, and to be honest I occasionally had to remind him that "it's only a fishing club trailer" (otherwise you'd have something from the Batcave), but make no mistake, between two OTT engineers, sage and timely advice from Peter Sewell, Mik Ewen and Cherie and Lawrence Blackburn, the contribution of time by Tony Ward and hard yakka by Brian Willett, signage by Mick Grigor and materials by Foxy himself, Darren Foster, Alex Hartsuyker, Brian and myself, we really do have a useful addition to our club. Thank you everyone.



***So here's how it works...***



There is a spirit level on the drawbar. The BBQ drain hole is in the middle of the plate so we need the trailer as flat as possible. A wooden wedge is stored under the deck for levelling.



The BBQ is now permanently fixed to the trailer and slides out on drawers on the left hand side. Please lower the two stabilisers first as they act as brakes as well as counterbalancing the BBQ, remove the locking pin located close to the gas inlet, pull out the BBQ all the way and replace the locking pin, install the fat collection jar and then connect up a gas bottle. The gas bottles are fixed too. The BBQ has a single support leg which is stored under the deck. Preferably use the left hand burners, so we keep the spatter out of

the trailer. On the trailer's right hand side is the icebox which can be removed if you wish, and on the left hand side is a wooden camp box donated by Brian Willett which contains cooking implements and a separate Primus stove and bottle for when we just need a cuppa. This box is also removable. Gazebos, tables, the stabiliser winder plus a few spare chairs are under the deck.

Everything was intended to prevent bad backs from awkward lifting of heavy items.

The light switch panel is accessible from both the back and the left side. There are separate switches for the BBQ and the serving area. The third switch activates the voltmeter and USB charger (yes, you can charge your phone but only if we're connected to 240V, because phone chargers draw substantial power and we don't have a big battery). The last two switches are currently unused.

The trailer now has a permanent battery charger in place. I have done this because the unfortunate soul who gets to store the thing (namely Tom Jones) has to regularly refresh the battery and now he just has to flick a switch. Also, when we do have 240V, it can feed the battery, run all the lights, the daisy chain of LEDs and charge two or even three phones. There's a powerboard on board too. It's our intention to install a solar panel if one falls off the back of a truck, or to use members' portable solar panels as needed. With regard to the daisy chain of LEDs, the club has quite a collection of 12 volt light bars which connect together. They can be run from the cigarette/Merit plug on the switch panel. They are stored in a PVC tube in the base of the trailer. The battery box is removable if you want to use the LED bars further away.

The battery is in good nick, but we can't allow it to drain too far, so if you're running lots of lights, can I please ask you to watch the voltmeter (third switch). If it reads close to 10.8V under load (i.e. when the lights are on) it's time to shut down. The battery can't stand a heavy discharge.

There has been many weeks of design and construction work on this project, but nothing is really ever finished. And so I ask all of you, if you can see something which could work better or you think of something which would make a good addition to the trailer, please talk to Foxy as a first choice and me as second, and we will attempt to bring it to fruition with the aid of Darren and everyone else. Who knows, we might get the Batmobile after all.

Again I want to thank all those who contributed. Nearly a quarter of the club have had input into the process, in some form or another. If we'd paid for all this we'd be well past \$5000 in materials alone, but due to the generosity of the members, the diligence of finding the cheapest way, the Ebay way, the Bunnings way, the negotiated way, we've kept costs to a minimum, and the final bill, after the sale of the old trailer will be about \$3500. An appropriate and long lasting anniversary present to ourselves.

Cheers all

Mark

(Happy to build it, just don't make me to cook on it)

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## *Myall Lakes Trip Report 2019*

Tom Jones

Who goes fishing in an impending cyclone? We do Chucky, we do.

Two weeks before our trip, the weather outlook was looking okay for our first trip of the year to Bombah Point. Somehow a cyclone appeared and it wasn't going where the last lot of cyclones went, it was heading down the coast which had me a bit nervous. I breathed a sigh of relief when I was driving to Bombah Point and heard on the radio the cyclone was downgraded and it was now a tropical low.



When I arrived at Bombah Point, later than first planned, I was impressed at the camp the early campers had set up (thanks to our Sydney contingent for doing the setup). With the wind blowing and the Broadwater all chopped up, we decided to leave the fishing and enjoyed good conversation with a little drink or two. We then headed for some pizza at the Café and wandered back to the camp for more social interaction.

Saturday morning we woke up to more wind so none of us were in a real hurry to go anywhere. It was decided that we would head inland to try and get away from the wind and at least attempt to fish. Foxy, Brian, Mark and Rod E took their yaks to a property half way into Bulahdelah belonging to the caravan park manager. Ray and Fiona headed towards Bulahdelah. Narelle stayed at camp and kept the home fires burning. Fred and I went around to Korsman's Landing to have a look. There were a lot of good fishing areas at Korsman's Landing but unfortunately, on that day, the wind would have blown a fly up your nostrils.

We moved onto Buladelah where we bumped into Ray, Fiona, Mik, Ben and Tallis. Ray and Fiona fished on one side of the river and Fred and I had a go at casting from the jetty and the bank on the south side, but it was a no go. Tallis, Mick and Ben launched Mik's boat and headed down river





Sadly there were no fish to be caught by anybody (the fish must have heard the cyclone warning as well). So, it was back to the camp and happy hour started earlier than was first planned.

Following on from last year, we ran another competition for the bright shirts/ clothing. This year, with fierce competition, we announced joint winners; Mik and Wayne took out the honours, wearing shirts that were so similar, however, with a few small differences (I heard someone say that they could have been twins for the night). And while we had prizes for the winners there was also a kind of walk of shame for those who didn't have a bright piece of clothing. The sombrero of shame made an appearance and was worn for 10 minutes by each of those who didn't have anything bright.



A problem occurred as the night went on, the sombrero became popular, and was worn by Foxy whilst he cooked the BBQ and Rod E whilst he drank a wine.



Ben Ewin then took over the night with his party game, Mafia and Civilians. It is a very technical game which I won't go into, but I must say that the Bombah Point cemetery was filling up pretty fast on the Saturday night.

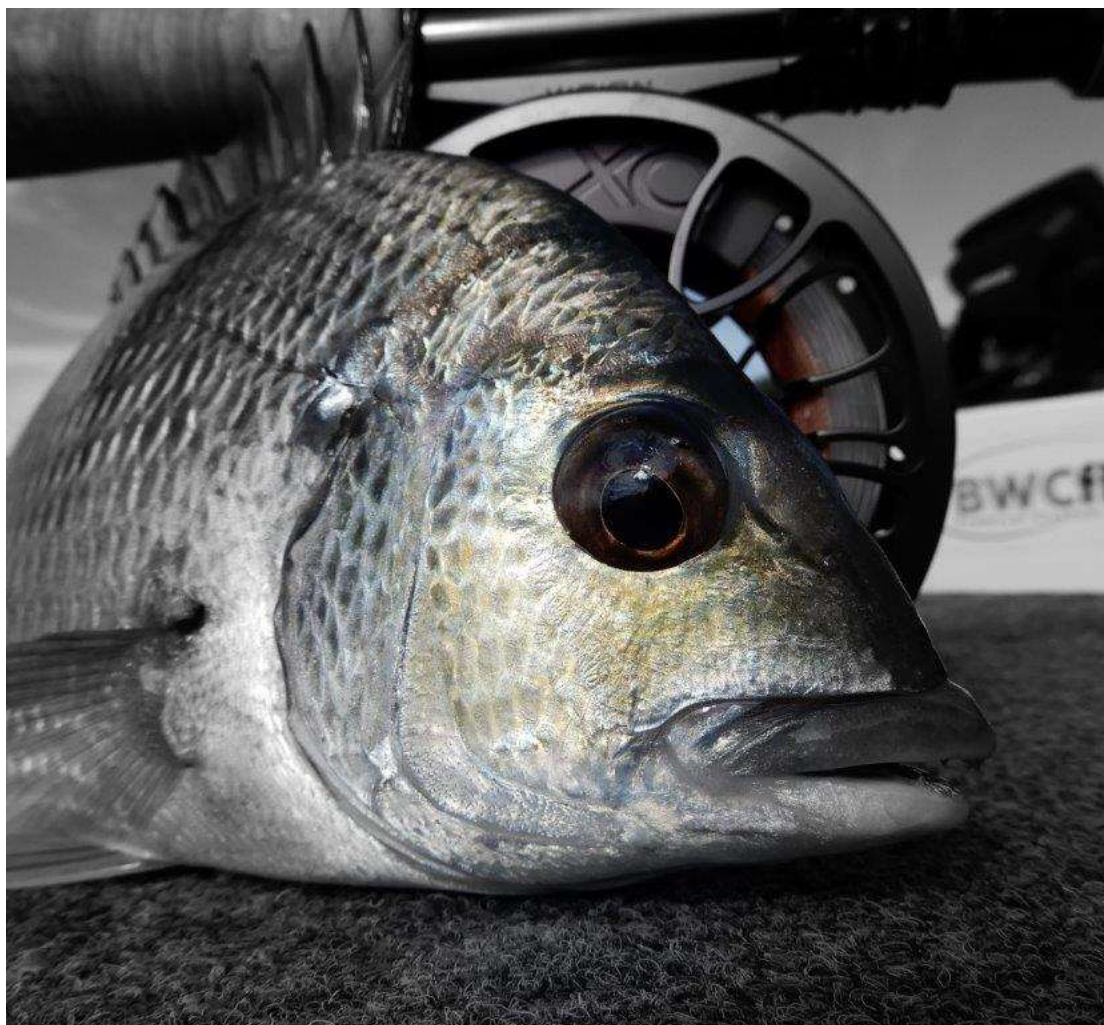
The new trailer worked an absolute treat over the weekend and once again congratulations to all who worked on the project. [***See Mark's report in the previous article***]

Thanks everyone who came along and made it a great weekend hopefully there will be fish next time.



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# *Fishy Pics*



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*Cherie and Brett with a fine  
bream and great picture.*

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# *Scape Pics*



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*The Jindy weather was hot,  
trout scarce but the cuppa  
was most welcome.*

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*HVFFC members wish to “thank you”  
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