



Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club.com.au

2019 April 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'm back in action after a brief moment of convalescence. Looking at the xrays of the foot with plate and screws, I think I'll have to go up in boot size; a bit more metal in my bionic body to send the airport detectors crazy, and sink me deeper in the mud. Thanks Darren for publishing last month's newsletter, and your welcome articles in this issue.

A slow start to this newsletter, but after a call for input, I thankfully have a few stories to run with. Thanks to those that have responded, because without your efforts, we don't have a newsletter. When you next go fishing, take a few pictures and write a story around your experience, and send it through, our readers would love to hear from you.

Rod has been quick to respond with a great story and pictures chasing yellows. He tells the story well, and you can almost feel that you are there with him.

Fiona and Ray have just returned from their first trip to Josies, and by the sound of it, that trip won't be their last. Since her husband Arnie, passed away last year, Josie has been running the business on her own, with some hired help. She enjoys the companionship of the fishermen, many of whom have been going there year after year for the past 30 years. I have been fishing there for at least 25 years, and have found the fishing the last couple of years as tough as any time. The main issue now is the constant discharge of water for hydro generation, not allowing a stable level to encourage weed and bankside vegetation growth. I have included an old picture of Josie at the end of the newsletter.

BWC Flies, Brett and Cherie have kindly allowed me to copy an article from their web page on fly fishing techniques for Luderick. A top article with some sound advice. They are also an active club sponsor, running regular fly tying days. If you need the gear for chasing Luderick check out their web site.

- *Cherie has sent out a note to everyone regarding the 20th Anniversary club shirts. She would love to see a few more orders come through as we may not be able to hold the pricing for such a small order. Please support this milestone of the club and show your appreciation of the hard work that Cherie puts in for us. There is a further week before orders are closed.*
- *Christmas in July and club awards night is 30th July, and arrangements have started for this popular night, which is one of the few that non-fishing spouses attend and enjoy. Once again we would like your support for this social evening of recognition and frivolity. Mark it on your calendar and contact Cherie ASAP.*

President's Report



G'day members,

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

I thought the cicadas had started to quiet down since Autumn started, but there are still a few about probably due to the warm weather we are still experiencing.

Up-coming trips/events:

Fishing for Silvers at Patrick's uncle's property at Bunyah (details to come). Start tying your best bread flies. Christmas in July/Club Awards Night is fast approaching. I will be sending out an invitation to vote for your peers for the club's awards: Clubman of the Year; Rookie of the Year; and Memorable Moment.

The club outing to St Clair in June still needs a Trip Master. Anyone willing to take on the job please come forward.

The RISE Film Festival is going to be a little early this year being scheduled for Thursday 8th August, 2019. Nick Reygaert will be hosting this year's Festival.

Cherie has sent out an email for club shirt orders so don't be too late in ordering a shirt or two. An email has also gone out to put your name down for the Salmon Classic as the invitation has been sent out to the other clubs. Don't be late as spots are filling fast.

Don't forget members, this is your newsletter so don't be shy in sending in an article to the Newsletter Editor. It can be a recent trip you have done, no matter if it was for a week, a day or even if it was only for a couple of hours. Send in a pic and recipe of your favourite fly or share your best recipe.

The next club meeting is on Wednesday 1st May at Bero Bowlo: see you all there for the 7.00pm start or earlier for a meal.



A couple of articulated flies

Top: 6/0 Rat

Bottom: #4 Mouse

Scruffy flies and big fish.

Darren Foster
President, HVFFC 2019

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

First time Josie visitors

Ray and Fiona



We visited Josies on Lake Eucumbene for the first time in early April. We'd heard lots of stories of the mysterious "Josies".

What an absolute gem it is!

Great accommodation, we got the cabin with hot water, and beautiful scenery.

Forgot our sleeping bags, -1degree one night!

We were able to snaffle a couple of 2lb rainbows and a 1lb brown during a short evening rise. A dry fly, Goddards Caddis, did the damage and a well beaten up Craigs Nighttime.

We will certainly be back to visit lovely Josie and her amazing property.



Clockwise from top LHS – The Fred Eva hut, Josies camp with trail to Homestead Bay in background, 3 fine fish, view of Eucumbene from atop Mt Cobrabald

From Gallow to Yellow

by Rod Dillon

The boat, almost silent under power from the electric, slid amongst the maze of trees to the agreed position. The fly rods had been pre strung and a fly attached in readiness for what was hoped would be an intense session on Yellows and possibly cod. Whilst conditions were cloudy with a slight breeze blowing, the two angler's spirits were high. It was the opening session of their trip and they had great expectations of success notwithstanding the dam level was only just above 10 percent.

Fly fishing success can mean many things to many anglers. From catching more fish than a mate, just catching a fish, enjoying the day with a mate without catching anything, enjoying the scenery etc etc. You get the idea and possibly know where this is heading but that's the beauty of storytelling, sometimes you can be wrong.

One of the anglers, wanting to get a fly into the water as quickly as possible, called on his mate to pass his green rod which was done and he quickly got the fly into the water off the bow of the boat and began stripping the fly bass style. The other, confronted with a tangle of the remaining rods and lines, slowly and carefully untangled his rod. By this time some 3 or 4 casts had been made by the bow angler.

That tree over there looks the goods, thought the stern angler and began stripping line off. Need to get it at the base and cast is about 15 metres he thought. The fly was a brown FW Shrimp with weight that he had tied a couple of days before leaving on the trip and his mind went back to catching Yellow bellies at another dam on live shrimp about 45 years previously. They were effective then and hopefully would be effective then.



The boat was still in a good position for the cast. Being such a short cast the fly was on its way after one backcast. Unfortunately it was a foot to the right, 5 foot too high and 6 foot too long. Bugger he said as the fly managed to go over the branch and hang down. Not a good start to the trip, first cast and in a tree. Maybe it will come back over the branch and drop in the water with careful pulling of the line. His mate was laughing at his misfortune.

Anxiously watching the fly's progress it was a relief to see the fly drop into the

water. Giving it a countdown of five seconds then several short sharp shrimp like strips the rod buckled under the strain of a really big fish which for the next few minutes confirmed that it did not want to be caught. But it was finally brought boat side and netted much to the delight of the now adrenaline charged anglers. High fives were called for.

So, there we have it. The fly went from hanging over the Gallow to the Yellow beneath.



Mini Trout Rat Fly

www.mtfa-springfield.org



Mini Trout Rat Fly

Hook: Tiemco TMC200R or TMC101

Hook Size: 8, 10, 12

Tail: Tan Chamois

Body: Deer Hair

Thread: UNI-Thread 8/0, Tan

Ears: Tan 2mm Foam

Head/nose: Thread – Black UTC 140 or 3/0, UTC Fl Pink



Web: MTFA-Springfield.org

Meeting: 1st Thursday of Month

6:00 PM Springfield Conservation

Nature Center

Fly tied by Dennis Stead - size 10

Fishing instructions - strip with short swimming strokes

Tying Steps



Cut 1.25" square. Cut in 4 pieces.





*A likely spot for the Rat
Rod Dillon*

Silence of the Fishes

By Darren Foster

WARNING – NOT FOR THE FAINT HEARTED

Sounds like a horror story starring Anthony Halibut, or someone similar right? Horror story maybe, true?

Absolutely.

Cymothoa exigua, or the tongue-eating louse, is a parasitic isopod (like crabs or lobsters) of the family Cymothoidae. The parasite enters the host fish through the gills before making its way to the fish's tongue ready to take over that specific organ.

Once the male's mate with the larger female, she produces a live brood of males. The parasites are known as protandric hermaphrodites which means they start their lives as males and later on when circumstances change, so too does the parasite, going through a sex change to become females. The juvenile males begin a frantic search for a host.

Once they get the scent of a host and a flicker of a shadow overhead, they swim up through the water in hope of latching on to a suitable host. If a male cannot find its own host it will live on the gills or inside the fish's mouth somewhere near the female until it is time to reproduce again.

Once the louse enters the fish via the gills, it makes its way directly to the tongue. Here the louse severs the arteries to the tongue causing the tongue to atrophy and eventually fall off. The louse then positions its self on top of the stub and

latches on firmly where it lives feeding on blood and the fishes mucus. If the host fish dies, the louse will detach itself from the stub and leave the dead fish to look for another suitable host.

Now there's a real horror story right there: first the parasite destroys the fish's tongue and replaces it with itself; then steals food from the host; as if that's not indignant enough, then the parasite has sex in the fish's mouth and then gives birth to live young. All in the fish's mouth.

The parasites pose no threat to humans other than a nasty bite if they are handled whilst alive. They can be found anywhere from 2 metres to 60 metres and have been found in more than 40 species of fish world-wide. This parasite, whilst causing no long-lasting damage to the fish apart from replacing its tongue, is the only known parasite that replaces the organ of the host.

Although I have known about these parasites for quite a long time, this is the first time I have come across the tongue-eating louse first hand. Since enquiring on social media, I have found that they are fairly common in a range of species including luderick; yakka's (yellowtail scad); silver trevally; leatherjacket; mackerel; squire (juvenile snapper). These are only a few just from areas like Newcastle, Swansea, Lake Macquarie down to Wyong. The following pictures are from luderick taken at Swansea.



Normal tongue



Tongue-eating Louse tongue



This pic shows the larger female situated in place where the tongue should be. Note the smaller male positioned next to the female. Obviously waiting for the chance to be first to mate with the female.

Bibliography

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com>
<https://www.science-rumors.com>
<https://futurism.com>
<https://en.wikipedia.org>



Luderick on the Weed Fly

Compliments of Brett and Cherie of BWC Flies

I am going to start by stating that we are not experts in targeting Luderick on the fly. Whilst we both have had some success in varying situations and locations, the information below is provided to help you form the foundations to working out your own locations and styles. I know that we have had to ask the questions along the way to put the puzzle together, and to those who have taken the time to answer and share their knowledge, I am eternally grateful. There has been many fishless outings along the way, so take what you can from our experiences and apply/modify and tweak them to suit your own locations. Learn from each trip to the water, learn from other anglers, learn from local anglers and piece it together until the formula for success is consistent.

Luderick are a very accessible species for most of the estuary anglers along the East Coast of Australia, ranging in distribution from Southern Qld through to Tasmania. During the cooler months, large schools of Luderick form up and occupy most estuary systems, with a strong following of anglers who are dedicated to targeting the species.

To begin your search for Luderick, start looking around rock walls, jetty pylons, ocean platforms and weed beds. Concentrations of available food in the area will help you out, so look for the bright green weed and cabbage often found attached to rocks. Fish need to eat and their primary source of food will not be far away.

The outfits

A fly outfit in the 4 weight to 6 weight class will be more than sufficient, and the fish will put up a nice account for themselves on those outfits matched with a floating

weight forward fly line. The one that we are currently using is the Vision Merisoula 6 weight, a line purposely built for Saltwater use with a moderate aggressive head for turning over flies with ease.

Floating lines are my preference as the line can be managed / mended easily from the surface film. It results in a cleaner fly presentation during the drift, reduced amount of belly in the line and allows for a quick hook set.

The leader length is often determined by the water depth, thou we are around 9 foot as a starting point and will either chop or add depending on what is needed.

Remember, the above is the type of set up that we are using and have confidence using it in our locations. There is a whole range of options available in the area of lines and leaders that may suit you better; full intermediate lines, sink tip lines, sinking lines are to name a few options.

The Flies



Weed flies, with a few variations in your kit to be prepared to present the fly in varying water depths.

Starting with the colours – Bright Green, Olive, Blended and Brown flies, in the hook sizes – #6 through to #10, with sizes #8 and #10 delivering most of the success in our experience and moving into Weight options, which are an important consideration so you can drift the fly through the water column and therefore range from zero weight, brass bead, lead wrap and tungsten bead. The choice of weight will have a significant impact on your fly presentation, essentially, the choice needs to be based on the sink rate required and depth you want to present the fly to the fish.

The set up

When we are targeting fish in shallow water, the set-up has a minimalist approach; straight through fluorocarbon, 9 foot in length, with a two fly rig set up. Depending on the tidal strength, a brass bead fly or a tungsten bead fly will be used with an unweighted weed fly trailing 30cm behind.

In the deeper water, an indicator set up is employed, much like setting up an indicator rig for Trout nymphing. Whilst still maintaining the 9 foot leader, a Thingamabobber indicator is attached and set to the depth that you want to fish the flies. The Thingamabobbers' create little resistance and are easily adjusted so you can make a depth change whenever necessary. They are also available in a few sizes depending on the buoyancy requirements of your location. In the calm water estuaries and along the protected edges of rock walls, the small size seems fine. In the stronger currents, heavy washes or wind-blown rock walls, the next size is required. It would be a wise decision to have a few indicator options in your kit.

In both set ups, we are running an 11 pound Space Fluorocarbon leader as the main line, On the trailing flies, on rock

walls, 11 pound is maintained, however in shallow water situations, we will drop down to 7 pound.

Two Fly rigs



In almost all situations, we will set up the two fly rig. This is done by attaching the weighted weed fly at the end of your main leader and then an unweighted weed fly tied directly from the head fly hook bend with a 30cm length of fluorocarbon.

See in the image above, the tungsten bead is the lead fly, with the unweighted weed fly trailing behind. In most, but not all, the eat comes from the trailing fly. The 30cm separation from leading fly to the trailing fly seems to work for us. We have tried shorter distances and don't seem to see as many eats.

The presentation of the fly is up and across the current, allow the rig to drift with the tidal flow and swing until the drift or your fly becomes unnatural. Other areas to search are through the tidal current eddies and pockets of slack water just off the main flow.

I hope this helps you out with your pursuit of Luderick on the fly.

Enjoy!

Brett and Cherie BWC Flies



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Autumn Magic

Jeff Yates

We have officially endured the hottest summer on record, breaking the previous record set six years ago. The 2018-19 summer produced near 50°C days and topped temperature highs across the country. This affected all fishing, but in particular trout fishing. In Jindabyne dam at the end of February, our boat was registering 24°C as we scooted around the bays looking for cooler water suitable for trout feeding. It reached highs of 28°C in the Thredbo River, culminating in a high mortality rate at the Gaden hatchery. And what about the massive fish kills in the Darling River?



So why am I so excited about Autumn? With the cooler nights, water temperatures have dropped and the fish are on the prowl. Let's talk trout. This is the last period when the adult fish can gorge themselves to build up fat reserves to sustain them over the spawning winter season. I have had reports from my Lithgow contacts of large fish being grassed. Curley, the bald headed dude, landed 2 nice browns last week of 6lb each. Ray and Fiona have just returned from Eucumbene having caught a couple of nice fish. Only a couple of months ago a group of us fished for 7 days at the Snowy, averaging a small fish each every 2 days and I hardly caught a fish in Thompsons Creek! Worst summer ever!

The bass, yellowbelly and cod can now move around in cooler, more oxygenated waters and feed without stress. Looking through my vast collection of fishing photos, April-May period seems to have the bigger fish catches, and this year will not be the exception. Target Lake St Clair weedbeds and you will find bass feeding on the abundant marine life; smelt, mudeyes and shrimp will be their main quarry, and we know that once the action starts, it will continue throughout the winter.

On the salt front, PS and myself walked the Stockton breakwall during the week, and there are massive schools of Blackfish feeding on a pale yellowish surface scum. It is rumoured that they are fattening up on fish eggs floating in the scum, so why not tie some little dubbed flies, say #12, and float a fly line amongst them. They won't take weed flies yet, as I have tried in previous years.



Flathead and whiting are still about on the flats. As winter approaches they will tend to travel to deeper waters and be more

elusive, so break out the clousers, shrimp patterns and poppers and give them a whirl.



The Salmon have started to pop up on the beaches and it won't be long before they are in the channel. I have a number of May caught Salmon in the photo folders from years gone past, so get the epoxy out and knock up your favourite anchovy and white bait patterns and test the waters. This year's Salmon Classic will be a great time to stretch the fly lines, but do your homework and get to know where to fish, what to use and best tides.

Now that the Easter holidays are over, it is time to get active, and it is my favourite time of the year. Tight lines.....



*Lawrence tells me he is working hard and no time to fish
so we'll let him live on memories*



*Silhouette of casting fly fisher
Rod Dillon*



*The elusive and likable Josie
from a few years back. Refer
back to Fiona and Rays note.*

Fishy Pics



Brett with a colourful carp



Scape Pics



*Red weed trapped against
the Stockton breakwater
Jeff Yates*



*Blue sky over the lake
Rod Dillon*

HVFFC members wish to “thank you”



Flies by Fedeles



<http://flytyerman.blogspot.com>