

Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club.com.au

2019 May Newsletter

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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

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Fiona Meredith

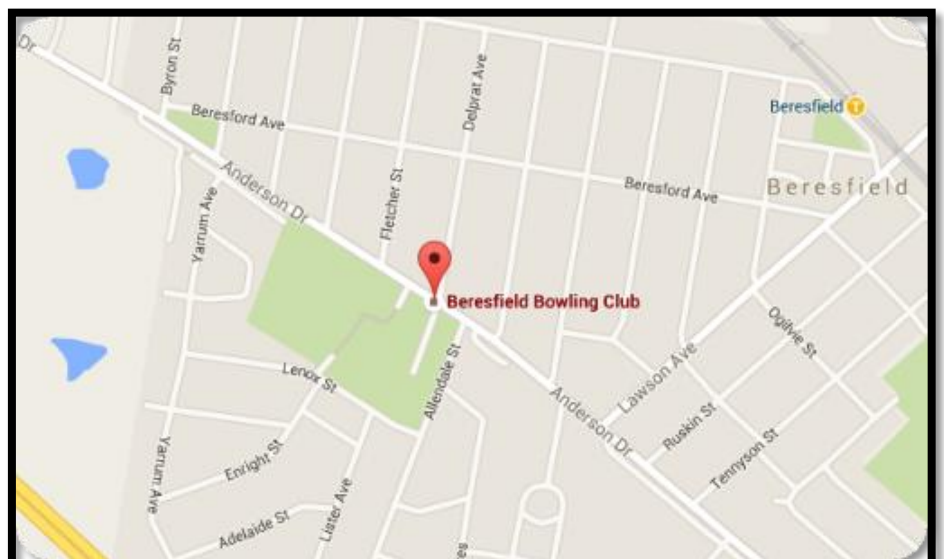
Jeff Yates

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

We have been testing the waters the last few weeks to see what's around. A trip on the Lake threw up a few Squire and Bream, but nothing of any consequence. We have witnessed massive schools of Blackfish off Stockton breakwater feeding in the scum line on fish eggs. Geared up and went for a fish, but the fish forgot that I was coming and didn't show up.

Peter, Fred, Fiona and Ray had successful trips to St Clair on the Bass. Pete has included a humorous account of their afternoon. Peter and Fred returned for a second trip and scored over 40 fish, so I thought I would test my recent surgery and give it a go tomorrow; too late to write a report for this newsletter.

I checked out the beach during the week, no Tailor or Salmon, though huge mullet hauls taken by the pros. Sustainable fishing they say, but taking over 100 tonne in a few days, and sending them off to Brisbane to have the roe extracted and exported to Japan, hardly seems sustainable, yet alone ethical. My opinion only, but I would like to be convinced otherwise.

Our Club trip to Bunyah was interesting, with numerous big Silver Perch sighted, but probably due to a plunging barometer and abundant food, there was no interest in our flies. The scenery was beautiful and we will certainly organize another trip in maybe warmer weather. Darren has given a great account of the weekend in one of the articles.

President's Report



G'day members,

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

Well, we've certainly had a very mild autumn this year, but now we're not far off the start of winter the weather has been tipped to start cooling down.

We have had the May outing which was fishing for Silvers at Patrick's uncle's property at Bunyah so look for the story further in the newsletter. Don't forget, 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. Please vote and please come along for the night. Cherie does a great job organising a fantastic social night with a lot of catch-up time for members; a bit of fun with trivia and raffles followed by the club awards.

Peter has again put his name down as trip master for the club outing to St Clair in June. Thanks very much again Pete.

The RISE Film Festival is scheduled for Thursday 8th August, 2019. Nick Reygaert will be hosting this year's Festival and Nick's father Marc will be accompanying him on the trip.

The Salmon outing in August is shaping up to be another successful outing, so don't leave it too late to put your name down. There have been a few salmon in the channel of late but not too many. They have either moved back outside or further into the lake. There are reports of blackfish showing up along the walls as well. Time to start tying your best weed flies or you can buy quality weed flies tied by Cherie from BWC flies.

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 5th June at Bero Bowlo: see you all there for the 7.00pm start or earlier for a meal.



Not sure what this would catch. Blackfish or Stonefish!!!

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				

Lemon Tree Very Pretty

Peter Sewell



I haven't gone all soft and this story really isn't really about the Peter, Paul and Mary song although Fred is old enough to know the words to it, I'm not sure about Ray and Fiona and I can't remember the words to any song.

This is a story about a visit to Lemon Tree, a spot at Lake St Clair where a lot of us have been known to catch the odd bass or two.



A plan was hatched recently for another visit to St Clair, the word was passed around at the Wednesday club meeting but some thought Nah, it's going to rain on Friday; Nah I've got to work; Nah I've got the grand kids that day; Nah I've got a sore toe. So I planned to go anyway, it's May, it's the right time of the year and

rainy weather can be good for bass fishing.

Come Thursday I thought to give Fred a call and ever keen he said too right, I'll be there. Then a text to Ray and Fiona who were a bit wary of the predicted rain but when I threatened to send photos of the

bass they missed out on, they changed their minds (that was a bit cheeky of me as bass fishing doesn't come with guarantees). I was going to call Lawrence but because we didn't have the boat and he would be sad about not having to push it out all the time I decided not to.

Ray and Fiona beat Fred and I there and had parked on the hill and headed off. Fred and I stood on the ridge and looked around past the lemon tree, couldn't see them and concluded they must have gone to the left so we headed down to the water where we could then work our way to the left. It was a great afternoon, light wind beautiful scenery, overcast slight ripple on the water. Perfect. We fished for a couple of hours, Fred using a Craig's Night Time style of fly and me one of Dillo's famous spiders. I lost the spider on a snag and Fred had a good bump, that's fishing. When it was almost dark we headed around the corner and waded out to a small island which neither of us had ever seen before. Gee the water is low and it gives you a good idea of what you're normally fishing over. We fished the island until just about dark with me landing a nicely conditioned bass of around 28-30cm. The rain had started and the mist was in the air what a great place.

We looked up the hill where we had parked and saw headlights and then a head lamp or was it a mobile phone? A mobile phone will do when you've left your head lamp at home. It looked like Ray and Fiona had returned and we headed up for a chat. When we got there they were all smiles and not just because they were happy to see us. They had had a successful afternoon, picked lemons even.

They had seen fish swirling at their flies, fish rising and caught some nice bass just

outside the edge of the weed beds. They even said they'd left them bighting. What's more Fiona said it was fun working them through the weed! I'll have to learn her technique. So after sharing some of Fred's biscuits and being given some lucky lemons from Fiona we parted ways again. They headed home and we headed back to the water.....surely we could catch a couple more.

Oh, it turns out Ray and Fiona had actually gone to the lemon tree area and worked their way back. They apparently saw us when we arrived and waved; so when we walked in the other direction they thought they must have needed more deodorant or that we just decided to split up. Little did they know that those two old codgers are probably half blind and just didn't see them.... or maybe their camo gear is just too good.

Two of us took another trip to St Clair a week later which resulted in 40 bass being caught between us. There were some large fish caught, mainly by Fred, well into the 40 cm and maybe even a 50. Neither of us had a tape with us. The first fish was caught around 5pm and the last around midnight. The edges were muddy in places due the dam still dropping but the weed beds are well developed along the edges. Some fish were caught well out and some in close. Intermediate lines and Craig's Nighttime flies or similar, size 8, were the undoing of all these bass. It was a beautiful night with a bit of breeze and the moon came up around 11pm which helped provide some light for our long trudge back to the car.

Can't wait to go again and really looking forward to a successful club outing in June.



Lake Lyell Weekend Report 8, 9 & 10 March

By Narelle and Foxy



What a fantastic weekend celebrated by all who attended. Great attendance by members - Ray and Fiona, Alex and Rosemary, Peter and Ingrid, Rod and Lorraine and us, all of whom stayed the weekend. Rod, Jo and Glenn came for the day on Friday, as did Fred who also stayed Friday night. Mark and Brian came on Saturday as did Wayne Salmon and stayed for dinner.

The weather was kind to us, no wind thankfully, unlike the last time the club went to Lake Lyell. Rod and I arrived on the Thursday and had a lovely fish together, with Foxy catching a Redfin and me getting a touch. It was beautiful on the water.

Ray and Fiona arrived Thursday arvo, and had a fish with Foxy on Friday, with Rod E and Glenn also trying their luck - they caught one Redfin each and Rod E caught a bearded water dragon. Alex and Rosemary had a fish together on the Saturday morning, with Alex catching 5

Redfin. Mark and Brian tried their luck on Saturday arvo also, to no avail. Peter fished in his Hobie on Saturday and went out with Alex Saturday arvo. Peter caught one Redfin. Wayne went to Thompson's Creek but didn't have any luck there. Fred fished off the banks but it was too hard because of the algae growth.



All in all the fishing was poor, but everyone had a good time. Peter and Ingrid set up an expresso coffee station outside the men's toilets. This was enjoyed by all those who love coffee. Dinner was two roasts - pork and beef in red wine, jacket potatoes with sour cream, peas and corn with gravy and apple pie

and Chocolate Barvarian for dessert.
Yum!!!
It was a great night.

Everyone packed up on Sunday morning except Foxy and I and the Dillon's. Dillo and Foxy went fishing on Sunday arvo night and had a great fish, catching 21 Redfin. A pity the fish didn't want to play when everyone was there!!



Bunyah Pines

By **Patrick and Darren**

The may outing saw a small group of members head north to Bunyah to try their luck at catching a silver perch. School holiday traffic, up-coming voting day and Mother's Day all contributed towards swapping to-and-fro between weekends, until we finally settled on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th May, 2019; leaving Sunday 12th for Mother's Day.

The location for the outing was a cattle farm that has been in the family for three generations. Roughly one hour from Taree (just 20 minutes from Coolongolook). We fished in one of the dams on the property. Silver perch is the only species in the dam.

They were introduced around 10 years ago. They were extremely hard to catch. In fact, no one caught any. We could easily see them swimming by (the cause of nervous water around the dam?) and they were healthy looking and well fed. This might be why they were not interested in our flies. The time of year may also have been a factor.



On the day there were such a variety of flies thrown at the silvers but unfortunately, they were too well fed on food available in the dam to be enticed with any 'ole pile of fluff on a hook. Some of the flies I know that were used were the not-so-ever-reliable bread fly; nymphs and emergers; damselfly nymphs and mud-eye patterns; small baitfish (to replicate the myriad of gambusia swimming around; woolly worms; squirmy wormy; whiting worm fly and stick caddis.

A male gambusia, females are larger with a bigger, rounded belly.



Damselfly Nymph – given the number of adult damselflies zipping around, it was surprising that a damselfly nymph never worked. Likewise, with the dragonflies zooming all over the place, not even a mud-eye pattern could entice them. This little critter was around 20mm long.

It was hard to determine what the silvers were eating or feeding on. In amongst all of gambusia, there were midge hatches going on all day.

Emerger patterns down to 14's and 16's couldn't even tempt the fussy, well fed eaters. On Friday evening I took the time to do a bit of dip-netting around the banks. Plenty of gambusia came to the net along with nymphs and snails. One thing I did notice was a snail under a lily pad and a nice sized egg mass on the root ball of the lily pad. Les and a few others did observe the silvers mooching along the wall in amongst the lily pads and seemed



to be looking up under the pads. Could the eggs have been the missing link? The race is now on to see whom can come up with an egg mass fly say around the 12 or 14 size. The snail on the left is approx. 6mm long and 3-4mm wide. To the right of the root ball in the bottom right quarter of the pic you can see the egg mass on a stem of the water lily. The egg mass is approx. the same size or a little larger than the snail. Could this be what the silvers were eating?

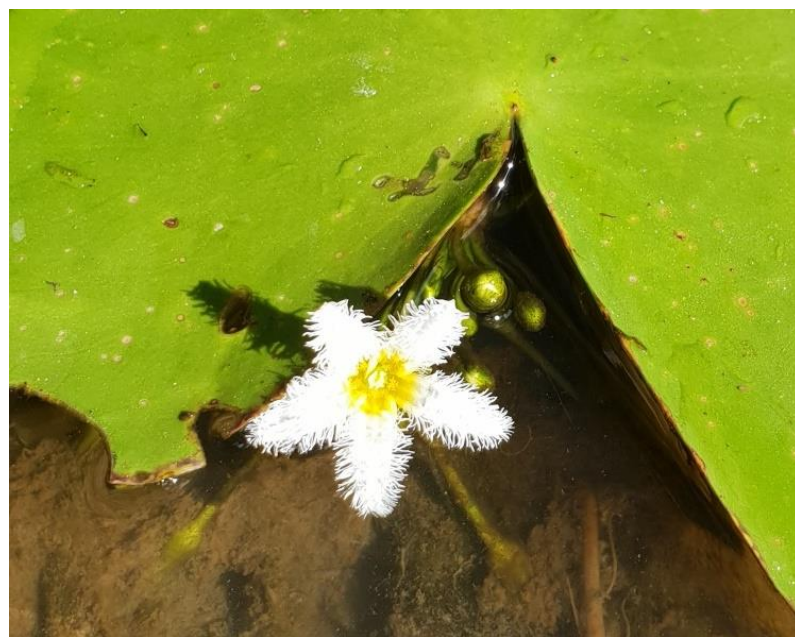
*Of the eleven people that fished, four of us camped overnight and kept warm all night by a fire that could be seen from Newcastle! Darren alleged that there wasn't enough firewood to last all night but Uncle Neville begged to differ! I tried to be the sensible one making sure Patrick asked his uncle if it was ok to have a **small** fire. That was until Uncle Neville turned up in the tractor and then proceeded to drive around the paddock looking for old fence posts and such to throw on the fire. So, we ended up going from a small respectable camp fire to a lantana bush-fallen tree stump inferno that only required a few twigs on it the next morning to encourage enough flames to keep the early morning chill off the bones.*

Everyone enjoyed themselves and liked the place they were fishing but next time Mick and Darren will take their fly rods with them when they go for a morning walk.

We spoke to Uncle Neville the next day before we left and he said we were welcome to come up again.

Uncle Neville stoking up the fire.





Fishy Pics



*Ray and Fiona in dairy boots on
Bunyah farm
Jeff Yates*



Scape Pics



*Bunyah Dams gracing a
beautiful little valley
Jeff Yates*

HVFFC members wish to “thank you”



Flies by Fedeles



<http://flytyerman.blogspot.com>