



2019 July 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

Committee Members

Fiona Meredith

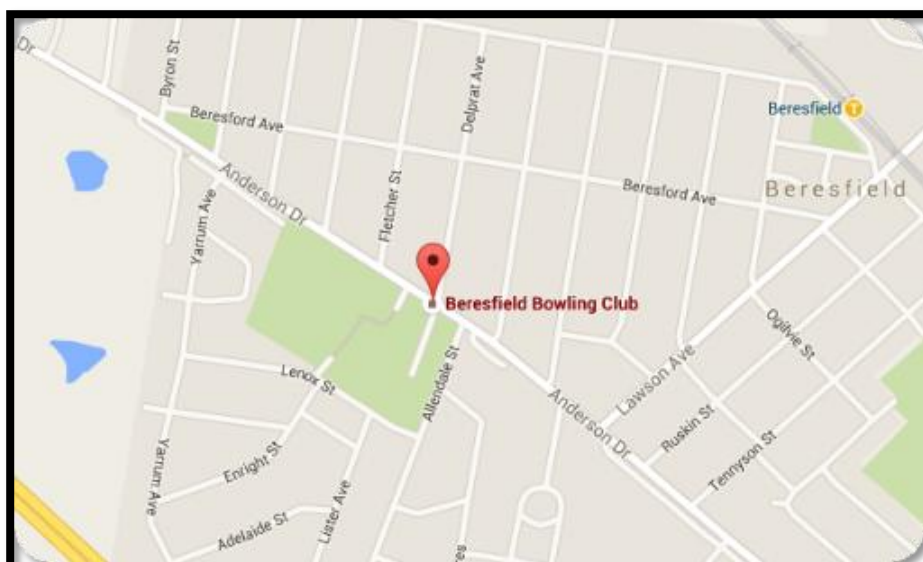
Jeff Yates

Noel King

Robert Probert

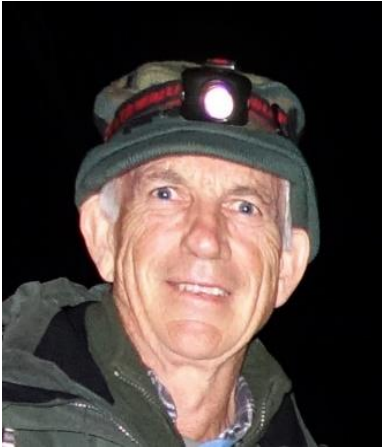
Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club meets on
the first Wednesday of each month at:-

Beresfield Bowling Club
Anderson Drive
Beresfield
At 7.00 pm



Editor's comments

Jeff Yates



The bass are still firing at St Clair, so I have included a couple of flies that should be in your fly box. Looking at the weather on the telly tonight, and the lake is at 51.7% and dropping fast. Sure hope they get plenty of spring rain to ensure a good season again next winter.

Lawrence has put an article in on our Xmas in July presentations and celebrations. I won't spoil the report so read on.

Just a timely promotion and a few tips for the salmon classic coming up on August 23, 24 & 25.

The Salmon congregate towards the middle of the Swansea channel, between the bridge and Moon Island during the winter months. They can also be caught in the lake but are much harder to target as there is a lot of water between the schools and spook easy on approach.

We generally fish an incoming tide and good polaroid sunglasses come in handy as you need to spot the fish and cast in front of the school. Just on daybreak is the best time.

A boat is an essential and I would steer clear of yaks as we have been nudged by Bronze Whalers and had White Pointers lift a large school right beside the boat. A good protocol is not to drive too fast onto a school or drive your boat through them. Use the electric when possible.

8/9 wt gear with a good drag is the go to tackle, with fluorocarbon 6, 7 or 8kg leaders on a clear intermediate line. Flies are generally small #2 - #6 Surf Candies, fur types, silicon types, sparse tied Clousers.

Good advice is to team up with one of the club regular salmon hunters who will show you the tricks. Take refreshments with you, and when the fishing slackens off, pull up on a beach and have a cuppa, because on a good day be assured that your arms will be aching!



President's Report



Last Saturday night was the club's annual Christmas in July and Club Awards Night held at Bero Bowlo. Those that attended enjoyed a night of fun and comradery with trivia, raffles and of course the presentation of the club awards. This year has seen a lot of activity within the club with outings and fly tying days seeing good numbers of members turning up: thanks to all the Trip Masters for your efforts and dedication to the club outings; a major activity undertaken such as the outfitting of the new club trailer: thanks to Rod & Mark's collective efforts there; and not to mention the club fly swaps which have been gaining a lot of popularity over the last few years: thanks Rod Dillon for your continued commitment to this integral part of the club.

Most Improved Fly Tyer for 2019: Tallis Rixon, for his continued efforts and participation in the club fly swaps and also the fly tying days with Brett where he tied his first Surf Candy.

Memorable Moment for 2019: Tallis Rixon, at the 2018 Salmon Classic Tallis caught his first Australian Salmon on the Surf Candy that he learnt to tie beforehand.

Rookie of the Year for 2019: Tanguis Ness, for always being keen for a fish (especially at St Clair) and always willing to learn something new and gain more experience.

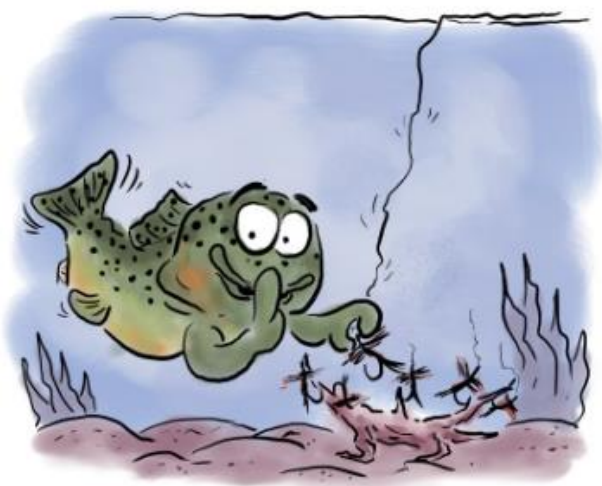
Clubman of the Year for 2019: Patrick Tobin, who is always willing to help out at club outings whether it be setting up or packing and cleaning up even if it means missing out on having a fish, Patrick is always willing to step up and offer his assistance.

Congratulations to the award winners for 2019. Also, thanks to all the members that contribute in some way or another, even just attending a club outing or the meetings, it is each and every one of you all that make the club what it is today.

Last, but not least, a huge thankyou to Cherie for organising the annual Christmas in July and Awards Night. There is a lot more to organising the night than you may think but for a seasoned event's organiser like Cherie, it's a walk in the park. From booking the room to negotiating meal costs, buying and organising gifts and prizes, to decorating the tables, I am sure all that attended would agree Cherie does an amazing job, so thanks again Cherie for all you do for the club on nights like these. Thanks also to Lawrence for being there as well to help set up and organising the slide show.

Thank you all.

TROUT PRANK: THE FLY SNAG BRANCH



Cheers
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-Wel 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-Wel 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
May				
June	05 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
June	14 th , 15 th , 16 th	Lake St Clair - Bass, Yellowbelly		
June	22 nd	Fly Tying @ Mai-Wel with BWC Flies	Darren	0413392774
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	08 th	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	28 th	Fly Club 20 th Anniversary @ Lake St Clair	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	



Christmas in July 2019 Review

Lawrence Blackburn



Another Christmas in July has been run and won, lots of winners and lots of laughs, and great to catch up with the crew and their wives. The numbers were down slightly this year as many people were away on holiday touring the country and others on school holidays, which meant that those attending had a greater chance of winning big. I still didn't win so I think next year we will have to have more prizes, or I could buy more tickets I suppose.



Having said that I was on a table of five with Brent, Glenn, Lynne and Cherie and together we managed to win the most important part of the night, the trivia quest. Darren had again put together some easy and some not so easy questions to test our collective knowledge, our table did have the advantage of having Brent, and his wealth of knowledge was stretched to the limit. The rest of us just guessed at most and generally had either a 33.3% or 25% chance of getting it right.

The fact that we won (by 2.25 points) was further enhanced by the fact that one table of oldies had six people and the other table had eight hipsters. The hipsters of course were just too young to handle the pressure and pace of the questions and no Google, maybe in a few years they could get lucky, they even had the guy who wrote the trivia questions at their table and still couldn't win.



There were discussions at our table as to how to make sure we won a bottle of wine, as it turns out the winning team gets a bottle of wine and so too do the losers, so how hard could it be to answer the questions with deliberately wrong answers and come away with a prize? But our conscience got the better of us and we collectively thought hard about each answer and felt good at the end coming away as champions.

Santa's little helpers Patrick and Tallis handed out the gentlemen's secret Santa presents and everyone was a winner, the ladies each received a beautifully gift wrapped present from a company called Bean Me Up, with bean seeds with words of wisdom written on them to be planted into the container and watch them grow.



Apparently aside from the importance of the trivia, there were a few presentations for the club to make, this year I had the pleasure of presenting one of our members with **The Clubman of the Year award**, this young member is always keen and willing to put up his hand to assist wherever and whenever needed and will forgo fishing to help out, now that is dedication. I was very happy to congratulate Patrick on being **The 2019 Clubman of the Year**.



There were a few other winners, but I wasn't in any of their photos so I can't really talk too much about them, oh alright, just a passing comment I suppose. Coming in as **Rookie of the Year** was young Tanguis, and the double winner for the night was Tallis who picked up the award for **Most Improved Fly Tyer** and **Memorable Achievement of the Year** where he used one of the flies he had tied previously to land his first salmon on an outing.



As always we have the slide show in the background to remind members of previous club outings or some of their own memorable moments, a big thank you to everyone that helped make my job easier by sending in their personal memories, it adds greatly to the evening and often gives us all a good laugh, cheers.

This year we even managed a video of Jeff being eaten by meat ants at Jindabyne, which had to be preceded by a disclaimer about the use of coarse language and nudity, as you listened to the audio you could hear the support offered by the other two members on the boat how much they cared about Jeff, after he removed all his

clothes we let him back on the boat, I mean there's no need for more of us to get eaten by meat ants is there. It makes you wonder if there are meat ants, are there vegetarian ants and for that matter vegan ants, something deep and meaningful to ponder when you have a spare minute looking out the office window as you wish you were out there fishing.

Hopefully next year we can increase the attendance, the bowling club has minimum numbers for the use of the room and this year we were under that, so the plan at the next club meeting is to determine the date for next year's event so it can be put in the 2020 diary. If you can't make an outing due to work or distance issues, come to the Christmas in July event to catch up with others and see the photos of everyone else catching fish scrolling through in the background to see just what you missed out on, that should cheer you up.

Finally I would like to thank my beautiful wife Cherie for all her work in coordinating with the bowling club, taking me on shopping trips to BCF, Liquorland and lots of other fun places to buy gifts and fun things for the night, surfing the net for that special ladies gift and then the fun we have wrapping it all.

Thanks also to those that helped set up and pack up at the end of the night and to everyone who turned up on the night and I look forward to seeing you all back again next year.



Match the Hatch

Jeff Yates



We have been spoilt this winter with a bumper bass season. Recent trips of over 50 fish for an afternoon/evening session occurred not once, but 3 times, and the quality and condition of the fish were exceptional. For those thinking about going up to join in the fun, you had better hurry. With falling lake levels (currently 51.7%) the weed beds are exposed and where we have caught fish a few nights before, it is now a muddy foreshore devoid of weed.

We normally kick off with a coffee at Greta on the way up to the dam. A good chance to talk trash and tactics. The trip before last we caught heaps, but using very little science. We catch very few fish before the magic 4.45 pm time, then a trickle becomes a stream after dark. We use the old favourite, a Craigs Nighttime. This fly has accounted for at least 90% of our fish this year. But where is the challenge?

This particular day the fish were breaking the surface all over the shallows. Peter tied on his trusted Craigs to an intermediate line and covered fish left, right and centre, but they would not co-operate. The water was less than a metre deep and very weedy, but we could not see what they were feeding on. We moved on. A circumnavigation of Alcorn Island slowly tallied up the numbers until around 8pm when we again reached those shallows that Peter fished in the daylight. At

this stage I changed to a floating line to keep my fly above the weedbed, and it was the correct call. I was able to land at least the next 13 fish without moving, with the beautiful, fat gutted bass hammering the Craigs like it was their last meal. But the question is still not answered, why were they in the shallows and not on structure, and what were they feeding on?

A search with the headlamp at the end of the session, scattered a multitude of small shrimp, jumping, scuttling along the bottom and hiding in the weedbeds. Is this what was concentrating the fish in the small bay? I sacrificed a pot gutted fish and checked the stomach contents, which revealed over 100 shrimp around 18mm long, it really had gorged itself.

We just have to break the daytime code, given that shrimp are on the menu.



We walked back to the car chuffed with our success, but still not actually satisfied that we were matching the hatch.

The next couple of days I was busy doing stuff for the kids. Lawrence, in between jobs, and getting bored at home, suggested a trip to the dam, so I thought I would get organised this time and target those daytime fish. A quick google search came up with a few suggestions, but most importantly, the photo of the sacrificial bass stomach contents gave me the clues I needed; colour, size and shape.

I knocked up half a dozen flies and took them up with us. Peter put one on first up, and as if to order he blooded the first fly; then another, then another, until he landed 4 before dark. This was our best result as I also caught 4 on the shrimp. A total of 8 fish on the shrimp fly during the daylight hours. We were stoked to be able to partially crack the feeding code. We know that we need to further improve the fly, but it is another fly in our arsenal.



However, for some reason we changed back to the Craigs after dark and ended up landing a combined 56 fish for the 4 hour trip.

A long walk back to the car, working up a dripping sweat on the 5 degree night, pulling out the thermos and reminiscing over what was a another brilliant night. If it wasn't for Cherie, I'm sure Lawrence would join the ranks of us pensioners as we make the best of our twilight years chasing fish all over the country.



*Match
the hatch*

The Green Machine

Jeff Yates

After a recent bass trip to St Clair in some inclement weather, I was able to pick up a number of fish on this fly. It works well on the trout in Tassie's Central Plateau lakes, and works equally as well on the bass. The only alteration is the olive wing and body, with the original tied using natural rabbit fur, I think either would work equally as well. Incidentally, I have been using Yetis for years on the bass, and this to me is just another Yeti variation.



Hook – Black Magic B8 or Tiemco 3761 #8

Tail – Chartreuse Slinky fibre, glo bug yarn or similar synthetic fibre

Body – Olive chenille or peacock or dubbed possum

Wing – 2mm Olive/natural rabbit strip

Rib – Thick mid green synthetic thread

Thread – 6/0 olive green

Method

- Tie in several threads of slinky fibre at bend of hook extending say 10mm
- Tie rib in at bend
- Tie chenille at bend and wrap it to within 3mm of the eye
- Tie in strip of rabbit fur at eye with skin extending 12mm longer than hook shank
- Moisten rabbit fur and part, rib evenly to eye of hook
- Tie off and use a little uv resin on head
- For added attraction tie in a false hackle for a throat.



-Flashback-

HERALD NEWS



NEW STOCK:
Almost
200,000
silver and
golden
perch
fingerlings
were
distributed.



Fingerlings let off the hook, for now

FLY FISHING enthusiasts answered a call for all hands on deck when almost 200,000 fingerlings arrived for distribution in Lake St Clair, near Singleton.

Members of the Singleton Fly Fishing Club rallied last week when Department of Primary Industries fisheries staff called unexpectedly to say the golden and silver perch fingerlings, raised and harvested at Narrandera, were ready to be released.

Club vice-president Lawrence Blackburn said members had little time to respond because the distribution had to take place later that day.

"Some club members were on night shift, others on holidays and some managed to leave work early to help with delivery of the fish," Mr Blackburn said.

Lake St Clair, also known as Glennies Creek dam, is considered a premier recreational fishing spot and can store about half the volume of Sydney Harbour.

When full, the lake has a surface area of 1540 hectares, or more than 2000 football fields.

But drought has had a dramatic effect.

The lake is less than 30 per cent full and Mr Blackburn said the boat ramp was about eight metres above the present water level.

Club members run raffles to pay for fingerlings used to restock the lake, including the perch and also sought after native bass.

"Restocking bass at Lake St Clair has been a priority for the club ...," Mr Blackburn said.

- Frances Thompson

FREEDOM: Junior club member Jenna Blackburn, of East Maitland, was on hand to help release the fish into Lake St Clair.

THE HERALD Thursday 19-4-07

Fishy Pics



*Lovely salmon caught by
Brett and Cherie*





Scape Pics



*Chasing bass in a Lake St
Clair backwater*

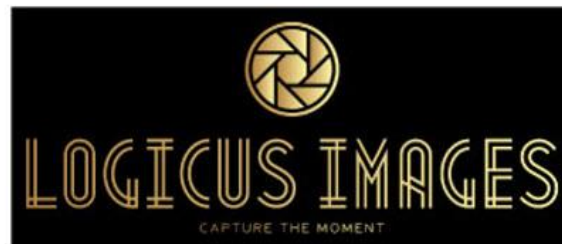
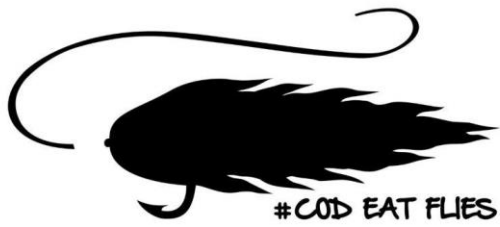
HVFFC members wish to “thank you”



Flies by Fedeles



<http://flytyerman.blogspot.com>



JASON STRATFORD

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