



2019 August 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

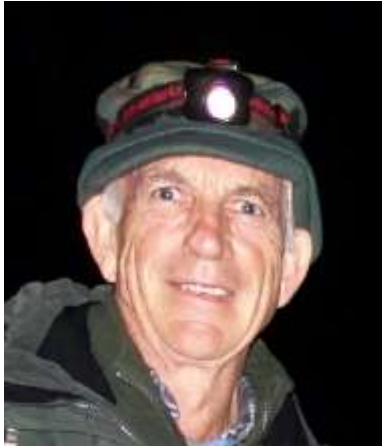
Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at:-

Beresfield Bowling Club
Anderson Drive
Beresfield
At 7.00 pm



Editor's comments

Jeff Yates



We have had a very active club month, with the Rise film festival and the Swansea Salmon Classic. In between I'm sure there has been many sojourns to your favourite fly fishing spots.

I have written about the use of generic trout/bass flies, and I can only see our knowledge growing with the number of trips to St Clair we do in a year and the sharing of information between club members. I have also included a recipe for a St Clair Glass shrimp which I found successful.

In the spirit of cooperation, we are sharing news worthy articles with our northern fly clubs and vice versa. Alan Ekert from Coffs Coast Fly Fishers has supplied a great article on fly casting for this edition. He has also written an article on the Salmon Classic from Coffs perspective; thanks Allan well done and appreciated. Due to the time required to put the newsletter together, any input to make the editor's job less tedious is welcome.

Darren has been burning the midnight oil to produce a report from Swansea. Talking of Swansea, see the feedback from the Swansea Caravan Park; I think we are welcome back, thanks to the dedicated club members.

Good afternoon Cherie,

It was lovely having all your club members here for the weekend, and we really hope that you all had a great time.

We have a message from our housekeeping staff, they would like me to that you all for leaving all your cabins, camp kitchen and rec room so clean.

We look forward to welcoming you back to Swansea Lakeside Holiday Park on your next stay at our park.

Kindest regards

Helen and Steve Bisset

Park Managers

Swansea Lakeside Holiday Park

1 Dobinson Drive, Swansea NSW 2281

P: 02 4971 2869



President's Report

G'day members,

Welcome all to the August Newsletter for 2019. The mornings and nights are still cool but the days are starting to warm up. Spring is just around the corner which will hopefully put a spring in your fly rod whilst you're out there chasing bass and other species, maybe a cod or yella as well as a dose of the salty variety.

The second Swansea Salmon Classic has come and gone with stories and pics of success: including first timer's scoring their first salmon on fly; failure: hooks pulled & broken leaders; lines diced & rods spliced and just all-round good 'ole fashioned fun had by all.

Just like the Carp Classic's of old, it's always good to catch up with distant friends, renew acquaintances and make new friends along the way. The social side of the classics have always been and will continue to be one of the main focal points each time an event is run. Be it a Carp Classic or a Salmon Classic, the results are always the same.

Acknowledging the hard work and dedication that goes into ensuring the event runs as smooth as possible is always paramount for events like this. Cherie and Lawrence put in a lot of ground work catering for the masses and making sure that no-one goes without. Unfortunately, Lawrence had to work this weekend and only got to see the rear end of each night before heading off early to work the next morning. Cherie did an amazing job again with her exceptional organising skills making sure everyone standing idle had something to do. Patrick did an amazing job under Cherie's guidance from helping with the food prep to dish washing duties, often stepping up to the mark without prompting.

Thank you Cherie for another wonderful classic event and thank you to all that helped out over the weekend you are all an amazing bunch of people and the fly fishing community is all the more richer for your presence. Ron, on behalf of Hastings, presented Cherie with a gift in recognition of her efforts to get everyone together for the weekend and the work she put into food preparation and organisation.

The next club outing will be the 20th Anniversary at St Clair on Saturday 28th September, Don't forget to let Rod Fox or Rod Esdaile know if you are coming so they can cater for the Saturday meal. I hope to see you there.

The next club meeting is on Wednesday 4th August at Bero Bowlo: see you all there for the 7.00pm start or earlier for a meal.

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	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	14 th , 15 th , 16 th	Lake St Clair - Bass, Yellowbelly		
June	22 nd	Fly Tying @ Mai Wei 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	Rod Fox	0407195508
September				
October	2 nd	AGM/General Club Meetings at Bero Bowlo	All	
October	18 th , 19 th , 20 th	Williams River - Bass	Tangus Ness	0401960973
November	06 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
November				
December	4 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	

Swansea Salmon Classic

2019

by Darren Foster

The second Swansea Salmon Classic has come and gone with stories and pics – ah the pics) of success: including first timer's scoring their first salmon on fly; failure: hooks pulled & broken leaders; lines diced & rods spliced and just all-round good 'ole fashioned fun had by all. Just like the Carp Classic's of old, it's always good to catch up with distant friends, renew acquaintances and make new friends along the way.

This year seen numbers increase from last year with around 40 people from The Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club, Hastings Fly Fishers Club, Coffs Coast Fly Fishing Club and Sydney Fly Rodders' come together with one common goal: to hit the salt and hook, fight and hopefully land the iconic Australian Salmon on fly. And hook, fight, sometimes land, sometimes not land, due to bust-offs or hooks pulled, lines shredded, rods broken we did: and we did it with style.



Watching someone hook a salmon for the first time on fly is a pretty special moment from the time of hook-up to fighting the fish and finally watching the quarry slide into the net to boating the netted fish and the obligatory photo shoot before the release which can be as epic as the initial capture.

Glenn said he hooked and landed a salmon and whilst the fish was posing for photos with Glenn, his line and fly had drifted back out around five or six metres out the back of the boat. When Glenn released the salmon apparently it headed in the general direction of the fly and ate it on the way past resulting in a serious case of Déjà vu. On the Saturday, the very blowy Saturday, Glenn and Tony hit the Swansea RSL to watch all the action from their glass window viewing platform. Fred had the "*luck of the Irish*" with him again landing his fair share of fish.



With everyone enjoying their time on the water catching their fill of the famed Australian Salmon, their time off the water at the Saturday night raffle was enjoyed equally as much with the usual laughs, jokes and good-natured banter with the Hastings guys as usual pulling their fair share of prizes. Not to mention the chocolate crackles – the staple tradition of every

classic held in the past, carp and salmon. The funds raised from the raffle goes towards stocking St Clair (Glennie's Creek Dam) with bass fingerlings through the \$4\$ scheme run by NSW Fisheries. Something the club has been doing since 2002 and the club is second only to Fisheries themselves with the amount of bass fingerlings stock in this dam.

No event like this could happen without the hard work and dedication that goes into ensuring the event runs as smooth as possible. Cherie and Lawrence put in a lot of ground work, which starts months before hand, catering for the masses and making sure that no-one goes without. Unfortunately, Lawrence had to work this weekend and only got to see the rear end of each night before heading off early to work the next morning. Cherie did an amazing job again with her exceptional organising skills making sure everyone standing idle had something to do. Patrick did an amazing job under Cherie's guidance from helping with the food prep to dish washing duties, often stepping up to the mark without prompting.



Thanks to everyone who donated prizes on the night. Paul Fedeles whom has always supported the classics with his donations of fly boxes that the winners get to pick. Thanks to Brett and Cherie from BWC Flies, for donating fly packs of beautifully tied Salmon flies. Also, to one of our newest club members Robert Gorseski for organizing a couple of Club Marine insurance vouchers and Gary Hambly from A1flyfishing for providing prizes; all gratefully accepted.

Finally: Thank you, Cherie, for another wonderful classic event and thankyou to all that helped out and came along over the weekend and making it what it was, you are all an amazing bunch of people and the fly-fishing community is all the richer for your presence.







I for one, am looking forward to next year's event already. Begin the fly tying.....*NOW*.
Darren Foster

////////////////////////////////////

What a Classic!

By Allan Ekert (Coffs)



Six club members travelled down to Swansea for the second annual Swansea Salmon Classic hosted by the Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club. We were also joined by a couple of our distant dual club members. For Dave and I this was our fourth trip chasing the “Coal City Tarpon” and our second year at the Classic. And this was the best trip so far.

The Swansea Salmon Classic is a fundraiser for the Hunter Valley Fly Fishing club to support their stocking program for bass in local impoundments. Thanks to the efforts of these guys places like Lake St Clair have become fantastic bass fisheries. We are always keen to support the Classic as we know the entry fee and raffle money goes to a great cause. Watch out for our club calendar next year as I am sure we will be going down again and there's room for more to join us.



Just in case you haven't caught an Australian Salmon before this is what they look like (see above). They are not related to the freshwater salmonoid family but are a member of the perch family. They frequent the coastal waters from Tweed Heads through to Port Philip Bay (Victoria) and Tasmania. They can also be found in Western Australia and New Zealand where they are called Kahawai.

Australian Salmon can grow to a maximum of 6 kg and a length of up to 90 cm but we didn't get any quite that big. As you will see from the photos they were big enough to put up a long and powerful fight and have you wondering if you really wanted to make another cast. For us, they seemed to come in distinct size groups. The bigger ones we called "two handers" as we needed both hands to lift them in the net and hold them up in front of a camera. We tried not to waste too much time on the "one handers."



Catching salmon in the Swansea channel involves long periods of searching followed by bursts of mayhem. The salmon follow the baitfish and the baitfish follow the tides and currents. Sometimes you can be lucky and the salmon give themselves away by crashing into the baitfish and attracting flocks of hungry birds. Other times they give themselves away by jumping from the water. For the most part, though, you are just looking for colour changes in the water and any sign of movement. When you do find them the fun begins.

We found most small surf candy style flies worked. It was just a matter of finding the fish and casting as far as you could and then retrieving the fly through the school. Double hook-ups were common when this happened. The biggest obstacle to



catching the salmon was that as soon as you found fish you were joined by some of the many boats that fished this popular waterway. Salmon didn't like boats being driven through them or even noisy motors nearby and would quickly disappear to another part of the channel. We also looked outside the heads where there were plenty of fish and fewer boats. This was where David caught his biggest haul of fish and he would probably be still out there if I hadn't spoilt his fun by suggesting a return to calmer water.

We have never had a trip to Swansea without catching a salmon but we have had a few blank days when they could not be found anywhere. It is amazing how quickly and quietly they can slip in and out of the channel despite the fact that they can be in schools of up to a thousand fish or more. Catch rates vary from zero upwards. This trip we went down a few days before the official start and over the four days I reckon we would have averaged close to twenty between us with Dave proving much more successful than I did. It all came down to how long you spent on the water and how prepared you were during those short periods of mayhem. We fished from before sunrise to sundown and clocked up a lot of kilometres on the Suzuki.

Our fishing fleet consisted of two boats and a ship. A boat is essential if you want to be successful although the salmon can be caught from the rocks and bays when the fish come in close. I was fortunate to be able to fish with Dave in "Pottsy" and it didn't let us down being a great casting platform and safe and speedy transport. Glenn's slightly smaller Quintrex proved just as fishable and he and Jason landed heaps of fish despite the banana on board. Don towed his ship all the way from Korora and he and Garry enjoyed the comfort of a hull the size of the Queen Mary. At least our boats would fit under the Swansea Bridge!





The Swansea Salmon Classic is a great fishing and social event. As I said at the beginning this was our best trip ever. We found fish every day and we caught fish every day. The organizers arranged perfect weather on Saturday and Sunday and an abundance of fish. In the days leading up to the weekend we experienced some 60kmh winds that tested out our casting skills but we couldn't complain with fish still being caught. Reports are that the fish had disappeared on Monday. How lucky were we? I should point out this is not a competition event and no scores are kept and all the fish are released unharmed (probably to be eaten by a few of the seals or sharks that like to join in the party).



We are most grateful for the invitation to attend this event by the Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club. In all there were about 40 anglers representing four clubs present. A tremendous amount of work goes into organizing a group like that. Everything ran like clockwork despite our efforts to throw a spanner in the works by being too early for breakfast and too late for lunch and dinner every day (apologies). I am sure I am speaking for all our guys when I express our gratitude for the welcome we received. I won't mention names as this is probably not the right place but to each and everyone one of you who willingly shared information, looked after us and ensured we had a great time our heartfelt thanks. We'll be back next year (if they will have us) and hopefully have more members from our club to make the third annual Salmon Classic bigger and better than ever before.



2019 Rise Film Festival

Jeff Yates



The Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club hosted Nick Reygaert, of Gin Clear Media fame, at the Bero Bowlo for another night of superb action in four films as part of the Annual Rise Film Festival. I have been each year since its inception, and you can see Nick's skills as a photographer and film producer grow exponentially year after year, he is truly a world class act.



In the feature film called "*Distant Bays*", Nick takes us for an exploratory trip to the Patagonian region of Argentina, fishing the wind swept shores of Lago Strobel. The lake which is normally whipped up to a foam by Antarctic winds, as if on cue, was as placid as a mill pond for the 5 day shoot. The incredible footage of these

huge crustacean feeding rainbows, some of which was taken from drones, was inspiring.

The three other films shown on the night were equally of high quality, and distinctly unique. "*Rainbows of Redemption*", set in the New Zealand backcountry, followed the adventures of two friends landing some incredible fish in smaller fast flowing mountain waters. "*Glorious Bastards*" set in the untouched waters of the Wessel Islands, showed great fly fishing footage of the pursuit of the wary Blue Bastards, and last but not least, "Gigas", follows 2 anglers in the middle of the Brazilian jungle where they hunt for a prehistoric air breathing fish that the natives call "Piraruca". We know them as Arapaima, and are one of the world's largest fresh water fish.

Congratulations Nick for an excellent choice of films to wet our appetites for places of our dreams. A special thanks to our hard working president, Darren, who made it all possible. Thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

Flies that morph

Jeff Yates

When I look back I see an evolution in fly selection for Australian bass. Whilst the trout scene generally followed the “match the hatch” theory, conversely, the bass scene mimicked the American small and big mouth bass flies. The flies I was first introduced to, and read about, the Dalberg Diver, the Gartside Gurgler, the Sculpion, Deerhair Bass Bugs, Clousers, etc were all American. For years we replicated them, targeting Australian bass with limited success. I have to ask, what is wrong with the trout theory of “matching the hatch”?



Lake St Clair has a rich diversity of aquatic and terrestrial food for bass. The native gudgeon and smelt, crayfish, shrimp, dragon fly larvae, damselfly, crickets, grasshoppers, bogan moths, and the list goes on. Trevor, one of our club's long time stalwarts, tied a Trev's special years ago, which replicated small native fish, and is highly successful, and is a fixture in all our fly boxes. I have used Yetis, a rabbit fur fly, also replicating bait fish, which performs well.

The Craigs Nighttime, which is by far our most successful bass catcher, is a mud-eye imitation. Over the years we have used Wolly buggers, Churchies, Hamills and Mrs Simpsons. These flies were originally tied larger than the trout wet counterparts, but once again, by mimicking the natural food, we have reduced the hook size to #8 mostly, and we have been successfully fishing even smaller flies like #10 St Clair Glass Shrimp.



So, what I am saying is the bass flies are morphing into trout flies. Where I once had a box of trout wets and a box of bass wets, now I can throw away the labels and have 1 box of generic wet flies, plus my trusty Churchie for meniscus fishing. I will share my glass shrimp pattern in the article below.

St Clair Glass Shrimp

Jeff Yates



Last month I delved into the mysteries of daytime bass feeding. If you recall, we were having trouble catching fish before the magic 1645hrs up at St Clair. We might catch one or two over a couple of hours and many casts. It was a mystery that we would have to solve if we were to better our daytime catch.

Watching shrimp pop the surface and seeing the occasional fish swirl, and further investigation of stomach contents confirmed that we were observing shrimp feeding behavior. Using photos of the whole, sometime partially digested shrimp from the fish's gut, I worked on a fly pattern to replicate the crustacean. Fishing the fly on an intermediate line in deeper water and a floating line in the weedy shallows over two

separate trips, we were able to catch 4 times as many fish during those daylight hours, and we were fishing with some confidence. Let me share the pattern.



Hooks Kamasan B830

Body clear Supreme Hair or similar

Eyes 30lb mono with burnt ends darkened with black nail polish (see above)

Cotton 6/0 waxed white



Tie in a small bunch of Supreme hair below the hook



Tie in the eyes at the side and spread a little
Tie in another bunch of Supreme hair on top of the hook



Palmer a grizzle hackle up the hook shank with 4 or 5 turns
Trim the hackle from the top and sides



Trim the Supreme hair to extend over eye, and a tapered look
overhanging the bend of the hook
Run a bead of thick resin down the body and uv set
Clean resin with metho and coat with nail polish
Don't weight the fly, let it sink and move naturally



Bass caught in the shallows in daylight on the above pattern, one of 8 in the session



August 2019

If you can't cast very well

Those of you who have been following the articles over the last few months on the ***Fly Casting Skills Challenge Program*** will be glad to hear that we have reached the last level and although there are more advanced levels I will not be writing about them. It's time to move on to something new.

Casting Around began in 2011 in the Corralinn Fly Fishing and Casting Association's newsletter. It started as a column on teaching casting skills. Over the years it has evolved into "the random ravings of a certified casting instructor" and found its way into other club newsletters. After so many articles you may think I have written about every aspect of casting imaginable. But, if you were hoping I have run out of things to write about you will be disappointed. This month I intend writing about some of the people I have watched casting over the years. Many of them couldn't cast very well. Don't worry, I won't be naming names and assure you any similarity to any person living or dead is merely coincidental!

Whenever I see someone casting a fly rod I am compelled to watch. In the early days I watched to help me learn. There is no sense in having a mentor or taking casting lessons if you do not watch and learn from their casting. Making comparisons is a great motivator for wanting to improve. Since achieving some proficiency in casting I still try to watch as many people as I can especially all those who cast better than I do ... and that's a lot of people. I also watch beginners and those who have been casting for years but still can't cast very well. Many of these people have a lot in common with the legendary Joe Schmakapop (If you haven't met Joe Schmakapop you will find him in my May 2017 column). Joe, aka Mel Krieger, proudly boasts: "I don't cast very well but I catch fish."

So for all of those people I have watched over the years who "don't cast very well" here is my top 10 countdown of what you can do to become a better caster. I think we have all tried some of these at one time or another but unfortunately some of us never get to the real solution which you can read about when you get to my number one tip for becoming a better caster.

10. **If you can't cast very well** the simple solution is to not go fly fishing. You can catch plenty of fish with lures and bait so why make life difficult for yourself. You'll save a lot of money and you won't have to tell anyone you can't cast very well!

9. **If you can't cast very well** don't go fishing on windy days. An old friend (and probably ex friend after he reads this) always answered my invitation to go fly fishing with the question "what's the wind doing?" He soon learnt he had to cope with the wind if he wanted to fish with me. You could wait for the calm days to go fly fishing but you won't go fishing very often.

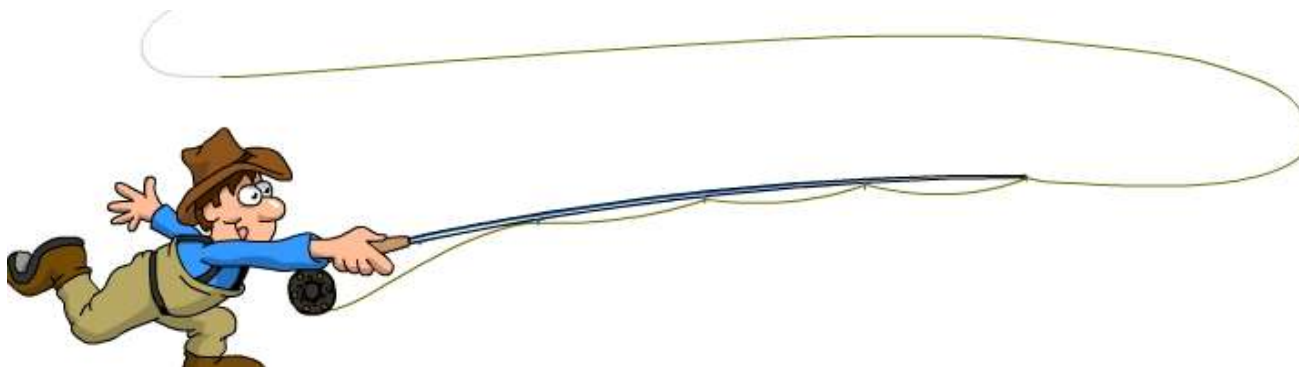


8. **If you can't cast very well** buy a new fly rod. I fell into this trap when I started out. All my problems were the fault of a "cheap" fly rod. Well the new fly rod didn't make a lot of difference for me and it won't for you unless you realize you have to cast the rod. By all means buy a new fly rod but don't expect it to solve all your casting problems.

7. **If you can't cast very well** get a double handed fly rod. To start with most double handed rods are 3 or 4 feet longer and that means you don't have to cast the line as far. Using two hands lets you apply more force and you get to use much heavier lines. Don't worry about all the complicated techniques to cast a single handed rod, get a double hander and use more power. I'm sure it would work on spring creeks!

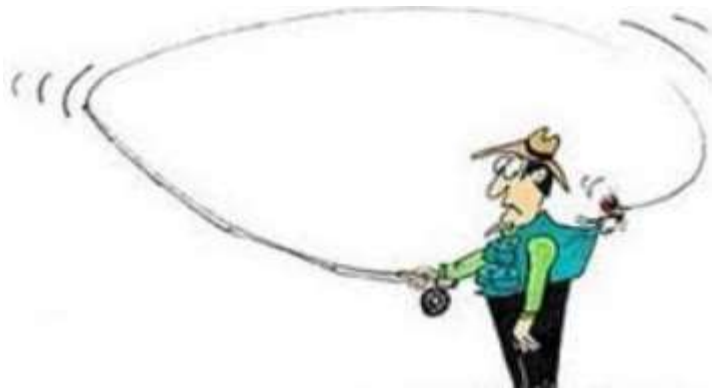
6. **If you can't cast very well** over line the rod and use a short leader. By using a heavier line than the rod is rated for you will be able to bend it easier. The heavy line will load the rod and make it do more of the work for you. A short leader will help prevent tangles and turn over big flies into the wind. Why go to all the trouble of learning to load and stop the rod if you can just shorten your leader and use a heavier line! After all most fish are caught within 30feet and you only need a long leader if you are going to New Zealand!

5. **If you can't cast very well** use more power. All males know if something isn't working you just need to apply more force. The more power you exert the more the rod bends and the line goes faster ... into a tailing loop! I can always tell when someone is using too much power even before I see the cast ... I can hear the swish of the rod from miles away even without hearing aids!



4. **If you can't cast very well** make sure you learn to double haul. The double haul adds line speed and in the right hands adds distance to any cast. I see a lot of people who think they are double hauling but really they are only hauling once. You can single haul on the back or forward cast and it can be effective but if you double haul it produces twice the result. Unfortunately, many people don't use the double haul correctly. In the words of the late Lefty Kreh "most fishermen use the double haul to throw their mistakes further."

3. **If you can't cast very well** make more false casts. The good thing about fly fishing is you can make as many false casts as you like to get it right. Making lots of false casts allows you time to judge your distance and accuracy. Making lots of false casts also increases the chances of something going wrong. The last cast syndrome is very real. I often find myself counting the number of false casts people make and calculating how much energy they are wasting ... and how many fish they are spooking!



2. **If you can't cast very well** watch YouTube. There are thousands of videos on YouTube which will teach you all you need to know about getting better at fly casting. All you have to do is follow exactly what they say and do and you can't help but improve. You may find conflicting advice and you may find you can already cast better than some of the people demonstrating, but it's a lot easier than practicing.

1. **If you can't cast very well** my number one solution for becoming a better caster is: **GET a LESSON and PRACTICE!** You've tried the rest now try the best. There is no substitute for learning correct technique and practicing it under the watchful eye of an expert. You might catch fish like Joe Schmakapop but why put up with mediocre casting when you can learn to cast well.



Fishy Pics



Fred and new member, Darren, on a double hookup in Salts Bay, with the houses of Swansea Heads in the background



Another new member Rob, with his first salmon on fly



Scape Pics



*A cracker of a morning to start
off another successful day on
the water during the classic*

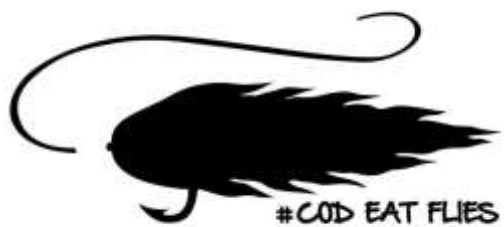
HVFFC members wish to “thank you”



Flies by Fedeles



<http://flytyerman.blogspot.com>



JASON STRATFORD

LOGICUS Images

E: jason@LOGICUSImages.com

M: 0468 46 54 54

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/logicusimages>