



2010 October Newsletter

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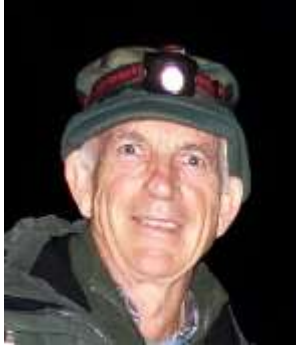
Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club meets on
the first Wednesday of each month at:-

Beresfield Bowling Club
Anderson Drive
Beresfield
At 7.00 pm



Editor's comments

Jeff Yates



By chance we run into old fly fishing friends from Singleton during a recent coffee stop. For those who know them, Doc and Jane Standing entertained us for an hour of so catching up with the latest news of common acquaintances. Really nice to see their friendly faces, and, along with a few of our own members, they have spoken with Rod Dillon on his return from USA. He reports that Rod is starting to tie flies and teaching himself to cast left handed again. Quick recovery old

mate and can't wait to see you back on the water. At least with your double yak Lorraine can paddle you around and put you onto the fish.

Tangus treated us to fantastic weekend at his property on the Williams River for the October outing. For those who were unable to attend, it is my recommendation not to miss the next invite, as you won't be sorry, it's a terrific spot. A number of fish were caught, but unlike the solid big St Clair fish, these slimmer river gems are a worthy opponent on light gear. The occasional thumper busted up lighter tippets. Read all about it in this issue.

Shane shared his adventures with Brett and Cherie to St Clair this year, along with their successful patterns. The photos tell all. Brett and Cherie also visited Windermere and cracked the Yellow Belly code. Their write up and pictures had me salivating!

We are approaching a dry, hot summer, with high bushfire ratings, which prompted me to regurgitate an article I wrote during a similar season on the Cobungra River in the Victorian High Country over the Xmas of 2006. It was tough fishing, but a lot of walking and perseverance brought results. Beautiful trout waters in Northern Victoria and probably not seeing the pressures from drought and people as is being felt in NSW.

Our good friend Allan Ekert from Coffs, who is a well-known certified casting instructor and their newsletter editor, has allowed me to publish casting tips for October. You can never get enough casting instruction, as there is always more to learn about the sport, and Allan is an expert in that field.

Thanks again to Cherie and Brett for their colourful fishy photos which helps to promote our newsletter. I have just received some replacement hooks from Brett for the Gamakatsu SL12S hooks I use for Surf Candies. The Ahrex SA280 are a worthy replacement and have a deeper gape, so I will get tying for next year.

President's Report



G'day members,

Welcome all to the October Newsletter for 2019. The weather is starting to warm up a lot more now as we head towards Summer. I would like to welcome the club's newest members: Christopher Williams from Pymble; David Moppett and Glenn Colquhoun, both from Coffs Harbour and; Steve Lynn from Aberglasslyn. Welcome and, looking forward to catching up for a fish with you guys. Dave

and Glenn travelled down from Coffs to Tangu's little slice of heaven for the October outing and had a ball I believe.

The bass fishing in the rivers is starting to fire up now we are getting some warmer days and some really nice fish are still being caught around the banks of St Clair. The new target for St Clair is now the St Clair Grand Slam: Australian Bass, Silver Perch and Golden Perch which all have to be caught on the same day on fly. Who's up for the challenge? I know of a couple of members trying their hardest.

Don't forget club memberships are now overdue so just a gentle reminder to renew your membership for 2019/20.

We are still on track for late November or Early December for the release of Bass fingerlings in conjunction with Glenn from Searle Aquaculture and the Fisheries \$4\$ scheme.



Tangu's has graciously put up his property on the banks of the Williams River again for a club outing in November for those that are interested on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th of November. This will be a self-catered outing so if you missed out on this month's trip. Don't forget to let Tangu's know if you can make the November outing. The place is ideal for a bit of bird watching as well, especially to see the magnificent Regent

Bowerbird, or discover the nest site of the Satin Bowerbird or even a sighting of the Scarlet Honeyeater. Then there is the almost un-nerving call of the Green Catbird that sounds not unlike a cat howling. I identified over 40 different species over the weekend. See how many you can spot.

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	22 nd , 23 rd , 24 th	Williams River - Bass	Tangus Ness	0401960973
December	4 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	

I'll meet you at Maccas

Shane Navin

I usually start fishing at well-known spots, which are the same areas all of the club members fish. I have spent a lot of time on the banks this year; well every weekend since May 5, but who's counting.

After landing a 55+cm Silver 6 weeks ago, Brett and I organised a Saturday walk. The results of that day were donuts all round. This was a good thing as I had been consistently catching a hand full of fish on every outing.

Despite the fishless outing we regrouped, talked tactics, line weights, rod weights, fly selection, what retrieve and all things fishing. The failure was actually a blessing in disguise that has led to the results we have been enjoying whilst walking the banks with rod, pack backs and a hand full of flies.



From that day forward, we have been able to enjoy the fruits of our labour with an average of 14 fish during a daytime session for the last 6 weeks, up until the 20 year anniversary weekend. During that great club weekend, we discussed fishing the October long weekend, despite the park being full. Expectations were low with the

onslaught of people on the water way and a weather check with a wind forecast SSE 9...SE14 : how will all this affect the bite?



We met at Maccas at 0615, talked too long about fishing, whilst in the car park drinking coffee. By the time we had wet a fly it was 0745 and this is

when it all started. Brett had landed 10 fish by 1015. It was 2 casts then look over your shoulder at your mate to see if he was on. By 1300 we had both racked up 20 fish each.

18 of mine were from a black and purple Craig's nighttime / Yeti / streamer variation with no red tag that Brett had tied up, until I switched to a Brown colour in the same fly style. All of Brett's fish came from the Brown colourway and a few to an articulated damsel fly pattern, inspired from a fly that Darren had gifted to Brett at the Anniversary lunch. Last cast was at 1415, as the sun was starting to burn through the cloud cover; I said to Brett you take the last cast, despite the fact his leader was about 500mm long with multiple wind (casting) knots. Cast any way mate, as he set the hook, I said it makes you nervous knowing you have knots in leader, hey, his response was obvious.....

After a tentative fight that fish was landed totalling 46 fish for the session. It did not sink in really until the drive home just how great that was, landing that many during the day time period.

Sunday 6th Oct, the fish are there, want another walk ? Will meet you out the lake.

Today, Cherie was here, hopefully to enjoy some action herself as she has been pestered by the stories for quite some time, hope we can get you onto some.



Being more organised we were fishing by 0700 and within 2 casts the trend from yesterday continued. We knew when Cherie was on, as her giggle was to notify us she was hooked up; it was like the bell on top of a bait fishers rod tip. In a short time, Cherie had landed 9 fish before the dropsies set in to land number 10.

Brett and I sat on the bank watching, drinking water and waiting for her to rack up 10 which was done and accomplished with a very nicely conditioned Bass.

Fish of the day measured 43 to the tip and a PB bass. By the end of the day we had totalled 34 landed fish and were back at the car by 1300 as the sun was really starting to warm.

80 bass in two sessions, I think it will be a long time coming, before I can enjoy a time like this again.

I am still wondering about the reasons for the success; was it luck with the

bank we chose? Why were there so many bass there, do they round up bait fish and smash them like their salt water cousins? Maybe right time / right place / right fly fished.



One thing that did direct us to the edge that Brett noticed was a good foam wash from the previous night's wind. 60 of the fish were caught on the Brown Craig's Nighttime variation, the remainder were 18 on the Black, 4 on Olive and 6 to the articulated damsel all tied on Ahrex NS110 streamer hook. A weekend to remember....



We landed only bass over these two sessions, but the chase for a St Clair Grand Slam is on. Bronze, Silver and Gold all in the one session..... this might top the weekend we have just had.

Christmas on the Cobungra

Jeff Yates 2006/7

This article is worth a revisit, considering we are in a similar dry, fiery situation at the moment.

For those who have watched the Rob Sitch and Tom Gleisner series, “*A River Somewhere*”, our destination is the Cobungra River, suitably covered by the pair, though a little different from reality. While they used packhorses and camped, we made day trips and walked, and walked and walked..... We must have covered 30km of the river between Mt Hotham and Omeo, and by the end of the week, our aging bodies knew it!

News of bushfires in the Victorian Alpine region before Christmas made us somewhat apprehensive, but like all good fishing trips, the one you pull out of, is an opportunity lost. This trip lived up to expectations, and we were fully satisfied with the results, but more of that later.



***Burning
ridgelines into
the distance as
Elvis drinks at
Mt Hotham water
supply reservoir,
topping up for
another quench
of the burning
National Park***



The climb from Bright up to the 1861m summit of Mt Hotham was spectacular, though numerous bushfires raging into the distance, marred long distance vistas. The bushfires did have one positive aspect, in that it allowed us to get up close and personal with numerous firefighting helicopters, including Elvis. Those guys water bombed the surrounding country all week keeping vital infrastructure safe. The downside of the fires was the restriction on access to the numerous rivers in the area. The Cobungra River, its source in the valley below Mt Hotham, was untouched by fires so far, therefore, we concentrated our efforts here.

Access was a problem in places, requiring a walk from the nearest trail down into the steep valley. Once there, the magic of virtually unfished waters made one drool with anticipation. We found some areas better than others, and decided from the onset to use dry fly only. The fish we were seeking were wild browns.



Peter on a lovely rocky pool on the upper Cobungra



Peter opened the account by scoring a lovely fish in the 1 lb range, which we thought was reasonable, but later proved only to be the entrée. During the week we caught several fish larger, with one thumper of around 4lb, a nice trout in anyone's estimations. This particular brown was seen plucking tiny black insects from the tail of a large pool. I didn't have any midge patterns with me, so what better fly to use than a generic #14 Royal Wolff pattern.

The fly was cast into a slight riffle, and as it bobbed downstream, it drifted past the shadow of an overhanging shrub, where the take was both delicate, yet forceful. At this stage the 3lb tippet cut through the pool tail, as the fish headed for the safer depths of the dark hole above. It soared back and forth trying to free itself from the not so natural insect in its mouth. Realising that it could not shake the fly, it sprinted past me at a great rate of knots, down the rapids, with me in quick pursuit. Another frisky fight in a deep, rocky hole below, and I was finally able to subdue the beautiful fish.



When it all comes together, wet camera lens and all.....

Other fish were spotted and strategies adopted to ambush them; some failed, but when we put it all together with a stealthy approach, a delicate presentation and correct fly selection, the hook up was exhilarating. Every trip has its own learning outcomes and this one was no exception. Fly selections were tuned with late night tying sessions to get it just right, and gentle fly delivery on long tippets were essential for the gin clear waters.

This river is an oasis in the valley. The adjacent countryside was severely burnt out in the 2003 bushfires, and after only 3 years with another bushfire on its doorstep, we fear for the worst. The summer is hot and dry and the adjoining farms were showing short stubble through bare earth. The stock is barely surviving, yet any private landowners we approached were hospitable and only too happy to chat to get their minds off the reality of the hardships surrounding them.

The Cobungra River is a mixture of both rugged, steep beauty for 25 odd kilometres, with the remainder a slower flowing stream in both national park and cattle country. For the adventuresome fly fisherman, this river offers heaps of challenges, but also many rewards, one of which is solitude; we didn't see another fisherman on the river during our adventure, though we saw deer, snakes and heaps of other wildlife.

All in all, a great trip to remember with challenging terrain and fishing, surpassed only by the beauty of the mountains and the good company.

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Williams River

Jeff Yates



A trip we have all been keenly looking forward to, an invitation to fish on the Williams River some 3km below Clarence town, Tanguis hosted us at his beautiful bush property for the October outing.

Around a dozen members attended at least one of the days, with Lauchie coming the weekend before, even catching Tanguis by surprise. This was also an inaugural outing for new members, whom some might know, from the Coffs club and our Salmon Classic, Dave Moppett and Glenn Colquhoun. Both are quite accomplished fly fishermen, and will be an asset to our club. Welcome aboard fellas and hope we can see you along at a few more events into next year.

Driving through the property, past the rustic homestead, the track meanders along the boundary line and drops off the escarpment to the river flats below. The trip down was ok, but I was dreading the climb out over the boulders and loose surface. The camp had a vast well-manicured lawn surrounded by tall gums, and a couple of Morton Bay figs as handy shade.

The bird life surrounding the camp was stunning. A cat bird, with a call like castrated cat, eerily filled the air, while both Satin and Regent Bower birds flitted through the figs, and shit all over my car. Now I know why no one was camped under these beautiful shade trees!



Male Regent Bower Bird



Glenn Olney getting chained up the track



Tanguis with a tadpole caught carp

Most of the overnight fishers were already on the water as Peter and myself paddled off in the yaks. By this time the sun was higher in the sky and called for a sub-surface fly attack. We caught up with Tanguis standing 7ft up in Canadian canoe, with his glass rod bent over the gunnels. I took a few pics of him landing a brightly coloured carp, though I was secretly hoping for a thumper bass. The fish took a tadpole pattern that Huon tied, and the same pattern proved a real killer with Huon landing ten bass later in the evening.

While the size of the fish were not large and required lighter tippets, the occasional river monster turns up to pinch your fly as witnessed by a couple of fishermen. I think the arsiest catch of the weekend, was a 400mm bully mullet foul hooked, yes, you guessed it, in the cake hole! Huon said it put up a terrific, if not too conventional fight before he was able to land it.



Anyone, please throw the ball for me....

Dave and Glenn were using a terrific 10ft punt Dave acquired from Cubby Station for a song, but cost him a fortune in petrol and a couple of days getting it. Apparently, it was quite stable, with a shallow draft, allowing the guys to stand up in it, and get into the shallows. It was good to hear that they also caught a number of fish over the weekend, but I found the going tough and failed to catch on my Saturday visit.



Peter practicing his back casts under duress

The sheep dogs, a Kelpie, a Border Collie and a Koolie kept us entertained, as they chased balls and sticks, and logs into the water and even Peters fly line as he made a few false casts. These were the cutest dogs but so full of energy, sort of made me quite envious, as I struggled with my older aged ailments, though it did remind me of my youth back in the olden days.



Glenn and Dave with evening bass

While fishing later in the day, I was visited by the Maritime Services boat for a chat. The officer was only interested in our catch and how many fly fishermen we had in our group. Very interesting though, as he also asked how the water skiers affected us and whether they were keeping their 60m distance. I had to say that they were a pain in the proverbial. The last I saw of him, he was waving down power boats further down the river, where they quietly moved off without a wake.

Tanguis prepared and cooked a fantastic green chicken curry for dinner Saturday night, with the aid of kitchen hands Huon and Jeff, and served it South African style, in a hollowed half loaf of bread. We must have been hungry after a hard day

on the water, because Tangus's 3 sheep dogs were begging for a taste, but had to be happy with the dropped crumbs!

Thanks again Tangus for sharing your little hidden hideaway with the club, and I for one would love to revisit for another outing if we were invited.



Water skiers a constant irritation



Sitting in the shade back at camp



Colourful bass with an equally colourful shrimp pattern



The Koolie with that bloody ball again



Water Dragon eyeing off my fly



Golden Days

Cherie and Brett – BWCflies

There's something special about travelling west over the mountains. I'm a coastal girl who loves to travel north along the coast, however heading west to a beautiful dam like Windermere always warms the heart.



Lake Windermere during better times

Brett and I recently had the pleasure of travelling to Windermere to spend a few days with a group of Fly anglers who all share the same passion. That is chasing Yellas on fly. We arrived on the Sunday afternoon. Expectations were high. Last year, we had spent a few days on the lake experiencing the most magical sight casting you could ever imagine.

This year was not the case and we had to adjust our tactics accordingly. The water had a blue green algae through it which limited the clarity to a few feet at best. This meant we were unable to sight fish on the bottom and had to resort to blind casting at specific structure.

Our methods seem different to others. We rarely use the sounder, usually only turning it on to know what depth we are.

We basically like to choose locations

that have nice healthy weed beds around 3mtrs deep. We have success with casting through the weed beds and casting along the deep weed edge.

The technique is to put out a long cast towards the edge and start bumping it through the weed straight away whilst always keeping your rod tip down touching the water. This eliminates any belly in the flyline and you will be able to feel any of the subtle grabs on the fly to have a better hook up rate.

In amongst the retrieval, some pauses and quicker sharper strips can be added to initiate the eat. Like all species, the retrieval pattern needs to be mixed up to get a positive response from the fish.

Others areas we target are rocky points and bays feature standing timber. Rocks with a weed edge nearby is ideal.

Coming back in to the camp site on dusk, sitting around the campfire talking all things fishing is always the highlight for me. Watching the moon rise over the mountains whilst cooking up some camp food and having a coldie- is there anything better. We caught some chunky football sized fish on the trip. They hit hard and put a lot of strain on you gear.

When targeting Golden Perch at Lake Windamere, Brett and I like to use the following gear-

- 8weight Rod with a matching reel
- 7/8 weight compact intermediate flyline with a clear tip that sinks at approximately 2 inches per second
- a 9ft tapered leader that is appropriate

for the conditions, this season we have used 12lb as the water is quite dark , but in clear water conditions drop to 10lb or 8lb - the Donny Brasco Fly pattern in full black or Rust/Black have been the 2 primary choices this year , but don't disregard colours like Olive/Black , Red/Black as they have been very successful in past years at Windamere.

If you are considering heading to the Central West, September and October seem to be the prime months and plan your trip around the Golden Perch comps that occur during this time of year.



Cherie with a magnificent Windermere Yella

Brett putting theory into practice with a lovely fish





October 2019

Casting Lessons

After last month's article I'm sure all the casting instructors out there have been run off their feet dealing with the hundreds of calls from people who can't cast very well. And if you believe that let me tell you I can cast a full fly line with a two weight rod into the wind with either hand!

It's one thing to believe you would benefit from casting lessons and another to do something about it. The thought of having someone watch you casting and point out your problems is too much to face for most of us. If you look at other sports such as golf or tennis it is common practice for people to go to a professional for help. Yet in our sport of fly fishing there is a reluctance to admit the need for assistance.

Fly fishing is a solitary sport and for the most part non competitive. If you fish within the limits of your casting ability and don't fish with people who show you up all the time you won't see the need to cast better. You might not be able to cast very well but if you can catch fish what does it matter? If your casting is good enough to fool most fish you come across there is no incentive to improve. It's not until you find yourself in a situation where your lack of casting skills prevent you from catching a fish that you realize you need to do something about it.

In the world of tennis or golf your skills are constantly being pitted against someone else and if you want to beat them you need to make sure your skills are better than theirs. Nearly every golf or tennis club has a resident professional who makes a living from people who realize if they want to win they have to have all the skills and be able to use them better than their opponent. For a fly fisher it's not about being better than someone else but about being better than the fish. Your skills need only grow to the level of difficulty needed to catch fish. Once you have mastered those skills you can happily fish for the rest of your life – until the urge to catch something more difficult comes along.

When I started fly fishing I did it on my own from books and videos. There were no clubs around and very few fly fishers. I had no one to watch what I was doing and tell me what was going wrong and what to do about it. I fished with a few friends who were good casters and I watched and tried to learn as much as I could from them. The problem with fishing with friends is they can be reluctant to offer advice for fear of offending you and asking friends for help can be embarrassing.

I eventually paid for a lesson from a former Australian Casting Champion by the name of Vinnie Ford. I had reached a plateau in my casting – more like a valley actually – and I couldn't get to the other side. The more I read, watched and tried, I couldn't get any distance with my casts. It had to be the rod! A good friend had sold me the rod from a local tackle store and assured me it was just what I needed. It wasn't one of the top brands and it didn't cost a fortune so it had to be the reason I wasn't getting any distance. I still have and use that rod today and it casts a whole lot better than it did when I first bought it!

I travelled a great distance to see Vinnie and much of what he taught me is a blur as he tried to fix a whole lot of bad habits before he could start. Any thought that a one day lesson would solve all my problems soon vanished. The one thing that stuck in my mind about Vinnie's lesson was that he picked up my rod and cast the whole fly line across the pond dispelling my belief that the rod was the reason I couldn't cast very well. I knew I needed more lessons!

Casting lessons don't need to cost money. You can get casting lessons from friends, acquaintances, your local tackle store or people you meet on the water. Anyone you see making a better job at it than you can be a potential instructor. We all have in our own mind what our casting looks like. It's not until someone else takes a look that you discover the reality doesn't always match your imagination. The best instructors are those who can watch your cast and help you see where you are going wrong. They then provide solutions for your problems. For friends and acquaintances this can be a precarious path. If you have ever tried to teach someone close to you to drive a car you can probably see where this is heading.



Most fly fishing clubs have casting instructors or experienced fly fishers who will help you out. For the cost of membership you will have access to people who can cast well and who can give you a few pointers. The value of a fly club is that instruction can come in the form of groups and with people who you feel comfortable working with. Within a fly club there is always someone who can cast better than you and from

whom you can learn. The problem with this approach, however, is in the level of consistency and the teaching ability of the instructor.

When I went to Vinnie Ford for my lesson he was relying on his skills developed as a champion fly caster and the knowledge he had gained along the way. At that time there were no formal programs to teach people how to teach fly casting in Australia. In England the Game Instructors association was created in 1967. In Europe the European Fly Fishing Association began offering instructor programs in 2006. In America the Casting Instructor Certification Program (CICP) was developed in 1992.

All these programs were developed to provide a consistent and theoretically sound approach to the teaching of fly casting. They were based on certifying an instructor's ability to cast, to teach casting and to understand the mechanics of how a cast works. The emphasis was on teaching and not just on a person's ability to cast well. Instructors were trained to diagnose faults and teach fixes. And to prove they had mastered all these components of a good casting instructor they had to pass a rigorous practical and theoretical exam.



In Australia the most widely recognized formal qualification for casting instructors is The Casting Instructor Certification Program (CICP) developed by Fly Fishers International. Although originating in America it has now become truly international with Brian Henderson MCI from Foster NSW currently on the Board of Governors. There are three casting instructor certifications, including Certified Casting Instructor, Master Casting Instructor and Two-Handed Casting Instructor. There are currently 83 CCIs, 14 MCIs, and 4 THCIs in Australia.

The CICP has done much to improve the standard of casting instruction worldwide. Someone who has been certified under this program can be deemed to be a professional whether they charge for their lessons or not. Many instructors now make their living by teaching casting just as professional instructors in other sports. To become a certified casting instructor requires time, effort and expense. If you are looking for someone to get a casting lesson from you should be looking for someone who has been certified. This may cost you money but you will know you are learning from someone who has the skills and knowledge to help you improve.

To conclude I need to point out this is not just one big advertorial for me as a casting instructor. I don't give casting instruction for money and don't receive commission when those hundreds of people contact an instructor as a result of reading my articles. I enjoy the sport of fly fishing and want others to enjoy it too.

Enjoyment comes from success and success comes with good casting skills. If you want to cast well you need casting lessons. Join a club and get some free instruction. Find a certified casting instructor and book a lesson. Not being able to cast very well is not something to be proud of even if you do catch fish.



Cherie with a stonker of a Windermere Yella

8 Handy fly fishing knots to learn

Jeff Yates

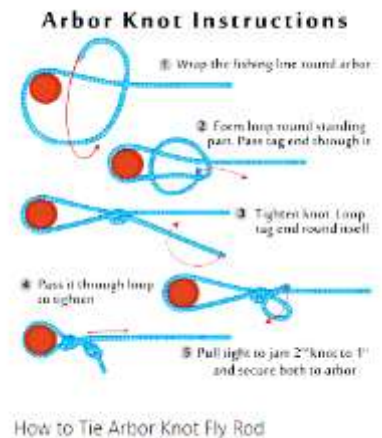
- Arbor knot - joins backing to reel
- Perfection loop - forms a loop in leader to do loop to loop connection to fly line
- Nail knot - joins backing and leader to either end of fly line
- Blood knot - joining 2 pieces of nylon
- Locked half-blood knot - tying flies to leader
- Triple surgeon's knot - joining different sized tippet materials together
- Surgeon's Dropper knot- triple surgeons knot using short tag to form 90deg dropper
- Harros loop knot - forming a loop connection to fly to ensure free movement of fly

I sort of take it for granted tying the correct knots when I'm fly fishing, either salt or freshwater, however, I became unstuck when one of our new members wanted to attach his backing to the fly line. These days I use loop connections on all my lines, but this was a new fly line without a loop and called for a nail knot. Well, my nail knots without a nail are ugly, so it called for a tool, and Peter had just the tool. While I fumbled around, all thumbs, Peter grabbed it and quickly had our mate in business. Now, what this has highlighted is a need to review some essential knots which I use regularly, some requiring a little practice (like the nail knot!) while others can be tied in the dark with one hand behind the back. Most of these knots can be seen on YouTube for in-depth tuition.

1. The Arbor knot

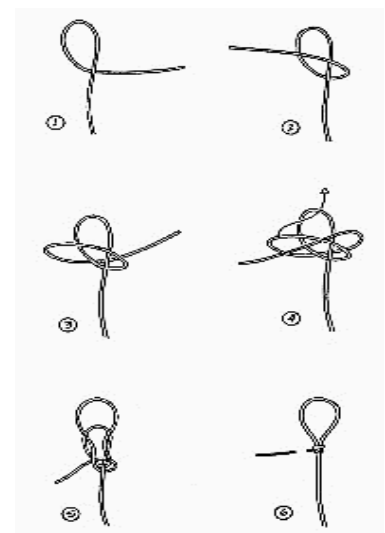
When you join the backing to your reel. This knot has to be effective, otherwise, on a heavy fish, it might just strip you out into the backing and pull the knot and you lose everything.

To tie an Arbor knot, simply wrap the backing tag end around the reel arbor twice, then do an overhand knot over the standing line and lock it with an overhand knot on the tag.



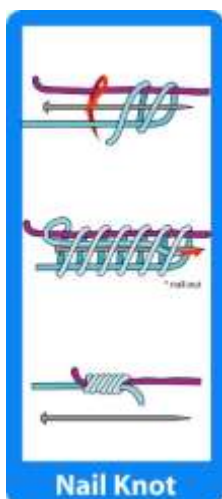
2. The Perfection Loop

This knot is the smallest, neatest and strongest loop knot available. I use it for all my loop to loop knots and is the preferred loop knot on commercial leaders. This knot can also be used to give movement to flies, lies flat, and a substantial breaking strain. Learn it and you won't regret it.



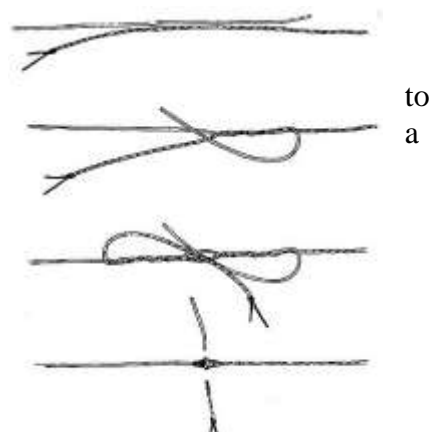
3. The Nail Knot

If you don't have loops on the ends of your fly line, or if you are after a more delicate presentation and want to tie your leader directly to the fly line, then you would use a nail knot. Its name originates from the use of a nail to maintain a hollow in which to feed the tag end through.



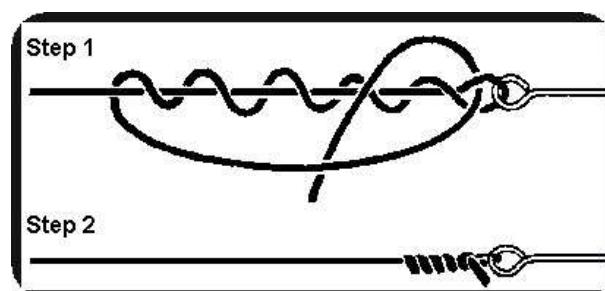
4. Blood knot

Used for joining 2 pieces of line together in a strong knot using 2 half-blood knots. The tag ends on the completed knot stand out at 90 degrees the running line. It is the preferred knot for the larger diameter nylon on multi section handmade leaders.



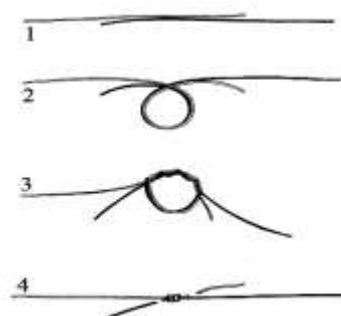
5. Locked Blood knot

Used to attach leader to fly. This is one of many knots for this purpose, but it is uncomplicated and a proven knot of high breaking strain.



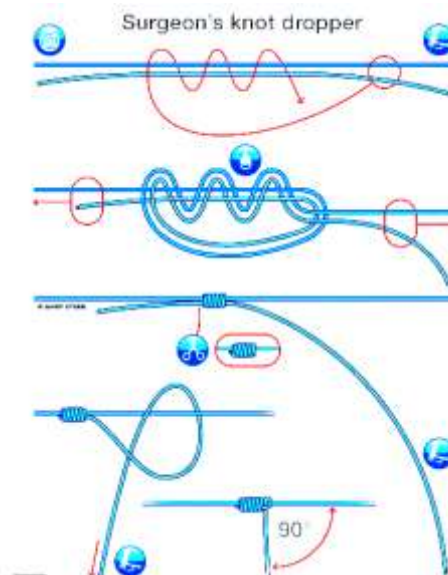
6. Triple Surgeon's knot

This is an easy to tie knot and popular for joining leaders and tippets. The tag ends can be trimmed close to prevent fouling. The finished knot is a slim, tapered knot of average strength.



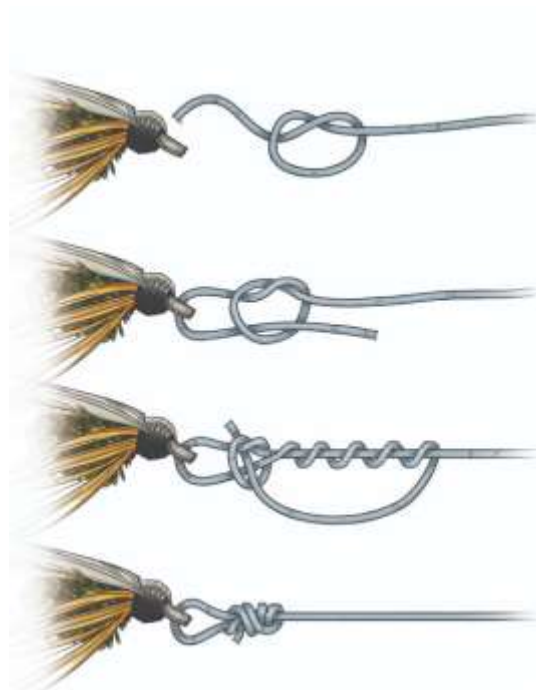
7. Surgeon's Dropper knot

Another essential and fantastic knot for attaching more than 1 flies to a leader; I love it!

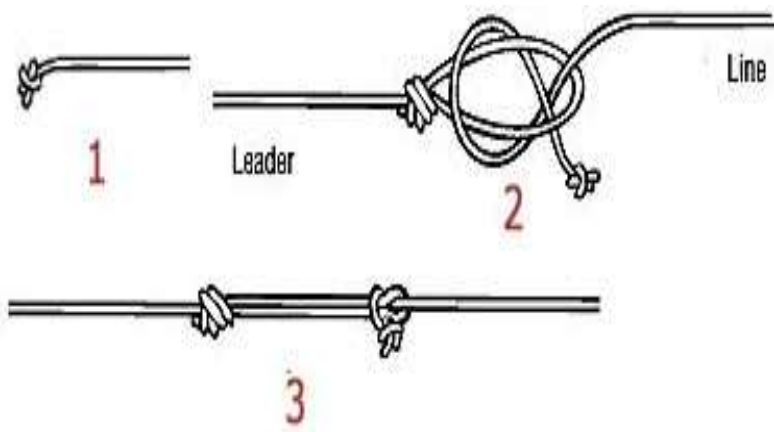


8. Harros Loop knot

Made famous when Harro shared his secret for catching large barra up north. It allows the fly to swing naturally and freely when drawn through the water. I use it on my larger wets and salt water flies. I did have a few problems up north using 40lb fluorocarbon, with the heavier fly wearing away the loop after a session of casting and catching fish. If unchecked you could lose a fish of a lifetime.



You probably know more knots that are useful but if you can master the above knots you will not be able to blame your knots for losing fish. Practice them often, use YouTube to guide you through the process. Now I promised 8 knots, but this knot (known as a Wedge knot) is one I used to tie as a boy when attaching the leader to the fly line. This was before loops were invented and nail knots failed on the older lines. I still use as a quick fix, if I break a loop on the fly line when fishing. I ensure I replace the loop when I get home, but this knot will keep you in business and no fancy tools needed, just an overhand knot in flyline and loop knot in leader.



Fishy Pics



*Coff's recruit, Glenn
Colquhoun with nice
evening bass aboard Dave's
Cubby Tubby*



Scape Pics



*Cobundra with the gum skeletons from
bushfires 3 years previously*

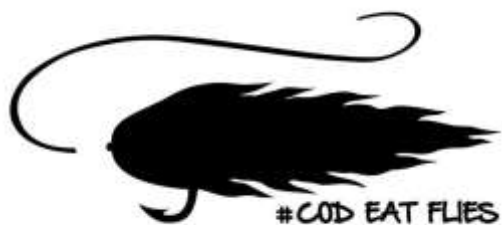
HVFFC members wish to “thank you”



Flies by Fedeles



<http://flytyerman.blogspot.com>



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