

2019 November Newsletter

President – Darren Foster

Vice President – Patrick Tobin

Secretary – Jim Manley

Treasurer – Wayne Hunt

Newsletter Editor – Jeff Yates

Grants Officer – Mark Schmidt

Special Events – Cherie Blackburn

Raffles - Brent Blackwell

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

Beresfield Bowling Club Anderson Drive Bersefield At 7.00 pm





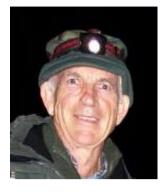
Public Officer Tony Ward

Committee Members

Fiona Meredith Peter Sewell Kevin Croft Robert Probert



Editor's comments Jeff Yates



Firstly, a big callout to Rod Dillon once again. I dropped into his place in Muswellbrook for a cupper during the week. Great to catch up and talk fishing and future plans. If you are in his vicinity I'm sure he and Lorraine would welcome a visit.

Tangus kindly invited members back to fish his property on the Williams River for another club weekend. A storm rolled in just as the bite was starting, and sadly, Tangus, Brent, Darren and his son called it an evening. Several bass were caught

prior to the storm. A beautiful venue and looking forward to another club weekend next year if Tangus will have us, but don't invite the storm!

Kevin Croft has given me a delightful story about plucking his grandson's chooks and making fries or was that flies? But I'd better let him tell the story, for sure I'll get it wrong!

Brent suggested a mullet fish at the rear of Swansea Caravan Park for an afternoon's outing in December. With that in mind I have written a little article on tackle and how to fish the area. It might help those who have not fished for mullet at this spot. Years ago, both the Newcastle Fly Rodders and also the Singleton Fly Fishing Club regularly fished the spot, and with some success, but it does require a little adjustment in presentation and approach. The use of bread burley is essential as bycatches of bream, whiting, flounder, even taylor and blackfish happens.

Thanks again to Allan Ekert from Coffs with his very intuitive casting tips. His experience and knowledge is a real bonus for the Coffs club and I'm only too happy to receive his tips and pass them on to members.

Yes, we have been chasing bass again, read all about it in the Bushfire Bass article.

Last but not least, as a variety, I has added an article I wrote in 2006 on a fishing trip I did in Ireland. This was a bush basher up a glacial valley to the top of a mountain range to fish a small lake at the very top. As you will read, it is not all about size, the stunted fish are just beautiful and etched in my memory. Lucky I did it then, as there's no way that I would reach the spot these days. Wear and tear to the body and 13 years on has made me a little less adventuresome.

President's Report



G'day members,

Welcome all to the November Newsletter for 2019. The hot weather is certainly gaining momentum now.

With the weather warming up, now is the time to be aware of your surrounds, especially walking the banks of your favourite fishing spot as the snakes will well and truly be on

the move. Remember to carry a basic first aid kit with at least one (two or three would be better) compression bandage in your kit.

I would like to welcome the club's newest member: Graeme Kempton from Newcastle. Welcome mate, looking forward to catching up for a fish with you in the near future. Graeme has recently returned from a successful trip to New Zealand.

Sadly, the dams have dropped further still with Glenbawn now at 43%; St Clair down to 45%; and Lostock Dam at 66% with all dams still dropping.

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.

Tangus offered members to access the Williams River via his camp ground again for the outing in November. There were a few good fish caught despite not many members making the outing.



A couple of feisty bass from the depths and the shallows of the Williams River. Can you tell which is which? The flies are a pretty good hint.

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	02nd	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	30th	Fly Tying @ Mai-Wel with BWC Flies Darren		0413392774
April	03 th	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
April	€ th	Aust. Fly Fishing Festival		
May	01 st	Club Meeting at Bero Bowlo	All	
May	10 th , 11 th	Bunyah Silver Perch	Patrick 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-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	08th	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	

Why I always carry a flask of Jack Daniel's Whisky on fishing trips. Darren Foster

Long before I started fly-fishing, when I dabbled in the black arts of fishing, I went fishing for bass one morning but after a short time I ran out of bait.

Then I saw a large brown snake with a frog in its mouth.

Frogs are really good bass bait.

Knowing the snake couldn't bite me with the frog in its mouth, I quickly grabbed it behind the head, removed the frog from its mouth, and put the frog in the bait bucket.

Now the dilemma was how to release the snake without getting bitten. So, I grabbed my flask of Jack Daniel's and poured a little whiskey in its mouth. The snake's eyes rolled back and turned glassy and started to relax.

I released the snake back on to the bank without any dramas and carried on fishing, using the frog as bait.

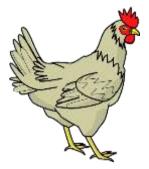
Not long after, I felt a nudge on my foot. It was that darn snake again... and this time with two more frogs.



.....

The Chicken Run Fly

Kevin Croft



A few months ago, my daughter and grandson, Emile, told me that they bought some new chickens. When I saw them, they had feathers with black and white speckles. Jokingly I said they would be good for a fly.

A few weeks passed and next time we caught up, a plastic bag was produced with a dozen or so feathers in it, accompanied with the words "there you go grandpa, you will be able to make a fly now". So, I took the bag home and put it in the freezer to kill any mites.

A few more weeks went by and more feathers turned up from Emile. Only problem was, I had forgotten where I had put the first packet. I didn't have the heart to tell him that I had lost the first ones.

As time passed, grandpa was getting ice-creams out of the freezer for the grandkids and there they were, the lost Feathers! Grandpa was saved.......

Looking after Emile a few weeks later he asked, "can we make a fly" and of course I proudly said we can use the feathers you collected for me.



We went onto the fly-tying bench and started to tie a fly for Bass, and after a few minutes we had our creation. Proud as punch, we were both excited with the result.

Keen to try out the new Chicken Run Fly (CRF), I went to St Clair, however, being early afternoon and the sun pretty high, I tied on an old pattern. It was slow fishing to start with, only catching a couple. As the sun got lower on the horizon, I decided to tie on the new "CRF", and after a few casts I was on, it works! A few more

casts and another one, *this fly is great*. The count for the fly is at 8, but then a snag. Oh no I can't lose the CRF but that's what happened. How can I tell Emile I lost it.





Next time we caught up I gave him the good news, "the fly was great", then the bad news, I lost it! It didn't phase him any, he just said "we can make another one". So today that's what we did, tied a new fly and just as we finished, Ray and Fiona turned up for a cuppa, and in true club spirit, Emile handed the CRF over to Fiona to give it a test run.

Good luck Fiona, no pressure now!

Swansea Mullet Chase Jeff Yates

At the November monthly club meet, Brent suggested that we have an evening on the mullet at Swansea caravan park. He spoke about the need for the right tide to fish the dropover area at the rear of the park, and is looking for a suitable tide and afternoon for the club invitation, in early December.

From past experience there a few basic needs, as you will be fishing in waist deep water at the lake dropover (from sandflats to lake bottom approx 6 - 10m)

Where and when to fish – drive past the northern side of Swansea caravan park to the carpark at the western back end. From here you walk west across the shallowest part of the flats to the dropover. Best time to fish corresponds with a rising tide with high around dark. It must be remembered that the lake is around 3 hours behind Swansea heads tide times, so a 10pm high will be a 7pm high in the lake.

Clobber – I use cheap full length waders, with rubber boots. Why you might ask? Well, firstly the pelican itch around the crown jewels is to be avoided at all costs, and those that have had it will know what I mean, so stay dry. Secondly, there is a shellfish in the lake which will cut your feet to ribbons, I'm talking about Razor clams or Razor fish, which as the picture shows can be up to 400m long with the protruding shell as sharp as a razor. Thirdly, they are cheaper than new Gortex gear!

Fishing gear – Use 5 or 6 wt rods with a floating line. We generally use a two fly rig with a dropper floating fly and a sinking fly on the end, but more about flies later. Use 6lb straight leader of say 2m of Maxima line with a short dropper. Take a waterproof shoulder bag to carry a loaf of bread as burley. You will need a torch as we fish into the dark.



Razor clams make a mess of your feet *Flies* – Basic flies that can be tied in 2 minutes on say #12 hooks do the trick. I tie several different types, as I like to float one and submerge one. The flies below have a varying sink rate, and you vary your combination until you start catching. The floating fly uses white tail deer or similar, then there is a straight hackle fly, using cheap white Indian capes, palmer the full length of the hook and trim the hackle to size. This would be the most productive fly. Next would be the dubbed body or chenille body with a hackle to stop it from sinking too fast. The last 2 are rabbit fur fly and a polyfibre dubbed fly, both full sinking flies. The burley will bring on the fish, and you have to match the hatch.

Technique – Wet your burley and sparingly throw upstream of where you are fishing. Don't put too much burley in as this will tend to disperse the fish.

Cast out to the burley and keep a tight line with only the barest of movement to keep in touch with the fly.

What fish will you catch? – The main target are Bully mullet and Yellow eye mullet, but you will catch bream and squire, gar, whiting and even blackfish!

Be aware that there are sharks in the lake and they aren't looking for bread!



Various flies that can be tied



November 2019

A Bit of Fluff

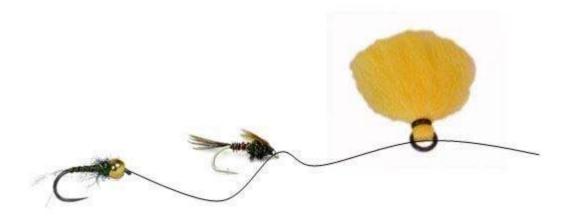
Now that I have your attention and have upset all the feminists I had better tell you that this month I am writing about what you tie on the end of your line when you are practicing your casting. That bright bit of wool or yarn is commonly referred to as "fluff" and every casting instructor uses it and so do you if you practice. The fluff is there to simulate a fly without the dangers that go with hooks. It's highly visible and acts just like a real fly when you make a cast ... or does it?

Fluff is not a fly. It may be the same size and weight as **some** flies and it may react the same way as **some** flies but it does not cast like **all** flies. It is a convenient and safe option to tie on your line when you want to practice. But when you are fishing you don't use a fly just like your piece of fluff. Fishing flies have a metal hook inside and vary in shape, size, weight and aerodynamics. And therein lies the problem of practicing with a bit of fluff.

I'd hate to calculate how much time I have spent casting a bit of fluff backwards and forwards in the park. To pass the Casting Instructors exam I needed hours of practice and everything had to be done with a piece of fluff. Competition casting is done with a piece of fluff. Then there is the time spent practicing and enjoying the relaxing and therapeutic benefits of casting loops. Practicing with a piece of fluff can make you a great caster ... but not necessarily a great fly fisher. To be a great fly fisher you have to learn to cast **flies**.

Flies are imitations of natural food sources we cast while fly fishing. They are made with furs, feathers, thread or other materials tied onto a fish hook. Artificial flies can represent all manner of freshwater and saltwater fish food including aquatic and terrestrial insects, crustaceans, worms, baitfish, vegetation, flesh, small reptiles, amphibians, mammals and birds. So just as a fish's diet is varied, so too is the composition, size, weight and shape of our artificial flies. To be a great fly fisher you need to be able to cast a variety of flies.

All that casting a bit of fluff around is a good starting point but it doesn't prepare you for the range of flies that you have to cast if you are going to become a great fly fisher. Let me give you three examples of the flies you might want to cast and how you have to cast them differently to your piece of fluff. Don't despair, all that practice you have been doing with your piece of fluff will stand you in good stead. Being able to cast tight loops is still the cornerstone of all casting. But there are times when you don't want tight loops and my first example is one of them.



When I first went to Tasmania I had a lot to learn about fishing lakes. Watching and learning from others I soon found using a couple of heavy nymphs and an indicator to be an effective technique when there was nothing happening on the surface. In Tasmania you can fish up to three flies on your leader and when you do the last thing you want is a super sharp loop – unless you like undoing tangles! The secret to casting multiple flies, including dry flies, is to keep you loops open. This works best when you have a following breeze, or if you are in Tasmania, a following gale. Casting multiple flies into the wind should be avoided if possible. Casting into the wind requires tight loops and high line speed which is a recipe for disaster when you are casting a multi fly rig. So next time you practice with a piece of fluff try tying on a few pieces and adding some weight. You will learn about making wide, smooth loops and be better prepared for catching those Tasmanian lake trout.



I'm more likely to be casting heavy clousers for flathead these days than multiple nymphs for trout. A clouser is just about as far removed from a piece of fluff as you can get. They are bigger and heavier so you have to make some changes to your casting stroke to stay safe and get your fly out there. The problem with really heavy flies is that as soon as they stop moving they begin to fall out of the sky. If you try casting them like a bit of fluff you will be in trouble. The answer is to keep the fly moving and don't let it stop long enough to fall. This involves keeping the fly under constant tension using a cast called the Oval or Belgian cast. If you don't know how to make a Belgian cast I suggest you take a look at some videos (or see a casting instructor). You can get the hang of it with your piece of fluff but to learn it properly you need to add some weight to your practice routine. Rig up your second best rod, tie on a sinker and wear a helmet! Make 10

sure you practice the constant tension cast before you fish with heavy flies if you want to be a great fly fisher.

I'm off to New Zealand next month to get my fix of trout fishing. Despite all my practice with a piece of fluff I know the greatest difficulty I will have is judging where my fly is in the air so I can make that one perfect cast. If you have fished the crystal clear waters of New Zealand you will know how big trout like small flies and big trout don't like sloppy casts. If you don't get it right the first time your next cast is going to have even less chance of fooling that fish. Practicing with a nice big colourful piece of fluff can lull you into a false sense of security. My eyes are not as good as they used to be and being able to see a size 18 nymph at forty feet is no easy feat! I can't do much about my eyesight but I can practice with a small nymph instead of the fluff. I've learnt to try and false cast well away from the fish and maybe tick the water so I can see where the fly is and judge my length. Direction tends not to be the problem when you can't see the fly. It's all about the distance.



The other aspect of fly fishing in New Zealand is the need to fish long leaders. Not only do those wary trout require accurate first casts they don't want to see the fly line. Using an 18 foot leader can be a necessity for some fish. Now if you are like me, when you tie your piece of fluff on your line to practice, the leader is probably not much more than 9 foot – if that. When you come to cast a tiny dry or nymph on an 18ft leader all that practice in the park may not help. To be a great fly fisher you need to practice with fluff but vary the length of your leader to be prepared for all possibilities.

There are many more examples of how flies you use in the real world of fly fishing are different to casting a piece of fluff. Think fishing for bass with Dahlbergs or Permit with crab flies. You need to be anticipating how and where you will be fishing and practice accordingly. By all means tie on a piece of fluff and practice as often as you can. You cannot circumvent learning to control your fly line and making good loops. But if you want to be prepared for that special trip, that difficult fish, or casting unusual flies, cut off the fluff and try practicing to be a great fly fisher.

As I finish writing this I can hear the words of Joe Schmakapop ringing in my ears (remember Joe? aka Mel Krieger) "I can't cast very well but I catch fish ... and I get all the practice I need when I go fishing." Don't be fooled into thinking you can practice casting different flies **while** you are fishing. Great fly fishers practice **before** they go and make the most of their time on the water.

Bushfire Bass Jeff Yates

Roads are closed to the North as some of the worst bushfires ever are raging in NSW and Queensland. With over 1.7m hectares burnt out, it is a strange time to be organising a freshwater fishing trip. It's also getting a bit late in the season to chase bass from the banks of St Clair, but what the heck, when Peter announced that he and Fred were heading up, I rang Darren and we had a trip corium. Tangus and Huon



were working up that way and said they would join us. While fishing Alcorn Island, now peninsular, we captured glimpses of someone in shorts and another in orange work clobber, whom I suggest were Huon and Tangus, but were never within talking distance.

Meanwhile, travelling up, we agreed to meet at Singleton Maccas for a roasted sawdust coffee and talk tactics, before decamping and making a beeline for Twin Soaks. The day before there were 17 emergency bushfire alerts, with strong winds and temperatures of 37 degrees, so what we will find is anyone's guess. Being bushfire aware, we pulled up off the road onto a cleared patch, just in case our exhausts started a fire in the dry, brittle stubble, masquerading as grass. Today also, we have discarded our waders for a cooler option, trousers and boots so no wading except when one of us decided to retrieve a buried fly in a sunken log.

Most of the riparian vegetation has disappeared, leaving muddy shores, and generally featureless; yes even old faithful St Clair is starting to feel the grips of the drought, though at 45%, it is better than most.

The going was slow before the sun set, with 3 or 4 fish being landed on tadpole patterns. These fish were



different from mid-winter caught bass, being a lot slabbier, unlike the cooler weather, chunky fish. The frustration of not scoring got the better of me and I sacrificed a fish to check its last feed, and surprising, dead empty. This makes targeting them a little more difficult, so what do you turn to at St Clair, why the good old Craigs. I had knocked up a batch with a specked grey chenille body during the previous week, and they were an immediate success. Tonight the fish preferred a very, very slow, 50mm, jerky retrieve. Retrieve faster and not a touch. Fred was fishing on the opposite

side of the bay and we could make out his loaded rod silhouette, obviously doing well. We started to catch a few ourselves, with best fishing just as the full moon rose over the adjacent range, but the moon was also our nemesis. As it rose higher off the horizon, just like trout on a full moon, the fishing stalled. It was now around 9pm, so we made an executive decision to pull the pin. I suppose a trip at this time of the year is always a risk, but we still managed around 30 fish between the 4 of us, so we were happy.



On the way back to the car and subsequently on the way home, we saw numerous animals, like a pair of brush tailed possums caught in our headlamps taking refuge on a tree trunk, an echidna that we had to stop for on the road, and heaps of red necked wallabies and grey kangaroos. Beautiful to see the wildlife, but like the bass I'm sure they have to work overtime to get a feed during this extreme drought.





Fly Fishing SW Ireland (2006) Jeff Yates

The trout were dark olive with sides of rust and gold; their distinctive spots glistened in the sunlight, like sparkling rubies. These wild brown trout were truly gems.

The
magical
colours of
the wild
brown trout
of Lake
Muskry,
Ireland



I went for a hike to a glacial lake, high up in the Galtee Mountains of County Limerick, Ireland. My instructions were simple "travel down the lane, go to the intersection, don't turn left, don't turn right, go straight ahead, until you come to pub, don't stop, keep going until you come to a village, if you arrive there you've gone too far, now before the village is a statue of the Virgin Mary, turn right up a dirt road beside it. Follow this road to a pull off area, then walk up a goat track to the mountain, at its top you'll find a small loch." Now Irish farmer's directions are something else!

Luckily I had the foresight to get a lift with the farmer's wife otherwise I'd still be walking, as it is some 14km to the statue, before I even started climbing!

Once on the mountain track, a steady two-hour walk was worth every step. The panorama from one of Ireland's highest ranges on a clear sunny day was spectacular. Looking across the u shaped glacial valley toward a distant woodland, I was alerted by the short grunts of a red stag deer, rounding up his harem, and marveled at the privilege of witnessing the beautiful wildlife. I was later informed that this particular area was also a hideout of the IRA in the early 20th century.



From the top of the Galtee Mountains looking down the meandering track to the Glen of Aherlow

Now back to the loch. Nestled at the top of the valley, dammed by the scree from the receding glacier 10,000 years ago, this magic water appeared, undetectable from the valley below. Around twenty acres in size and 100 feet deep, the edges were dimpled with rising fish. What were they I asked myself, they behave like trout? The old farmer knew about them as a boy some 60 years earlier, but didn't know what type of fish they were.



Selecting a fly and absorbed in the isolation

Savoring the moment, I unpacked my lunch, camera and fishing gear (of course!). Thirst quenched and worms fed, I put the travel pack together and selected an ultra-fine 3lb tippet and #16 floating midge pattern. Not knowing what to expect, I covered a nearby rise, the fly hardly settled on the water before it was inhaled. A beautifully marked brown trout of pan size proportions took to the air in a testy fight. When the fish tired, it was duly cradled from the water, and revealed itself to be a beautiful and brightly coloured fish, with a large head in comparison to its size, reflecting the harsh environment in which it lives, and lack of insects on the top of the range.

The tone of the day was set, with more rises and fish landed than I could count. This is heaven; long leaders, small flies and delicate presentation onto the glassy water almost guaranteeing a fish with every cast. I spent the day walking in solitude, fishing and taking photos. As I sucked in the crisp mountain air I hoped the day would last forever.

But all good things come to an end, the sun slowly lowered in the western sky and the rutting deer in the forest below reminded me that time is up in this part of paradise.

A magical moment in time etched in my memory



For Sale



My duck is dead. The floatation cell needs replacing, it is not available. So I have a small trailer and a 15hp motor that I no longer need. If anyone has a dingy that needs a trailer and motor then this may suit you. The trailer and motor are for sale. The trailer has 12 months rego.

Asking \$600 the lot Brent 49823069



Brett and Cherie with a session from the kayaks



Fishy Pics



New Coff's recruit, Dave with a stonker of a trout from Dunmore Waters



Scape Pics



Lake St Clair bass, fin glistening in the last of the afternoon sun rays, is coached to the shore.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – 2019/2020

Fees due by 30th September 2019 Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club Incorporated (the "**Association**") (incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009*)

I,[insert full name]			•••••	••••
of[insert address]		••••••		
[insert email]		••••••		
[insert contact number		••••••	•••••	•••••
☐ Full membe (\$40.00 p.a.)		member 0 p.a.)	☐ Family membership** (\$50.00 p.a.)	(✓ applicable)
	y membership, I agree to		n for the period 1 st October 2 be bound by the constitution	
Signature of app	olicant			
Date:				
** Members ren	newing a Family Membe	ership must comple	te the information on page 2	below.
	mail to:	email back to darren	nfoster65@bigpond.com	
-	es can be paid by cheque ak transfer, please use yo		er. ence for payment so your pa	yment can be easily
Name: H BSB: 6	nould be paid to the follo Hunter Valley Fly Fishin 537 000 780 089 059	_		

Please make cheques payable to Hunter Valley Fly Fishing Club

Important Note: Your renewal fees must be received by the Association no later than 31st October 2019 to avoid your membership lapsing, after this date your membership will no longer be valid.

Application for Family Membership

To be eligible for Family Membership, and have the Association's insurance cover extend to include all applicable family members, the following conditions will apply:

- Family Membership is available for a member and their immediate family members only (i.e. wife/husband/partner and children under 18 years of age at the start of the new membership term) and does not include Grandparents or member's siblings or other relations, etc.
- Member's children 18 years or older will be required to join as a full member
- Each family membership is only entitled to 1 vote at club meetings.
- the requested information in the following table must be supplied in respect of all people proposed to be covered by a Family Membership:

Full name	Date of birth	Relationship to member	

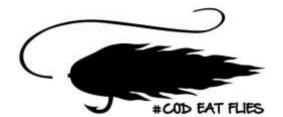
Office use only:
Date payment received:
Membership fee received: \$
Payment method:

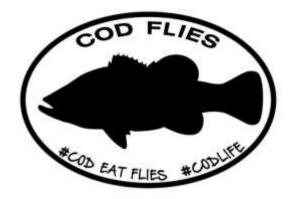
HVFFC members wish to "thank you"

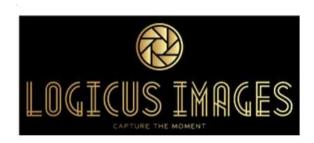












JASON STRATFORD

LOGICUS Images

E: jason@LOGICUSImages.com

M: 0468 46 54 54

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



